

1929.
NEW ZEALAND.

KAURI-GUM INDUSTRY

(REPORT ON THE) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1929.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 5 of the Kauri-gum Industry Amendment Act, 1914.

Department of Lands and Survey,

Wellington, 1st July, 1929.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report under the Kauri-gum Industry Amendment Act, 1914, for the year ended 31st March, 1929.

I have, &c.,

J. B. THOMPSON, Under-Secretary.

The Hon. G. W. Forbes, Minister of Lands.

IN accordance with the provisions of the Kauri-gum Control Act, 1925, all stocks of kauri-gum the property of the Department were placed in the hands of the Kauri-gum Control Board for disposal. The Kauri-gum Control Board having decided not to export gum, but to act as a broker in the sale of producers' gum to exporters, the Government stocks were offered for sale locally.

In the early part of the year a good deal of the stocks accumulated by dealers and others since the boom year of 1920 was still unsold. During the year, however, owing to the low prices obtainable for gum, most of the diggers gradually left the fields, and with the lower production the remaining private accumulations were mostly worked off, and the Government stocks came into demand and could be sold without disturbing the market or unduly interfering with current production. A number of large parcels of Government gum of gradings in short supply have been disposed of, and delivery is being taken as desired by the buyers within twelve months from the date of purchase. It is hoped that by the end of the current year practically the whole of the Government stocks of gum will have been disposed of and delivery taken.

The following tables give particulars of the export of kauri-gum from the Dominion for the years 1918–29, and of the quantities of gum received in Auckland from the gumfields during the past eight years :—

EXPORT OF KAURI-GUM.

For the year ended 31st March, 1929, the export amounted to 4,566 tons, of the value of £241,223, an average price of £53 per ton. The tonnage, value, and average price per ton of the export for the past twelve years are—

Year ended 31st March,	Tonnage exported.	Value. £	Average per Ton. £
1918	4,636	304,852	66
1919	2,338	152,299	66
1920	4,726	310,614	66
1921	6,131	524,701	85
1922	3,968	391,304	98
1923	6,080	520,409	85
1924	6,923	640,712	92
1925	5,432	446,019	82
1926	5,495	414,420	75
1927	4,529	301,335	66
1928	4,531	267,559	59
1929	4,566	241,223	53