

1932.

NEW ZEALAND.

## KAURI-GUM INDUSTRY

(REPORT ON THE) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1932.

*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 5 of the Kauri-gum Industry Amendment Act, 1914.*

Department of Lands and Survey,

Wellington, 1st August, 1932.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report under the Kauri-gum Industry Amendment Act, 1914, for the year ended 31st March, 1932.

I have, &amp;c.,

W. ROBERTSON, Under-Secretary.

The Hon. E. A. Ransom, Minister of Lands.

DURING the year business has been very dull, with practically no demand for the better (varnish) grades and a greatly diminished demand for the poorer (linoleum) grades. It has not been a question of price, or the competition of other gums, so much as a result of the world-wide depression in raw materials generally. Other varnish and linoleum gums have been affected in the same way, some to a much greater extent than kauri-gum. Whilst the demand has fallen off in all directions, it has been particularly so in the case of the United States of America, business with that country being duller and prices lower than for very many years past. To some extent the demand for linoleum grades has held up and some business has been possible, especially with Great Britain, but prices have fallen to a very low level.

Owing to the depressed conditions of the labour-market, gum-diggers were for the most part compelled to remain on the gumfields and accept whatever prices were offered, with the result that the output of gum has been much larger than would have been the case had other work been obtainable.

The Department still has a comparatively small stock of gum in the hands of the Kauri-gum Control Board, consisting of chip gradings recleaned at the Board's gum-cleaning plant at Penrose. No reasonable offer could be obtained for the same during the year, and they are being held pending an improvement in the market conditions.

## EXPORT OF KAURI-GUM.

For the year ended 31st March, 1932, the export amounted to 3,164 tons, of the value of £124,757, an average price of about £39 per ton. The tonnage, value, and average price per ton of the export for the past twelve years are—

Year ended 31st March,	Tonnage exported.	Value. £	Average. per Ton. £
1921	6,131	524,701	85
1922	3,968	391,304	98
1923	6,080	520,409	85
1924	6,923	640,712	92
1925	5,432	446,019	82
1926	5,495	414,420	75
1927	4,529	301,335	66
1928	4,531	267,559	59
1929	4,566	241,223	53
1930	4,941	264,452	53
1931	3,145	155,602	49
1932	3,164	124,757	39

Details of the yearly export, and the country to which exported, from 1920 to 1932, are given below :—

*Particulars of Kauri-gum exported from New Zealand from 1920 to 31st March, 1932, inclusive.*

Country to which exported.	1st April, 1920, to 31st March, 1921.		1st April, 1921, to 31st March, 1922.		1st April, 1922, to 31st March, 1923.		1st April, 1923, to 31st March, 1924.		1st April, 1924, to 31st March, 1925.		1st April, 1925, to 31st March, 1926.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
United States of America	3,224	345,992	2,487	266,922	3,742	367,946	4,197	449,117	2,624	250,379	2,682	211,623
United Kingdom	2,544	149,422	1,297	104,094	1,960	129,082	2,409	170,785	2,360	169,975	2,350	179,868
Germany ..	..	..	58	3,574	70	3,363	66	2,832	117	6,367	107	4,670
Canada ..	314	24,481	89	9,641	109	7,462	118	7,714	97	5,726	101	3,569
Australia ..	49	4,802	37	7,073	84	6,679	7	787	24	2,006	9	1,198
Belgium ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	1,168
France ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	5,855	79	5,121	135	9,136
Austria-Hungary ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands ..	..	..	..	..	90	4,381	38	1,582	53	1,917	46	1,809
Sweden ..	..	..	..	..	20	1,000	..	..	20	820	..	..
Italy ..	..	..	..	..	1	170	26	1,647	55	3,546	..	2
Japan ..	..	4	..	..	4	326	7	393	3	162	22	1,027
Hong Kong ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denmark ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	350
Totals ..	6,131	524,701	3,968	391,304	6,080	520,409	6,923	640,712	5,432	446,019	5,495	414,420

Country to which exported.	1st April, 1926, to 31st March, 1927.		1st April, 1927, to 31st March, 1928.		1st April, 1928, to 31st March, 1929.		1st April, 1929, to 31st March, 1930.		1st April, 1930, to 31st March, 1931.		1st April, 1931, to 31st March, 1932.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
United States of America	1,863	136,397	2,087	120,349	2,337	139,672	1,967	127,723	823	46,510	681	33,082
United Kingdom	2,036	133,032	2,043	127,401	1,504	77,479	2,425	117,677	1,957	96,679	1,968	71,572
Germany ..	127	5,432	119	6,613	234	7,949	100	2,646	62	1,508	52	6,725
Canada ..	144	7,181	165	6,329	209	7,448	202	7,169	127	4,726	173	4,156
Australia ..	15	911	33	1,448	8	408	106	3,908	37	1,423	65	1,862
Belgium ..	114	4,563	..	..	60	1,094	30	635	43	975	69	1,154
France ..	89	6,980	60	3,915	150	5,206	89	3,764	71	2,701	94	4,173
Austria-Hungary ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands ..	34	1,950	3	483	29	1,068	2	285	4	218	..	..
Sweden ..	46	1,929	1	132	..	..	..	..	10	282	32	837
Italy ..	51	2,469	..	..	10	127	..	..	..	..	..	..
Japan ..	10	476	20	843	26	772	20	645	11	580	30	1,196
Hong Kong ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denmark ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China ..	..	15	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South African Union	..	..	..	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	4,529	301,335	4,531	267,559	4,566	241,223	4,941	264,452	3,145	155,602	3,164	124,757

PRODUCTION DURING THE YEAR.

The kauri-gum received at Auckland from the gumfields for the past eight years is shown, month by month, in the following table :—

*Kauri-gum received in Auckland.*

	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
April ..	439	483	338	317	295	339	441	309
May ..	501	330	332	277	390	246	374	394
June ..	344	395	362	359	331	285	247	263
July ..	363	399	401	230	364	349	309	244
August ..	407	326	392	241	331	317	194	251
September ..	373	403	287	323	288	323	214	208
October ..	471	299	229	385	356	534	328	192
November ..	427	486	341	500	407	441	317	276
December ..	591	410	325	284	245	268	277	172
January ..	525	365	265	278	290	371	158	194
February ..	492	396	198	307	275	412	281	277
March ..	520	541	441	411	240	563	386	224
	5,453	4,833	3,911	3,912	3,812	4,628	3,526	3,004

KAURI-GUM INDUSTRY ACCOUNT.

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1932.

<i>Liabilities.</i>				<i>Assets.</i>			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Capital—Debentures at 4 per cent.	..	..	57,000 0 0	Realization Account—Assets in course of realization	..	7,323	11 7
Writings off reserve	..	..	7,268 10 2	Gum on hand	..	2,298	10 6
Treasury Adjustment Account	..	..	17,959 8 4	Advances on gum	..	25	3 2
				Sundry debtors—			
				Kauri-gum Control Board	..	249	10 7
				Departmental	..	40	0 0
				Miscellaneous	..	65	12 8
						355	3 3
				Investments, Public Debt Redemption Fund	..	829	19 6
				Loss in Suspense	..	58	18 4
				Accumulated loss to 31st March, 1931 (account abolished)	..	71,336	12 2
						£82,227	18 6
						£82,227	18 6

W. ROBERTSON, Under-Secretary for Lands.  
W. E. SHAW, Accountant.

I hereby certify that the balance-sheet has been duly examined and compared with the relative books and documents submitted for audit, and correctly state the position as disclosed thereby. The following comment is appended : Stocks are shown at book value pending disposal.—G. F. C. CAMPBELL, Controller and Auditor-General.

*Approximate Cost of Paper.*—Preparation, not given ; printing (715 copies), £4.

By Authority : W. A. G. SKINNER, Government Printer, Wellington.—1932.  
*Price 3d.]*

