

1937.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY.

SWAMP DRAINAGE.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1937, TOGETHER WITH STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS.

*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 13 of the
Swamp Drainage Act, 1915.*

Department of Lands and Survey,
Wellington, 1st August, 1937.
SIR,— In pursuance of section 13 of the Swamp Drainage Act, 1915, I have the honour
to forward the report of the Chief Drainage Engineer covering operations on lands proclaimed
under the Swamp Drainage Act and amendments.
I have, &c.,
W. Robertson,
Under-Secretary for Lands.
The Hon. Frank Langstone, Minister of Lands.

REPORT OF CHIEF DRAINAGE ENGINEER.

SIR,— I have the honour to submit my annual report on the areas proclaimed under the Swamp
Drainage Act, 1915, and its amendments.

KAITAIA DRAINAGE AREA (61,430 ACRES), MANGONUI COUNTY.

The maintenance of completed works was the only work of importance undertaken during the
year. As usual the contracts were called for in the late summer, and all this work was satisfactorily
carried out by the contractors. In addition to the cleaning of drains in the autumn, it is found
necessary to carry out minor cleaning at other times of the year. In the lower-lying areas it would
be a decided benefit if the flat, gradient drains could be given an extra dragging in the spring, but
consequent on the response from rates not being very satisfactory it is impossible to provide for extra
work of this nature.

Rainfall and river-gauge readings were taken throughout the year as shown on schedule
hereunder :—

RAINFALL AND RIVER-GAUGE READINGS AT KAITAIA FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1937.

Month.				Rainfall (Inches).	Wet Days in Month.	Highest Rain- fall for Twenty-four Hours (Inches).	Kaitaia River-gauge, Wai- kuriki Bridge.	
							Highest.	Lowest.
1936.								
April	..	..	..	1.58	10	0.34	53.7	52.6
May	..	..	..	1.40	9	0.60	58.4	52.5
June	..	..	..	3.52	18	1.15	56.6	52.5
July	..	..	..	5.26	24	1.15	59.7	54.0
August	..	..	..	5.99	17	1.73	66.3	53.6
September	..	..	..	3.09	19	0.94	58.4	53.6
October	..	..	..	3.73	12	1.54	65.4	52.9
November	..	..	..	7.87	15	2.34	67.8	53.6
December	..	..	..	4.24	7	2.00	66.0	52.9
1937.								
January	..	..	..	6.84	15	1.37	64.5	54.0
February	..	..	..	3.10	9	0.97	55.8	52.7
March	..	..	..	2.12	8	1.33	55.9	52.7
Totals				..	..	48.74	163	

Stop-banks.—As stated in the previous year's report, a very high spring tide topped the stop-banks
on the foreshore and did considerable damage to these banks and also to the settlers' land adjoining.
The repairing of these banks was taken in hand immediately, and is now well on towards completion.
These banks were constructed with a view to preventing only ordinary spring tides from overflowing
the lands, and now the settlers affected have requested that the banks should be enlarged so as to
safeguard their lands from the extraordinary high tides. This is being investigated, and from the
data now available it is evident that a very large expenditure would be necessary to achieve that
object.