

1st January, 1891, and 31st March, 1902, (c) the gross total expenditure to 31st March, 1902, and (d) the expenditure for the late financial year:—

Class of Work.	Expenditure.			
	Total to 31st December, 1890.	1st January, 1891, to 31st March, 1902.	Total to 31st March, 1902.	Year ended 31st March, 1902.
	£	£	£	£
Railways, including additions to open lines	14,067,100	4,434,867	18,501,967	1,333,941
Roads	3,575,804	2,390,405	5,966,209	402,260
Public buildings	1,776,003	879,247	2,655,250	145,600
Immigration	2,144,386	3,473	2,147,859	140
Purchase of Native lands	1,191,137	792,094	1,983,231	18,262
Lighthouses, harbour-works, and harbour defences	880,095	97,677	977,772	12,159
Tourist and health resorts	...	11,260	11,260	11,260
Telegraph extension	600,849	337,038	937,887	31,729
Development of goldfields	561,101	140,576	701,677	15,325
Defence-works (general)	429,720	267,116	696,836	146,876
Departmental	349,789	127,298	477,087	17,770
Minor works and services	300,689	9,785	310,474	2,311
Cost and discount, raising loans, &c. ...	1,021,472	41,919	1,063,391	5,620
Totals	26,898,145	9,532,755	36,430,900	2,143,253

From this table it will be apparent that the present Government, while fully alive to the needs of the colony in the important matters of railway-extension and providing suitable and convenient buildings for the use of the several Departments and services of the State, has lent a particularly attentive ear to the requests of the back-block settlers for roads and bridges to open up the rural districts of the colony, the expenditure on works of the character referred to during the rather more than eleven years' term of office of the present Administration having exceeded the rate of expenditure previously prevailing by over 17 per cent., notwithstanding that the total expenditure on public works of all classes during the same period shows a decline of over 37 per cent.

WAYS AND MEANS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC WORKS PURPOSES.

At the 31st March, 1901, the ways and means of the Public Works Fund amounted to £1,032,515, and further sums were provided as under:—

Of the loan of 1901 (£1,250,000) the amount received was	£ 1,062,667
Transferred from revenue	500,000

There were also miscellaneous receipts to the amount of £2,129, thus making a gross total of £2,597,311. The expenditure last year amounted to £2,143,252, so that at the close of the year the balance remaining was £454,059; and it is proposed to provide additional funds as follows:—

Balance of 1901 loan, less cost of raising, say	£ 99,333
New loan, 1902	1,750,000
Further transfer from revenue	200,000

This will bring our total ways and means up to £2,503,392.

The estimates of expenditure for the current year total to £2,193,052 (in addition to £45,000 under the Government Loans to Local Bodies Account), thus leaving an unallocated balance of £310,340.

RAILWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

Before detailing the various works that have been in hand, a few words in reference to the amount that is being spent on railway-construction in New Zealand, as compared with some of the other colonies, may not be out of place. I believe a feeling exists in the minds of some persons that we have gone, or