

## Receipts :—

	£
For year ended 31st March, 1937 .. .. .	89,679
For year ended 31st March, 1936 .. .. .	63,636
Increase for year ended 31st March, 1937 .. .. .	<u>£26,043</u>

## Payments :—

	£
For year ended 31st March, 1937 .. .. .	94,931
For year ended 31st March, 1936 .. .. .	60,449
Increase for year ended 31st March, 1937 .. .. .	<u>£34,482</u>

*Board Finance.*—The funds held or invested by the Board as at the 31st March, 1937, are as follow :—

	£
Government securities .. .. .	51,923
On deposit with the Native Trustee .. .. .	8,689
Mortgages and charges .. .. .	58,244
Advances on overdraft to sundry blocks .. .. .	8,818

*Anaura Station.*—The result of the farming operations of this sheep-station, which is under the control of the Board, shows an even better return than was obtained for the previous year. The net profit for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1937, was £4,712. The management has now succeeded in bringing the block into excellent order. It is a difficult one to manage, requiring careful attention by the station staff in order to maintain the pasture and to prevent loss of stock by the frequent sudden flooding to which parts of the land, particularly the flats, are liable. The financial position of the station has improved, but a future contingent liability in the form of compensation rights attaching to the remaining leased blocks, necessitate careful husbanding of funds. It has been possible this year, however, to provide a substantial distribution of profits to the beneficial owners.

*Maori Welfare.*—In addition to the routine work carried out by Court officials for the well-being of the Maori race, the Tairāwhiti Maori Land Board has evolved a scheme whereby Maoris may obtain free hospital treatment. The scheme so far is confined to the Wairoa Hospital District and is based on a levy, varying from 2½ per cent. to 5 per cent., on rents and interests from lands administered by the Board. This yields the sum of £250 per annum, and with a subsidy from the Health Department is found sufficient to provide free treatment for all Maoris in this area.

Efforts are being made to extend this scheme to the Cook and Waiapu Hospital Districts. If successful, it should result in a solution of at least one of the problems with which these Hospital Boards are now faced.

*Lending Operations.*—Applications to the Board for loans amounting to £4,680 were granted, and applications for loans amounting to £1,682 have been recommended for approval.

## AOTEA DISTRICT.

*Native Land Court.*—During the year twenty sittings of the Court were held at Wanganui, New Plymouth, Hawera, Taumarunui, and Tokaanu, from which centres adjournments to other locations were arranged for special sittings according to requirements. The volume of business handled showed a slight increase on the previous year's figures. Matters affecting succession, as usual, provided a relatively large proportion of the matters brought before the Court, and some eight hundred succession orders were made during the year. Numerous applications in respect of rates due on Native lands continue to come before the Court, and during the year a large number of charging-orders were made. Partitions of Native lands comprising a total area of 5,795 acres were made and surveys of many of them authorized and completed.

Inquiries were held in respect of matters upon which applications had been made in terms of section 38 of the Native Land Act, 1931, and reports and recommendations were made by the Court to the Chief Judge. A sitting of the Appellate Court was held at Wanganui in February, 1937, and during the year the Judge of the District attended sittings of that Court in other districts. Numerous other matters of a miscellaneous nature were also dealt with. There has been a substantial increase in the number of confirmations of alienations, and it is pleasing to note that the number of leases dealt with continues to predominate. The Court considers this to be to the advantage of the Native owners and does not encourage the sale of Native land except under special circumstances.

*Maori Land Board.*—Extensive areas in the Wanganui River, Raetihi, Ohakune, Tokaanu, and Taihape Districts are vested in the Board for leasing purposes under Parts XIV and XVI of the Native Land Act, 1931, and the Native Township Act, 1910. A large number of these sections were leased in 1916 for twenty-one years, with rights of renewal for further terms of twenty-one years. A large number of these leases were renewed during the past year. As a consequence of relief enactments the rents in some cases have been reduced 50 per cent. to 75 per cent. The Board's operations under Part XVIII of the Native Land Act, 1931 (acting as agent for the owners for purposes of sale, lease, and other transactions), have shown a marked increase.