

Steps have been taken in many instances to limit ribbon development and ensure that subdivisions develop compactly, thus reducing the cost of services subsequently required by the owners of the lots of the subdivisions.

It is hoped that legislation, which has been under review for some time, will be brought down at an early date to provide for many aspects of housing development that will accord with modern methods and economy of services.

OFFICE WORK (PLAN EXAMINATION)

The office work carried out in connection with the examination and checking of land-survey plans for the year ending 31st March, 1946, is scheduled hereunder:—

District.	Plans placed on Instru- ments of Title	Survey Plans examined and approved.			
		Crown.	Other Depart- ments.	Maori.	Land Trans-fer.
Auckland and North Auckland ..	11,610	133	232	38	683
Gisborne	683	7	13	2	53
Hawke's Bay	1,484	25	14	4	110
Taranaki	983	8	28	4	59
Wellington	4,224	16	103	6	274
Marlborough	422	10	6	1	31
Nelson	1,598	19	22	..	154
Westland	792	20	10	..	21
Canterbury	3,733	82	87	4	274
Otago	1,826	39	41	..	138
Southland	915	2	22	..	33
Totals	28,270 (24,943)	361 (272)	578 (510)	59 (72)	1,830 (1,489)

Last year's returns are shown in parentheses.

A further increase of 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. in this class of work is revealed this year. Arrears in plan-examination work, on which title registrations are dependent, have been kept within bounds by the employment of staff on overtime when occasion arises.

OTHER OFFICE WORK

During the year the following miscellaneous work has been carried out by the office staff, last year's returns being shown in parentheses.

Record plans (revised or redrawn) ..	164	(47)
Cadastral maps (revised or redrawn) ..	49	(17)
Tracings	5,485	(4,842)
Photostats and prints	34,405	(40,333)

It is pleasing to note that during the year there has been an increase in the number of record and cadastral maps drawn or revised. This work, which forms the basis of all land dealings, rating, &c., has fallen into serious arrears, which will have to be reduced by a concentrated and special effort as soon as staff is available.

There is now no demand for photostats and prints by the armed services, which accounts for the falling-off in the number handled during the year.