

SUBDIVISION VII.—PETROLOGICAL LABORATORY.

1280. The total expenditure provided under this Subdivision for 1931-32 was £160.

1281. This work has been discontinued.

Saving, £160.

SUBDIVISION VIII.—APIA OBSERVATORY.

1282. The total amount provided on this account for 1931-32 was £2,524, but the estimated recoveries amounted to £2,309. The net cost to the State is approximately £200, and we can recommend no saving on this Subdivision.

SUBDIVISION IX.—MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY.

1283. The amount provided for 1931-32 was £1,325, which represented only eight months' expenditure, as the Observatory was previously under the control of the Department of Lands and Survey. A larger sum will accordingly be required on the vote for 1932-33.

GENERAL.

1284. We are impressed with the wide range of research investigations carried out. These may briefly be stated as follows: Cold-storage, dairy research, flax, fruit, fuel, leather, meat industry and products, mineral content of pastures, noxious weeds, plant research, wheat research, wool research, pakihi land investigation, kauri-gum; and, in addition, other side lines of research may be opened up and prosecuted from time to time, with the approval of the Minister.

1285. **We are of opinion that the activities of the Department are too widespread, and should be confined to a few of the more important lines of research of particular interest to the staple industries of the Dominion. In order of importance we would place the main lines of research upon which the Department should concentrate as follow: (1) Dairy research; (2) plant research; (3) fruit research.**

SUMMARY.

1286. The savings recommended in this vote, so far as they can be assessed, are shown hereunder:—

Subdivision I.—Head Office:—

Item—	£	£
Advertising, photographs, books, newspapers, &c.	25	
Building Regulations Committee expenses.. .. .	778	
Liaison Officer, London	140	
<i>New Zealand Journal of Science and Technology</i>	150	
Office fittings and requisites	75	
Postages, telegrams, rent of boxes	50	
Printing and stationery	30	
Research scholarships	400	
	—	1,648

Subdivision II.—Research Investigations:—

Item—		
Dairy Research—		
Equipment, apparatus, &c.	361	
Expenses of officers travelling overseas	320	
Grants	750	
Library	60	
Running-expenses	605	
Travelling-expenses	50	
	2,146	
Less possible reductions in grants	1,000	
	—	1,146
Flax	350	350
Fruit—		
Reduction in expenditure	420	
Levy on fruit exported	1,100	
	—	1,520
Imperial Agricultural Research Bureaux	588	588
Leather	402	402
Meat industry and products	10	10
Noxious weeds (ultimately £700)	350	350
Plant research	1,440	
Less possible reductions in grants	720	
	—	720
Wheat research	500	500
Wool research	300	300
Pakihi land investigation	75	75
Canterbury Agricultural College	260	260
General—		
Grassland-management research	380	
Miscellaneous	179	
	—	559