

APPENDIX.

AREA of GUMFIELDS (very roughly estimated).

Crown Land.	Land Disposed of by Crown.	Land Passed Native Land Court.	Land not Passed Native Land Court.
<i>North of Auckland.</i>			
380,000 acres	74,000 acres	120,000 acres	150,000 acres
Total, 724,000 acres.			
<i>South of Auckland.</i>			
35,000 acres	9,000 acres	11,000 acres	9,000 acres
Total, 64,000 acres.—This area does not include about 100,000 acres of forest land lying between Hikutaia and Mercury Bay.			
Grand total, 788,000 acres.			

NUMBER and NATIONALITIES of GUM-DIGGERS.

				North of Auckland.	Coromandel and Waikato.
British—					
Married	...	...	1,080		
Single	...	...	2,373		
				3,453	850
Maoris*	...	...	...	1,114	130
Settlers who dig*	...	...	...	353	63
Austrians—					
Married	...	...	17		
Single	...	...	497		
				514	5
Other foreigners	...	...	...	345	70
				5,779	1,118
Total	...	...	...	...	6,897

* The numerical totals of Maoris and settlers are greater than those above given, but they have been reduced to what we believe to be their equivalent in able-bodied men working full time. These classes only work during half the year; and, in the case of the Maoris, women and children preponderate. We have reduced the number of settlers to one-half, and the Maoris to two-fifths.

SYNOPSIS of PRINCIPAL CONDITIONS in AGREEMENTS for GUM-DIGGING on Leased or Private Lands.

1. *Mitchelson Brothers*.—No payment for digging. The digger is only a bailee of the gum for the firm until it is delivered at their store. The firm has the right to fix the quality and price of the gum, but is bound to pay the fair and reasonable value. The digger to leave the land on receiving forty-eight hours' notice. Number of diggers, 436, exclusive of Maoris.

2. *Samuel Rawnsley*.—One pound per annum for license to dig, which goes to the Native owners, and a royalty of 1s. per cwt., which is deducted by the lessee from the price of the gum. The digger is bound to sell the gum to the lessee (who is strictly only agent for the Native owners). Number of diggers, other than Maoris, 90 to 100.

3. *A. E. Harding*.—License-fee, £1 for three months. The digger is restrained from carting gum or other goods, or selling them on the field. Upon breach of conditions he is to leave upon forty-eight hours' notice. Number of diggers, 170.

4. *Molesworth and Saies*.—No payment for digging. The gum is the property of the firm, and is to be sold to no one else, but the digger is entitled to receive for it the fair market price. Number of diggers, 70, besides 330 Maoris.

EARNINGS of GUM-DIGGERS.

We have estimated this, in answer to question 5, at £1 7s., which we think is a fair deduction from the general evidence given.

The result may be approximately checked as follows: If the output of gum for 1892 be taken as 8,404 tons, and the number of diggers at 6,897, the average per man per annum would be about $1\frac{1}{4}$ tons. This, at the above rate of wages, would give a value of about £56 per ton for the gum exported. Allowing a small reduction in this value for whatever quantity may be used in the colony, there is nothing in this result, which can only be regarded as approximate, to necessitate an alteration of our estimate. It must, of course, be remembered that the price of kauri-gum has now seriously declined.