

1932.

NEW ZEALAND.

KAURI-GUM INDUSTRY

(REPORT ON THE) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1932.

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 August, 1932.

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, 1932.

I have, &c.,

W. ROBERTSON, Under-Secretary.

The Hon. E. A. Ransom, Minister of Lands.

DURING the year business has been very dull, with practically no demand for the better (varnish) grades and a greatly diminished demand for the poorer (linoleum) grades. It has not been a question of price, or the competition of other gums, so much as a result of the world-wide depression in raw materials generally. Other varnish and linoleum gums have been affected in the same way, some to a much greater extent than kauri-gum. Whilst the demand has fallen off in all directions, it has been particularly so in the case of the United States of America, business with that country being duller and prices lower than for very many years past. To some extent the demand for linoleum grades has held up and some business has been possible, especially with Great Britain, but prices have fallen to a very low level.

Owing to the depressed conditions of the labour-market, gum-diggers were for the most part compelled to remain on the gumfields and accept whatever prices were offered, with the result that the output of gum has been much larger than would have been the case had other work been obtainable.

The Department still has a comparatively small stock of gum in the hands of the Kauri-gum Control Board, consisting of chip gradings recleaned at the Board's gum-cleaning plant at Penrose. No reasonable offer could be obtained for the same during the year, and they are being held pending an improvement in the market conditions.

EXPORT OF KAURI-GUM.

For the year ended 31st March, 1932, the export amounted to 3,164 tons, of the value of £124,757, an average price of about £39 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. £
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
1930	4,941	264,452	53
1931	3,145	155,602	49
1932	3,164	124,757	39