

REPORT.

The output by the field staff for the year is summarized below, but the complete details for the different districts will be found in the attached tables and reports of the several Chief Surveyors in charge.

The total cost of the surveyors and their parties amounted to £72,988, which is about £1,920 in excess of that of the previous year. This is accounted for chiefly by the increased urgency of demands for ordinary settlement surveys and also through the necessity for employment of additional surveyors, &c., on the subdivision of the Otago Central pastoral runs.

The following is a summary of the principal work completed during the past year :—

Class of Work.	Area.	Cost per Acre.	Total Cost.		
	Acres.		£	s.	d.
Minor triangulation	207,515	1-57d.	1,356	10	0
Topographical, for selection as unsurveyed ..	130,404	3-91d.	2,126	14	1
Rural and suburban, by staff	294,422	2-00s.	29,551	2	7
Rural and suburban, by licensed surveyors ..	25,706	1-61s.	2,076	12	5
Rural and suburban, by licensed surveyors, cost not available	7,651	..	..		
Town	430	22-82s.	534	0	6
	(468 sections)	per section			
Native Land Court, by staff	42,233	17-16d.	3,019	19	11
Native Land Court, by licensed surveyors ..	190,960	..	..		
Maori Land Board	85,983	16-87d.	6,044	10	0
Gold-mining, by staff	2,603	4-34s.	564	17	9
Gold-mining, by licensed surveyors	3,914	..	..		
Roads and railways	265 miles	£21-49 per mile	5,704	16	3

The work returned as completed under the various classes shows a considerable increase in area over last year's return.

TRIANGULATION.

Two hundred and seven thousand five hundred and fifteen acres have been completed in the Auckland, Nelson, Otago, and Southland Districts.

Reference has been made in previous reports to the pressing need for a secondary triangulation to control and bring into harmony the different groups of practically uncontrolled minor work, with their different standards of length, &c. With this object in view, a start has been made with the measurement of suitable base-lines, &c. In the Wellington District, the Wairarapa base-line of some eight miles in length has been completed; while the measurement of another, the Eltham-Okaiaawa base-line, about ten miles in length, has been begun in the Taranaki District, and this work I hope to considerably extend during the coming year.

SETTLEMENT SURVEYS.

The survey of 327,779 acres into 1,257 sections averaging 260 acres has been completed during the year, but if the subdivision of Native lands under the Maori Land Boards for the purpose of leasing to the public and comprising 85,983 acres, be added, the surveys executed for settlement purposes total 413,762 acres, in 1,464 sections.

The Auckland District takes the lead in this class of work with 73,786 acres of sectionized Crown land and 73,755 acres of Maori Land Board subdivisions; Wellington District returns 57,105 acres of Crown lands, and 10,062 acres of Maori Land Board subdivisions; Nelson has 58,554 acres of Crown land; Hawke's Bay has 41,116 acres of Crown land, and 2,166 acres for Maori Land Boards; Canterbury has 30,327 acres of Crown land subdivisions; while the remaining districts contribute 66,891 acres of ordinary settlement surveys.

In addition to the above, the survey of an area of some 681,000 acres representing the subdivision of six large pastoral runs has been completed in the field, and sale lithographs prepared.

The figures estimated to represent the area of settlement surveys, &c., in the hands of the staff surveyors at the close of the year were 1,354,048 acres.

Subsequent detailed information, however, caused this total to be altered to one of 1,339,856 acres, which includes an area of 747 acres of town subdivisions. Out of this total an area of 822,679 acres of settlement land has been completed in the field, but the finished plans have not