REDEMPTIONS AND RENEWALS.

Apart from our obligations to the Imperial Government for war expenses, referred to in another paragraph, the total debt falling due during the year amounted to £1,859,040, and of this amount £466,040 was renewed. £800,300 was redeemed with funds borrowed from the Post Office, £5,500 was provided by the Commissioners of the Public Debts Sinking Funds, while £587,200 was converted under the provisions of section 106 of the Finance Act, 1915.

CONVERSIONS.

The conversion scheme authorized by the Finance Act, 1915 (section 106), was continued during the year, with the result that a total sum of £2,133,000 has been converted into debentures with a currency varying to twenty-five years and bearing interest at 4½ per cent. free of income-tax.

LOANS FALLING DUE.

The loans falling due during the seven years ending with the year 1924 are as follow:—

Year ending 31st March	London.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1918	40,700	84,200	3,238,456	3,363,356
1918*	1,168,421	...	...	1,168,421
1919	134,350	51,000	1,520,515	1,705,865
1920	42,800	29,400	3,695,745	3,767,945
1921	...	384,200	9,721,257	10,105,457
1922	218,200	605,400	5,348,190	6,171,790
1923	30,300	665,850	65,500	761,650
1924	1,708,200	29,300	386,800	2,124,300

The particulars of the £1,209,121 falling due in London during the current financial year are as follow:—

Date.	Authority.	Rate.	Amount.
1917.		Per Cent.	£
April 1 ...	New Zealand State-guaranteed Advances Acts, 1909–10, Land for Settlements Branch	4	39,500
1918.			
January 1 ...	Maori Land Settlement Act, 1905	4	1,200
March 31* ...	Public Revenues Amendment Act, 1914, section 8, and Public Revenues Amendment Act, 1915 (No. 2), section 9	3½	1,168,421

* Advances from Imperial Government for war purposes. Treasury bills renewable.

TREASURY.

As evidence that the work of this Department has increased both in volume and importance, I may mention that the amount paid into the credit of the Public Account during the financial year immediately preceding the war aggregated £17,000,000, while the total lodgments for last year exceeded £50,000,000.

During the year just ended loan and financial operations of an unprecedented character were undertaken. Over £11,000,000 of the Dominion War Loan of £16,000,000 was raised in New Zealand, at a net cost of ½ per cent. only, which is considerably below the cost of raising loans on the London market.

The average cost of raising the last three loans in London prior to the war was 3½ per cent., and the average cost of raising the two loans in New Zealand during the war was three-eighths of one pound per cent.