

LAND RESERVED FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES.

Under the provisions of section 360 of the Land Act, 1924, and section 71 of the Land for Settlements Act, 1925, various areas of Crown and settlement land were permanently reserved during the year. The reservations made totalled fifty-eight, covering an area of approximately 2,031 acres. A summary of work carried out under the heading is given below :—

Purpose of Reserve.	Number of Reservations.	Area.		
		A.	R.	P.
Buildings of the General Government	1	2	2	29
Camping	1	3	2	15·6
For the use of the aboriginal Natives of New Zealand	1	5	3	38
Gravel	3	7	1	23
Hall-site	3	2	1	1
Plantation	2	108	3	3
Public buildings of the General Government ..	6	13	0	9·9
Public-school site	8	25	0	21·3
Quarry	3	81	1	36·5
Recreation	18	572	0	2·59
River-protection	1	43	0	0
Roadman's cottage-site	2	5	3	3
School-site, addition to a	5	3	3	34·8
Site for county buildings	1	0	0	27·2
Water-conservation	2	656	0	9
Water-supply	1	500	0	0
Total	58	2,031	1	13·89

The above does not include areas that have been vested in the Crown as public reserves in town subdivisions pursuant to the provisions of section 16 of the Land Act, 1924.

RETIREMENT OF UNDER-SECRETARY.

Mr. W. Robertson, I.S.O., relinquished his active official duties on 31st March, 1939, from which date he commenced three months' leave prior to retiring from the position of Under-Secretary for Lands after forty-seven years' service.

Mr. Robertson joined the Dunedin office in 1892, and was subsequently attached to the Napier, Hokitika, and Invercargill offices. In 1913 he was promoted to Head Office, being transferred to Auckland in 1917. Upon the constitution of the North Auckland Land District in 1919 Mr. Robertson was selected to organize the new office for that district. In the same year he was appointed departmental Inspector, and in the years following was closely associated with the Dominion Revaluation Board in connection with the revaluation of soldier farms. He was appointed Assistant Under-Secretary in 1925, and in 1931 succeeded Mr. J. B. Thompson, C.B.E., as Under-Secretary for Lands. In addition to the office of Under-Secretary, he was also Land Purchase Controller and Chairman of the Dominion Land Purchase Board, Small Farms Board, Central Revaluation Board, Dominion Revaluation Board, and Tongariro National Park Board, as well as a member of various other Government Boards. In 1937 he received the decoration of a Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

EXPENDITURE.

Summary of Expenditure approved during the Year ended 31st March, 1939.

Name of Vote or Account.	Net Amount voted.	Gross Expenditure.	Recoveries.	Net Expenditure.
<i>Voted Expenditure.</i>				
Vote, Lands and Survey—	£	£	£	£
Subdivision I	241,272	316,081	78,435	237,646
Subdivision II	59,623	51,184	..	51,184
Subdivision III	13,140	11,366	..	11,366
Total, Vote, Lands and Survey	314,035	378,631	78,435	300,196
Vote, Land for Settlements	345,000	193,284	66	193,218
Vote, Swamp Land Drainage—				
Hauraki Plains District	18,100	24,457	18,295	6,162
Swamp Land Drainage Districts	900	474	1,312	Cr. 838
Vote, Settlement of Unemployed Workers	340,000	526,397	181,713	344,684
Total voted expenditure	1,018,035	1,123,243	279,821	843,422
<i>Other Expenditure.</i>				
Land for Settlements Account—				
Expenditure from capital proceeds of sales of Crown and national-endowment lands		13,038	..	13,038
Interest and other charges		31,465	..	31,465
Expenditure under special Acts of the Legislature—Section 295 (2), Land Act, 1924 : Administration expenses of national-endowment lands		6,048	..	6,048
Expenditure approved by the Hon. Minister of Finance against Unauthorized Expenditure Account		127	97	30
Refunds of revenue : Deposits Account expenditure and miscellaneous expenditure		7,505	..	7,505
Total departmental expenditure		1,181,426	279,918	901,508