

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

Details of the yearly export, and the country to which exported, from 1925 to 1937 are given below :—

Particulars of Kauri-gum exported from New Zealand from 1st April, 1925, to 31st March, 1937, inclusive.

Country to which exported.	1st April, 1925, to 31st March, 1926.	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.
	Tons. £	Tons. £	Tons. £	Tons. £	Tons. £	Tons. £
United States of America	2,682 211,623	1,863 136,397	2,087 120,349	2,337 139,672	1,967 127,723	823 46,510
United Kingdom	2,350 179,868	2,036 133,032	2,043 127,401	1,504 77,479	2,425 117,677	1,957 96,679
Germany ..	107 4,670	127 5,432	119 6,613	234 7,949	100 2,646	62 1,508
Canada ..	101 3,569	144 7,181	165 6,329	208 7,448	202 7,169	127 4,726
Australia ..	9 1,198	15 911	33 1,448	8 408	106 3,908	37 1,423
Belgium ..	33 1,168	114 4,563	.. ..	60 1,094	30 635	43 975
France ..	135 9,136	89 6,980	60 3,915	150 5,206	89 3,764	71 2,701
Switzerland ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Netherlands ..	46 1,809	34 1,950	3 483	29 1,068	2 285	4 218
Sweden ..	.. ..	46 1,929	1 132	.. ..	.. ..	10 282
Italy ..	.. ..	51 2,469	.. ..	10 127	.. ..	.. ..
Japan ..	22 1,027	10 476	20 843	26 772	20 645	11 580
Hong Kong ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Denmark ..	10 350	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
China ..	.. ..	.. ..	25 ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
South African Union	.. ..	.. ..	21 ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Totals ..	5,495 414,420	4,529 301,335	4,531 267,559	4,566 241,223	4,941 264,452	3,145 155,602

Country to which exported.	1st April, 1931, to 31st March, 1932.	1st April, 1932, to 31st March, 1933.	1st April, 1933, to 31st March, 1934.	1st April, 1934, to 31st March, 1935.	1st April, 1935, to 31st March, 1936.	1st April, 1936, to 31st March, 1937.
	Tons. £	Tons. £	Tons. £	Tons. £	Tons. £	Tons. £
United States of America	681 33,082	268 11,208	875 30,174	394 20,602	553 24,488	478 28,844
United Kingdom	1,968 71,572	1,298 36,150	1,730 37,218	2,267 54,365	1,570 39,181	2,200 62,963
Germany ..	52 6,725	70 1,104	325 5,093	251 4,986	41 769	78 2,241
Canada ..	173 4,156	169 3,157	94 2,530	114 2,623	62 1,689	263 8,228
Australia ..	65 1,862	91 2,251	120 3,355	150 3,588	171 3,058	311 7,575
Belgium ..	69 1,154	15 230	11 208	.. ..	42 889	21 618
France ..	94 4,173	83 2,452	143 3,642	116 2,768	122 3,193	144 5,584
Switzerland ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	20 512
Netherlands ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	3 90	11 262	37 943
Sweden ..	32 837	11 218	20 461	.. ..	57 1,043	16 560
Italy ..	.. ..	31 555	28 494	75 825	4 245	.. ..
Japan ..	30 1,196	24 645	32 744	42 1,223	36 985	45 1,581
Hong Kong ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Denmark ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
China ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
South African Union	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Totals ..	3,164 124,757	2,060 57,970	3,378 83,945	3,412 91,070	2,669 75,802	3,613 119,649

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 :—

	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
April ..	339	441	309	405	240	202	221	346
May ..	426	374	394	245	161	224	211	229
June ..	285	247	263	144	238	148	164	107
July ..	349	309	244	153	162	150	258	139
August ..	317	194	251	43	150	193	172	181
September ..	323	214	208	128	219	201	134	142
October ..	534	328	192	176	320	307	220	154
November ..	441	317	276	182	326	243	260	501
December ..	268	277	172	188	209	268	190	291
January ..	371	158	194	167	165	312	182	160
February ..	412	281	277	213	325	274	220	265
March ..	563	386	224	185	289	336	160	233
Totals ..	4,628	3,526	3,004	2,229	2,804	2,858	2,392	2,748

KAURI-GUM INDUSTRY ACCOUNT.

The assets of the Kauri-gum Industry Account have been realized, and the account has been abolished by statute.

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