

1934.
NEW ZEALAND.

KAURI-GUM INDUSTRY

(REPORT ON THE) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1934.

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, 1934.

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report under the Kauri-gum Industry Amendment Act, 1914, for the year ended 31st March, 1934.

I have, &c.,

W. ROBERTSON, Under-Secretary.

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

DURING the year market conditions on the whole have not been very satisfactory. For the medium grade (varnish) gums—although at times there has been an intermittent demand—prices were low and orders small. For the lower grades (linoleum) a fairly good demand existed during the year, but prices were low and buyers were in a position to dictate as to quality. As a result, large quantities of better grades had to be crushed and mixed with linoleum gums to meet the qualities demanded.

Some improvement in the American demand was noted during the year, but, as hitherto, Great Britain is still the chief customer. A good proportion of the gum exported to Great Britain, however, is re-exported to the Continent, where a fair demand exists.

With the return of prosperity there is no doubt some demand will exist for the better varnish grades, but there seems little doubt that the new synthetic gums have partly supplanted natural gums, including kauri, and that at least a considerable part of the former trade has been definitely lost.

As anticipated in last year's report, the remaining stocks of the Department's chip gradings in the hands of the Kauri-gum Control Board were able to be disposed of during the year without depressing market prices.

EXPORT OF KAURI-GUM.

For the year ended 31st March, 1934, the export amounted to 3,378 tons, of the value of £83,945, an average price of about £25 per ton. The tonnage, value, and average price per ton of the export for the past fourteen 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
1934	3,378	83,945	25