

taken over by the Board as from 1st June, 1938. Payments to beneficiaries increased by £1,192, but receipts from rents, &c., diminished by £2,249. Receipts and payments on behalf of the East Coast Commission show a decrease. The accounts of the Wi Pere Trust were transferred to the Tairāwhiti office as from 1st July, and the administrative work of this trust is now undertaken by the office. Particulars of the Board's financial transactions and its investments are as follows:—

<i>Total Receipts.</i>						£
For year ended 31st March, 1939	..	..	..	..	..	105,727
For year ended 31st March, 1938	..	..	..	..	..	95,689
Increase ..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>£10,038</u>

<i>Total Expenditure.</i>						£
For year ended 31st March, 1939	..	..	..	..	..	107,557
For year ended 31st March, 1938	..	..	..	..	..	97,858
Increase ..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>£9,699</u>

(These figures exclude Native Trust stations and housing.)

<i>Board Investments, 31st March, 1939.</i>						£
Government securities	..	..	..	..	..	51,923
On deposit with Native Trustee	..	..	..	..	..	1,642
Advances on mortgages, charges, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	66,916
Anaura Station loans	..	..	..	..	..	17,462
Advances on overdraft to blocks, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	739
Advances on security of Waikaremoana debentures	..	..	..	..	..	982

<i>Native Trust Stations.</i>						
Receipts for period 1st June, 1938, to 31st March, 1939	..	..	..	..	..	11,393
Payments for period 1st June, 1938, to 31st March, 1939	..	..	..	..	..	8,832

Indigent Housing.

Receipts for year ended 31st March, 1939	..	..	..	..	..	196
Expenditure for year ended 31st March, 1939	..	..	..	..	..	2,774

Five applications to the Board for advances were granted, involving a total amount of £2,890.

Maori Welfare.—During the year under review the social conditions of Maoris in the Tairāwhiti district have shown a marked improvement, mainly by reason of the income afforded by the Public Works Department's activities and unemployment-relief contracts. The liquor question, however, has become accentuated. The legal restrictions against the sale of liquor for consumption away from licensed premises are proving extremely difficult to enforce. It was hoped that the various village committees and Maori Councils would have been able to exercise more effective control, but this has not proved to be the case.

Other Activities.—The office has assisted the Education Department in its endeavours to locate suitable sites for Native schools, residences, and communal buildings, and the provisions of the Native Land Act have been utilized for the setting-aside of areas for these purposes.

Assistance is still being rendered to the Lands and Deeds Department in the reconstruction of land-transfer titles and records which were lost in the Hawke's Bay earthquake. This involves extra duty not only for expert Court Clerks, but also for Draughtsmen in the preparation and copying of diagrams and plans of land affected.

The machinery of the Court has been availed of in assisting Natives in the completion of claims for pensions and supplying certificates regarding marriages of Natives and particulars of names and dates of births of children where such marriages and births have not been registered. Details of landed interests owned by applicants for pensions and particulars of revenue drawn through the Board are being supplied both for pension and unemployment-relief purposes. Searches for the purpose of social-security benefits will certainly add to this work. Court procedure has had to be relied upon more than ever to assist other branches of the Department in their efforts to further Native land settlement and Native housing.