

The above, with the balance brought forward, gives a gross total of £4,756,212. The estimated expenditure for public works for the current year (excluding separate accounts having their own ways and means) amounts to £3,402,758, leaving an estimated balance of £1,353,454 to be carried forward to next year (1915-16).

In addition to the above we have authority to raise, outside the Public Works Fund, the undermentioned sums:—

|                                                                   | £       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Under the Aid to Water-power Works Act, 1910....                  | 285,000 |
| Under the Irrigation and Water-supply Act, 1913....               | 65,000  |
| Under the Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers Improvement Act, 1910 ..... | 50,000  |

#### RAILWAY-CONSTRUCTION.

The following sections of railway were completed and opened for traffic during the last financial year, or since its close:—

|                                | M. | ch. |                |
|--------------------------------|----|-----|----------------|
| Coal Creek Extension .....     | 3  | 69  | January, 1914. |
| Otiria to Kaikohe .....        | 16 | 25  | May, 1914.     |
| Kaihu to Tarawhati .....       | 2  | 35  | June, 1914.    |
| Cass to Arthur's Pass .....    | 14 | 65  | July, 1914.    |
| Cronadun to Inangahua .....    | 13 | 7   | June, 1914.    |
| Pohokura to Whangamomona ..... | 6  | 13  | July, 1914.    |
| Kaiwaka to Otamatea .....      | 2  | 45  | August, 1914.  |
| Total .....                    | 59 | 19  |                |

The following lengths are practically completed, but have not yet been handed over to the Railway authorities for traffic:—

|                             | M. | ch. |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|
| Maunganui to Te Puke .....  | 13 | 27  |
| Otoko to Rakauroa .....     | 6  | 60  |
| Big Hill to Beaumont .....  | 5  | 36  |
| Houipapa to Papatowai ..... | 12 | 52  |

In addition to the above, the following sections are approaching completion, and are expected to be ready to open for traffic during the current financial year:—

|                                  | M. | ch. |
|----------------------------------|----|-----|
| Te Puke to Paengaroa .....       | 5  | 50  |
| Rakauroa to Matawai .....        | 5  | 70  |
| Mount Egmont Branch .....        | 2  | 56  |
| Whangamomona to Kohuratahi ..... | 4  | 49  |
| Ward to Mills .....              | 7  | 76  |
| Papatowai to Tahakopa .....      | 5  | 21  |

The total expenditure on railway-construction and improvement-work during last financial year amounted to £1,144,459, as under:—

|                                    | £       |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Construction of new lines .....    | 606,448 |
| Additions to open lines .....      | 498,448 |
| Railways Improvement Account ..... | 39,563  |

#### KAIHU EXTENSION.

The construction of the extension from the booms at Kaihu to Waima was completed during the year, and the new section of 2 miles 35 chains, ending at Tarawhati Station, was taken over by the Railway authorities for regular traffic on 1st June last. The further extension of over four miles and a half to a terminus at Donnelly's Crossing, authorized last year, has been surveyed and the route located.