

1933.
NEW ZEALAND.

KAURI-GUM INDUSTRY

(REPORT ON THE) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1933.

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

SIR,— Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 1st August, 1933.
I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report under the Kauri-gum Industry Amendment Act, 1914, for the year ended 31st March, 1933.

I have, &c.,
W. ROBERTSON, Under-Secretary.

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

DURING the year market conditions were very unsatisfactory. Prices fell to a point where the average digger could not make a living wage, and even at such prices, the demand was never firm, at times gum being practically unsaleable at any price. So small and intermittent was the demand, that even the fact that the two largest holdings of gum in the City of Auckland, totalling over 600 tons, were destroyed by fire during the year did not cause any apparent increase in demand or any firming of prices. Shipments to the United States of America were the smallest for many years. The demand from Great Britain and Europe held up a little better, especially for linoleum gradings, and this undoubtedly prevented a total collapse of the industry. As a result of the small demand for the better (varnish) grades much of the medium- and lower-priced varnish-gums were crushed into chips and mixed with the poorer (lino) grades making a superior lino grade not generally obtainable.

During the year some direct measure of assistance was given the industry in the way of grants by the Government and the Unemployment Board for the purpose of making small advances against gum consignments to diggers in necessitous circumstances who were unable to sell their gum. It was subsequently decided by the Unemployment Board to find work for such diggers under one or other of its schemes, with the result that there was an immediate drop in the production of gum, and at date many of the diggers are still employed on relief works and are producing little or no gum.

The Department's comparatively small stock of re-cleaned chip gradings in the hands of the Kauri-gum Control Board was still unsold at the end of the year, but it is expected that during the coming year the fall in production and the small stocks available will allow the disposal of this gum without depressing the market or unduly interfering with the sale of gum reaching the market.

EXPORT OF KAURI-GUM.

For the year ended 31st March, 1933, the export amounted to 2,056 tons, of the value of £57,970, an average price of about £28 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
1933	2,056	57,970	28

Details of the yearly export, and the country to which exported, from 1921 to 1933, are given below :—

Particulars of Kauri-gum exported from New Zealand from 1921 to 31st March, 1933, inclusive.

Country to which exported.	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.		1st April, 1926, to 31st March, 1927.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
United States of America	2,487	266,922	3,742	367,946	4,197	449,117	2,624	250,379	2,682	211,623	1,863	136,397
United Kingdom	1,297	104,094	1,960	129,082	2,409	170,785	2,360	169,975	2,350	179,868	2,036	133,032
Germany ..	58	3,574	70	3,363	66	2,832	117	6,367	107	4,670	127	5,432
Canada ..	89	9,641	109	7,462	118	7,714	97	5,726	101	3,569	144	7,181
Australia ..	37	7,073	84	6,679	7	787	24	2,006	9	1,198	15	911
Belgium ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	1,168	114	4,563
France ..	..	..	..	..	55	5,855	79	5,121	135	9,136	89	6,980
Austria-Hungary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands ..	..	..	90	4,381	38	1,582	53	1,917	46	1,809	34	1,950
Sweden ..	..	..	20	1,000	..	..	20	820	..	..	46	1,929
Italy ..	..	..	1	170	26	1,647	55	3,546	..	2	51	2,469
Japan ..	..	..	4	326	7	393	3	162	22	1,027	10	476
Hong Kong ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denmark ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	350	..	..
China ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Totals ..	3,968	391,304	6,080	520,409	6,923	640,712	5,432	446,019	5,495	414,420	4,529	301,335

Country to which exported.	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.		1st April, 1932, to 31st March, 1933.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
United States of America	2,087	120,349	2,337	139,672	1,967	127,723	823	46,510	681	33,082	268	11,208
United Kingdom	2,043	127,401	1,504	77,479	2,425	117,677	1,957	96,679	1,968	71,572	1,298	36,150
Germany ..	119	6,613	234	7,949	100	2,646	62	1,508	52	6,725	70	1,104
Canada ..	165	6,329	209	7,448	202	7,169	127	4,726	173	4,156	169	3,157
Australia ..	33	1,448	8	408	106	3,908	37	1,423	65	1,862	91	2,251
Belgium ..	..	..	60	1,094	30	635	43	975	69	1,154	15	230
France ..	60	3,915	150	5,206	89	3,764	71	2,701	94	4,173	83	2,452
Austria-Hungary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands ..	3	483	29	1,068	2	285	4	218	..	..	..	..
Sweden ..	1	132	..	..	..	..	10	282	32	837	11	218
Italy ..	..	..	10	127	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	555
Japan ..	20	843	26	772	20	645	11	580	30	1,196	24	645
Hong Kong ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denmark ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China ..	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South African Union	..	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	4,531	267,559	4,566	241,223	4,941	264,452	3,145	155,602	3,164	124,757	2,056	57,970

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.

	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
April ..	483	338	317	295	339	441	309	405
May ..	330	332	277	390	246	374	394	245
June ..	395	362	359	331	285	247	263	144
July ..	399	401	230	364	349	309	244	153
August ..	326	392	241	331	317	194	251	43
September ..	403	287	323	288	323	214	208	128
October ..	299	229	385	356	534	328	192	176
November ..	486	341	500	407	441	317	276	182
December ..	410	325	284	245	268	277	172	188
January ..	365	265	278	290	371	158	194	167
February ..	396	198	307	275	412	281	277	213
March ..	541	441	411	240	563	386	224	185
	4,833	3,911	3,912	3,812	4,628	3,526	3,004	2,229

KAURI-GUM INDUSTRY ACCOUNT.

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1933.

<i>Liabilities.</i>			£	s.	d.	<i>Assets.</i>			£	s.	d.
Capital : Debentures at 4 per cent.	..		57,000	0	0	Realization Account—Assets in course of					
Writings-off reserve .. ..	..		7,339	15	1	realization			17	1	0
Treasury Adjustment Account ..	..		17,805	8	4	Gum on hand			2,298	10	6
						Advances on gum			8	19	8
						Sundry debtors : Kauri gum Control					
						Board			249	10	7
						Investments, Public Debt Redemption					
						Fund			829	19	6
						Losses in Suspense			7,339	15	1
						Accumulated loss (account abolished,					
						31st March, 1931)			71,401	7	1
			£82,145	3	5				£82,145	3	5

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 states 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.

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