

KAITAIA DRAINAGE AREA (39,665 ACRES).

Good progress has been made on the above works despite the very wet weather experienced and difficulties caused through scarcity of suitable labour due to war conditions. During the latter part of the year several floods followed in quick succession, the holding-capacity of the Tongong Lake being heavily taxed, and flood-waters spread everywhere over the low-lying areas.

Bullock teams have been engaged during the year in clearing the Kaitaia River of snags, willows, and other obstructions, the total distance cleared being seven miles, including clearing of numerous projected diversions. These diversions (of which there are about thirty between Kaitaia and Awanui) will shorten the river-course by about five miles. Since the willows and snags have been removed the floods have not overflowed the banks nearly so much as previously, and adjoining landowners are very pleased with the result of the work so far attained. It is unfortunate that the Priestman dredger on order from England cannot be delivered early on account of war exigencies, as much greater progress could then be made. A pontoon to carry the machinery is now in course of construction, and land-plan surveys are also under way.

The expenditure on works during the year was £3,843 7s. 3d.

I have, &c.,

J. B. THOMPSON,

Chief Drainage Engineer.

The Under-Secretary for Lands, Wellington.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
New Zealand Loans Act, 1908 :—	£	s. d.	<i>Expenditure under Section 4 of the Swamp Drainage Act, 1915, and Section 95 of the Reserves and other Lands Disposal and Public Bodies Empowering Act, 1916.</i>		
Swamp Drainage Act, 1915,—			1917, 31st March.		
Debentures issued	11,000	0 0	Kaitaia :—		
			Drainage-works and other	£	s. d.
			expenses incidental		
			thereto	3,255	11 10
			Equipment and mainten-		
			ance of dredges, wages		
			of dredgemasters, &c.	84	6 0
			Travelling-expenses, &c.	80	14 9
			Material	9	4 0
			Office upkeep	8	18 10
			Bank overdraft, Kaitaia		
			Drainage Board	404	11 10
					3,843 7 3
			Poukawa :—		
			Drainage-works and ex-		
			penses incidental there-		
			to	1,093	8 1
			Equipment and mainten-		
			ance of dredges, wages		
			of dredgemasters, &c.	264	0 11
			Travelling-expenses ..	106	17 5
			Materials	73	18 1
					1,538 4 6
			Waihi :—		
			Drainage-works and ex-		
			penses incidental there-		
			to	854	15 11
			Equipment and mainten-		
			ance of dredges, wages		
			of dredgemasters, &c.	327	8 8
			Travelling-expenses ..	0	10 0
					1,182 14 7
					6,564 6 4
			New Zealand Loans Act, 1908 :—		
			Swamp Drainage Act, 1915,—		
			Charges and expenses		0 7 0
			Balance at end of year :—		
			Cash in Public Account	4,435	6 8
					£11,000 0 0
					£11,000 0 0

LOAN ACCOUNT.

1917, 31st March.			1916, 1st April.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance	11,000	0 0	Debentures issued under the New Zealand		
			Loans Act, 1908 :—		
			Swamp Drainage Act, 1915	11,000	0 0
					£11,000 0 0
					£11,000 0 0

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