

additional work that is not warranted. It is fully anticipated that local authorities would agree to an amendment to the Act whereby the granting of such exemption is subject only to the approval of the Chief Surveyor.

OFFICE-WORK (PLAN EXAMINATION)

The following table summarizes the number of land-survey plans approved and instruments of title prepared for the year ended 31st March, 1949:—

District.	Plans Placed on Instru- ments of Title.	Survey Plans Examined and Approved.				
		Crown.	Other Depart- ments.	Maori.	Land Transfer.	Totals.
North Auckland and South Auckland	16,229	193	208	46	1,046	1,493
Gisborne	937	19	..	8	60	87
Hawkes Bay	1,883	34	24	10	187	255
Taranaki	1,212	24	46	9	130	209
Wellington	6,242	32	98	15	372	517
Marlborough	552	21	14	..	73	108
Nelson	1,676	35	32	..	171	238
Westland	840	13	3	..	21	37
Canterbury	4,796	73	56	3	469	601
Otago	3,151	48	36	..	202	286
Southland	1,171	45	14	..	95	154
Totals ..	38,689 (42,686)	537 (498)	531 (526)	91 (120)	2,826 (2,724)	3,985 (3,868)

(Last year's figures are shown in parentheses.)

There is a slight increase in these returns over the previous year. Arrears have been reduced from 837 to 550, all of which are now confined to the Auckland district. It is hoped to completely eliminate all arrears this coming year when the modified form of plan examination instituted towards the end of the year will become more effective.

OTHER OFFICE-WORK

Except for the most essential routine work, there has been no opportunity during the year of dealing with the huge arrears of record and cadastral map production. This work is fully ten years in arrear, many cadastral maps having to be reprinted without revision.

Now that land-holding maps, illustrating rural land ownerships, have been completed in most districts, it will be possible to undertake more of this work during the ensuing year.

Although it is not possible to summarize the many and various works carried out by the draughting staff, the following summary sets out some of the main classes undertaken (last year's figures in parentheses):—

- | | | |
|--|--------|----------|
| (1) Record maps revised or redrawn .. | 209 | (123) |
| (2) Cadastral maps revised or redrawn .. | 55 | (41) |
| (3) Tracings supplied .. | 7,446 | (7,000) |
| (4) Photostats and prints supplied .. | 57,504 | (54,581) |

A new photostat machine has been installed in the Dunedin office, which now means that the four main districts of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin are equipped with an efficient means of copying map and plan records for various departmental and public purposes. This facility should be extended to other districts in order to reduce the amount of hand copying-work.