STATISTICS OF NEW ZEALAND
FOR THE CROWN COLONY PERIOD
1840-1852

Department Of Economics
Auckland University College
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B. Notes on Building Statistics.
This work was planned, and largely carried out under my formal direction, by Mr. B. G. Hardie, M.A. as a junior (research) lecturer in the Department of Economics. During 1951 and 1952 he was assisted in this, and other research by Miss B. Brockway, M.A. on a part-time basis. I wish to acknowledge her conscientious work and also the generosity of the University of New Zealand Research Committee which provided a grant for her salary.

Mr. Hardie resigned in November 1952 and, unfortunately, before he had brought the material into a form for publication. The task of checking, completing, and final editing was, therefore, undertaken by three members of my staff, Messrs. R. Bergstrom; E. Lerdau, and J. W. Rowe. Acknowledgement is made of their painstaking and skilful work.

The purpose of the present publication is to make available in convenient form, for the period when New Zealand was a Crown Colony, the kind of data published from 1853 in the official Statistics of New Zealand. No one lacking similar experience can appreciate the labour and difficulty of such work, but it is hoped many economists and historians will appreciate its usefulness.

The University of New Zealand Research Committee has also been good enough to assist with the cost of publication.

C.G.F. Simkin,
3:11:54.

PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS.
I. SOURCES.

The following is an enumeration of all sources used, and a brief discussion of some of the more important of them. When it is stated that documents used came from the Public Records Office (London), this does not necessarily mean that they are not available in New Zealand.

(A) OFFICIAL SOURCES.

1. Government Gazette. From 1841 to 1847 the New Zealand Government Gazette was a single official publication. With the creation of the provinces, however, in 1848 it was replaced by two official publications, the New Ulster Government Gazette and the New Munster Government Gazette. General Assembly Library, Wellington.

2. Blue Books. Until 1847, statistical returns appeared in the New Zealand Blue Books, but after that were also given separately for the two provinces, in the New Ulster Blue Books and the New Munster Blue Books. The New Zealand and New Ulster Blue Books are in manuscript form and were consulted at the Turnbull Library, Wellington. Photostatic copies of extracts from the New Munster Blue Books were obtained from the Public Records Office (London).

3. Parliamentary Papers of Great Britain. These contain statistical data in Appendices and the Public Records Office (London) also supplied photostatic copies of extracts from them.

4. Colonial Secretary's Correspondence. The statistical information supplied to the Secretary of State for War and Colonies by the Colonial Secretary (to the Governor of New Zealand), is based on the same Police Census results which are the basis for the Blue Books.

5. General Census of 1851. Reports appeared in the Auckland Provincial Government Gazette in 1853 and 1854. Auckland Public Library. The Department of Census and Statistics (Wellington), supplied the data on age distribution.

6. Auckland Police Census Book. Complete manuscripts for the various police censuses taken, could be found only for the Auckland Province, for the years 1842-46. Auckland Public Library.


9. The New Zealand Journal. This was published in London in and after 1840. Auckland Public Library.


(C) OTHER SOURCES.


18. The Story of New Zealand. By A. S. Thomson, M.D. (London, 1859). Thomson's statistics form the basis of the table "Statistical Summary of the Colony of New Zealand for the Years 1840-52", which is given in the early issues of the New Zealand Official Yearbook. Thomson states, in regard to his figures on population by settlements, that he had access to official information, but does not specify his sources. In the main, it will be seen, his figures agree with those given here, though the additional information now available, should make the latter more accurate. In a few instances, however, noted on the relevant tables, Thomson's figures were used when, (a) no other information was available, and (b) the order of magnitude appeared reasonable.


Wherever possible, figures were cross checked with all available sources. When discrepancies were found, official sources were generally preferred, but if there were reasons for doubting the official information, or when two apparently equally trustworthy sources conflicted, both are usually given. In spite of all efforts to obtain the most accurate figures, they cannot, of course, be better than their primary sources, and in many instances these appear too crude to be very reliable.