

As suitable staff becomes available, surveys are being commenced in connection with proposals associated with the planning of works for the post-war period and especially those relating to rehabilitation.

I wish to acknowledge the continued services of the officers and workmen of the Department, who have not spared themselves in carrying out the very urgent programme of a large number of works required in connection with the Dominion's war effort.

At the end of the year 1,019 officers of the Department were serving with the forces, and I very much regret that 41 have made the supreme sacrifice and that many have suffered casualties or are prisoners of war.

FINANCE

The payments and receipts in connection with the Public Works Account and other associated votes and accounts for the year 1942-43 are shown in the tabulation following.

By reason of the extensive construction work carried out by my Department, as part of the Dominion defence programme, on behalf of the respective Defence Services, the expenditure administered through the Department reached a gross total of £25,925,772, details of which are set out below. The amounts received as credits-in-aid show an aggregate of £3,638,181, leaving net expenditure at £22,287,591.

Of this sum, £16,507,422 represented direct war expenditure outside the Department's ordinary accounts, and the remaining £5,780,169 includes maintenance services in respect of main highways, public buildings, electric-supply undertakings, &c., as well as expenditure on particular work associated with the war effort, such as linen-flax development.

Revenue collected by the Department totalled £2,299,186 for the year, and of this sum £2,190,278 represents the sale of electrical energy and miscellaneous receipts credited to the Electric Supply Account. The balance is made up of irrigation revenue and other sundry receipts exclusive of taxation for main highways purposes, which is collected by other Departments.

Class of Work.	Expenditure, 1942-43.		
	Gross.	Credits.	Net.
EXPENDITURE, PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNT			
	£	£	£
Public works, departmental	649,840	649,940	<i>Cr.</i> 100
Railway construction	337,528	103,699	233,829
Public buildings	475,056	20,824	454,232
Education buildings	207,391	2,678	204,713
Lighthouses and harbour-works	7,665	591	7,074
Roads, &c.	154,148	26,187	127,961
Lands, miscellaneous	41,939	24,344	17,595
Irrigation, water-supply, and drainage	208,313	126,317	81,996
Linen-flax development	910,445	388,876	521,569
Totals, General Purposes Account	2,992,325	1,343,456	1,648,869
Electric Supply Account—			
Construction	1,492,205	10,863	1,481,342
Working-expenses	658,786	124,847	533,939
Totals, Public Works Account	5,143,316	1,479,166	3,664,150
EXPENDITURE, OTHER VOTES AND ACCOUNTS			
Main Highways Account—			
Annual appropriation—			
Construction, reconstruction, and improvements	181,952	46,167	135,785
Maintenance, repairs, and renewals	1,185,854	129,452	1,056,402
Administration, plant, and miscellaneous expenditure	30,468	54,854	<i>Cr.</i> 24,386
Interest, fees, &c.	455,757	..	455,757
Permanent appropriations (rate subsidies, interest on transfer from Public Works Fund, &c.)	313,552	..	313,552
Consolidated Fund—			
Maintenance, public buildings, roads, &c.	303,249	46,656	256,593
Plant, material, and miscellaneous services	1,804,202	1,881,886	<i>Cr.</i> 77,684
Other accounts (expenditure by Public Works Department):			
Amounts not included above	16,507,422	..	16,507,422
Totals, other votes and accounts	20,782,456	2,159,015	18,623,441
Grand total of expenditure, Public Works Account and other votes and accounts, for the year ended 31st March, 1943 ..	25,925,772	3,638,181	22,287,591