

It is proposed to bring down amending legislation in the near future to provide for a better control of subdivisional development and the setting-aside of suitable areas for public purposes. The selection and siting of reserves and open spaces to serve the requirements of residents is a problem that requires further enabling powers under the Act.

Office-work (Plan Examination)

The depleted office staff has been called on to handle an increase in the amount of civil work as well as cope with the mapping and other requirements of the Services. The office-work carried out in connection with land survey plans and documents for the year ending 31st March, 1944, is scheduled hereunder:—

District.	Plans placed on Instruments of Title.	Survey Plans examined and approved.			
		Crown.	Other Depart- ments.	Native.	Land Transfer.
Auckland and North Auckland ..	10,048	114	149	52	487
Gisborne	461	28	..	7	31
Hawke's Bay	889	10	14	2	64
Taranaki	745	6	16	8	44
Wellington	3,009	16	103	4	178
Marlborough	237	4	12	1	17
Nelson	847	17	30	..	67
Westland	519	27	1	..	7
Canterbury	2,628	10	37	1	160
Otago	1,268	14	17	..	79
Southland	708	..	14	..	42
Totals	21,359	246	393	75	1,176

This summary reveals that, compared with the previous year, there has been approximately a 12-per-cent. increase in the amount of land title work. Indications are that this work will tend to increase, as the accumulated arrears at the end of the year were greater than those of the previous year.

Other Office-work

A large portion of the staff are continually employed on various classes of work consequent on survey plan examination, such as the maintenance of record maps, the preparation of land descriptions, investigations of title, tracings, photostats, &c.

The following is a summary of the amount of miscellaneous office-work carried out by the staff:—

Record maps	32
Cadastral maps	Nil
Tracings	3,209
Photostats and prints	53,644

Warrants

During the year 156 warrants for certificates of title and 11 Proclamations of road-lines under the Native Land Act, 1931, were dealt with.

Summarized Expenditure

A schedule of summarized salary expenditure is not included in the report this year. The total expenditure for all districts is shown as £103,406 6s. 6d., as compared with £96,843 15s. 3d. for last year.

The expenditure under the various items is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
General (Crown surveys, records, investigations, tracings, diagrams, and general office-work)	31,172	8	11
Triangulation (computations only)	839	6	8
Topographical mapping (departmental staff—salaries only)	9,435	8	7
Standard traverse (office only)	7	8	6
Survey maintenance (standard blocks and trig signals)	24	19	11
Precise levelling	286	0	4
Inspection and investigation surveys	282	1	5
Town scheme plans	260	11	0
Land-development (topographical and schemes)	244	16	5
Tidal analysis (computations)	125	3	5
Work for—			
Native Department	1,735	2	4
Land and Deeds Department	8,425	10	3
Public Works Department	3,278	3	11
Housing Department	1,673	18	4
Other Departments	45,615	6	6
Total	£103,406	6	6