

The detail work involved in the collection and distribution of revenues from the West Coast Settlement Reserves in Taranaki was, in August, 1937, transferred to the Department's district office at Wanganui; and in pursuance of the policy of making greater use of the facilities available in the local district offices a similar transfer of routine work affecting Native reserves in the Ikaroa and the South Island Native Land Court districts was made to the Wellington district office in February, 1939. This entailed the transfer of accounting and administrative records in connection with approximately 21,320 acres of Native reserves, the annual rent roll of which is £13,000. Since June, 1938, the farms and stations controlled by the Native Trustee in the East Coast district have been administered through the Gisborne district office.

FINANCE.

The following figures indicate the volume of business transacted by the Department during the year. The corresponding amounts for last year were—payments, £1,712,369; receipts, £1,273,001.

	Total Payments.	Total Receipts.
Consolidated Fund—	£	£
Civil List (Native Purposes)	6,742	..
Special Acts (Arawa tribes)	6,000	..
Vote "Native"	145,505	22,572
Court fees	5,748
Public Works Fund		
Vote "Native Land Settlement"	1,166,104	672,408*
Receipts under Native Housing Act	1,960
Native Trustee's Account	199,431	198,079
Maori Land Boards	406,405†	397,210†
	1,930,187	1,297,977

* Receipts from Native land development schemes, £257,408; grant from the Employment Promotion Fund, £415,000. † Does not include deposits and withdrawals in respect of Deposit Accounts with Native Trustee.

NATIVE LAND COURT.

A statistical return of the activities of the Native Land and Appellate Courts during the year is appended in Table A (a). A general increase in the volume of business is apparent.

PROMOTION OF EMPLOYMENT AMONGST MAORIS.

The wages bill of the Department for the year in respect of some five thousand Maori workers was £507,250, towards which a grant of £415,000 was made from the Employment Promotion Fund.

Productive work in the form of land development carrying subsidies ranging from 50 per cent. to 100 per cent., according to the ability of the land to bear a proportion of the cost, accounted for £457,250, whilst the labour costs of the erection of houses financed from the Special Native Housing Fund amounted to £50,000.

With few exceptions the work was carried out on a contract basis enabling reasonably efficient workmen to earn not less than 16s. per day.

ALIENATIONS OF NATIVE LAND.

The number of alienations during the year was 526 and the area affected 59,490 acres, compared with 630 alienations and 60,425 acres respectively last year. Particulars are as follows:—

	1937-38.		1938-39.	
	Number.	Acres.	Number.	Acres.
Sales	233	10,255	175	10,158
Leases	397	50,200	351	49,332
Totals	630	60,425	526	59,490

NOTE.—A large number of these alienations were in favour of Native alienees.

No Native land was purchased by the Crown during the year.