

1896.
NEW ZEALAND.

PUBLIC WORKS STATEMENT,

BY THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. W. HALL-JONES.

2ND OCTOBER, 1896.

MR. SPEAKER,—

Honourable members will, I feel assured, concede me every reasonable consideration in respect of my first Statement, and make due allowance for any shortcomings, seeing that I have only recently joined the Ministry, and have not as yet had an opportunity of making myself personally acquainted with all the details of the works in the various parts of the colony.

In submitting my proposals for the consideration of honourable members, I desire to draw attention to the position to-day as compared with that in which my predecessors under former Administrations have found themselves. Prior to the Liberal party coming into office, in 1891, it had become customary for Parliament to pass Loan Bills fairly regularly at intervals of two or three years, thus providing large sums of money for the purpose of carrying on the public works of the colony.

The following table shows the several loans authorised for services chargeable on the Public Works Fund from the initiation of the public-works policy:—

Year.	Authorising Act.	Amount of Loan.		
		£	s.	d.
1870	Immigration and Public Works Loan Act	4,000,000	0	0
1873	Immigration and Public Works Loan Act	2,000,000	0	0
1873	General Purposes Loan Act	750,000	0	0
1874	Immigration and Public Works Loan Act	4,000,000	0	0
1876	New Zealand Loan Act	750,000	0	0
1877	New Zealand Loan Act	2,200,000	0	0
1879	New Zealand Loan Act	5,000,000	0	0
1882	New Zealand Loan Act	3,000,000	0	0
1882	North Island Main Trunk Railway Loan Act	1,000,000	0	0
1882	New Zealand Colonial-inscribed Stock Loan Act	250,000	0	0
1884	New Zealand Loan Act	1,500,000	0	0
1885	District Railways Purchasing Act	479,487	7	11
1886	District Railways Purchasing Act			
1886	New Zealand Loan Act	1,325,000	0	0
1888	New Zealand Loan Act	1,000,000	0	0
		£27,254,487	7	11

Since 1888 no loan has been raised for public-works purposes, but, notwithstanding this, ways and means have been found, and considerable progress has been made with all classes of public works.