

REPORT

THE returns for the year reveal that there has been a still greater output of work than in any previous year. It is encouraging to note that arrears in certain classes of work are gradually being overtaken while at the same time staff are being diverted to other urgent and essential tasks

Although there has been no numerical increase in the office staff, the Department is reaping the benefit of the training of ex-servicemen, who are in most cases now fully competent to undertake more responsible work. Reference will be made later in the report to the very successful system of staff training adopted by the Department which is equipping trainees to efficiently carry out the many specialized duties of a survey office.

There has also been an increase in the output of field survey work. A slight increase in the field survey staff, the wider experience of survey cadets in training, and the extended employment of contract surveyors has enabled the Department to undertake other vital and urgent survey works such as topographical mapping and precise levelling. The position in regard to field staff is, however, far from satisfactory. Many urgent survey requirements are still held in abeyance, to the future detriment of national development and production. Attention is drawn to a summary of these needs at the end of this report.

ROUTINE ACTIVITIES

The following schedule summarizes the field-work carried out by staff and contract surveyors for the year ended 31st March, 1949:—

SUMMARY OF FIELD-WORK

Class of Survey.	Area or Mileage, &c.	Average Cost.	Total Cost.
			£
Geodetic triangulation	(Longitude observations)		1,424
Second and third order triangulation			3,447
Topographical mapping (1 : 63360)	573 square miles	25s. per square mile	716
Topographical survey for settlement	196,698 acres ..	5-68d. per acre ..	4,656
Topographical survey for housing	28 acres ..	24-28s. per acre ..	34
Rural and settlement surveys	172,461 acres ..	2-45s. per acre ..	21,140
Village and suburban surveys	387 acres ..	104-39s. per acre ..	2,020
Town and housing section surveys	3,506 lots ..	£4-29 per lot ..	15,035
Maori land surveys	2,140 acres ..	14-09s. per acre ..	1,508
Road and railway surveys	83-8 miles ..	£65-23 per mile ..	5,466
Standard traverse surveys .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	..
Precise levelling (first order) .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	2,537
Maintenance of survey marks .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	760
Inspection and investigation surveys .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1,733
Location of boundaries and compass surveys .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	914
Police surveys and Court attendance .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	166
Town and extra-urban planning .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	786
Miscellaneous (reports, &c.) .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	4,203
Total cost .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	66,545