

One hundred and sixty-seven tracings for correspondence and special subjects have been made.

The output of the lithographic office has exceeded that of any previous year. The printing-power was supplemented by a quad crown machine early in the year, otherwise the demands on the office could not have been met. There are now three machines and four hand-presses fully employed. The total number of subjects taken in hand was 1,687, or 240 more than last year; the total number of complete copies printed was 1,142,767, or 242,956 more than last year; and the number of impressions taken was 1,918,125, or 542,484 more than last year. This indicates the heavy pressure of work throughout the year.

For sets-off, corrections and additions, touching up, tinting, and etching 759 lithographic stones have been prepared.

One hundred and ninety-seven photographs have been retouched and improved prior to photographing as "process" illustrations.

Eight wash-drawings of landscape scenery have been made.

The out-turn of work from the photographic gallery by Mr. Ross and assistant, compared with previous years, shows a decline in the number of plates taken, although the work has increased correspondingly with that of the lithographic office. The decline is, however, only in number, for 18 in. by 24 in. and 30 in. by 30 in. plates have superseded the 12 in. by 15 in. plates, thus enabling a larger amount of work to be disposed of, and effecting considerable economy of cost and time. Details of photographing and lithographic printing done during the year are appended. With regard to the internal arrangements of the photographic gallery, the introduction of the electric light for enlargements by lantern, and a reflector, would be very desirable improvements. With the aid of the reflector negatives could be taken in any weather.

Abstract of lithographs printed during the twelve months:—

		Copies.
Head Office...	...	1,142,767
Auckland Office	...	5,350
Otago Office	...	2,400
Total ...	...	1,150,517

LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING AND PHOTOGRAPHING.

Department.	Printing.				Photographing.			
	Number of Complete Copies printed.		Number of Impressions taken.	Number of Separate Printings.	Number of Plates.	Number of Silver Prints.	Number of Bromides.	Number of Bromide Enlargements.
	By Machine.	By Hand.						
Survey ...	816,270	34,313	1,343,158	1,677	734	496	50	23
Mines ...	136,705	840	197,063	120	57	...	...	...
Public Works ...	15,762	2,339	39,943	237	16	4	...	2
Marine ...	5,650	1,398	31,698	42	3	...	...	...
Postal ...	...	210	420	4	...	...	...	...
Telegraph ...	6,920	362	12,224	15	6	...	...	...
Government Printer ...	1,425	3,706	6,756	7	2	...	...	...
Meteorological ...	...	100	100	1	...	...	...	...
Public Trust ...	900	...	1,700	6	...	...	...	...
Premier's ...	750	148	898	18	6	...	...	...
Registrar-General ...	10,000	22	25,022	7	8	...	...	...
Education ...	400	10	400	1	2	...	...	...
Agricultural and Stock ...	21,500	12	47,512	13	17	...	...	...
Police... ..	1,800	...	7,200	4	...	...	...	...
Railway ...	73,480	42	194,728	28	6	...	...	...
Government Insurance ...	4,000	9	5,009	5	...	...	...	...
Customs ...	1,000	...	1,000	1	...	...	...	...
Defence ...	600	1,094	2,294	15	12	...	...	...
Colonial Secretary's ...	...	1,000	1,000	1	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	1,097,162	45,605	1,918,125	2,202	869	500	50	25

Number of subjects taken in hand and printed off, 1,687; number of plate-transfers pulled, 121; number of maps, tracings, and photographs mounted, 1,070.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. W. S. SHORT, Chief Clerk, reports as follows:—

As compared with previous years, there has been a considerable increase in the work. This was partly due to special circumstances, such as correspondence involved in dealing with bush-fires relief, and in the administration of the very large number of road votes intrusted to the department. Apart, however, from these, the correspondence, Proclamations, and formal documents necessarily arising in the administration of land continues to increase, and it would appear that this will probably become greater each year as more Crown land is leased to settlers under present tenures and