

the world. Visitors from abroad as well as our own people unite in praising the beautiful characteristics and features of our national scenery, and as years go on the value of the reservations that have been made will be more and more appreciated. A great deal of work has been done, but much still remains to be accomplished, and as opportunity permits suitable private land will be secured and areas of Crown land will be surveyed and added to the existing reservations.

SUPERVISION OF RESERVES.

During the year local Scenic Boards were appointed or reappointed as follows: Birkenhead Borough Council, to control the Birkenhead Scenic Reserve; Katikati Hot Springs Scenic Board, to control the Katikati Hot Springs Scenic Reserve; Dannevirke Borough Council, to control parts Makirikiri Scenic Reserve; Taihape Scenic Reserves Board, to control the Taihape Scenic Reserves; Rangitikei County Council, to control the Rangiwaea Scenic Reserve; Raetihi Borough Council, to control the Raetihi Scenic Reserves; Rangitikei County Council, to control the Silverhope Scenic Reserve; Dunedin City Council, to control the Evansdale Glen Scenic Reserve; Haehae-te-Moana Scenic Board, to control the Haehae-te-Moana Scenic Reserves.

The following gentlemen were appointed honorary Inspectors under the Act for various reserves throughout the Dominion: Messrs H. J. Shepherd, J. N. Cussen, Andrew Sreiber, P. C. Rose, A. W. Kenderdine, A. R. Gudopp, Samuel Topliss, Alfred Flower, James Fletcher, O. G. Parr, and James Hunter, M.D.

MARLBOROUGH SCENIC RESERVES.

The beautiful reserves in south Marlborough, through which the main tourist coach route passes south of the Clarence River on its way to Kaikoura and Christchurch, have come through the season remarkably well, and have suffered no damage whatever through flood, drought, or fire. In north Marlborough, and more particularly in the Sounds, damage was done by fire to two of our beautiful reserves. The Bay of Many Coves, and Te Weka Reserve, in the Kenepuru, both suffered. In the former case the cause is wrapped in mystery, whilst in the latter a fire ran in from an adjoining property. Considering the number of exposed points in the Sounds that have been reserved for scenery-preservation purposes, it is remarkable how fortunate we have been in having so little damage done by fires.

The beautiful reserve at Pelorus Bridge, on the main Blenheim-Nelson coach route, is becoming more popular every year for picnic parties from both Blenheim and Nelson.

The suggested reward to persons who give information securing the conviction of persons found damaging reserves should go a long way towards mitigating the evil, and plenty of printed notices, together with periodical advertisements in the local newspapers, will also assist in the protection of scenic reserves.

COMPARISON OF EXPENDITURE.

It is interesting to note how money raised under the Act has been expended. It will be seen that the cost of administration has been reduced to a very small proportion of the total expenditure.

Year.	Compensation for Land.	Fencing and Maintenance.	Surveys, Valuations, &c.	Board's Expenses.	Salaries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904-5	216	Nil	52	1,822	*	2,090
1905-6	3,336	„	527	1,221	*	5,084
1906-7	7,856	304	801	185	*	9,146
1907-8	4,286	382	555	86	175	5,484
1908-9	3,813	1,063	540	24	325	5,765
1909-10	1,688	1,159	2,603	Nil	325	5,775
1910-11	1,066	685	1,643	11	325	3,730
1911-12	2,619	715	2,237	22	345	5,938
1912-13	12,997	798	2,697	6	345	16,843
1913-14	10,467	627	1,547	3	365	13,009
1914-15	6,253	758	476	12	388	7,887
1915-16	1,530	698	104	6	390	2,728
1916-17	252	836	76	1	390	1,555
1917-18	428	602	114	3	390	1,537
1918-19	1,295	1,964†	49	1	280	3,589
1919-20	510	188	12	..	40	750
1920-21	3,031	471	299	..	25	2,825
1921-22	57,768	227	224	..	25	58,244
1922-23	6,306	377	290	..	25	6,998
1923-24	1,488	118	1,589	..	25	3,210
Grand total	162,187

* Included in Board's expenses.

† Includes £1,750 paid to Summit Road Scenic Reserve Board.

It must be noted that the above expenditure does not include expenses of raising loans and recoupment of interest, &c.

APPENDICES.

Attached to this report are the following appendices:—

- A. Schedule of reserves made during the year, accompanied by a statement of accounts.
- B. Report of the Scenery Preservation Board, &c.
- C. Kapiti Island.
- D. North Auckland Scenic Reserves.