

[(Office of the Registrar-General, 1909)
[Crown Revenue and Expenditure]

THE

NEW ZEALAND

OFFICIAL YEAR-BOOK,

1909.

(EIGHTEENTH YEAR OF ISSUE.)

PREPARED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM

THE RIGHT HON. SIR J. G. WARD, P.C., K.C.M.G.,
PRIME MINISTER,

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THE NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL YEAR-BOOK 1909

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PAGE 33.—Consular-Agent of France at Wellington: J. Macintosh, Esq., *vice* H. Beauchamp, Esq. Consul of Denmark at Christchurch: H. B. Sorensen, Esq.

Page 34.—Consul of Japan at Wellington: T Young, Esq.

Page 36.—Honours held: Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George—Sir James Mills. Knights Bachelor—Walter Kennaway, George McLean (1909). Imperial Service Order—Colonel R. J. Collins, V.D.; W. C. Kensington, Esq.; J. M. Logan, Esq. (1909).

Page 36.—Secretary to High Commissioner: C. W. Palliser, Esq., *vice* Sir W. Kennaway, Kt. Bach., retired.

Page 39.—Executive Council: Commissioner of State Forests, Right Hon. Sir J. G. Ward; Minister of Labour, Hon. J. A. Millar, *vice* A. W. Hogg, resigned; Minister of Customs, Hon. G. Fowlds, *vice* A. W. Hogg, resigned; Minister of Agriculture, Hon. T. MacKenzie, *vice* Right Hon. Sir J. G. Ward, resigned.

Page 40.—Legislative Councillors: Hon. J. Holmes and Hon J. Marshall, reappointed 17th April, 1909.

Page 42.—Chairman of Committees: Thomas Mason Wilford appointed.

Page 43.—Roll of Members of Parliament: R. W. Smith, Esq., elected for Rangitikei in place of A. E. Remington, deceased.

ERRATA.

Page 16.—Three King Islands discovered “1043.”

Page 304.—First line, “including” should read “not including.”

Page 362.—Fourth paragraph, third line, “higher” should read “lower”.

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NEW ZEALAND, formerly a colony, has, since September, 1907, by Royal Proclamation, been granted the designation of "Dominion," and is referred to accordingly in this book. It consists of three main islands, with several groups of smaller islands lying at some distance from the principal group. The main islands, known as the North, the South, and Stewart Islands, have a coastline 4,330 miles in length: North Island, 2,200 miles; South Island, 2,000 miles; and Stewart Island, 130 miles. Other islands included within the Dominion are the Chatham, Auckland, Campbell, Three Kings, Antipodes, Bounty, and Kermadec Islands. The annexation of the Cook and sundry other islands has necessitated an enlargement of the boundaries of the Dominion, which will be specially treated of further on.

New Zealand is mountainous in many parts, but has, nevertheless, large plains in both North and South Islands. In the North Island, which is highly volcanic, is situated the famous Thermal-Springs District, of which a special account will be given. The South Island is remarkable for its lofty mountains, with their magnificent glaciers, and for the deep sounds or fiords on the western coast.

New Zealand is firstly a pastoral and secondly an agricultural country. Sown grasses are grown almost everywhere, the extent of land laid down being more than thirteen millions and a half of acres. The soil is admirably adapted for receiving these grasses, and, after the bush has been burnt off, is mostly sown over without previous ploughing. In the South Island a large area is covered with native grasses, all used for grazing purposes. The large extent of good grazing-land has made the Dominion a great wool, meat, and dairy-produce country; while its agricultural capabilities are, speaking generally, very considerable. The abundance of water and the quantity of valuable timber are other natural advantages.

New Zealand is, besides, a mining country. Large deposits of coal are met with, chiefly on the west coast of the South Island. Gold, alluvial and in quartz, is found in both Islands, the yield having been over seventy-three millions and a half sterling in value to the present time. Full statistical information on this subject is given further on, compiled up to the latest dates.

Discovery and Early Settlement.

The first authentic account of the discovery of New Zealand is that given by Abel Jansen Tasman, the Dutch navigator. He left Batavia on the 14th August, 1642, in the yacht "Heemskirk," accompanied by the "Zeehaen" (or "Sea-hen") fly-boat. After having visited Mauritius, and discovered Tasmania, named by him "Van Diemen's Land," in honour of Anthony van Diemen. Governor of the Dutch possessions in the East Indies, he steered eastward, and on the 13th December of the same year sighted the west coast of the South Island of New Zealand, described by him as "a high mountainous country, which is at present marked in the charts as New Zealand."

Tasman, under the belief that the land he saw belonged to a great polar continent, and was part of the country discovered some years before by Schouten and Le Maire, to which the name of Staaten Land had been given, gave the same name of Staaten Land to New Zealand; but within about three months afterwards Schouten's "Staaten Land" was found to be merely an inconsiderable island. Upon this discovery being announced, the country that Tasman had called Staaten Land received again the name of "New Zealand," by which it has ever since been known. Tasman sailed along the coast to a bay, where he anchored. To this he gave the name of Murderers (since termed Massacre or Golden) Bay, on account of an unprovoked attack on a boat's crew by the Natives, and the massacre of four white men. Thence he steered along the west coast of the North Island, and gave the name of Cape Maria van Diemen to the north-western extremity thereof. After sighting the islands of the Three Kings he finally departed, not having set foot in the country.

There is no record of any visit to New Zealand after Tasman's departure until the time of Captain Cook, who, after leaving the Society Islands, sailed in search of a southern continent then believed to exist. He sighted land on the 6th October, 1769, at Young Nick's Head, and on the 8th of that month cast anchor in Poverty Bay. After having coasted round the North Island and the South and Stewart Islands—which last he mistook for part of the South Island—he took his departure from Cape Farewell on the 31st March, 1770, for Australia. He visited New Zealand again in 1773, in 1774, and in 1777.

M. de Surville, a French officer in command of the vessel "Saint Jean Baptiste," while on a voyage of discovery, sighted the northeast coast of New Zealand on the 12th December, 1769, and remained for a short time. A visit was soon after paid by another French officer, M. Marion du Fresne, who arrived on the west coast of the North Island of New Zealand on the 24th March, 1772, but was, on the 12th June following, treacherously murdered at the Bay of Islands by the Natives.

In 1793 the "Dédalus," under the command of Lieutenant Hanson, was sent by the Government of New South Wales to New Zealand, and two chiefs were taken thence to Norfolk Island. There was after this an occasional intercourse between the islands of New Zealand and the English settlements in New South Wales.

In 1814 the first missionaries arrived in New Zealand—Messrs. Hall and Kendall—who had been sent as forerunners by Mr. Marsden, chaplain to the New South Wales Government. After a short stay they returned to New South Wales, and on the 19th November of that year again embarked in company with Mr. Marsden, who preached his first sermon in New Zealand on Christmas Day, 1814. He returned to Sydney on the 23rd March, 1815, leaving Messrs. Hall and Kendall, who formed the first mission station at Rangihoua, Bay of Islands, under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society. Six years later, in 1821, the work of evangelization was put on a more durable basis; but the first station of the Wesleyan mission, established by Mr. Leigh and his wife, at the valley of the Kaeo, Whangaroa, was not taken possession of until the 10th June, 1823.

Colonisation.

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