

Of the net expenditure of £19,395,530 previously mentioned, £16,602,856 may be regarded as having been expended from loan-moneys (£3,262,409 Public Works Account, £1,655,000 Electric Supply Account, £200,000 Main Highways Account, and £11,485,447 War Expenses Account), the balance—i.e., £2,792,674—being expended from loan recoveries, revenue, and taxation.

The ratio which the various classes bear to the whole is shown below. It should be noted that the figures are gross—that is, before deducting recoveries, which, if deducted, would detract from the true portrayal of activities :—

	£	Per Cent.
Roads, including construction and maintenance of main highways	2,235,034	= 8.38
Hydro-electric (construction and working expenses) ..	2,531,989	= 9.50
Railway-construction	444,332	= 1.67
Housing construction	1,630,958	= 6.12
Public buildings, including schools	872,745	= 3.27
Land improvement and soil conservation	98,091	= 0.37
Irrigation	464,782	= 1.74
Linen-flax development	754,441	= 2.83
Public buildings and roads, &c. (maintenance)	431,657	= 1.62
Plant, materials, and services, other Departments ..	2,532,361	= 9.50
Miscellaneous	711,491	= 2.67
Navy, Army, Air, and Civil Defence expenditure	11,485,447	= 43.09
Revenue receipts	2,462,205	= 9.24
	<u>£26,655,533</u>	<u>= 100.00</u>

Summary of Votes under the Control of the Minister of Works, and proposed Ways and Means of raising the Necessary Funds, Year ending 31st March, 1945

Vote.	Loans.	Consolidated Fund.	Special Revenue.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Departmental	130,000	..	..	130,000
Railway-construction	364,500	..	..	364,500
Housing Construction	3,500,000	..	..	3,500,000
Public Buildings	565,000	..	..	565,000
Lighthouses and Harbour-works	28,700	..	..	28,700
Roads, &c.	100,000	..	..	100,000
Soil Conservation and Rivers Control	50,000	..	..	50,000
Lands, Miscellaneous	51,600	..	..	51,600
Irrigation, Water-supply, and Drainage	500,000	..	..	500,000
Electric Supply	3,035,000	..	1,215,000	4,250,000
Main Highways	300,000	..	1,500,000	1,800,000
Maintenance of Public Works and Services	..	660,000	..	660,000
Totals	8,624,800	660,000	2,715,000	11,999,800

For the current financial year 1944-45 a sum of £660,000 will be provided from the Consolidated Fund for expenditure on the purchase of plant and on maintenance of public works and services. The expenditure on main highways (including permanent appropriations estimated at £256,500) is estimated to reach £2,056,500, of which a sum totalling £1,656,500 is expected to be raised by way of special revenue. It is estimated that revenue from the supply of electrical energy will reach a sum of £2,590,000, which will be utilized for the payment of sinking fund, interest, income-tax, &c., and operating-expenses.

MAIN HIGHWAYS

There has been a slight increase in the number of miles sealed and in the number of lineal feet of bridges erected compared with the corresponding figures for the previous year.

In regard to the main highways maintenance it is felt that the most difficult period has now passed, and although the existing standard, generally, falls a good deal short of the standard to which highway maintenance was carried out in the years preceding the war, the easing of the position in respect to man-power and materials should allow a gradual improvement to be made. The reinstatement of the highways surfaces will naturally take time and can only be achieved provided sufficient finance and additional man-power can be made available to the Board and local authorities, together with an increased use of power-plant.

The Main Highways Board has made preliminary arrangements for a large programme of bridge renewals, and these will be undertaken in the Dominion order of urgency.

As staff becomes available surveys are being put in hand for the improvement of dangerous sections of highway.