

HORTICULTURE DIVISION.

REPORT OF T. W. KIRK, DIRECTOR.

Wellington, 9th May, 1916.

The Secretary of Agriculture, Industries, and Commerce.

I HAVE pleasure in forwarding herewith the annual report of this Division for the year ended 31st March, 1916.

T. W. KIRK, Director.

INTRODUCTION.

The work coming within the scope of this Division has been energetically carried out during the past year. The following are the principal activities dealt with by this branch of the Department:—

- (1.) Instruction in fruit and vegetable production, inspection of orchards, vineyards, and gardens, and affording information as to the most up-to-date methods of controlling diseases and insect pests; also giving advice as to suitable varieties of fruit, vegetables, &c., to plant.
- (2.) Demonstrations and instruction in the grading and packing of fruit and in pruning and spraying.
- (3.) Testing new brands of spraying-compounds for the purpose of ascertaining their efficacy under local conditions.
- (4.) Affording advice on the preserving of fruit and vegetables, both for commercial and domestic purposes.
- (5.) Advising on tree-planting, giving information as to the most suitable varieties of trees to plant, both for shelter and timber purposes, in different localities.
- (6.) Control of the horticultural stations at Te Kauwhata, Tauranga, and Arataki.
- (7.) Inspection of all imported fruit, vegetables, plants, bulbs, &c., at the ports of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Bluff; also inspection and grading of all locally grown fruit, plants, vegetables, &c., intended for export.
- (8.) Giving advice on the growing of grapes, both outdoor and under glass, the control of pests and diseases, and on the making of wines.
- (9.) Affording information on beekeeping generally and production of honey for market.
- (10.) Inspection of apiaries and instruction in up-to-date methods of controlling disease.
- (11.) Grading of honey for export.

THE FRUIT INDUSTRY.

Orchard planting is still making rapid development. The area actually planted in commercial orchards during the year was 3,588 acres, being an increase of 286 acres on the previous year's figures, and bringing the total acreage under fruit for the whole of the Dominion up to 45,687 acres.

The following figures show the area planted during the 1915 planting season in each Orchard Instructor's district:—

	Acres.
Whangarei	145
North Auckland	500
South Auckland	30
Poverty Bay	58
Waikato and Bay of Plenty	67
Hawke's Bay	150
Taranaki	5
Manawatu and Wairarapa	40
Hutt	23
Nelson	1,577
Marlborough	180
North Canterbury (including Westland)	170
South Canterbury	43
Otago	600
Total	3,588

The following figures, showing the total area under orchards throughout the Dominion, will give a good idea of the rapid strides that have been made in orchard planting during the last five years:—

	Acres.
1910	31,769
1911	35,839
1912	36,967
1913	38,797
1914	42,099
1915	45,687