

1937.
NEW ZEALAND.

KAURI-GUM INDUSTRY

(REPORT ON THE) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1937.

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, 1937.

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report under the Kauri-gum Industry Amendment Act, 1914, for the year ended 31st March, 1937.

I have, &c.,

W. ROBERTSON, Under-Secretary.

The Hon. Frank Langstone, Minister of Lands.

ALTHOUGH there was a slight improvement in the market during the year, conditions generally remained stagnant. There is still very little demand for varnish grades of gum, and consequently very little gum of this type is being produced.

No definite results are yet apparent as a result of research in connection with the purification of kauri-gum by the solvent process. A new survey of the gum-fields has recently been completed, and the information gathered will enable a more accurate estimate of future supplies of kauri-gum to be made. However, unless the purified gum can be produced at a cost at least on a par with synthetic resins utilized in the varnish and lacquer industries it is doubtful whether any appreciable portion of the market could be regained.

The demand for linoleum grades of gum, of which Great Britain takes the major portion, still remains fairly consistent, and prices rose sharply during the year.

Production was low as in previous years, and, on account of this, existing stocks were further reduced. Nevertheless, stocks are sufficient to meet current and anticipated demands.

It is expected that production of chip grades of gum for the ensuing year will be higher on account of better prices ruling.

EXPORT OF KAURI-GUM.

For the year ended 31st March, 1937, the export amounted to 3,613 tons, of the value of £119,649, an average price of about £33 per ton. The tonnage, value, and average price per ton of the export for the past sixteen years are—

| Year ended 31st March. | Tonnage exported. | Value. £ | Average per Ton. £ |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 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 | 2,060 | 57,970 | 28 |
| 1934 | 3,378 | 83,945 | 25 |
| 1935 | 3,412 | 91,070 | 27 |
| 1936 | 2,669 | 75,802 | 28 |
| 1937 | 3,613 | 119,649 | 33 |