

Although there has been a slight falling off in last year's totals, nevertheless, the number of saleable lots dealt with is still exceptional.

The Act has been in operation for just over twelve months and has worked smoothly and with a beneficial effect on future urban development. It was necessary to correct two or three anomalies by the insertion of four clauses in the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1947, to provide for machinery matters affecting title registration.

An effective liaison has been maintained with the local authorities, who have in all cases co-operated with the Department.

Except for the Auckland District, where steps are being taken to reduce the accumulated arrears, all work is up to date. In addition to the scheme plans dealt with, each district handles numerous applications for exemptions from the provisions of the Act. The procedure in these cases requires the consent of the local authority before exemption may be granted, thus involving additional routine work.

OFFICE-WORK (PLAN EXAMINATION)

The following table summarizes the number of land-survey plans examined and instruments of title prepared for the year ending 31st March, 1948 :—

District.	Plans placed on Instru- ments of Title.	Survey Plans examined and approved.			
		Crown.	Other Depart- ments.	Maori.	Land Transfer.
Auckland	18,162	204	205	70	1,050
Gisborne	1,057	23	..	4	80
Hawke's Bay	1,747	28	..	11	128
Taranaki	1,281	16	32	14	117
Wellington	7,431	39	105	11	363
Marlborough	489	14	24	3	61
Nelson	2,072	35	29	..	162
Westland	811	30	4	1	37
Canterbury	5,506	49	40	3	436
Otago	2,372	35	52	..	168
Southland	1,758	25	35	3	122
Totals	42,686	498	526	120	2,724
Last year	(36,338)	(419)	(477)	(70)	(2,399)

A further increase of approximately 15 per cent. in the receipt of land-survey plans for title purposes has taxed the office staff to the utmost in attempting to deal expeditiously with this current and urgent work. There has been an intensification in the training of computers which is having a beneficial effect, particularly as more experience is gained by juniors. The total arrears in plans awaiting examination throughout the Dominion is 837, compared with 926 in the previous years.

OTHER OFFICE-WORK

There continues to be a still greater demand for general draughting services for many and varied types of work. The following schedule sets out the output in classes of work that lend themselves to such tabulation :—

Record maps (revised or redrawn)	123	(270)
Cadastral maps (revised or redrawn)	41	(44)
Tracings	7,000	(6,810)
Photostats and prints	54,581	(48,064)

Last year's figures are shown in parentheses.

Due to other demands, the vital task of maintaining departmental record maps is falling into serious arrears. Staff that would normally have been employed last year on such records have been engaged on the production of land-holding maps for