

1913.
NEW ZEALAND.

PUBLIC WORKS STATEMENT.

BY THE HON. WILLIAM FRASER, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.
NOVEMBER, 1913.

MR. SPEAKER,—

Owing to the financial position obtaining at the close of last session, and in view of the heavy commitments already entered into, I did not feel justified in making available for immediate expenditure the whole of the new items appearing on the public-works estimates. All authorities issued and offers made in pursuance of previous years' appropriations were, however, duly honoured. New votes urgently requiring attention were also authorized on application. As soon as the success of the flotation of the new loan was assured all restrictions regarding expenditure of new votes were removed. Notwithstanding these precautionary measures the total expenditure of the past year on public works was not only in excess of that of the previous year, but was actually the largest in any single year for over thirty years, and amounted to the very large sum of £2,711,068—viz., £2,593,365 out of the Public Works Fund and allied special accounts, and £117,703 out of the Consolidated Fund.

The following table shows the brief particulars of the expenditure of the year, and also the total under each class of work from the inauguration of the public-works policy up to the 31st March last :—

TOTAL EXPENDITURE.

Class of Work.	Expenditure.	
	Expenditure for Year ended 31st March, 1913.	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1913.
Railways—	£	£
New construction	684,196	21,945,802
Additions to open lines	464,636	8,853,417
Roads	374,346	9,723,865
Public buildings	445,192	5,487,225
Immigration	14,694	2,254,606
Purchase of Native lands	...	2,065,720
Lighthouses, harbour-works, and harbour-defences	16,785	1,098,207
Tourist and health resorts... ..	12,906	229,539
Telegraph-extension	251,375	2,277,125
Development of goldfields	10,644	877,802
Defence-works (general)	23,790	944,209
Departmental	57,425	784,095
Development of water-power	...	18,451
Irrigation and water-supply	...	4,356
Payment to Midland Railway bondholders	...	150,000
Lands-improvement	22,550	104,713
Minor works and services	...	312,607
Cost and discount, raising loans, &c.	72,950	1,243,692
	2,451,489	58,375,431
Wellington-Hutt Railway Improvement	991	228,381
New Hutt Road	1,738	98,822
Railways Improvement Account	29,254	596,768
Opening up Crown Lands for Settlement Account	47,951	632,153
National Endowment Account	2,689	19,838
Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers Account	9,555	13,324
Aid to Water-power Works Account	35,009	35,009
Irrigation and Water-supply Account	14,689	14,689
Totals	2,593,365	60,014,415