

WELFARE STAFF

The welfare staff comprises the Controller and thirty-four male or female welfare officers.

MAORI TRUSTEE

The powers and duties of the Maori Trustee are similar to those of the Public Trustee except that they affect the Maori people and Maori land.

The Maori Trustee is frequently appointed executor and administrator of the estates of deceased members of the Maori race, is the trustee of minors and others under disability, is often appointed by the Maori Land Court to enter into dealings in respect of Maori lands the owners of which cannot be traced, and is trustee of the North Island Tenth's Benefit Fund and the South Island Tenth's Benefit Fund. Large areas of both urban and rural Maori lands are also vested in the Maori Trustee for administration on behalf of the beneficial owners.

The number of private Maori estates under administration by the Maori Trustee increased to 2,068 as at 31st March. The present policy of decentralized administration is working well as it permits closer supervision of estates, personal contact between the administration and the beneficiaries, and results in expeditious handling in connection with estate matters. Thus a feeling of greater confidence is engendered in the minds of the Maori beneficiaries regarding their trust affairs.

The following table sets out the position of the estates at present being administered:—

District.	Minors.	Deceased Persons.	Convicts.	Mental Patients.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.
Tokerau and Waikato— Maniapoto	186	77	21	124	299	707
Wairiki	107	52	2	26	1	188
Tairāwhiti	49	26	7	63	6	151
Aotea	309	49	27	10	38	433
Ikaroa and South Island	336	68	12	38	135	589
Totals ..	987	272	69	261	479	2,068

MORTGAGE INVESTMENTS

A total of £296,920 from the Maori Trustee's Common Fund is invested in mortgage securities. There were 294 mortgages as at 31st March, 1949, and the area of land in these transactions amounted to 92,074 acres.

MAORI RESERVES

Lands vested in the Maori Trustee under the Maori Reserves Act and under the West Coast Settlement Reserve Act comprised:—

	Acres.
West Coast Settlement Reserves (Taranaki)	72,000
Greymouth (Town)	500
North Island Tenth's (Wellington City)	38
Palmerston North (City)	71
South Island Tenth's (Nelson City and Motueka)	4,200
Other North Island Reserves	4,000
Other South Island Reserves	13,500
	94,309