## RAILWAYS.

To detail future railway-construction would take up too much space. Generally speaking, the lines to be constructed have been classified in order of importance, consideration at the same time being given to the amount of money available. New and more economical methods of construction have been adopted by the greater employment of mechanical aids. With this object in view a sum of £200,000 has been agreed to by Cabinet for the purchase of necessary machinery. Details of the plant are given later. It is not intended to distribute this machinery all over the country on various small works, but to concentrate it on certain definite works. When these undertakings have been completed it will be removed with its personnel to other lines next in order of importance.

Legislation will be introduced this session to enable light railways of a less gauge than 3 ft. 6 in. to be constructed.

## EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure on all works and services borne upon the public-works estimates amounted to the sum of £2,269,176; or, if the special accounts having their own ways and means are excluded, the actual charges against the Public Works Fund amounted to £2,020,714, as compared with the expenditure of £1,207,482 in the previous year.

The following table shows briefly the particulars of expenditure during the financial year ended 31st March, 1920, also the total expenditure in respect to each class of work from the date of the inauguration of the Public Works policy to the 31st March last:—

	<del></del>				Expenditure.	
Class of Work.			Expenditure for Year ended 31st March, 1920.	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1920.		
Railways—				£	£	
New construction				588,325	26,246,190	
Additions to open lines				160,324	9,991,925	
Roads				388,562	12,009,175	
Public buildings	•••			469,195	7,799,948	
Toursianation	••			Cr. 62,561	2,267,549	
Purchase of Native lands	•••	•••	•••		2,061,849	
Lighthouses, harbour-works, and harbo			•••	3,498	1,151,941	
Managine and broadely assessed	Jui-delence		• • • •			
	•••	***	•••	6,194	267,254	
Telegraph-extension	•••	•••	•••	249,379	4,072,978	
Development of mining	•••	•••	•••	$\frac{1,173}{10,107}$	883,179	
Defence-works (general)	•••	• • •	•••	10,187	1,061,765	
Departmental	•••	•••		121,677	1,552,931	
Electric-power supply and development	t			***	9,254	
Irrigation and water-supply		• • •		34,115	194,835	
Payment to Midland Railway bondhold	lers	• • • •	•••		150,000	
Lands-improvement	•••	• • •		2,964	138,304	
Minor works and services	• • •	•••			312,607	
Plant, material, and stores				47,682	159,296	
Cost and discount, raising loans, &c.	•••	•••		•••	1,253,073	
				2,020,714	71,584,048	
Wellington-Hutt Railway and Road Improvement (Railway					228,374	
Account Road					101,658	
Railways Improvement Account				•••	641,275	
Railways Improvement Authorization Act 1914 Account				92,994	609,441	
Loans to Local Bodies Account—Roads to open up Crown lands				,	697,408	
Opening up Crown Lands for Settlement Account—Roads to open up Crown lands					206,626	
Land for Settlements Account—Roads to open up Crown lands				61,692	322,722	
National Endowment Account—Roads to open up endowment lands					53,401	
Aid to Water-power Works and Electric Supply Account				35,184	447,496	
Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers Improvement Account				 34,806	126,825	
Totals				2,245,390	75,019,274	