

59. Close liaison with the Rehabilitation Department will be maintained to gain the benefit of the experience of that Department in its training operations.

60. Some progress has been made with the scheme in the Gisborne and Rotorua districts, where up to 20 boys are in training for carpentry, joinery, and plumbing.

61. For other trades such as painting, paperhanging, and plastering it is proposed to investigate the possibility of the Rehabilitation Department taking selected youths for training in company with ex-servicemen.

62. The question of suitable living accommodation for youths drafted to the training centres is being fully investigated, and the Government has approved the establishment of hostels for Maori boys at Auckland, Rotorua, and Wellington.

MAORI WELFARE

Tribal Executives and Committees

63. There are now 72 Tribal Executives and 430 Tribal Committees operating throughout New Zealand. This increase of 9 Tribal Executives and 49 Tribal Committees on last year's figures is due mainly to the Waikato tribes organizing under the Maori Social and Economic Advancement Act, 1945. With the formation of Executives and Committees in this area a complete coverage of the country has been attained.

64. The Tribal Executives and Committees now have a better appreciation of their responsibilities and are functioning soundly. Co-operation with Government Departments is coming into evidence, and it is anticipated that in the near future some of the more advanced Executives and Committees will be self-reliant bodies able to solve their problems on the spot as they arise.

65. Besides co-operation with Government Departments, the Executives work in with local bodies (this is particularly so in one case where the Chairman of the Executive is also Chairman of the County Council). In some cases Executives have been entrusted with the collection of rates levied on Maori land, and this has proved very successful—an increase of 29 per cent. in rates collected in one county bears testimony to this. Hospital Boards sometimes seek the aid of Executives in securing staff for the hospitals.

66. Tribal Executives and Committees can achieve much for the people of New Zealand generally if organizations are aware of their existence and wish to co-operate. Meetings between Executives and outside organizations will lead to a better understanding and many apparent problems will disappear. However, to accomplish this the Executives and Committees must be regarded as competent bodies and not be treated as innovations of a very temporary nature.

67. At present most of the Executives and Committees are directing their energies to the more tangible things such as installation of water-supplies, marae improvements, hygiene and sanitation of Maori villages, and arts and crafts rather than the more abstract functions such as education. It will not be long before the tangible objectives have been attained, and work will then turn to the abstract—this is already evident in a few cases. Meanwhile, achievements are inculcating a greater pride in race in the Maori people, and this must have a beneficial influence.

68. Some of the Executives need assistance in the early stages, and it has been impressed upon them that, rather than embrace all the functions set out in section 12 of the Act, it would be better for them to concentrate on a few. The emphasized functions are housing, permanent employment, health, and education.