

1898.

NEW ZEALAND.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(In Committee of Supply, 9th August, 1898)

BY THE COLONIAL TREASURER, THE RIGHT HON. R. J. SEDDON.

MR. GUINNESS,—

In accordance with the announcement made last week, it gives me very great pleasure to place before you the much inquired-after and longed-for Financial Statement.

For some years past, the reference in the Budget to matters not directly relating to finance has given rise to prolonged debates: to obviate this I have made a departure by eliminating from the Financial Statement this year all reference to extraneous matters not bearing directly on finance; and, seeing that the statements and reports from the several departments give more complete and elaborate information on the several subjects than was contained in the necessarily condensed reports in previous Financial Statements, it will be an advantage not to have the Budget loaded with reference to departmental and abstract policy questions. It is pleasing to me on this as on former occasions to relate to honourable members that there was another substantial surplus at the close of the financial year. In accordance with the provisions of the Public Revenues Acts the audited accounts of the colony have been duly gazetted, and consequently their contents have been published far and wide. I have been extremely amused at the "war of the surplus" which has been waged by leading journals. In one camp it was complacently asserted that the alleged surplus of £521,000 was in reality a deficit of over £800,000, and the figures compiled by an erstwhile champion of members opposite were triumphantly quoted in support of this contention. I have little desire to enter the lists, for it appears to me to be of no importance whether the real and substantial sum of £521,000 with which the year closed is called a "surplus" or a "balance." The amount is available for expenditure during the current year, and, as Colonial Treasurer, I feel quite satisfied that, whatever it may be called, the money was there. Perhaps if the word "balance" was made use of there would not be so much argument. The exact figures of the balance with which the year concluded were £521,144, after payment of £10,000 for the patent rights of the cyanide process, and the transfer of £300,000 in aid of public works. This last-named sum completes a total of £1,330,000 which has been during the last few years contributed to the Public Works Fund out of the balances of the ordinary Revenue Account of the colony. This very substantial aid has been obtained without entailing hardship or inconvenience to the public at large. The annual interest on the £1,330,000, at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., is £46,550, that would otherwise have been sent out of the colony, which would have been poorer by that amount. I notice in the controversy which has been going on over the surplus that much stress has been laid upon the inclusion in the Revenue Account of the money raised under "The Consolidated Stock Act, 1884"; and, being included in the Revenue Account, it has necessarily formed a part of the surplus at the end of each year during our Administration, when "surpluses" have been the rule, and not, as in former years, the exception. I can scarcely

be blamed for so including these sums, for the law distinctly lays down that the proceeds derived from the sale of the debentures issued under the Act just mentioned "shall form part of the Consolidated Fund." The law was made by my predecessors, but nevertheless it is my duty to carry out its provisions. In previous years (as will be shown by a subsequent table), and when deficits were the order of the day, the revenue was aided by the issue of debentures against sinking funds to double and treble the amounts issued during the last few years; and when the Ministry in office in 1890–91 showed a surplus of £143,965, the revenue had been aided by the issue of debentures to the value of £288,000.

I subjoin a table of balances of the ordinary Revenue Account, year by year, since 1871, showing the amount of surplus or deficiency at the close of each year, also the amount of debentures issued in aid of revenue. From whatever cause arising, this table, at any rate, shows at a glance that the finance of the Liberal Administration for the last seven years has been successful—nay, it may be truly observed that the balances during that period form a marked contrast in our favour to those under the successive Conservative Governments. We have often been taunted that we know nothing of finance—not even the rudiments; but, although only an unsophisticated plodder in the intricate labyrinth of finance, I claim to know, at any rate, how to keep on the right side of the ledger. Perhaps it was our predecessors' high-class ability in financial matters which so constantly produced an under-estimated expenditure and over-estimated revenue, with the result of landing them in financial deficits.

TABLE showing the POSITION of the ORDINARY REVENUE ACCOUNT at the Close of each FINANCIAL YEAR commencing 1871.

Year.	Aid to Revenue from Sinking Fund's Debentures.	Balances.		Colonial Treasurer in Office.
		Deficit.	Surplus.	
	£	£	£	
June 30, 1871	...	521,183	...	Julius Vogel.
" 1872	...	505,617	...	"
" 1873	...	256,963	...	"
" 1874	...	123,160	...	"
" 1875	...	320,388	...	"
" 1876	...	451,227	...	"
" 1877	...	612,930	...	H. A. Atkinson.
" 1878	...	358,201	...	John Ballance.
" 1879	...	560,058	...	"
March 31, 1880	...	1,522,772	...	H. A. Atkinson.
" 1881	...	1,837,666	...	"
" 1882	...	1,628,316	...	"
" 1883	...	...	35,549*	"
" 1884	...	152,111	...	"
" 1885	247,700	130,108	...	Julius Vogel.
" 1886	252,200	112,141	...	"
" 1887	251,000	92,294†	...	"
" 1888	258,184	...	4,745‡	H. A. Atkinson.
" 1889	263,200	50,836	...	"
" 1890	275,200	...	36,568	"
" 1891	288,000	...	143,965	John Ballance.
" 1892	282,300	...	165,573	"
" 1893	280,300	...	283,779	"
" 1894	284,500	...	290,238	J. G. Ward.
" 1895	117,800	...	180,024	"
" 1896	145,400	...	215,558	"
" 1897	70,300	...	354,286	R. J. Seddon.
" 1898	69,600	...	521,144	"

* A deficit of £1,796,450 was wiped out by the conversion of £1,832,000 of Treasury bills into permanent debt. The surplus of £35,549 is simply loan-money.

† The deficit had really become £242,294, reduced to £92,294 by the issue of £150,000 as permanent debt of the colony.

‡ A deficit of £395,255 was also wiped out by the conversion of £400,000 of Treasury bills into permanent debt. The surplus of £4,745 is simply loan-money.

A word or two now about the revenue and expenditure of last year.

RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR 1897-98.

The estimate for the year was £4,793,000; the actual figures reached £5,079,230, producing an excess of £286,230 over the estimate. A glance at Table 2, which accompanies my Statement, shows how the excess is made up, but I may briefly mention the largest amounts—viz., £61,400 from Customs and beer duties; £59,200 from stamps; £95,500 from railways; £13,300 from territorial revenue; £34,800 from land and income, and other heads of revenue. In last year's Budget I anticipated an increase of £61,000 for Customs revenue over the actual receipts of 1896-97, and I expressed a hope that I was not too sanguine in adopting such increased figures. I had two things in view—first, that importers were very fully stocked at the time; and, secondly, that, the northern gold-mining activity having suffered a relapse, it was only reasonable to suppose that general trade would be proportionately affected. I may probably be blamed that my pessimistic views were not fulfilled; personally I am pleased to find a different result, for the increase of revenue from this source, and from our railways, goes far to prove that the spending-power of the people has been improved. A much larger amount of succession duty was received than could be estimated for, and this, with other substantial amounts, have swollen the stamp revenue. The land- and income-tax has come in wonderfully well; the last-named tax has reached a record amount, and very fairly indicates the general prosperity of the colony. From our railways we have received, as I have said, some £95,500 in excess of the estimate supplied by the department. There is no special feature in this to comment upon, for it is the evident result of increased commercial business, which has more than compensated for the loss of revenue from the floods and from the drought in southern Canterbury. Other heads of revenue have shown a gratifying increase.

The Advances to Settlers Office was able to repay to the Consolidated Fund £22,000 of the arrears of advances made from time to time from that fund. I am happy to mention that during the current year I think the office will be able to repay the balance of these advances, as well as to provide for the due payment within the year of the half-yearly amounts of interest upon the one-million-and-a-half loan borrowed for the purpose of lending upon mortgages.

EXPENDITURE DURING THE YEAR 1897-98.

The actual expenditure reached £4,912,372, and the estimate was set down at £4,979,074, resulting in a saving of £66,702. The table I have already referred to shows at a glance the various items over- or under-spent. The Working-railways vote was exceeded by £27,796; but I do not imagine much exception will be offered to this when it is taken into consideration that nearly £100,000 of excess revenue was at the same time obtained—for it is evident in railway business that increased revenue means also increased expenditure. Among the under-spent amounts (which total to £108,173), the item of £27,709 represents principally a saving of interest payable on Treasury bills and inscribed stock. Other items are of the ordinary departmental character, and call for no special remark.

RESULT OF THE WORKING OF 1897-98.

Summarised, the result of the transactions of the Revenue Account for the financial year ended 31st March last may be set down thus:—

	£
Actual receipts	5,079,230
Actual expenditure	4,912,372
	166,858
Add balance at beginning of year	354,286
Surplus at end of year	<u>£521,144</u>

It has been the custom to refer to the other accounts which form part the Public Account of the colony, and I shall do the same on this occasion ver briefly.

THE PUBLIC WORKS FUND, 1897-98.

In accordance with the authority obtained last session, the separate accounts of the Lands Improvement and the Native Lands Purchase have been discontinued as from the 1st April, 1897; the transactions now simply form part of the Public Works Fund. During the year it became necessary to assist the ways and means of the Public Works Fund by making use of the unissued portion of the Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Loan, and for this purpose £125,000 was raised by the sale of debentures, and £100,000 was received as a temporary advance against short-dated debentures of the loan. In the early part of the year the £300,000 appropriated from the Consolidated Fund was made use of, and a further sum of £50,000 was temporarily transferred pending arrangements being made in London for the issue of the 3-per-cent. stock, by means of which the half-million of authorised loan was to be issued. In respect of this £50,000, it is right to mention that the Audit Office declined to allow the advance to be restored to the Consolidated Fund except as a charge against the Unauthorised Account. I have therefore had to do the best I could with a limit of only £50,000 for unauthorised charges, instead of the margin of £100,000 which Parliament places at my disposal for unforeseen contingencies in all funds and accounts. This smaller limit caused great inconvenience in connection with the railway and other overdrawn votes, &c. The above receipts (exclusive of the £50,000 retransferred), together with some sinking funds and other small amounts (in all, £2,876) made up a total of £527,876, which was passed into the fund, and, with the balances brought forward to commence the year with—namely, £389,159 (including £231,796 transferred from the separate accounts)—made a total of resources amounting to £917,035 with which to meet the expenditure during the year of £865,543, leaving a balance in hand of £51,492. In addition to this balance the unissued portion (£275,000) of the authorised half-million loan has yet to be brought to account.

THE CHEVIOT ESTATE ACCOUNT, 1897-98.

The separate account for the Cheviot Estate shows receipts from rents, &c., amounting to £16,277, and this money was expended in payment of interest on the special loan, in roading, surveys, and other charges.

THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACCOUNT, 1897-98.

For the purpose of acquiring lands for close settlement, debentures amounting to £135,000 were created and sold. In addition to this amount, £27,667 was received from rents and lease-fees, making, with the balance brought forward (£4,714), a total of £167,381. Purchases were made to the amount of £147,990, and £10,595 was expended in roading, surveys, and other expenses, leaving a balance of £8,796 at the close of the year.

THE CONVERSION ACCOUNT, 1897-98.

At the beginning of the year the account had a balance of £1,573; and during the year £554,392 3-per-cent. stock was inscribed for conversion purposes, and £848 of premium was received on a portion of the same. On the other hand, £360,916 of debentures was converted at different rates into £364,392 inscribed stock, and £185,216 of various debentures was redeemed. The expenses amounted to £4,663, and the balance at the close of the year was £2,542.

THE LOANS TO LOCAL BODIES ACCOUNT.

The balance in hand to credit of this account at the commencement of last year was £4, and during the year £111,400 of debentures was created and issued under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act, 1886," and refunds of £4,601 were made to credit of the account under the provisions of section 8 of

"The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1896." These sums, amounting in all to £116,005, have enabled loans to be made during the year to the amount of £75,257 to local authorities, and £18,770 towards opening up for settlement blocks of land, leaving a balance of £21,978 to the credit of the account at the end of the year.

The total amount raised and carried into this account by the creation and issue of debentures up to the 31st March last was £1,165,500—(1) for granting loans to local authorities, £879,069; (2) for loans to open up blocks of land for settlement under section 2 of "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," £196,631; and (3) for payment of £89,800 to the Public Works Fund, on account of the debt of £89,878 8s. 9d. due to the said fund for debentures issued under "The Roads and Bridges Construction Act, 1882," and converted and inscribed as debts under Part II. of "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act, 1886."

The total disbursements up to the 31st March last have been—(1) to local authorities, £857,091; (2) to Lands and Survey Department, towards opening up new blocks of land for settlement by construction of roads and bridges to give access to such blocks, £196,631, and by transfer to credit of Public Works Fund, £89,800: leaving a cash balance of £21,978, as above stated, at the end of the financial year.

I am glad to be able to state that the local authorities whose districts were overtaken by the severe flood disasters of last year have apparently been able to make good the damages without being compelled to increase their loan obligations by borrowing under the Government Emergency Loans to Local Bodies Act of last session. Members will, I am sure, join with me in expressing the hope that their self-reliance will be rewarded by the increased prosperity of their districts.

THE NEW ZEALAND CONSOLS ACCOUNT, 1897-98.

During the year £58,780 of deposits has been inscribed. A small amount of £85 remained uninvested at the close of business on the 31st March last.

THE PUBLIC DEBT, 1897-98.

The gross debt was £44,366,618 on the 31st March, 1897, and £44,963,424 on the 31st March last, producing an increase of £596,806 during the year.

Additional debt must take place so long as Parliament sanctions the policy of acquiring land for close settlements, the purchase of Native lands, the construction of railways, roads, and works, and authorises assistance to local bodies to enable them to make roads and build bridges, &c., for the purpose of opening up the splendid land of the colony in various districts. To enable this policy to be given effect to, £246,400 of debentures under "The Land for Settlements Act, 1894," and "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act, 1886," was created. £58,780 was inscribed as New Zealand Consols deposits. The interest on these sums is more than recouped to the Consolidated Fund. In addition, £69,600 was issued against the accretions of sinking funds for the year, and £225,000 was raised on account of the half-million authorised under the Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Acts of 1896 and 1897. A further inscription of 3-per-cent. stock took place to the amount of £554,392, for the purpose of redeeming and converting previous loans to the amount of £545,932, producing a net increase to the debt of £8,460. Two small parcels of loans were paid off, namely, £6,934, "The Consolidated Stock Act, 1884," and £4,500, Lyttelton and Christchurch Railway Loan, 1860. The net debt on the 31st March, 1897, was £43,552,324; on the 31st March, 1898, it was £44,081,521.

THE CUSTOMS REVENUE.

The Customs revenue has shown great elasticity during the last three years, as will be seen by the following figures:—

1895-96	...	£1,649,344	
1896-97	...	1,818,893	... Increase as compared with previous year,
			£169,549, = 10·3 per cent.
1897-98	...	1,935,252	... Increase as compared with previous year,
			£116,359, = 7·05 per cent.

In some quarters this increase is persistently attributed to the operation of the tariff of 1895. In opposition to this view, I beg to draw attention to the fact that the revenue derived from colonial beer, the rate on which was not altered, shows a somewhat similar increase, as follows:—

1895-96	...	£62,680	
1896-97	...	68,787	...
Increase as compared with previous year,			
			£6,107, = 9·7 per cent.
1897-98	...	72,179	.
Increase as compared with previous year,			
			£3,392, = 4·9 per cent.

It is also noticeable that the total value of imports has been increased in a greater proportion than the duty:—

1895-96	...	£6,356,985	
1896-97	...	7,673,511	...
Increase as compared with previous year,			
			£1,316,526, = 20 per cent.
1897-98	...	8,018,990	...
Increase as compared with previous year,			
			£345,479, = 4·5 per cent.

Taking the average for the two years 1896-97 and 1897-98 the comparison is as follows:—

Customs revenue	...	...	...	8·6 per cent. increase.
Beer-duty-(Excise)	...	...	...	7·3
Total value imports	...	...	...	12·2

In my opinion the above is a fairly complete answer to the allegation that the increased revenue is caused by the tariff of 1895. I feel sure that the increased revenue is owing to the prosperity of the country arising from the impetus to mining, the prevalence of fairly good prices for agricultural produce, the increased spending-power of the people, the settling of the people on the land, and opening-up of the country.

Referring to the general prosperity of the community, I may be pardoned for introducing here a few figures from the Savings-Bank returns, which I think very strikingly show how substantial our prosperity has become. I will contrast the Savings-Bank figures of the 31st December, 1897, with those of 1890. In 1890 the number of deposits received was 162,938, and the amount £1,658,543; while at the close of last year deposits numbered 267,615, and in value reached the large sum of £3,187,219. The number of accounts remaining open in 1890 was 97,208, as against 159,331 last year. Since 1890 the total amount standing to the credit of all open accounts, inclusive of interest, has very nearly been doubled; the respective figures being, in 1890 £2,441,876, and in 1897 £4,744,924. The average amount standing to the credit of each open account has increased from £25 2s. 4d. to £29 15s. 7d. Such figures as these are in the very highest degree satisfactory, and prove without doubt that the prosperity of our people is real, and that their earning-power must have largely increased. I hope members will pardon me for this digression.

Inquiries which have been made in different branches of trade give good reason for anticipating a fairly prosperous year: at all events, at present there are no signs of any check. I have also consulted the Agricultural Department, and am assured that the prospects for this year are good. The mining industry is, perhaps, not so promising.

On the whole I feel justified in estimating the Customs revenue at a similar sum to the amount actually received last year—namely, £1,935,000.

The beer duty revenue I have estimated at £71,000, the revenue last year having been £72,179.

The elasticity of the revenue derived from indirect taxation may lead members to unthinkingly urge for a revision of the tariff, and, under a misapprehension, to press for a reduction on the necessities of life. In the remission on the last tariff, under the item of tea, which is a necessary of life, we have lost a revenue of £75,000. Who has received the benefit? Is it the consumer? If I were to answer in the affirmative, by far the largest number of persons would say I was wrong, and that it was the middleman who had profited. Again, it must not be forgotten that the £100,000 payable as old-age pensions is practically a remission. True, it is only payable to a section of the people, but they are deserving; and, being a humane and proper charge, few will challenge the call

made upon them for this purpose. Now, on broad lines of general policy I submit that it would be unwise, impolitic, and injurious to the colony to attempt to materially interfere with the tariff under existing conditions, and would be indefensible. Great injuries would accrue, which would not by any means be counterbalanced by any remission that might be made. As yet there has not been sufficient time to gauge accurately the position. We have had two years of prosperity: can we absolutely and accurately say how long this will continue? Should there be a change in the tariff let it be made on the broad lines that there was too much indirect taxation, and correspondingly too little from direct taxation. Tinkering with the tariff should be avoided.

LAND-TAX AND INCOME-TAX.

The revenue derived from the land and income taxes during the past year was £382,497, or £17,497 over the estimate, and about £5,000 over the receipts of the preceding year.

The steady increase in the income-tax receipts has been maintained, and affords the best possible evidence of the advancing prosperity of the colony.

The Consolidation Bill considered by the Public Accounts Committee last session will be reintroduced. This measure, though not absolutely essential for taxation purposes, deals with anomalies which it is considered advisable to remove, and presents the law relating to direct taxation in a clearer and more concise form.

Certain concessions which it is thought equitable to make will tend to a reduction of the income-tax receipts. The purchase by the Government of estates under the Land for Settlements Acts also tends to decrease the land-tax receipts, but it is expected these reductions will be more than compensated for by an increase in the land-tax receipts resulting from the new valuation. I do not, however, place the estimate for the year above £390,000, which means an increase on last year's receipts of about £7,500.

Turning now to matters which concern the present hour and affect the remaining months of the financial year, I propose to give honourable members some idea of the estimated ways and means of our Revenue Account.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE, 1898-99.

The estimated expenditure for the current year out of our Consolidated Revenue Account amounts to £4,743,876, excluding £350,000 in aid of the Public Works Fund, which latter amount is provided out of the surplus of last year. The actual expenditure last year amounted to £4,612,372, therefore the current year's estimate totals to £131,504 in excess of that of last year: £53,599 of this arises from the extra provision for interest required on the new loans raised or authorised during the past and current year. The departmental estimates show a net increase of £83,982. (Full particulars will be found in Table No. 7.) Classification and increased facilities are answerable for £44,031 of additional expenditure for postal, telegraphic, and railway services. To keep pace with the increasing population the Education Department asks for additional expenditure amounting to £8,549. There has been a consensus of opinion that our Permanent Force and our Volunteers should be strengthened and made more efficient; these improvements cannot be effected without additional cost, consequently the estimates of the Defence Department will be found to be increased by £25,896. In the Colonial Treasurer's Department there is an increase of £13,254, but of this some £13,000 arises from a contribution from the Land- and Income-tax Department as valuation fees, which are credited as revenue, and included under the head of "Registration and other Fees." The Police Department shows an increase of £7,554. It has been apparent for some time past that the Police Force of the colony was numerically weak; on the present estimates we are therefore providing for the engagement of some fifty extra men. The services I have just named really provide for expenditure of an exceptional nature, arising from causes which do not influence the expenditure of other departments. The amount, I acknowledge, is large—nearly £100,000—but I do not think honourable members will gainsay the necessity for providing for the services, and this will be plainly

demonstrated when the estimates are under discussion. The increases of salaries by some £14,000 of the two classified departments—Railways and Postal—naturally causes dissatisfaction from those in the unclassified branches of the public service, and it seems clear to me that to be just and equitable to all something should be done under a comprehensive and well-considered scheme, and, without unduly increasing the departmental estimates, to place each and every branch of the public service on a proper footing. If an analysis were made of the increases allowed in departments which do not enjoy the benefits of classification I am confident the amount in relation to the whole of the departments so situated would not exceed £3,000 or £4,000. In the Lands and Valuation Departments there are reductions. The first-named department anticipates recovering a large amount for survey expenses from the proceeds of the disposal of lands along the route of the North Island Main Trunk Railway; and in the case of the latter department the initial expenses of valuation were nearly all in last year's expenditure, and consequently a much smaller vote is now submitted. The estimated ordinary expenditure for 1897-98 was £4,669,074, as against £4,743,876 for the current year.

ESTIMATED REVENUE, 1898-99.

Very careful consideration has been given to the figures finally adopted as estimates of the accruing revenue of the current year. The figures I have set down for this year amount to £5,023,300, which is £230,300 more than I estimated for last year, and £33,930 less than our actual receipts. Contrasting the present estimates with the actual receipts of last year, the increases amount to £30,871, and the decreases to £64,801. I have adopted, as an estimate for this year, the figures representing last year's actual receipts from Customs duties, in accordance with the remarks I have previously made. The general prosperity of the community enables me to estimate a small additional sum will be derived from the combined collections of land- and income-tax. From "Registration and other fees" an additional sum of £22,711 is estimated, to be derived principally from the fees chargeable for the figures supplied by the Valuation Department. Amongst the decreases I have had to include the receipts from the sale of stamps: heavy succession duties were unexpectedly received last year, and of course cannot be again estimated. My colleague the Minister of Lands anticipates a distinct falling-off in the revenue derived from the disposition of our lands. The receipts from cash sales and deferred-payment selections are rapidly growing less, and in some cases pastoral runs are falling into our hands, and will require to be relet at less rentals. These causes will probably result in decreased revenue to the amount of £36,296. The amount representing the proceeds of debentures issued in respect of the accretions of sinking funds during the year is £15,300 less than the sum issued last year.

SUMMARY.

Bringing the estimates of expenditure and revenue together, the position at the close of the current financial year on the 31st March, 1899, may be set down as follows:—

				£
Balance brought forward to begin the year with...	...	...	521,144	
Less to be transferred to the Public Works Fund	...	...	350,000	
				171,144
Estimated expenditure, 1898-99	...	...	£4,743,876	
Estimated revenue, 1898-99	...	...	5,023,300	
Excess of revenue over expenditure	...	...	...	279,424
				£450,568

From the above amount I propose to set aside £100,000 for old-age pensions; and to transfer to the Public Works Fund £25,000 in aid of Harbour defence-works and defence-services, £25,000 in aid of the additional requirements of lunatic asylums, new methods, &c., and, inclusive of the amount already expended and liabilities incurred, £25,000 to defray the cost of the erection of our parliamentary

library and central part of the legislative buildings. Reference has already been made in His Excellency's Speech to the important question of preferential duties on goods manufactured in the Mother-country. I think the time has now come when we might with advantage make a substantial concession, in the shape of granting, say, a remission of 5 per cent. of the duties now imposed on this class of goods. This remission, if made, will probably amount to £50,000. The appropriation of the sums I have above indicated will reduce the above total to £225,568, from which amount further deductions will also require to be made to provide for the usual supplementary estimates and for the proposed additional grants to local bodies, and to insure the amount required next year for the payment of old-age pensions.

AID TO THE PUBLIC WORKS FUND.

The total ways and means of the Public Works Fund unexpended on the 31st March last amounted to £326,492. I hope to be able to transfer from revenue this year, in aid of the Public Works Fund, an amount of £350,000—thus bringing the total ways and means under this fund up to £676,492, against which there were liabilities amounting to £394,427. As the expenditure, including £156,731 spent on additions to open lines, amounted last year to £865,543, and will probably amount to about the same sum again this year, it will be evident to honourable members that the available ways and means are not sufficient to meet our requirements even up to the 31st March next, and it is very desirable that we should be able to see our way a little beyond that date. It is contended—and with some force—that we should not burden those now in the colony with the cost of the construction of railways, main arterial roads and roads to open up land for settlement, together with works of a national and permanent character, lasting for all time and being for the benefit of future generations. It is urged, furthermore, that we should not go too far ahead and be constructing works before the proper time, and which for that reason are for some years unproductive. We are by this means placing upon the shoulders of the present generation a burden which, if greater care had been exercised, would not have been required to be borne. Wise discrimination is necessary. To unnecessarily borrow, to plunge, and squander must inevitably land the colony in disaster. There is a class of work needful to meet present requirements, beneficial and necessary for the convenience of the people of to-day, and which during the present generation is only of sufficient capacity to meet its requirements. Future generations will have to provide for themselves similar conveniences. I allude to the construction of public buildings, such as post- and telegraph-offices, lunatic asylums, benevolent institutions, and Court-houses. Harbour defences, maintenance of main roads and roads in localities where there are no railways, the construction of tracks for the development of our mineral resources—all this class of work is a reasonable charge upon the revenue. As will be seen from my summary of expenditure, we propose to take from revenue £425,000; and we further propose to obtain this year, in aid of the Public Works Fund—and more particularly for the class of work previously mentioned as national and permanent—the sum of £500,000. It does not, however, follow that we intend to raise or appropriate the whole of it this year; but I do consider it necessary, so as to avoid complications, to place the Public Works Fund in a more favourable position than it was on the 31st March last, when there only remained a balance of £51,492. In order to carry on the necessary works honourable members are aware I had on the first and second Imprest Supply Bills to transfer £225,000 from the Consolidated Fund to the Public Works Fund. Such assistance as this would have been impossible had it not been for the elasticity of our finance, and I therefore deem it the more prudent course for the future to have sufficient in hand at the end of the financial year to meet the public-works requirements independent of revenue for some little time thereafter.

CONCLUSION.

I have now almost concluded, and, although this is perhaps the shortest Financial Statement that has been delivered for many years past, still it is concise, treats solely of finance, gives succinctly the state of the finances of the

colony, is instructive, and I hope not uninteresting. The continued prosperity of the colony leads me to the conclusion that we are on safe lines, and that there is nothing ephemeral. Land-values are maintained; there is no sign of decrease in our revenue; our population is increasing, and the same can be said of our imports and exports; the settlement of the people on the land is progressing satisfactorily; the output of gold- and coal-mines is steadily improving; the labourer scouring the country for work, commonly known as the "swagger," is now becoming a thing of the past; the employment of nearly the whole of the workers, privately and publicly, has proved beneficial to the colony as a whole. Labour-saving machines have, it is true, thrown out of employment many men, and this will continue; but, although this entails individual hardship for the time being, with the changed condition other avenues must be opened, and the private employer and the State can and should assist in utilising the surplus labour. The safest and permanent solution is to place such of them as are willing upon the land. As to the future outlook, being neither pessimistic nor optimistic, but desiring calmly and dispassionately to gauge correctly the position, I feel confident that, with strict economy, reasonable expenditure on reproductive works, thus providing for those who are willing and able to labour, the settlement of the people on the land, with proper regard paid to the development of our vast mineral resources, with due provision made to insure the export of our principal products in good condition, and increased markets therefor, together with the continued energy and enterprise of our colonists, we have a bright and prosperous future before us. And I shall look forward with hope to being able in my next Financial Statement to again congratulate the people of our colony on their improved position, to announce that my expectations have been fully realised, and that the wisdom of maintaining a strong finance has been fully justified.

APPENDIX.

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Table

STATEMENT of the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the REVENUE

1896-97.	RECEIPTS.	1897-98.
£ s. d. 215,558 16 0	BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	£ s. d. 354,286 4 3
1,818,972 6 6	Ordinary Revenue,—	1,935,251 16 1
730,236 16 7	Customs	730,231 11 6
272,309 1 11	Stamps, including Postal and Telegraph Cash Receipts	267,286 10 3
105,504 7 5	Land-tax	115,210 9 1
63 0 11	Income-tax	10 8 3
68,786 13 9	Property-tax	72,179 5 0
1,287,139 12 6	Beer Duty	1,370,571 14 8
50,256 10 11	Railways	51,288 13 0
21,204 1 2	Registration and other Fees	23,959 18 8
98,372 12 2	Marine	108,343 8 8
4,452,845 3 10	Miscellaneous	4,724,333 15 2
67,068 10 9	Territorial Revenue,—	263,296 2 3
42,452 8 11	Cash Land Sales £66,622 7 1	4,987,629 17 5
163,432 14 1	Deferred-payment Land Sales 25,956 9 1	69,600 0 0
272,953 13 9	Pastoral Runs, Rents, and Miscellaneous 170,717 6 1	22,000 0 0
4,725,798 17 7		..
70,300 0 0	Receipts in Aid,—	..
	Debentures issued under "The Consolidated Stock Act, 1884"—	..
	For Increases of Sinking Fund	..
	Temporary advances repaid,—	..
	Net amount recovered from the Government Advances to Settlers Office	..
	Management Account	..
2,609 3 9	Amount recovered from the Cheviot Estate Account,—	..
	In respect of Expenditure charged in previous year to "Unauthorised" ..	..
5,014,266 17 4		5,433,516 1 8
4,700 0 0	Sinking Funds set free,—	4,500 0 0
	"The Lyttelton and Christchurch Railway Loan Ordinance, 1860"	4,871 8 4
	Applicable to the Redemption of Debentures issued under "The Consolidated	2,063 0 0
	Stock Act, 1884," in respect of—	..
3,396 10 8	"The Lyttelton and Christchurch Railway Loan Ordinance, 1860"	..
19,571 0 0	"The New Zealand Loan Act, 1863"	..
	"The Auckland Loan Ordinance, 1863"	..
27,667 10 8	Amount transferred from Released Sinking Fund Suspense Account ..	11,434 3 4
0 9 4		50,000 0 0
27,668 0 0	Repayment of advance made to the Public Works Fund	..
..	Debentures issued under,—	..
35,000 0 0	"The District Railways Purchasing Act 1885 Amendment Act, 1886," in renewal	..
	of like amount matured 1st Oct., 1896	..
£5,076,934 17 4	Totals	£5,494,950 5 0

TREASURY BILLS

335,000 0 0	Treasury Bills outstanding at beginning of Year,—	254,000 0 0	730,000 0 0
400,000 0 0	In anticipation of Revenue	476,000 0 0	
735,000 0 0	In redemption of Guaranteed Debentures		880,000 0 0
1,525,000 0 0	Treasury Bills issued during Year	..	£1,610,000 0 0
£2,260,000 0 0	Totals	..	

No. 1.

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1898, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897.

1896-97.			EXPENDITURE.			1897-98.		
£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.
24,168	9	2	Permanent Appropriations,—			24,205	4	11
1,709,469	5	10	Civil List..			1,741,412	18	5
193,334	9	7	Interest and Sinking Fund..			196,985	12	6
63,812	10	8	Under Special Acts of the Legislature			70,262	6	2
			Subsidies paid to Local Bodies					
40,634	11	6	Amounts paid over to Local Bodies and to Deposit Accounts in respect of			87,133	4	8
			Payments under the Land Acts					
6,302	4	11	Endowments—			5,179	7	5
11,066	14	1	New Plymouth Harbour Board			11,146	11	6
23,639	5	11	Greymouth Harbour Board			25,891	3	9
			Westport Harbour Board					
2,072,427	11	8						2,112,216 9 4
			Annual Appropriations,—					
20,328	8	4	Class I.—Legislative			15,998	17	9
101,921	13	0	II.—Colonial Secretary			74,100	13	3
29,835	4	2	III.—Colonial Treasurer			23,535	4	4
123,294	5	0	IV.—Minister of Justice			122,479	18	11
352,386	7	6	V.—Postmaster-General			362,867	10	1
91,050	0	7	VI.—Commissioner of Trade and Customs			66,190	14	0
22,380	14	2	VII.—Commissioner of Stamps			23,041	9	1
			VIII.—Minister of Education—					
428,129	12	0	Education Department			435,019	18	1
54,513	10	1	Lunacy and Charitable Aid Department			57,304	14	4
7,206	4	6	Department of Labour			6,869	13	10
18,106	14	7	IX.—Minister of Mines			15,556	9	5
50,033	9	2	X.—Minister for Agriculture			54,408	12	1
776,747	17	6	XI.—Working Railways			849,923	8	9
45,370	17	7	XII.—Minister for Public Works			42,603	5	11
68,551	9	10	XIII.—Defence Department			72,452	15	9
101,330	6	1	XIV.—Police Department			105,974	9	9
116,668	19	10	XV.—Minister of Lands			122,584	2	9
			XVI.—Valuation Department			37,126	18	10
508	9	11	XVII.—Rates on Crown Lands			154	5	5
3,188	17	7	Services not provided for			1,962	3	2
2,411,553	1	5						2,490,155 5 6
150,000	0	0	Amount transferred to the Public Works Fund in terms of section 16 of "The Appropriation Act, 1897"					300,000 0 0
			Purchase of the Patent and other Rights authorised by "The Cyanide Process Gold-extraction Act, 1897"					10,000 0 0
26,000	0	0	Net amount advanced to Government Advances to Settlers Office Management Account in terms of section 49 of "The Government Advances to Settlers Act, 1894"					
4,659,980	13	1						4,912,371 14 10
354,286	4	3						521,144 6 10
5,014,266	17	4	BALANCE AT END OF YEAR					5,433,516 1 8
			Debentures redeemed,—					
22,968	0	0	"Consolidated Stock Act, 1884" (Colonial Issue)			6,934	0	0
4,700	0	0	"Lyttelton and Christchurch Railway Loan Ordinance, 1860," due 1st Jan., 1897			4,500	0	0
35,000	0	0	"District Railways Purchasing Act, 1885," due 1st Oct., 1896					
			Released Sinking Funds transferred to Deposit Suspense Account			0	3	4
62,668	0	0						11,434 3 4
			Temporary advance to the Public Works Fund					50,000 0 0
£5,076,934	17	4	Totals					£5,494,950 5 0

ACCOUNT.

ACCOUNT.									
1,530,000	0	0	Treasury Bills paid off during Year	..	..	..	..	..	880,000 0 0
254,000	0	0	Treasury Bills outstanding at end of Year,—						
476,000	0	0	In anticipation of Revenue	..	..	..	..	254,000 0 0	
			In redemption of Guaranteed Debentures	..	..	..	..	476,000 0 0	
730,000	0	0							730,000 0 0
£2,260,000	0	0	Totals	..	..	..	..	..	£1,610,000 0 0

STATEMENT of the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the **CONSOLIDATED**
STATE FORESTS

1896-97.	RECEIPTS.	1897-98.
£ s. d. 7,192 8 6	Balance at beginning of Year,— Cash in the Public Account Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony	£ s. d. 11,086 4 9 188 0 9 11,224 5 6
1,082 11 2 5,471 13 8	Rents from Lands set apart Miscellaneous	918 0 1 10,077 13 0 10,995 13 1
6,504 4 10		
£13,696 13 4	Totals	£22,219 18 7

ACCOUNTS OF

5,910 18 4	Balance at beginning of Year,— Cash in the Public Account Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony	9,885 4 9 269 1 6 10,154 6 3
1 19 10		
5,912 18 2		
2,829 12 11 9,870 3 5 59,809 14 4 9,887 12 10	Revenue received for Local Bodies,— Fees, Fines, &c. Endowments of Land, &c. Goldfields Revenue Gold Duty	3,070 6 2 12,199 16 2 47,281 9 5 10,849 1 8 73,400 13 5
80,897 3 6		
382 17 2	Counties Separate Accounts,— Revenue of Counties in which "The Counties Act, 1886," is not in full operation	380 14 0
43,800 18 5 71 7 0	Advance Account,— Amount repaid by Local Bodies Ditto on account of Unauthorised Expenditure of previous years	39,042 6 3 84 16 6 39,127 2 9
43,872 5 5		
£130,565 4 3	Totals	£123,062 16 5

DEPOSIT

62,439 14 4	Balance at beginning of Year,—	80,000 5 6	115,111 9 3
150 0 0	Cash in the Public Account	300 0 0	
33,559 16 8	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,—	34,811 3 9	
	In the Colony		
96,149 11 0	In London		
	Lodgments,—		
6,425 0 0	Cyanide Process Gold Extraction Act, 1897	676 17 1	
25 0 0	Emigrants' Deposits	3,324 15 0	
973 9 11	General Assembly Library Fund	25 0 0	
4 13 6	Government of South Australia	4 0 2	
458 0 0	Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, 1885	9 3 5	
81 17 9	Land Transfer Act, 1885		
117,183 10 11	Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894	225 18 3	
14,900 0 0	Miscellaneous	313,960 3 7	
25 0 0	Money-order Settlement	6,000 0 0	
434 18 10	Native Land Act, 1878 (No. 2)	25 0 0	
800 0 0	Native Land Purchases	413 19 8	
64 0 0	Native Township of Pipiriki	74 7 0	
24,371 13 10	Nelson Rifle Prize Fund Investment		
129 11 0	Nelson Rifle Prize Fund	23 0 0	
293 19 8	New Zealand Midland Railway	20,716 13 3	
14 10 0	New Zealand University Endowment, Canterbury	129 11 0	
	New Zealand University Endowment, Taranaki	228 12 2	
	New Zealand University Endowment, Westland	10 0 0	
	North Island Experimental Dairy School	438 18 0	
10,254 18 11	North Island Main Trunk Railway Loan Application Act 1886 Amendment Act, 1889	6,415 1 11	
347 5 5	Permanent-way Material for Open Lines of Railway		
400 0 0	Property Law Consolidation Act 1883 Amendment Act, 1895		
12,137 0 0	Railways		
1,192 19 7	Released Sinking Funds Suspense	0 3 4	
1,172 12 5	Tauranga Educational Endowment Reserves Act, 1896		
2,507 19 5	Thermal springs Districts Act, 1881	894 12 9	
	Trustee Act, 1883		
194,198 1 2			353,595 16 7
£290,847 12 2	Totals	..	£468,707 5 10

No. 1—continued.

FUND for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1898, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897.

ACCOUNT.

1896-97.	EXPENDITURE.	1897-98.
£ s. d. 2,472 7 10	Annual Appropriations,— Vote 110—State Forests Branch	£ s. d. 5,802 1 4
11,086 4 9	Balance at end of Year,— Cash in the Public Account	16,417 17 3
188 0 9	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony	16,417 17 3
11,224 5 6		
£13,696 13 4	Totals	£22,219 18 7

LOCAL BODIES.

2,246 15 0	Revenue paid over to Local Bodies,— Fees, Fines, &c.	3,138 12 7	
7,084 19 7	Endowments of Land, &c.	10,647 13 11	
58,179 13 9	Goldfields Revenue	49,389 12 3	
9,461 4 11	Gold Duty	10,478 12 10	73,654 11 7
76,972 13 3			
363 4 2	Counties Separate Accounts,— Amount distributed amongst Road Boards where "The Counties Act, 1886," is not in full operation	..	358 4 0
43,075 0 7	Advance Accounts,— Payments on behalf of Local Bodies	..	38,861 16 0
9,885 4 9	Balance at end of Year,— Cash in the Public Account	7,754 1 2	
269 1 6	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony	2,434 3 8	10,188 4 10
10,154 6 3			
£130,565 4 3	Totals	..	£123,062 16 5

ACCOUNTS.

6,375 0 0	Withdrawals,— Emigrants' Deposits	3,530 0 0	
25 0 0	General Assembly Library Fund	..	
753 9 7	Government of South Australia	..	
8 13 9	Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, 1885	3 17 6	
968 4 0	Land Transfer Act, 1885	..	
120,447 19 0	Miscellaneous	311,985 6 7	
3,650 0 0	Money-order Settlement	16,550 0 0	
38 15 1	Native Land Act, 1878 (No. 2)	..	
434 1 0	Native Land Purchases	434 5 9	
66 0 0	Nelson Rifle Prize Fund	43 0 0	
..	Nelson Rifle Prize Fund Investment	400 0 0	
27,895 3 0	New Zealand Midland Railway	17,706 6 11	
..	New Zealand University Endowment—Taranaki	10 19 4	
90 6 1	Ngatirahiri Compensation	67 17 5	
..	North Island Main Trunk Railway Loan Application Act 1886 Amendment Act, 1889	11 10 3	
347 5 5	North Island Experimental Dairy School	3 0 0	
..	Permanent-way Material for Open Lines of Railway	..	
12,114 16 8	Property Law Consolidation Act 1883 Amendment Act, 1895	400 0 0	
0 9 4	Railways	..	
1 0 0	Released Sinking Funds Suspense	0 8 3	
2,020 0 0	Thermal-springs Districts Act, 1881	45 11 1	
..	Trustee Act, 1883	..	
175,236 2 11			351,192 3 1
80,000 5 6	Balances at end of Year,— Cash in the Public Account	91,175 15 4	
300 0 0	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony	194 15 0	
34,811 3 9	In London	26,144 12 5	117,515 2 9
115,111 9 3			
£290,347 12 2	Totals	..	£468,707 5 10

STATEMENT of the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the PUBLIC WORKS

1896-97.		RECEIPTS.						1897-98.	
£	s. d.							£	s. d.
4,811	14 7	Balance at beginning of Year,—						63,642	13 10
10,588	14 6	Cash in Public Account						18,198	2 0
15,749	10 3	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,—						5,521	16 5
..	..	In the Colony						70,000	0 0
..	..	In London						157,362 12 3	
31,149	19 4	Investment Account							
		Balances as on 31st March, 1897, transferred hereto in terms of section 17 of "The Appropriation Act, 1897,"—						136,573	3 10
..	..	Lands Improvement Account						95,222	15 2
..	..	Native Lands Purchase Account						231,795 19 0	
375,000	0 0	The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896,—						125,000	0 0
5	12 6	Proceeds of Debentures						100,000	0 0
..	..	Premium received in respect of same						225,000 0 0	
375,005	12 6	Temporary advance on security of short-dated debentures							
150,000	0 0	Amount transferred from the Consolidated Fund in terms of section 16 of "The Appropriation Act, 1897"						300,000	0 0
..	..	Temporary advance from the Consolidated Fund (repaid as per contra)						50,000	0 0
1,674	3 8	Special Receipts in connection with the Ellesmere and Forsyth Reclamation and Akaroa Railway Trust						1,639	5 8
365	0 5	Recoveries,—						365	0 5
334	0 0	In respect of Debentures issued under "The Roads and Bridges Construction Act, 1882"						365 0 5	
699	0 5	In respect of Expenditure charged in previous years							
..	..	Sinking Funds released under "The Consolidated Stock Act, 1884," in respect of—						872	7 6
36	13 4	"The New Zealand Loan Act, 1860"						..	..
12,859	12 9	"The New Zealand Loan Act, 1856"						..	..
12,896	6 1	"The Auckland Loan Ordinance, 1863"						872 7 6	
£571,425	2 0	Totals						£967,035 4 10	

No. 1—continued.

FUND for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1898, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897.

1896-97.	EXPENDITURE.	1897-98.
£ s. d.	Annual Appropriations,—	£ s. d.
301 6 3	Class I.—Immigration	69 15 5
14,891 16 6	" II.—Public Works, Departmental	9,688 18 2
193,807 13 1	" III.—Railways	351,600 6 8
64,236 12 3	" IV.—Roads	290,777 9 11
10,508 2 11	" V.—Development of Goldfields	38,117 7 5
Cr. 37 2 0	" VI.—Purchase of Native Lands	60,333 13 8
36,791 8 11	" VII.—Telegraph Extension	29,384 2 11
70,578 15 10	" VIII.—Public Buildings	73,584 19 5
11,600 7 5	" IX.—Lighthouses, Harbour-works, and Harbour Defences	5,295 1 8
331 19 3	" X.—Rates on Native Lands	156 9 9
10,558 16 9	" XI.—Contingent Defence	10,360 7 7
413,064 17 2		864,368 7 7
942 9 3	Unauthorised,—	
..	Services not provided for	1,169 4 9
	Repayment of temporary advance from Consolidated Fund	50,000 0 0
		51,169 4 9
..	The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896,—	
	Charges and expenses of raising loan	5 5 0
55 3 4	Local Bodies' Finance and Powers Act 1885 Amendment Act, 1887,—	
	Moiety of subsidy to Waipa County	..
63,642 13 10	Balance at end of Year,—	
18,198 2 0	Cash in the Public Account	17,408 19 10
5,521 16 5	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government—	
70,000 0 0	In the Colony	18,595 2 11
	In London	15,488 4 9
	Investment Account	..
157,362 12 3		51,492 7 6
£571,425 2 0	Totals	£967,035 4 10

STATEMENT of the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the **LANDS IMPROVEMENT**

1896-97.	RECEIPTS.	1897-98.	
£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
19,523 5 1	Balance at beginning of Year,—	180,130 5 11	
11,901 10 1	Cash in the Public Account	6,442 17 11	136,573 8 10
31,424 15 2	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony		
21,200 0 0	Proceeds of Debentures created under—		
187,500 0 0	“The Lands Improvement and Native Lands Acquisition Act, 1894” ..	..	..
2 16 3	“The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896” (proportion)	..	..
208,702 16 3	Premium received in respect of ditto	..	..
3,375 4 6	Recoveries on account of expenditure of previous years	..	..
£243,502 15 11	Totals	..	£136,573 8 10

STATEMENT of the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the **NATIVE LANDS PURCHASE**

4,354 19 10	Balance at beginning of Year,—	93,959 12 1	
1,564 18 11	Cash in the Public Account	1,263 3 1	95,222 15 2
5,919 18 9	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony		
30,800 0 0	Proceeds of Debentures created under—		
187,500 0 0	“The Lands Improvement and Native Lands Acquisition Act, 1894” ..	..	..
2 16 3	“The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896” (proportion)	..	..
218,302 16 3	Premium received in respect of ditto	..	..
£224,222 15 0	Totals	..	£95,222 15 2

STATEMENT of the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the **CHEVIOT ESTATE**

..	Balance at beginning of Year,—	55 16 8	
..	Cash in Public Account	324 10 9	380 7 5
..	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony		
480 16 10	Receipts under “The Cheviot Estate Disposition Act, 1893,”—	1,024 8 6	
13,833 8 2	Land Sales for Cash	14,385 16 3	
4 6 9	Rents from Lands	..	
869 4 10	Rent of Buildings	806 8 1	
45 0 0	Shipping and Port Charges	45 0 0	
100 11 6	Interest on Advances	15 7 9	16,277 0 7
15,333 8 1	Miscellaneous		
£15,333 8 1	Totals	..	£16,657 8 0

No. 1—continued.

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1898, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897.

1896-97.		EXPENDITURE.						1897-98.			
£	s. d.							£	s. d.	£	s. d.
..		Balance as on 31st March, 1897, transferred to Public Works Fund in terms of section 17 of "The Appropriation Act, 1897"						..		186,573	3 10
106,929	12 1	Annual Appropriations,— Vote —Roads and Bridges						..		..	
130,130	5 11	Balance at end of Year,— Cash in the Public Account						..			
6,442	17 11	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony						..		..	
136,573	3 10										
£243,502	15 11	Totals						..		£186,573	3 10

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1898, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897.

..	Balance as on 31st March, 1897, transferred to Public Works Fund in terms of section 17 of "The Appropriation Act, 1897"						..	95,222	15 2
128,999	19 10	Annual Appropriations,— Vote —Native Land Purchases						..	..
98,959	12 1	Balance at end of Year,— Cash in the Public Account						..	
1,263	3 1	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony						..	..
95,222	15 2								
£224,222	15 0	Totals						..	£95,222 15 2

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1898, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897.

11,979	15 5	Expenditure,— Interest on Debentures						12,115	16 3	12,869	14 10
2,966	1 3	Surveys, Roading, &c.						753	18 7		
14,945	16 8										
7	4 0	Appropriations,— Vote 111—Cheviot Estate Expenses						..		3,787	13 2
55	16 8	Balance at end of Year,— Cash in the Public Account						..			
324	10 9	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony						..		..	
380	7 5										
£15,333	8 1	Totals						..		£16,657	8 0

STATEMENT of the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS

1896-97.	RECEIPTS.	1897-98.
£ s. d. 1,357 11 9 ..	Balance at beginning of Year,— Cash in the Public Account Advances in hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony	£ s. d. 3,751 9 2 963 2 7 4,714 11 9
305,990 0 0	Proceeds of Debentures created under— "The Land for Settlements Act, 1894"	.. 135,000 0 0
19,628 19 6	Receipts derived from Rents and Lease-fees	.. 27,667 0 10
£326,976 11 3	Totals	.. £167,381 12 7

No. 1—continued.

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1898, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897.

1896-97.		EXPENDITURE.				1897-98.	
£	s. d.					£	s. d.
2,099	5 9	Annual Appropriations,— Vote 112—Land for Settlements Expenses				..	1,759 3 2
		Acquirement of Estates,— Name of Estate.					
		Purchase-money.				Expenses.	
						Total.	
65,803	17 10	Albury	..	..	..	273 11 10	273 11 10
37,828	7 6	Ardgowan	..	..	..	39 8 7	39 8 7
29,247	3 2	Arowhenua	..	..	..	112 7 3	112 7 3
41	2 0	Ashley Gorge	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	Beaumont (Trustees, W. Stevens)	..	..	10,482 11 3	55 13 0	10,538 4 3
422	6 3	Blind River	..	..	..	17 13 6	17 13 6
14	19 0	Braco	..	..	..	..	..
46,072	5 4	Elsthorpe	..	..	..	815 9 9	815 9 9
27	9 0	Hatuma	..	..	..	..	..
11,165	0 9	Hawkesbury	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	Hekeao (Trustees, W. S. Peter)	..	..	10,545 5 0	248 17 6	10,794 2 6
59,606	6 7	Highbank	..	..	..	127 4 0	127 4 0
20,119	3 1	Horsley Down	..	..	..	394 3 7	394 3 7
4	5 3	Kapua	..	..	..	59 13 5	59 13 5
6	11 11	Maerewhenua	..	..	..	36 18 3	36 18 3
95	12 2	Marawiti (J. C. Wason)	..	..	14,200 18 10	176 8 11	14,377 7 9
1,553	2 8	Merrivale	..	..	..	122 10 2	122 10 2
3	2 6	Myrtle Bank (Momona), W. Thomson	..	..	3,608 19 3	22 5 1	3,631 4 4
..	..	Omaka	..	..	..	71 7 6	71 7 6
..	..	Okania (Assets Realisation Board)	..	..	4,143 12 1	4 3 8	4,147 15 9
574	8 7	Opouriao	..	..	..	167 1 11	167 1 11
15	11 3	Omihi Stock Reserve	..	..	..	2 5 10	2 5 10
43	15 7	Orakipaoa	..	..	..	..	..
1	3 10	Otaio	..	..	..	72 1 1	72 1 1
..	..	Otahu (Batger and Menzies)	..	..	7,555 4 6	362 17 11	7,918 2 5
2,043	8 8	Otarakaro	..	..	..	6 9 9	6 9 9
11	0 3	Paparangi (W. Drake)	..	..	3,875 8 0	785 17 0	4,661 5 0
6	0 0	Pareora	..	..	..	67 5 0	67 5 0
170	2 0	Patoa	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	Pawaha (C. Menzies)	..	..	1,823 12 6	13 7 1	1,836 19 7
708	15 0	Poerua	..	..	..	175 16 2	175 16 2
454	6 6	Pomahaka	..	..	..	517 14 8	517 14 8
7,779	12 6	Pouparae	..	..	..	25 17 1	25 17 1
..	..	Puhipuhi (J. A. Parsons)	..	..	320 0 0	3 16 0	323 16 0
39	6 10	Puketapu	..	..	..	18 6 11	18 6 11
..	..	Rangiatea (Assets Realisation Board)	..	..	14,014 0 0	..	14,014 0 0
208	17 7	Raureka	..	..	..	12 16 5	12 16 5
334	11 7	Roimata	..	..	..	53 16 1	53 16 1
..	..	Rural Section 1862, Nimrod Survey District, Block IV. (N.Z. and A. Land Company)	..	..	60 0 0	4 3 0	64 3 0
..	..	Studholme Junction	..	..	..	112 9 4	112 9 4
..	..	Teanaraki	..	..	..	11 12 0	11 12 0
122	14 4	Tokarahi (A. A. McMaster)	..	..	77,360 17 10	1,634 12 0	78,995 9 10
..	..	Tomoana	..	..	..	2 7 2	2 7 2
8,678	16 3	Waimarie	..	..	..	..	..
12,361	6 7	Waihemo Grange (Makareao)	..	..	..	2,054 10 5	2,054 10 5
4,799	18 2	Wharenui	..	..	..	130 15 10	130 15 10
..	..	Land Exchanges	..	..	..	22 4 6	22 4 6
310,364	10 6					147,990 9 3	8,835 19 2
		Unauthorised,—					
342	12 10	Ardgowan Estate	..	..	..	..	..
120	0 0	Albury	..	..	..	..	..
550	0 0	Elsthorpe	..	..	..	..	..
95	10 5	Opouriao	..	..	..	..	..
1,108	3 3					..	..
311,472	13 9					..	..
8,690	0 0	Debentures matured 31st March, 1897, and reissued				..	..
		Balance at end of Year,—					
3,751	9 2	Cash in the Public Account	..	..	..	8,689 18 10	8,689 18 10
963	2 7	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,— In the Colony	..	..	..	106 2 2	106 2 2
4,714	11 9					..	8,796 1 0
£326,976	11 3	Totals				..	£167,381 12 7

No. 1—continued.

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1898, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897.

1896-97.		EXPENDITURE.					1897-98.	
£	s. d.						£	s. d.
							£	s. d.
		Original Amount.	Rate.	Premium.	Converted Stock.			
		£	£	£	£			
Debitures converted into 3-per-cent. Inscribed Stock,—								
..		Consolidated Loan Act, 1867 ..	2,000	105	100	2,100		
			3,800	106½	247	4,047		
			6,500	107	455	6,955		
			17,100	108	1,368	18,468		
			29,400					
..		New Zealand Loan Act, 1863 (1914)	200	120	40	240		
			2,600	121	546	3,146		
			2,800					
..		Otago Loan Ordinance, 1862, due 1st July, 1898 ..	..	900	100	..	900	
..		Immigration and Public Works Loan Act, 1870, due 15th April, 1913 ..	..	9,000	108	720	9,720	
..		Consolidated Stock Act, 1884 (Colonial issue), due 28th May, 1897 ..	218,816					
..		Due 28th May, 1898 ..	100,000					
			318,816	100	..	318,816		
26,620	0 0	Land for Settlements Act, 1894, due 30th April, 1926 ..	..	..	..	..		
			..	..	..	..		
			360,916	..	3,476	..	364,392	0 0
								364,392 0 0
Debitures converted into 3½-per-cent. Stock,—								
27,061	0 0	Consolidated Loan Act, 1867 ..	..	..	..	..	..	
1,554	0 0	New Zealand Loan Act, 1863 (1914) ..	..	..	..	..	..	
1,656	0 0	Otago Loan Ordinance, 1862, due 1st July, 1898 ..	..	..	..	..	..	
30,271	0 0							
Debitures redeemed,—								
42,586	0 0	Consolidated Loan Act, 1867, 5 per cent. ..	..	..	..	..	40,800	0 0
..		Lands Improvement and Native Lands Acquisition Act, 1894, 4 per cent., due 30th September, 1908 ..	..	..	..	..	100,000	0 0
..		Consolidated Stock Act, 1884 (Colonial issue), due 28th May, 1897 ..	..	..	..	..	44,216	0 0
..		Five-per-cent. 10/40 Loan (outstanding debentures) ..	..	..	..	..	200	0 0
16,200	0 0	Auckland Loan Act, 1863, 6 per cent., due 1st June, 1896 ..	..	..	..	..	..	
58,786	0 0							185,216 0 0
Expenses Account,—								
54	10 0	Brokerage and Commission ..	..	..	..	..	332	0 0
1,337	11 3	Stamp Duty ..	..	..	..	..	3,466	10 0
1,044	9 2	Interest (including overlap of interest) ..	..	..	..	..	321	6 7
329	8 9	Office Expenses ..	..	..	..	..	327	6 10
363	10 6	Printing and Advertising ..	..	..	..	..	72	9 2
..		Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	143	5 0
3,129	9 8							4,662 17 7
Balance at end of Year,—								
1,103	10 6	Cash in the Public Account ..	..	..	..	..	2,288	5 11
469	9 11	In the hands of Stock Agents—						
		Cash ..	..	..	..	..	253	16 5
1,573	0 5							2,542 2 4
£120,379	10 1	Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	£556,812 19 11

No. 1—continued.

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1898, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897.

1896-97.			EXPENDITURE.					1897-98.		
£	s.	d.						£	s.	d.
			Grants to—							
			Counties—							
..			Cheviot	..	..	..	..	1,100	0	0
1,225	0	0	Clifton	..	..	..	..	100	0	0
3,046	0	0	Cook	..	..	..	..	3,178	0	0
3,190	0	0	Hawera	..	..	..	..	3,898	0	0
..			Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	..	6,000	0	0
1,550	0	0	Horowhenua	..	..	..	..	470	0	0
730	0	0	Hutt	..	..	..	..	..		
6,000	0	0	Kiwhitea	..	..	..	..	9,355	0	0
1,150	0	0	Manawatu	..	..	..	..	4,800	0	0
..			Ohinemuri	..	..	..	..	5,000	0	0
5,733	0	0	Pahiatua	..	..	..	..	750	0	0
1,760	0	0	Patea	..	..	..	..	..		
4,701	0	0	Pohangina	..	..	..	..	6,000	0	0
2,412	0	0	Rangitikei	..	..	..	..	580	0	0
..			Raglan	..	..	..	..	600	0	0
3,868	0	0	Stratford	..	..	..	..	5,410	0	0
175	0	0	Waipawa	..	..	..	..	..		
1,360	0	0	Wairarapa North	..	..	..	..	264	0	0
50	0	0	Wairoa	..	..	..	..	..		
700	0	0	Waitotara	..	..	..	..	..		
1,000	0	0	Waitaki	..	..	..	..	200	0	0
38,650	0	0						47,715	0	0
			Road Boards—							
100	0	0	Arai	..	..	..	..	..		
1,800	0	0	Arch Hill	..	..	..	..	..		
..			Egmont	..	..	..	..	500	0	0
2,558	0	0	Eketahuna	..	..	..	..	463	0	0
300	0	0	Featherston	..	..	..	..	..		
2,500	0	0	Fitzherbert	..	..	..	..	250	0	0
610	0	0	Frankley	..	..	..	..	..		
165	0	0	Manawatu	..	..	..	..	..		
1,970	0	0	Manchester	..	..	..	..	754	0	0
1,778	0	0	Manganui	..	..	..	..	1,670	0	0
..			Masterton	..	..	..	..	800	0	0
100	0	0	Mauku	..	..	..	..	..		
1,030	0	0	Mauriceville	..	..	..	..	775	0	0
2,890	0	0	Moa	..	..	..	..	1,569	0	0
290	0	0	Otaki	..	..	..	..	550	0	0
1,055	0	0	Parihaka	..	..	..	..	400	0	0
..			Pouawa	..	..	..	..	40	0	0
..			Seatoun	..	..	..	..	2,000	0	0
670	0	0	Taratahi-Carterton	..	..	..	..	267	0	0
50	0	0	Te Horo	..	..	..	..	..		
388	0	0	Turanga	..	..	..	..	..		
..			Upper Tauera	..	..	..	..	300	0	0
1,772	0	0	Waimate	..	..	..	..	1,122	0	0
..			Waipipi	..	..	..	..	650	0	0
..			Waiwakaiho	..	..	..	..	650	0	0
..			Wirokino	..	..	..	..	995	0	0
20,026	0	0						13,755	0	0
			Boroughs—							
..			Dannevirke	..	..	..	..	2,000	0	0
395	0	0	Feilding	..	..	..	..	..		
160	0	0	Pahiatua	..	..	..	..	..		
300	0	0	Patea	..	..	..	..	..		
2,000	0	0	Petone	..	..	..	..	2,800	0	0
2,855	0	0						4,800	0	0
			Town Boards—							
100	0	0	Clyde	..	..	..	..	..		
300	0	0	Stratford	..	..	..	..	300	0	0
400	0	0								
			Drainage Boards—							
..			Akaaka	..	..	..	..	493	0	0
570	0	0	Aorangi Land	..	..	..	..	1,495	0	0
3,000	0	0	Manawatu Land	..	..	..	..	3,000	0	0
200	0	0	Otakia	..	..	..	..	200	0	0
280	0	0	Sluggish River	..	..	..	..	..		
..			Tepuke Land	..	..	..	..	600	0	0
4,050	0	0						5,788	0	0
			Unauthorised—							
152	0	0	Pohangina County	..	..	..	..	..		
..			Wainono Drainage Board	..	..	..	..	2,899	0	0
66,133	0	0						75,257 0 0		
			Appropriations,—							
31,016	18	6	Vote 113.—Roads to open up Crown lands	..	..	..	..	..		18,769 11 8
3	10	1	Balance at end of year,—	..	..	..	..	21,826	19	11
..			Cash in the Public Account	..	..	..	..	..		
..			Advances in hands of Officers of the Government,—	..	..	..	..	151	3	0
..			In the Colony	..	..	..	..	..		21,978 2 11
£97,153	8	7	Totals	..	..	..	..	..		£116,004 14 7

STATEMENT of the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the NEW ZEALAND CONSOLS

1896-97.	RECEIPTS.								. 1897-98.			
£ s. d.	Balance at beginning of Year,—								£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
90 0 0	Cash in Deposit Account								5 0 0			
161,300 0 0	Investment Account								297,400 0 0	297,405 0 0		
161,390 0 0	Deposits inscribed								..	58,780 0 0		
136,015 0 0									..			
£297,405 0 0	Total								..	£356,185 0 0		

The Treasury, Wellington, 22nd April, 1898.

No. 1—continued.

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1898, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897.

1896-97.			EXPENDITURE.						1897-98.		
£	s.	d.	Balance at end of Year,—						£	s.	d.
5	0	0	Cash in Deposit Account..						85	0	0
297,400	0	0	Investment Account						356,100	0	0
									356,185 0 0		
£297,405 0 0			Totals						£356,185 0 0		

JAMES B. HEYWOOD,
Secretary to the Treasury.

ROBERT J. COLLINS,
Accountant to the Treasury.

SUMMARY OF BALANCES ON 31st MARCH, 1898.

BALANCES.			CASH.			ADVANCES.			INVESTMENTS.			TOTAL.		
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
CONSOLIDATED FUND :—														
Ordinary Revenue Account	1,251,144	6 10*	780,580	3 7	49,164	3 3	421,400	0 0	1,251,144	6 10				
State Forests Account	16,417	17 3	16,417	17 3	..	..	..	..	16,417	17 3				
Accounts of Local Bodies	10,188	4 10	7,754	1 2	2,434	3 8	..	..	10,188	4 10				
Deposit Accounts	117,515	2 9	91,175	15 4	26,339	7 5	..	..	117,515	2 9				
	1,395,265	11 8	895,927	17 4	77,937	14 4	421,400	0 0	1,395,265	11 8				
PUBLIC WORKS FUND														
	..		17,408	19 10	34,083	7 8	..	..	51,492	7 6				
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACCOUNT..														
CONVERSION ACCOUNT	8,796	1 0	8,689	18 10	106	2 2	..	..	8,796	1 0				
LOANS TO LOCAL BODIES ACCOUNT	2,542	2 4	2,288	5 11	253	16 5	..	..	2,542	2 4				
NEW ZEALAND CONSOLS ACCOUNT..	21,978	2 11	21,826	19 11	151	3 0	..	..	21,978	2 11				
REMITTANCES TO LONDON ACCOUNT	356,185	0 0	85	0 0	..	..	356,100	0 0	356,185	0 0				
	Dr. 770,000	0 0	Cr. 770,000	0 0	..	..	..	..	Cr. 770,000	0 0				
Totals ..	1,066,259	5 5	176,227	1 10	112,532	3 7	777,500	0 0	1,066,259	5 5				

* Against the Treasury bills amounting to £750,000 are outstanding.

Table No. 2.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Estimated and Actual RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the CONSOLIDATED FUND (REVENUE ACCOUNT) for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1898.

1000.

	ESTIMATED.	ACTUAL.	DIFFERENCES.	
			More than Estimate.	Less than Estimate.
RECEIPTS.				
REVENUE ACCOUNT:—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	1,880,000 0 0	1,935,251 16 1	55,251 16 1	..
Stamps	721,000 0 0	780,281 11 6	59,281 11 6	..
Land- and Income-tax	365,000 0 0	382,496 19 4	17,496 19 4	..
Property-tax		10 8 3	10 8 3	..
Beer Duty	66,000 0 0	72,179 5 0	6,179 5 0	..
Railways	1,275,000 0 0	1,370,571 14 8	95,571 14 8	..
Registration and other Fees	50,500 0 0	51,288 13 0	788 13 0	..
Marine	20,900 0 0	23,959 18 8	3,059 18 8	..
Miscellaneous	95,000 0 0	108,343 8 8	13,343 8 8	..
Territorial	250,000 0 0	263,296 2 3	13,296 2 3	..
	4,723,400 0 0	4,987,629 17 5	264,229 17 5	..
Sinking Fund Increases	69,600 0 0	69,600 0 0	..	..
Advances repaid	..	22,000 0 0	22,000 0 0	..
Totals	4,793,000 0 0	5,079,229 17 5	286,229 17 5	..
EXPENDITURE.				
REVENUE ACCOUNT:—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Permanent Appropriations,—				
Civil List	25,700 0 0	24,205 4 11	..	1,494 15 1
Interest and Sinking Fund	1,769,122 0 0	1,741,412 18 5	..	27,709 1 7
Under Special Acts	198,072 0 0	196,985 12 6	..	1,086 7 6
Subsidies	65,000 0 0	70,262 6 2	5,262 6 2	..
Territorial Revenue paid over	31,600 0 0	37,133 4 8	5,533 4 8	..
Endowments	41,300 0 0	42,217 2 8	917 2 8	..
Annual Appropriations,—				
Legislative	19,678 0 0	15,998 17 9	..	3,679 2 3
Colonial Secretary	76,750 0 0	74,100 13 3	..	2,649 6 9
Colonial Treasurer	24,922 0 0	23,535 4 4	..	1,386 15 8
Minister of Justice	124,075 0 0	122,479 18 11	..	1,595 1 1
Postmaster-General	368,580 0 0	362,867 10 1	..	5,712 9 11
Commissioner of Trade and Customs	75,241 0 0	66,190 14 0	..	9,050 6 0
Commissioner of Stamps	25,290 0 0	23,041 9 1	..	2,248 10 11
Minister of Education	506,233 0 0	499,194 6 3	..	7,038 13 9
Minister of Mines	18,434 0 0	15,556 9 5	..	2,877 10 7
Minister for Agriculture	58,464 0 0	54,408 12 1	..	4,055 7 11
Working Railways	822,127 0 0	849,923 8 9	27,796 8 9	..
Public Buildings	53,400 0 0	42,603 5 11	..	10,796 14 1
Defence Department	82,536 0 0	72,452 15 9	..	10,083 4 3
Police Department	109,163 0 0	105,974 9 9	..	3,188 10 3
Department of Lands and Survey	132,945 0 0	122,584 2 9	..	10,360 17 3
Valuation Department	39,542 0 0	37,126 18 10	..	2,415 1 2
Rates on Crown Lands	900 0 0	154 5 5	..	745 14 7
Services not provided for	..	1,962 3 2	1,962 3 2	..
	4,669,074 0 0	4,602,371 14 10	41,471 5 5	108,173 10 7
Special Appropriations—				
In aid of Public Works Fund	300,000 0 0	300,000 0 0	..	..
Cyanide gold extraction, patent rights	10,000 0 0	10,000 0 0	..	..
			41,471 5 5	108,173 10 7
				41,471 5 5
Totals	4,979,074 0 0	4,912,371 14 10		66,702 5 2

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Actual receipts, 1897-98	5,079,229 17 5	
Actual expenditure, 1897-98	4,912,371 14 10	
Surplus at 31st March, 1897	..	166,858 2 7
Surplus at 31st March, 1898	..	354,286 4 3
		<u>£521,144 6 10</u>

Table No. 3.
The PUBLIC DEBT of NEW ZEALAND on 31st MARCH, 1898.

	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING.	DUE DATE.	SINKING FUNDS ACCRUED.	NET INDEBTEDNESS.	ANNUAL CHARGE.				REMARKS.
					Rate.		Amount.	When payable.	
					Int.	S.F.			
	£		£	£	%	%		£	
New Zealand Loan Act, 1863 ..	..	15 July, 1914	112,292	158,708	5	1	15 Jan. and 15 July.	16,260	
Consolidated Loan Act, 1867 ..	..	Ann. drawing	..	482,300	5	..	Quarterly, 15 Jan., &c.	24,115	
Immigration and Public Works Loan Act, 1870 ..	..	1 June, 1907	522,096	477,904	4	2.4	1 June and 1 Dec.	64,000	Sinking Fund payable 13 Mar. and 13 Sept.
Canterbury Loan Ordinance, 1862 ..	{ 3,800 12,200	{ 2 Jan., 1915 2 July, 1916	{ 10,382	5,618	6	1	30 June " 31 Dec.	1,120	
Otago Loan Ordinance, 1862 ..	..	1 July, 1898	101,804	Cr. 30,504	6	†	1 Jan. " 1 July.	4,278	
Consolidated Loan Act, 1867 ..	..	15 April, 1913	..	13,000	4	..	15 April " 15 Oct.	520	
Immigration and Public Works Loan Act, 1870 ..	{ 363,100 27,900	{ 15 April, 1913 15 April, 1913	{	363,100 27,900	4 4½	..	15 April " 15 Oct.	14,524 1,256	
Defence and Other Purposes Loan Act, 1870 ..	{ 25,000 75,000	{ 1 July, 1910 15 April, 1913	{	25,000 75,000	4½ 4	..	30 June " 31 Dec.	1,125 3,000	
General Purposes Loan Act, 1873 ..	{ 18,500 12,300 54,700	{ 15 Oct., 1913 15 May, 1914 28 Nov., 1914	{	18,500 12,300 54,700	4 4 5	..	15 April " 15 Oct. 15 May " 15 Nov. 15 May " 15 Nov.	740 492 2,735	
District Railways Purchasing Acts, 1885-86 ..	{ 35,000 40,000 101,600 47,000	{ 28 May, 1898 1 July, 1909 1 April, 1905 1 April, 1899	{	35,000 40,000 101,600 47,000	3½ 6 4 5	..	1 April " 1 Oct.	1,225 2,400 4,064 2,350	
Carried forward ..	..	..	746,574	1,907,126	..	..		144,204	

* Only £300,000 has actually been issued to the public; the unsold debentures are available for the purpose of obtaining temporary advances from time to time. † Further contributions of Sinking Fund not required.

Table No. 3—continued.
The PUBLIC DEBT of NEW ZEALAND on 31st MARCH, 1898—continued.

	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING.	DUE DATE.	SINKING FUNDS ACCRUED.	NET INDEBTEDNESS.	ANNUAL CHARGE.			REMARKS.
					Rate.	Amount.	When payable.	
Brought forward	£ 2,658,700	..	£ 746,574	£ 1,907,126	% ..	% ..	£ 144,204	
Government Loans to Local Bodies Act, 1886	253,200	31 Dec., 1900	135,329*	117,871	3½	1½	26,344†	1 Mar. and 1 Sept.
Consolidated Stock Act, 1877	29,150,302	1 Nov., 1929	..	29,150,302	4	..	1,166,013	1 May
	6,161,167	1 Jan., 1940	..	6,161,167	3½	..	215,640	1 Jan.
	2,081,012	1 April, 1945	..	2,081,012	3	..	62,430†	1 April
Consolidated Stock Act, 1884—Colonial Issue	40,000	(22 May, 1898	..	1,239,166	4½	..	55,763	28 May
	1,199,166	28 May, 1898		253,200	4	..	10,128	28 May
	253,200	28 May, 1898		628,200	3½	..	21,987	28 May
	628,200	28 May, 1898						
Naval and Military Settlers' and Volunteers' Land Act, 1892	27,226	31 Oct., 1899	..	27,226	4½	..	1,225	30 April
Native Land Purchases Act, 1892	140,000	(31 Oct., 1899	..	140,000	4½	..	6,300	30 April
	9,700	31 Oct., 1899		9,700	5	..	485	30 April
Land for Settlements Act, 1892	45,276	31 Oct., 1899	..	45,276	4½	..	2,037	30 April
Land for Settlements Act, 1894	134,100	(31 Oct., 1899	..	134,100	4	..	5,364	30 April
	455,990	31 Oct., 1899		455,990	3½	..	15,960	30 April
Lands Improvement and Native Lands Acquisition Act, 1894	283,000	30 Sep., 1908	..	(283,000	4	..	11,320	31 Mar.
	117,000			117,000	3½	..	4,095	31 Mar.
New Zealand Consols Act, 1894	356,185	1 Feb., 1910	..	356,185	3½	..	12,467	1 Feb.
Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896, and Amendment Act, 1897	250,000	(1 Feb., 1902	..	250,000	3½	..	8,750	1 Feb.
	500,000	15 Aug., 1921§		500,000	3½	..	17,500	15 Feb.
	100,000	21 Feb., 1899		100,000	3½	..	3,250	1 Feb.
	125,000	(3 Mar., 1899		125,000	3	..	3,750	1 Feb.
Totals	44,963,424	..	881,903	44,081,521	..	..	1,795,012	

Treasury bills amounting to £730,000 are not included.

Table No. 4.

STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED LIABILITIES chargeable on the CONSOLIDATED FUND (REVENUE ACCOUNT) outstanding on the 31st MARCH, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898.

	31st March, 1889.	31st March, 1890.	31st March, 1891.	31st March, 1892.	31st March, 1893.	31st March, 1894.	31st March, 1895.	31st March, 1896.	31st March, 1897.	31st March, 1898.
REVENUE ACCOUNT.										
Permanent Appropriations,—										
Civil List ..	£ 491 18 8	£ s. d. 240 0 0	£ s. d. 351 12 3	£ s. d. 275 0 0	£ s. d. 150 0 0	£ s. d. 370 0 0	£ s. d. 437 0 0	£ s. d. 350 0 0	£ s. d. 894 11 8	£ s. d. 950 0 0
Interest and Sinking Fund ..	..	550 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Under Special Acts of the Legislature ..	4,220 3 0	442 4 9	167 1 4	106 3 0	82 0 0	22 18 10	9 4 6	155 2 0	163 4 6	214 8 0
Subsidies payable to Local Authorities ..	24,677 4 8	24,563 0 0	4,104 0 0	2,227 0 0	1,042 0 0	897 16 4	959 3 10	1,170 3 0	651 15 0	631 5 0
Under the Land Acts, payable to Local Authorities ..	8,243 18 3	5,613 13 3	3,188 1 5	3,014 10 2	2,693 6 1	2,553 2 1	2,553 2 1	2,553 2 1	2,553 2 1	1,824 17 2
	37,633 4 7	31,408 18 0	7,810 15 0	5,622 13 2	3,967 6 1	3,843 17 3	3,958 10 5	4,228 7 1	4,262 13 3	3,620 10 2
Annual Appropriations,—										
Legislative ..	59 4 1	37 10 0	69 1 11	66 8 5	16 6 6	222 10 0	10 13 0	15 17 7	..	87 4 11
Colonial Secretary ..	7,160 0 11	6,759 9 2	3,650 12 6	1,234 17 0	1,456 18 7	3,081 17 6	2,689 17 9	3,876 19 10	6,430 5 9	3,083 0 0
Colonial Treasurer ..	1,573 11 3	50 0 0	340 0 0	3,305 0 0	136 2 6	5,100 0 0	150 0 0	23 9 0	2,550 0 0	812 6 11
Minister of Justice ..	3,836 13 1	5,178 12 11	4,940 6 2	3,018 1 3	2,477 16 4	5,109 5 7	2,525 6 2	3,974 13 2	3,590 0 0	3,605 0 0
Postmaster-General ..	22,574 18 6	14,829 0 0	12,013 2 2	7,787 7 1	10,426 2 5	12,601 13 2	19,460 0 0	15,912 0 0	17,452 0 0	23,689 3 2
Commissioner of Customs ..	5,474 12 7	2,637 0 0	2,624 3 3	7,726 13 7	2,354 0 0	2,584 13 7	2,837 0 1	3,936 1 8	3,469 1 2	6,218 8 4
Commissioner of Stamps ..	402 13 3	300 17 3	349 8 7	223 1 1	618 4 8	207 17 10	282 17 0	219 2 7	451 2 0	346 1 0
Minister of Education ..	2,500 0 0	3 0 0	3,912 9 11	2,888 0 0	3,267 12 5	3,734 19 11	2,333 8 7	1,268 8 9	1,361 4 7	418 0 0
Minister of Native Affairs ..	800 0 0	920 0 0	1,260 0 0	576 0 0	150 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Minister of Mines ..	4,528 0 0	5,821 18 9	3,604 18 5	2,498 19 6	3,357 2 0	76 14 11	57 7 4	815 10 5	213 10 10	149 19 7
Minister of Agriculture ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,815 4 4	1,936 10 7	2,037 4 3	2,266 17 3	2,521 16 10
Working Railways ..	..	..	..	..	..	56,669 5 0	61,912 6 2	52,542 7 4	65,971 3 1	74,818 16 6
Public Buildings ..	10,452 8 6	5,007 14 9	7,760 1 7	599 19 11	665 0 0	742 10 0	413 12 3	108 14 4	181 14 9	2,556 5 4
Minister of Defence ..	2,948 2 9	481 10 7	10,516 4 3	8,939 1 4	8,000 0 0	1,875 0 0	1,000 0 0	4,000 0 0	3,463 0 0	7,580 0 0
Minister of Lands ..	3,082 15 2	3,107 19 7	3,064 5 10	2,187 2 6	4,282 0 0	8,000 1 2	6,535 0 0	6,659 0 0	4,142 10 9	15,008 10 10
Rates on Crown Lands ..	1,350 0 0	1,750 0 0	755 0 0	288 0 0	444 0 0	138 8 4	184 4 7	100 0 0	60 0 0	..
	114,574 18 9	104,685 5 9	114,480 6 0	101,246 6 8	94,451 1 6	96,960 1 4	102,328 3 6	95,489 8 11	111,602 10 2	189,894 13 5
Services not provided for ..	343 14 1	66 1 3	22 9 6	..	..	814 2 9	420 4 9	..	522 8 0	..
Totals ..	152,551 17 5	136,160 5 0	122,313 10 6	106,868 19 10	98,418 7 7	101,618 1 4	106,706 18 8	99,717 16 0	116,387 11 5	143,515 3 7

Table No. 5.

STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED LIABILITIES chargeable on the PUBLIC WORKS FUND outstanding on the 31st MARCH, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898.

	31st March, 1889.	31st March, 1890.	31st March, 1891.	31st March, 1892.	31st March, 1893.	31st March, 1894.	31st March, 1895.	31st March, 1896.	31st March, 1897.	31st March, 1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Annual Appropriations—										
Immigration ..	1,200 0 0	2,200 0 0	1,000 0 0	..	248 0 0	103,344 1 8	127,972 16 10	96,998 2 11	106,312 8 4	77,167 7 4
Railways ..	207,483 11 2	2198,862 5	7126,181 19 1	177,367 4 7	101,436 0 0	116,287 18 10	60,101 7 10	84,886 17 0	85,552 6 0	268,798 12 2
Roads ..	120,945 4 3	94,594 18 2	79,396 4 10	102,579 0 9	104,581 9 7	..	7,860 19 7	15,265 10 10	29,910 16 10	7,135 6 7
Waterworks on Goldfields	..	240 12 8	..	2,500 0 0	1,795 17 8	..	..	..	..	..
Land-purchases	5,499 3 8	236 6 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Telegraph Extension ..	3,591 0 0	5,107 0 0	3,005 14 5	8,142 0 0	6,716 0 0	9,581 0 0	13,987 0 0	4,000 0 0	16,283 0 0	11,722 0 0
Public Buildings ..	28,453 18 10	10,086 9 8	27,082 3 11	22,782 8 9	13,635 0 0	12,407 0 0	29,386 15 11	33,044 18 3	24,180 7 10	14,806 5 2
Lighthouses and Harbour-works	6,466 2 3	1,850 4 7	3,710 9 0	..	763 0 0	954 0 0	3,626 8 3	6,573 19 2	1,884 2 2	3,229 12 9
Thermal Springs ..	..	30 0 0	10 10 10	..	..	..	..	110 0 0	..	..
Rates on Native Lands	..	..	..	500 0 0	185 0 0	185 9 7	287 14 5	..	110 0 0	439 1 2
Contingent Defence ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,550 0 0	11,129 0 0
Services not provided for	..	1,794 7 11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	368,639 0	2314,932 5	5240,387 2 1	313,870 14 1	229,360 7 3	243,609 10 1	243,173 2 10	190,879 8	2275,763 1 2	394,427 5 2

STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED LIABILITIES chargeable on the under-mentioned Accounts outstanding on the 31st March, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898.

	31st March, 1894.	31st March, 1895.	31st March, 1896.	31st March, 1897.	31st March, 1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
State Forests Account ..	..	..	..	574 9 7	454 19 7
Cheviot Estate Account ..	3,000 0 0	2,400 0 0	130 0 0	3,492 16 0	..
Land for Settlements Account	400 0 0	101,121 0 0	160,171 19 9	104,951 15 11	21,883 16 1
Lands Improvement Account ..	..	131,379 9 2	113,988 2 6	128,304 5 1	..
Native Lands Purchase Account	..	24,137 7 2	25,768 13 3	31,549 11 4	..
Loans to Local Bodies Account	..	..	..	21,058 9 8	27,233 1 2

* Now included in Public Works Fund.

Table No. 6.
STATEMENT showing the Total Ways and Means of the PUBLIC WORKS FUND and the Total Net EXPENDITURE to the 31st MARCH, 1898.

WAYS AND MEANS.			NET EXPENDITURE.		
LOANS:—	£	s. d.	Expenditure on—	£	s. d.
Immigration and Public Works Loan, 1870	4,000,000	0 0	Immigration	2,147,015	4 0
Immigration and Public Works Loan, 1873	2,000,000	0 0	Public Works, Departmental	428,723	1 2
Immigration and Public Works Loan, 1874	4,000,000	0 0	Railways, including Surveys of New Lines	15,658,173	18 9
General Purposes Loan Act, 1878	750,000	0 0	Roads	4,667,996	7 4*
New Zealand Loan Act, 1876	750,000	0 0	Land Purchases	1,851,299	14 7
New Zealand Loan Act, 1877	2,200,000	0 0	Development of Goldfields	631,276	0 9
New Zealand Loan Act, 1879	5,000,000	0 0	Telegraph Extension	800,735	4 9
New Zealand Loan Act, 1882	3,000,000	0 0	Public Buildings	2,165,592	11 9
New Zealand Colonial-inscribed Stock Loan Act, 1882	250,000	0 0	Lighthouses, Harbour-works, and Defences	934,408	2 11
North Island Main Trunk Railway Loan Act, 1882 ..	1,000,000	0 0	Contingent Defence	455,633	3 7
New Zealand Loan Act, 1884	1,500,000	0 0	Rates on Native Lands	62,461	19 0
New Zealand Loan Act, 1886	1,325,000	0 0	Thermal Springs	14,599	13 2
District Railways Purchasing Acts, 1885-86	479,487	7 11	Charges and Expenses of raising Loans	1,027,764	13 0
New Zealand Loan Act, 1888	1,000,000	0 0	Coal-mines	10,835	8 0
Native Land Purchase Act, 1892	149,700	0 0	Interest and Sinking Fund	218,500	0 0
Lands Improvement and Native Lands Acquisition Act, 1894	500,000	0 0			
Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Acts, 1896 and 1897	975,000	0 0			
				31,070,014	2 9
RECEIPTS IN AID:—					
Amount transferred from Consolidated Fund	1,330,000	0 0			
Contributions of Canterbury Province for Railways ..	56,000	0 0			
Stamp Duties to 31st December, 1876	264,657	16 4			
Transfer from Confiscated Lands Liabilities Account ..	19,963	1 3			
Proceeds of Railway Material handed over to Cook County Council	4,963	7 4			
Special Receipts under section 9 of "The Railways Construction Act, 1878"	60,616	3 0			
Special Receipts under the Ellesmere Lake Lands Acts, 1888 and 1893	22,894	15 9			
Special Receipts under "The Railways Authorisation and Management Act, 1891"	2,257	1 9			
Special Receipts under "The North Island Main Trunk Railway Loan Application Act, 1886"	17,581	5 0	Balance on 31st March, 1897,—	17,408	19 10
Sinking Funds released	463,385	11 11	Cash in the Public Account	34,083	7 8
			Advances in the hands of officers of the Government		
				51,492	7 6
				£31,121,506	10 3

* Has been reduced by £59,800 received under section 31 of "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act, 1886."

Table No. 7.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE of the CONSOLIDATED FUND (Revenue Account) for 1898-99, compared with Actual Expenditure of 1897-98.

	Estimate for 1898-99.	Actual of 1897-98.	Differences.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
REVENUE ACCOUNT.				
Civil List	25,700	24,205	1,495	..
Interest and Sinking Fund	1,795,012	1,741,413	53,599	..
Under special Acts	350,988	346,598	4,390	..
	2,171,700	2,112,216	59,484	..
Annual Appropriations,—				
Legislative Departments	17,075	15,999	1,076	..
Colonial Secretary's Department	69,345	74,101	..	4,756
Colonial Treasurer's Department	36,789	23,535	13,254	..
Justice Department	123,445	122,480	965	..
Postal and Telegraph Department	385,821	362,867	22,954	..
Customs and Marine Department	73,911	70,794	3,117	..
Stamps and Deeds Department	25,325	23,041	2,284	..
Education Department	443,569	435,020	8,549	..
Lunacy and Charitable Department	58,277	57,305	972	..
Department of Labour	6,859	6,870	..	11
Mines Department	16,110	15,556	554	..
Department of Agriculture	57,235	54,409	2,826	..
Working Railways Department	871,000	849,923	21,077	..
Public and School Buildings and Domains	42,225	38,001	4,224	..
Defence Department	98,349	72,453	25,896	..
Police Department	113,529	105,975	7,554	..
Lands and Survey Department	109,264	122,584	..	13,320
Valuation Department	23,148	37,127	..	13,979
Rates on Crown lands	900	154	746	..
	2,572,176	2,488,194	116,048	32,066
Services not provided for	..	1,962	..	1,962
Purchase of the Cyanide Process Gold-extraction Patent	..	10,000	..	10,000
			175,532	44,028
			44,028	..
Total	4,743,876	4,612,372	131,504	..

Table No. 8.

STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED REVENUE of the CONSOLIDATED FUND (Revenue Account) for 1898-99, compared with the Actual Revenue of 1897-98.

	Estimate for 1898-99.	Actual of 1897-98.	Differences.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
REVENUE ACCOUNT.				
Customs	1,935,000	1,935,252	..	252
Stamps	770,000	780,232	..	10,232
Land- and Income-tax	390,000	382,497	7,503	..
Property-tax	..	10	..	10
Beer Duty	71,000	72,179	..	1,179
Railways	1,370,000	1,370,572	..	572
Registration and other Fees	74,000	51,289	22,711	..
Marine	23,000	23,960	..	960
Miscellaneous	109,000	108,343	657	..
Territorial Revenue	227,000	263,296	..	36,296
	4,969,000	4,987,630	30,871	49,501
Debentures for Sinking Fund increases.. .. .	54,300	69,600	..	15,300
				64,801
				30,871
Total	5,023,300	5,057,230	..	33,930

Table No. 9.

STATEMENT showing the Amount charged to UNAUTHORISED in each Financial Year from 1st July, 1875, to 31st March, 1898.

FINANCIAL YEAR.	CONSOLIDATED FUND.—REVENUE ACCOUNT.			OTHER ACCOUNTS.	PUBLIC WORKS FUND.	TOTAL.
	Services not provided for.	Excess of Votes.	Total.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1875-76	13,167 4 8	19,195 17 1	32,363 1 9	3,155 9 2	63,875 11 8	99,394 2 7
1876-77	18,397 17 1	13,398 7 0	31,796 4 1	3,490 6 1	2,197 4 5	37,483 14 7
1877-78	19,079 12 6	58,709 17 2	77,789 9 8	653 6 5	22,009 14 0	100,452 10 1
1878-79	11,413 16 1	47,466 4 5	58,880 0 6	3,938 14 8	32,179 1 1	94,997 16 3
1879-80	5,818 9 9	18,466 2 1	24,284 11 10	1,005 3 10	17,096 9 9	42,386 5 5
1880-81	6,151 13 9	37,825 6 6	43,977 0 3	13,443 11 3	34,133 17 3	91,554 8 9
1881-82	3,899 16 3	38,474 18 9	42,374 15 0	13,590 6 10	2,217 9 8	58,182 11 6
1882-83	4,473 15 8	64,631 0 2	69,104 15 10	12,343 2 2	8,137 17 11	89,585 15 11
1883-84	7,293 9 9	45,284 2 6	52,577 12 3	9,008 18 7	31,741 17 10	93,323 8 8
1884-85	5,981 17 8	39,039 17 11	45,021 15 7	7,163 15 3	872 0 11	53,057 11 9
1885-86	9,337 11 2	47,106 10 3	56,444 1 5	13,965 10 1	6,465 17 5	76,875 8 11
1886-87	14,337 19 7	38,117 13 5	52,455 13 0	6,212 16 7	28,633 10 8	87,302 0 3
1887-88	7,303 17 10	42,104 15 10	49,408 13 8	27,821 16 11	30,407 2 3	107,637 12 10
1888-89	3,521 18 2	35,157 16 5	38,679 14 7	13,506 2 8	18,633 2 10	70,819 0 1
1889-90	4,412 5 3	43,257 1 0	47,669 6 3	23,631 7 1	12,287 18 10	83,588 12 2
1890-91	10,610 1 0	76,778 5 11	87,388 6 11	5,459 18 11	7,097 19 9	99,946 5 7
1891-92	2,288 3 2	21,026 16 4	23,314 19 6	9,183 10 6	7,594 1 2	40,092 11 2
1892-93	1,741 7 10	28,283 15 11	30,025 3 9	4,754 17 10	11,149 14 2	45,929 15 9
1893-94	2,350 7 0	7,376 7 4	9,726 14 4	522 12 2	1,335 12 11	11,584 19 5
1894-95	8,985 3 7	9,148 0 5	18,133 4 0	1,890 7 5	330 8 1	20,353 19 6
1895-96	22,422 16 10	16,229 5 9	38,652 2 7	16,995 9 9	33,245 2 4	88,892 14 8
1896-97	3,188 17 7	24,195 2 9	27,384 0 4	24,726 3 6	7,051 0 8	59,161 4 6
1897-98	2,258 19 7	39,314 13 4	41,573 12 11	4,743 17 10	53,648 14 0	99,966 4 9

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1898.