

HONORARY GEOGRAPHIC BOARD.

(Provisionally constituted, 1924.)

The third annual meeting of the Board, convened by the Surveyor-General, was held in the office of the Under-Secretary for Lands, Government Buildings, on the 9th February, 1927.

The members present were—Sir Frederick R. Chapman (in the chair), the Ven. Archdeacon Herbert Williams, Messrs. W. T. Neill (Surveyor-General), Elsdon Best, and M. Crompton Smith.

Mr. J. C. Andersen was unavoidably absent, being at a conference of librarians at Wanganui.

Lists of Names.—Lists of doubtful and duplicated names supplied by the Chief Surveyors of Marlborough, Otago, Southland, and Westland were circulated among the members for their comments.

Orthography.—The following names, as being correct spelling, were submitted and confirmed: "Kaitaratahi" (railway-station, Gisborne district) and "Katiki" (railway-station near Hampden).

Requests.—Alterations to the names of the following were submitted, recommended, and confirmed: Name of "Kahukura" to "Tikitiki" for post-office; name of "Maungarei" to "Marama" for railway-station; name of "North East Harbour" to "Macandrew Bay" post-office; name of "Okehu" to "Maxwell" for railway-station.

Protest.—From the Rev. F. H. Spencer, against transfer of name of "Te Ngae" from the old post-office site to the new office at Rotokawa, and suggestion that the name of "Rotokawa" be applied to the new post-office. Resolved, That the new post-office be named "Rotokawa" and the name of "Te Ngae" be retained for the old site.

Protest.—From Mr. Lippe, against the obliteration of his name and the substitution of Mr. Talbot's for a peak in Milford Sound district. Resolved, That the present name should not be altered.

Changes of Name.—It was resolved that the Board expresses the wish that the Ministers and Heads of Departments refer all cases of proposed changes of names to the Board, and that the editor of the *Dominion* be asked to bring up before the forthcoming journalistic conference the question of urging the editors of the various papers to do their best to forward the interests of this Board in correct spelling of Maori names.

Correspondence from Mr. Brocket, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Railway Board, Postal Department, Messrs. G. M. Moir, R. S. M. Sinclair, E. P. Lee, M.P., J. Roberts, the Minister of Railways, Canon Nevill, and Professor J. Park was submitted and dealt with.

PROPOSED OPERATIONS FOR 1927-28.

Geodetic Triangulation.—The coming year should see this triangulation extended over the Hawke's Bay and northern portion of the Wellington districts, and the connection with the Wairarapa base-line should not be far distant.

Minor Triangulation.—No work of this nature is contemplated at present, but a little may be found necessary to control settlement surveys as this work progresses.

Topographical Surveys.—The contoured topographical surveys now in progress in the Taupo County and in Taranaki (including the Egmont National Park) will be continued during the year, while that in the vicinity of Ngaruawahia will be completed early.

Exploratory and Geographical Surveys.—At the end of the year a party under the charge of Mr. Preston had fixed a number of positions in the West Coast Sounds by astronomic latitudes and wireless longitudes, and made topographical sketches of several of the Sounds and surrounding areas based on triangulation with a 4 in. theodolite. This work will be mapped during the year, and will form a check on the coast-line as at present charted, and which is supposed to be considerably in error. The report on this survey will be published in the "*Records of the Survey.*"

Standard Surveys.—The survey of the suburban boroughs around the City of Auckland will be continued, while that of the Borough of New Plymouth will be completed during the year. An extension of the survey of Westport is also expected to be completed, and the rural standard survey of the main road near Blenheim and Nelson will be again put in hand. The extension of the standard survey of Timaru will be completed early in the year, and Christchurch suburban survey continued as found necessary. The survey of Invercargill will be continued. The large increase in the urban population will necessitate a more rapid progress of this class of survey, and it is desirable that further surveys be put in hand as soon as surveyors are available.

Town-section Surveys.—The principal towns surveys for the ensuing year are those of the Orakei Garden Suburb, Auckland, and the Lower Hutt Valley. These will be continued and the sectionized portions made ready for placing on the market. Several other small areas in various land districts will also be cut up for disposal as towns.

Rural Settlement Surveys.—About 124,000 acres of rural land is or will become available for settlement during the year, and the survey of this area will be put in hand. This area consists chiefly of Native land purchased by the Crown, and is scattered throughout the Dominion.

Native Land Court Surveys.—Authorities for the survey of 143,671 acres of Native lands have been issued, and practically the whole of this work has been placed in the hands of private surveyors.

Miscellaneous.—In addition to the above-mentioned works there is the customary examination and recording of plans, the inspection of surveys, the compilation and drawing of maps for publication the computations in connection with the tidal, magnetic, and geodetic surveys, and the preparation of various tables in connection therewith.