

1917.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY:
SWAMP DRAINAGE.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1917, TOGETHER WITH STATEMENT
OF ACCOUNTS.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 13 of the Swamp Drainage Act, 1915.

SIR,—

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 1st June, 1917.

In pursuance of section 13 of the Swamp Drainage Act, 1915, I forward herewith the report of the Chief Drainage Engineer upon the operations carried out under the above Act for the past year, together with a statement of accounts.

I have, &c.,

T. N. BRODRICK, Under-Secretary.

The Right Hon. W. F. Massey, P.C., Minister of Lands.

REPORT BY CHIEF DRAINAGE ENGINEER.

SIR,—

There are now three drainage areas gazetted under the Act, and I give a short report on each.

It is almost unnecessary to state that development-work has been seriously hampered in many ways. War conditions have prevented delivery of two Priestman dredgers from England, not to mention the difficulty of obtaining labour and generally staffing the various works. When the above difficulties are got over our programme of development will be actively prosecuted and many important works set in motion, as they are all in train to this end.

WAIHI DRAINAGE AREA (22,720 ACRES).

Work on the Waihi Swamp is progressing satisfactorily. The Priestman dredger during the year completed 195 chains of dredging, an average width of 27 ft. being maintained throughout. The amount of spoil removed was 120,713 cubic yards, at a cost of 2-54d. per cubic yard.

The season has been an exceptionally wet one, retarding progress considerably. Difficulty in obtaining suitable labour was experienced, and settlers in the vicinity were employed in widening and deepening the Kaikokopu and Mangatoetoe Streams for a distance of 45 chains, and also widening only for a distance of 24 chains. The effect of this will be to give the settlers towards the south ample fall, and the beds of the streams have been lowered considerably.

The expenditure on works during the year amounted to £1,182 14s. 7d.

POUKAWA LAKE DRAINAGE AREA (13,567 ACRES).

Work in this locality has been held up on account of the impossibility of obtaining the Priestman dredger (on order) from England owing to war difficulties. Good progress, however, has been made with the preliminary work. Plans of the engineering surveys have been completed, as have also plans of the proposed schemes.

Regarding the survey work, forty-one miles of connecting levels have been completed, and twelve miles of engineering surveys and levels. The lake has been traversed, showing an area of 635 acres; the "wet area" of the lake comprises 3,252 acres.

During the year 33 chains of road have been formed and crowned, two small bridges have been constructed, and also one pontoon (61 ft. 5 in. by 24 ft. by 5 ft. 6 in.) has been built on the works and floated and is ready to receive dredger. The buildings constructed include an office, workmen's quarters, and a tool-house.

Progress work is at present at a standstill, due to the non-arrival of the necessary dredge machinery for carrying on same, and also pending the acquisition of certain Native lands. Meanwhile a responsible overseer is in charge of works.

The expenditure on works during the year was £1,538 4s. 6d.

KAITAIA DRAINAGE AREA (39,665 ACRES).

Good progress has been made on the above works despite the very wet weather experienced and difficulties caused through scarcity of suitable labour due to war conditions. During the latter part of the year several floods followed in quick succession, the holding-capacity of the Tongong Lake being heavily taxed, and flood-waters spread everywhere over the low-lying areas.

Bullock teams have been engaged during the year in clearing the Kaitaia River of snags, willows, and other obstructions, the total distance cleared being seven miles, including clearing of numerous projected diversions. These diversions (of which there are about thirty between Kaitaia and Awanui) will shorten the river-course by about five miles. Since the willows and snags have been removed the floods have not overflowed the banks nearly so much as previously, and adjoining landowners are very pleased with the result of the work so far attained. It is unfortunate that the Priestman dredger on order from England cannot be delivered early on account of war exigencies, as much greater progress could then be made. A pontoon to carry the machinery is now in course of construction, and land-plan surveys are also under way.

The expenditure on works during the year was £3,843 7s. 3d.

I have, &c.,

J. B. THOMPSON,

Chief Drainage Engineer.

The Under-Secretary for Lands, Wellington.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
New Zealand Loans Act, 1908 :—	£	s. d.	<i>Expenditure under Section 4 of the Swamp Drainage Act, 1915, and Section 95 of the Reserves and other Lands Disposal and Public Bodies Empowering Act, 1916.</i>		
Swamp Drainage Act, 1915,—			1917, 31st March.		
Debentures issued	11,000	0 0	Kaitaia :—		
			Drainage-works and other	£	s. d.
			expenses incidental		
			thereto	3,255	11 10
			Equipment and mainten-		
			ance of dredges, wages		
			of dredgemasters, &c.	84	6 0
			Travelling-expenses, &c.	80	14 9
			Material	9	4 0
			Office upkeep	8	18 10
			Bank overdraft, Kaitaia		
			Drainage Board	404	11 10
					3,843 7 3
			Poukawa :—		
			Drainage-works and ex-		
			penses incidental there-		
			to	1,093	8 1
			Equipment and mainten-		
			ance of dredges, wages		
			of dredgemasters, &c.	264	0 11
			Travelling-expenses ..	106	17 5
			Materials	73	18 1
					1,538 4 6
			Waihi :—		
			Drainage-works and ex-		
			penses incidental there-		
			to	854	15 11
			Equipment and mainten-		
			ance of dredges, wages		
			of dredgemasters, &c.	327	8 8
			Travelling-expenses ..	0	10 0
					1,182 14 7
					6,564 6 4
			New Zealand Loans Act, 1908 :—		
			Swamp Drainage Act, 1915,—		
			Charges and expenses ..		0 7 0
			Balance at end of year :—		
			Cash in Public Account ..		4,435 6 8
					£11,000 0 0
					£11,000 0 0

LOAN ACCOUNT.

1917, 31st March.			1916, 1st April.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance	11,000	0 0	Debentures issued under the New Zealand		
			Loans Act, 1908 :—		
			Swamp Drainage Act, 1915 ..	11,000	0 0
					£11,000 0 0
					£11,000 0 0

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given ; printing (850 copies), £2.

By Authority : MARCUS F. MARKS, Government Printer, Wellington.—1917.

Price 3d.]