

1939.
NEW ZEALAND.

LAND TRANSFER AND DEEDS REGISTRATION.

ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT, 1938-39.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

Head Office, Stamp Duties Office, Wellington, 1st June, 1939.

The Hon. the MINISTER OF STAMP DUTIES, Wellington.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the working of the Land Transfer and Deeds Registration Department for the year ended the 31st March, 1939.

The returns appended show—

- A.—The business transacted under the Land Transfer Act.
- B.—The fees received thereunder, including the fees received on account of Crown grants.
- C.—The amount secured by mortgage under the said Act during the year, and the amount paid off during the year.
- D.—The arrears existing at the various Land Transfer Offices at the close of business on the 31st March, 1939.
- E.—The number of deeds received for registration during the year ended, and the number remaining unrecorded on the 31st March, 1939, also the fees received in the Deeds Registration Offices during the year.

Business transacted.—Registration business has shown a small decrease in the number of instruments registered and the amount of fees received during the year.

Compulsory Registration.—The work of bringing under the provisions of the Land Transfer Act titles not previously subject to those provisions has been completed in all registries excepting those of the Auckland and the Otago Land Registration Districts. In both these districts steady progress is being made, but an accurate estimate cannot yet be formed as to when finality will be reached. The Otago district should be completed within a year or two, but the Auckland District will take longer.

The following table shows the amount of business under the Land Transfer and the Deeds Registration Acts transacted during the last five years :—

	Year ended 31st March,				
	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
* Instruments	83,117	100,275	118,301	129,492	127,668
* Searches (Land Transfer Act only) ..	28,268	53,203	75,285	103,723	105,107
Fees, excluding fees under Compulsory Registration Act, 1924	£40,962	£50,547	£59,396	£63,930	£62,440

* These figures include registrations and searches in respect of which no fees are paid or are payable.

Fees under Compulsory Registration Act, 1924—Paid for year ended 31st March, 1939 : £4,028 ; outstanding, £27,510.

P. G. PEARCE,
Secretary for Lands and Deeds.