

1910.
NEW ZEALAND.

PUBLIC WORKS STATEMENT.

BY THE HON. RODERICK McKENZIE, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

15TH NOVEMBER, 1910.

MR. SPEAKER,—

The year 1909–10, the operations of which I have to describe, if not quite the busiest in the annals of the Department, was nevertheless a very busy year. There have been only four occasions during the last thirty years on which the annual expenditure of the Department has exceeded two millions sterling, and last year was one of them. The present year promises to be even a busier one, as I am in the fortunate position of being able to propose larger votes than last year for all the works ordinarily undertaken by the Department—railways, roads, buildings, telegraphs, &c. — and, in addition, to submit proposals for carrying out practical work in the way of developing some of our extensive water-powers, and also for the construction of important irrigation works, and I have to bespeak for my various propositions the careful and sympathetic consideration of honourable members.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure on all works and services borne upon the public-works estimates last year amounted to £2,218,975, or, if we exclude special accounts having their own ways and means, and take into consideration only actual charges against the Public Works Fund, the total amounted to £1,993,171, which, with the exception of the previous year, is the largest expenditure on such works for many years past.

The following table shows, as regards each class of work, (a) the total expenditure since the inauguration of the public-works policy to the 31st December, 1890; (b) the similar expenditure between the 1st January, 1891, and the 31st March, 1910; (c) the gross total expenditure to the 31st March, 1910; and (d) the expenditure for the late financial year:—

Class of Work.	Expenditure.			
	A Total to 31st December, 1890.	B 1st January, 1891, to 31st March, 1910.	C Total to 31st March, 1910.	D Year ended 31st March, 1910.
Railways—	£	£	£	£
New construction ...	11,975,098	7,791,818	19,766,916	786,952
Additions to open lines ...	2,092,002	6,271,830	8,363,832*	468,518†
Roads ...	3,575,804	5,093,974	8,669,773	338,762
Public buildings ...	1,776,003	2,591,272	4,367,275	277,157
Immigration ...	2,144,386	74,405	2,218,791	17,003
Purchase of Native lands ...	1,191,137	877,277	2,068,414	30,567
Lighthouses, harbour-works, and harbour defences	880,095	180,324	1,060,419	16,682
Tourist and health resorts ...	...	197,361	197,361	14,508
Telegraph-extension ...	600,849	1,165,342	1,766,191	123,422
Development of goldfields ...	561,101	276,012	837,113	17,597
Defence-works (general) ...	429,720	474,191	903,911	4,977
Departmental ...	349,789	284,284	634,073	41,176
Payment to Midland Railway bondholders ...	...	150,000	150,000	...
Lands improvement ...	...	51,027	51,027	6,910
Minor works and services ...	300,689	20,266	320,955	...
Cost and discount, raising loans, &c. ...	1,021,472	220,460	1,241,932	5,715
Totals ...	26,898,145	25,719,843	52,617,988	2,149,946

* Including Wellington–Manawatu Railway purchase. Expenditure in connection with new Hutt Road (£67,244) not included. † Excluding expenditure on new Hutt Road.