

CHARTERED CLUBS.

The total number of clubs remains at forty-six, and no new club charter has been granted since the year 1908.

From reports furnished by the Inspectors of Chartered Clubs, the indications are that all the clubs which hold charters under the Licensing Act, 1908, are being properly conducted and are carrying out the conditions upon which their charters were granted. It was not found necessary to take proceedings against any club during the year.

MAORI ANTIQUITIES ACT, 1908.

Nine warrants were issued authorizing the export of articles made according to ancient Maori methods. Authority was granted in eight instances for the export of various articles of the souvenir type and of modern make, and not therefore coming within the scope of the Act.

ADVERTISING OFFICE.

The work in this section of the Department continues to expand; it being found necessary to strengthen the cutting staff during the year to meet the increasing demand for press clippings.

Accounts.—Advertising accounts recorded, checked, and certified in the Office during the year approximated 10,990, an increase of 1,560 on the previous year's vouchers—viz., 9,430.

Yearly Expenditure.—The total expenditure for Government advertising for all Departments during the year under review amounted to £27,807 3s. 7d. as compared with £23,802 1s. 3d. for the financial year ended 31st March, 1935.

Cuttings.—Press clippings supplied to Ministers and Departments were again in excess of the number handled during the previous year, approximating 1,800 to 2,200 weekly.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

During the year, thirty-two distinguished visitors from other countries were the recipients of Government privileges and hospitality, among them being Lord Barnby, of England; General Evangeline Booth, of the Salvation Army; General Sir C. N. MacMullen, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command, India; Hon. R. S. Vincent, Minister of Forestry, New South Wales; Right Hon. J. Lyons, Prime Minister of Australia; Hon. R. L. Butler, Prime Minister of South Australia; Hon. G. L. Goudie and members of the Victorian Delegation; the Japanese Goodwill Mission; Hon. M. P. Hynes; Mr. F. M. B. Fisher; Dr. Kagawa; Sir Maurice Hankey; and Senator Pearce.

The visit of His Excellency Mr. K. Debuchi, Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary, and other members of the Japanese Goodwill Mission, was one of the notable events which took place during the year. During their stay in the Dominion the members of the Mission were afforded the opportunity of meeting members of all the principal Chambers of Commerce and local authorities, and visits were made to all the principal towns and scenic resorts. It has been stated that the Ambassador was most impressed with the reception and treatment accorded the Mission throughout New Zealand.

One of the features of the year was the number of warships which paid visits to New Zealand, there being nine ships in New Zealand waters at various times. The Australian Squadron, which was comprised of the cruisers "Canberra" and "Sussex" and the destroyers "Stuart," "Voyager," and "Vendetta" stayed in New Zealand waters for a period of three weeks, while the Japanese training-cruisers "Yakumu" and "Asama" were at New Zealand ports for six days. The French sloop "Amiral Charner" and the Japanese training-ship "Shintoku Maru" also paid short visits to New Zealand.

Government hospitality was extended to the officers and men of all these ships during their stay at New Zealand ports, and the thanks of the Department are due to the various civic authorities and organizations for the manner in which they helped to make the visits as pleasant as possible for both officers and men.

I also desire to take this opportunity of expressing my cordial thanks and appreciation to all Government Departments for their able and courteous assistance in enabling this Department to carry out the Government's policy of entertaining distinguished visitors.

WAR GRAVES.

New Zealand.—The number of notifications of deaths of returned soldiers received by the Department was 542, of which 111 were accepted as war graves—i.e., that the cause of death in these cases was attributable to disabilities sustained on or aggravated by war service. The total number of war graves in New Zealand at the close of the year was 3,047.

Temporary crosses to mark the graves, until such time as the soldiers' headstones are erected, were placed on 248 graves, and headstones to the number of eighty-six were ordered.

Additional constructional work was carried out in the soldiers' cemeteries at Hokitika; Anderson's Bay, Dunedin; Karori, Wellington; Kelvin Grove, Palmerston North; and Bromley, Christchurch; whilst a large number of graves in Karori, Bromley, Linwood, Sydenham, Anderson's Bay, O'Neill's Point, Waikumete, and Ashburton Cemeteries were renovated.

All soldiers' graves continue to be suitably maintained under arrangements made through the local controlling authorities.

Veterans' graves also continue to be attended to. In addition to those previously dealt with, further graves at Ngauruawahia, St. Mary's Churchyard, and Te Henui Cemetery, New Plymouth, were put in order, whilst a memorial was also erected at Tātōhoata to the Native Auxiliaries who lost their lives in the attack on Orangikawa Pa in the Urewera Country in May, 1869.