

REPORT.

THE demands on the Department for the year ended 31st March, 1922, have again been heavy, although the acreage surveyed shows a decided shrinkage in all the land districts excepting Otago as compared with last year's returns.

Of the surveyors employed thirty-seven were staff, two temporary, and twenty-one contract; while, apart from these, there were a number of cadets and assistants employed.

The attached tables give a concise summary of the amount of work completed. Full details are contained in the reports supplied by the Chief Surveyors, which are filed as departmental records.

Under the heading of "Rural Surveys," in Table B, an area of 370,082 acres is shown as completed work, as compared with 440,448 acres for last year; and under the heading of "Native-land Surveys" the area shows a decrease from 266,890 acres to 258,067 acres.

The average cost per acre of rural surveys has decreased from 2s. 2d. to 1s. 10d., and the average cost per acre of Native-land surveys has advanced from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 1d., as compared with the prices ruling last year. The advance in the cost per acre of the Native-land surveys is due to an increase of 20 per cent. to the schedule of rates for the surveys of Native and Crown lands which was authorized on the 10th March, 1921. These figures show a good agreement between the cost of the work done by the staff surveyors and that done by contract, and that the price is reasonable.

TABLE A.

Class of Work.	Area, &c.	Average Cost.	Total Cost.		
	Acres.	Per Acre.	£	s.	d.
Triangulation, by staff surveyors	4,956	5d.	103	4	0
Rural surveys, by staff surveyors	329,258	1·86s.	30,665	16	5
Rural surveys, by licensed surveyors	40,831	1·65s.	3,378	10	1
Village and suburban, by staff surveyors	706·96	38s.	1,345	17	3
Village and suburban, by licensed surveyors	53·25	50·8s.	135	7	0
Town, by staff surveyors	170·95	54·4s.	466	10	4
Town, by licensed surveyors	56·52	88·8s.	251	2	6
Native Land Court, by staff surveyors	19,234	1·07s.	1,029	0	11
Native Land Court, by licensed surveyors	238,832	2·14s.	25,537	17	7
Native Land Court, paid by applicants	6,057	..	..	..	..
Coal- and gold-mining areas, paid by applicants	768	..	..	..	..
Sawmill areas, paid by applicants	400	..	..	..	..
	Miles.	Per Mile.			
Roads, by staff surveyors	243·92	£35·535	8,666	18	6
Roads, by licensed surveyors	26·87	£36·978	993	11	9

TABLE B.

Land District.	Rural Surveys.	Native-land Surveys.
	Acres.	Acres.
North Auckland	59,088	17,470
Auckland	84,005	94,453
Hawke's Bay	9,201	48,058
Taranaki	1,977	47,372
Wellington	10,275	46,311
Marlborough	3,791	2,641
Nelson	23,602	..
Westland	5,913	..
Canterbury	188	1,351
Otago	172,042	49
Southland	..	362
Totals	370,082	258,067

MINOR TRIANGULATION.

An area of 4,956 acres, at a cost of 5d. per acre, is shown under this heading. The whole of the work is in Auckland District, and was undertaken to control the settlement surveys.