

purposes. An amount of £54,681 will also be available from released sinking funds under our loan-conversion operations. A further sum of £250,000 will be available for roads and bridges, and the preparation of lands for settlement, and for assistance to settlers to enable them to make improvements, under the Lands Improvement and Native Lands Acquisition Act; and a further similar sum for the purchase and roading of Native lands under the same Act.

The total ways and means available for public works purposes this year will therefore be as follows :—

Public Works Fund, Part I.—

Balance remaining on 31st March, 1894	...	£263,738
Transfer from Consolidated Fund	...	250,000
Released sinking funds	...	54,681
		<u>£568,419</u>

Public Works Fund, Part II.—

Balance remaining on 31st March, 1894	...	79,197
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Total Public Works Fund...	...	647,616
Lands Improvement Account	...	250,000
Native Lands Purchase Account	...	250,000
		<u>£1,147,616</u>
Gross total ways and means	...	£1,147,616

APPROPRIATIONS PROPOSED.

The appropriations proposed under these several heads are as follows :—

Public Works Fund, Part I....	...	£564,980
Public Works Fund, Part II.	...	75,183
Total Public Works Fund	...	<u>£640,163</u>
Under the Lands Improvement Account	...	150,000
Under the Native Lands Purchase Account	...	150,000
		<u>£940,163</u>
Gross total appropriations proposed	...	£940,163

This will leave an unappropriated balance of £7,453 under the Public Works Fund to be carried forward to next year, besides £100,000 each on the Lands Improvement and the Native Lands Purchase Accounts, or a total unappropriated balance of £207,453.

The votes proposed under Part II. nearly absorb the balance of the ways and means standing to the credit of that part of the fund, which means that on their expenditure the one million specially raised for the North Island Main Trunk Railway will be practically exhausted. Honourable members will doubtless desire to know how this amount has been expended. The figures are as follows :—

NORTH ISLAND MAIN TRUNK RAILWAY LOAN.

Amount of loan	...	£1,000,000
Receipts from lands purchased	...	7,580
Total	...	<u>£1,007,580</u>

Expenditure.

Survey and construction of North Island Main Trunk		
Railway	...	£548,911
Purchase of Native lands	...	220,000
Roads to give access to railway	...	164,095
Charges and expenses of raising loan	...	51,788
Departmental expenditure	...	18,772
Balance unappropriated	...	4,014
Total	...	<u>£1,007,580</u>

This expenditure has given, or will give, us 59 miles of finished railway; 12½ miles additional on which the formation-works will be completed, and the rails in process of being laid; 9 miles on which the formation-works will be in an advanced condition; 70 miles of line permanently surveyed; and 65 miles of preliminary survey. It will also give us good