

ELECTRIC-POWER BOARDS.

The reticulation of the electric power supplied in bulk from the Government power-stations is intended to be undertaken by the Electric-power Boards, and twenty-three such Boards have now been constituted, as detailed in the attached table. These cover a total area of 31,141 square miles, or 30 per cent. of the area of the Dominion, and include a population of 470,087, or 38·5 per cent. of the total population of the Dominion; so that about one-third of the Dominion is provided for by the Power Boards already formed.

The subdivision of the whole Dominion into suggested electric-power districts as outlined in the last Statement provides for forty-one districts, and nineteen of the above twenty-three correspond closely to the subdivisions proposed.

Electric-power Boards of New Zealand as constituted on 1st September, 1922.

Name of Electric-power District.	Proclamation constituting District gazetted.	Number of Members on Board.	Approximate Area of District.	Population.	Value of Rateable Property (unimproved).	Amount of Loan.	Voting for Loan Poll.	
							For.	Against.
			Sq. Miles.		£	£		
Southland ..	19/11/19	12	9,986	65,450	13,600,471	1,500,000	6,516	415
Thames Valley ..	8/1/20	12	2,304	16,000	6,814,993	550,000	1,503	28
Te Awamutu ..	8/1/20	10	309	6,000	1,759,558	120,000	359	..
Cambridge ..	8/1/20	8	104	5,000	1,683,632	60,000	198	3
Banks Peninsula ..	8/1/20	7	372	3,500	3,430,817	100,000	331	23
Wairarapa ..	25/3/20	9	2,073	21,800	3,114,718	260,000	1,704	225
Central ..	8/7/20	7	300	9,110	3,667,904	200,000	515	19
Wairoa ..	29/7/20	10	1,369	3,900	2,417,251	100,000	504	31
Springs-Ellesmere ..	8/7/20	7	242	5,400	2,627,468	60,000	302	16
Teviot ..	22/7/20	7	120	1,800	169,137	35,000	191	27
Opunake ..	18/8/21	7	240	3,227	536,153	70,000	170	20
Auckland ..	1/4/22	12	227	128,000	21,502,118	600,000	4,179	288
Ashburton ..	17/11/21	12	2,542	16,691	9,346,863	296,500	1,590	96
Manawatu-Oroua ..	1/12/21	12	1,301	38,330	12,944,573	500,000	1,144	96
Dannevirke ..	11/8/21	10	676	11,848	3,555,382	175,000	651	93
Horowhenua ..	1/12/21	9	630	11,795	3,403,255	260,000	973	26
Wanganui-Rangitikei	1/12/21	12	2,614	41,564	10,864,130	Poll not yet	taken.	
Taranaki ..	23/3/22	10	700	8,485	2,859,070	"	"	
Taranaki ..	19/5/22	7	1,969	34,558	2,865,396	"	"	
Hutt Valley ..	6/7/22	9	471	22,450	2,659,074	"	"	
Buller ..	11/5/22	5	1,818	10,057	686,209	"	"	
Westland ..	28/10/20	9	750	3,272	196,268	"	"	
Reefton ..	30/6/21	5	24	1,850	59,316	"	"	
Totals ..	..	..	31,141	470,087	110,763,756	4,886,500	20,830	1,406

In addition to the twenty-three districts already constituted, petitions have been circulated or other preliminary steps taken to constitute Electric-power Boards in the following districts:—

	Population.	Area (Square Miles).
Waipawa ..	8,534	1,235
Tauranga ..	6,197	651
Marlborough ..	16,967	437
South Canterbury ..	40,657	5,100
Otago ..	108,604	4,126
Te Kuiti ..	8,568	1,115
Selwyn ..	10,455	2,281
Grey Valley ..	11,953	1,452
Otago Central ..	5,121	2,684
Wairere Falls ..	..	..
Totals ..	217,056	19,081

With regard to the sources of supply of the twenty-three districts constituted, four are now taking supply from Horahora, three have arranged to take supply from Lake Coleridge, seven propose to take supply from Mangahao, one has arranged to take supply from Arapuni, one has arranged to take supply from Waikaremoana, three have arranged to construct their own power-stations, and four have not yet decided upon their source of supply but will require to make their own arrangements: that is to say, sixteen out of the twenty-three have been formed to take supply in bulk from the Government, and the other seven will probably also take such supply as soon as it is available.

Out of the twenty-three districts sixteen have already laid out their schemes of reticulation and taken their loan polls. The total amount of the loans is £4,886,500. This amounts to 5·4 per cent. of the unimproved rateable value of the districts concerned, and £14 per head of population of the districts concerned. It is anticipated that each Board will so arrange its scale of charges that the whole of the annual costs, both working-costs and capital charges, will be paid out of the revenue received from consumers; but if the whole of the interest at an average rate of 6 per cent. were a charge against rates it would amount to about 3d. in the pound on the unimproved value, and proportionately less on the capital value. It will be noted that the loan polls in the various districts have been passed by an average majority of fifteen to one—in other words, the ratepayers have been practically unanimous in approval of the loans.