

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure of the year, which was estimated at £22,441,057, reached £23,781,924, or £5,108,325 in excess of the expenditure of the financial year 1918–19.

The details of this excess are as follow :—

Expenditure for the Year ended 31st March, 1920, compared with the Year ended 31st March, 1919.

	Year ended 31st March, 1920.	Year ended 31st March, 1919.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Permanent Appropriations,—				
Civil List	26,549	28,669	..	2,120
Interest and Sinking Fund	7,249,426	6,086,769	1,162,657	..
Under special Acts	1,101,289	726,047	375,242	..
Subsidies paid to Local Authorities	161,085	140,309	20,776	..
Territorial Revenue	24,275	46,576	..	22,301
Endowments	134,991	150,419	..	15,428
Old-age Pensions	698,570	709,336	..	10,766
Widows' Pensions	136,730	80,670	56,060	..
Military Pensions	45,000	50,511	..	5,511
War Pensions	1,811,146	1,199,544	611,602	..
	11,389,061	9,218,850	2,226,337	56,126
			2,170,211	..
Annual Appropriations,—				
Legislative Departments	44,500	36,729	7,771	..
Departments of Finance	189,061	167,237	21,824	..
Post and Telegraph Department	1,941,494	1,699,701	241,793	..
Working Railways Department	4,305,965	3,415,595	890,370	..
Public Buildings, Domains, and Maintenance of Roads	164,142	121,384	42,758	..
Native Department	28,457	25,694	2,763	..
Justice Department	587,990	549,794	38,196	..
Mines Department	36,637	40,638	..	4,001
Department of Internal Affairs	336,356	271,218	65,138	..
Mental Hospitals, Public Health, and Hospitals and Charitable Aid Departments	556,899	318,808	238,091	..
Tourists Department	68,858	53,656	15,202	..
Defence Department	502,465	416,427	86,038	..
Customs, Marine, and Inspection of Machinery Departments	227,474	186,561	40,913	..
Department of Labour	40,016	32,954	7,062	..
Department of Lands and Survey	238,365	209,403	28,962	..
Valuation and Electoral Departments	196,242	53,070	143,172	..
Department of Agriculture, Industries, and Commerce	818,567	240,465	578,102	..
Education Department	2,031,825	1,602,995	428,830	..
Services not provided for	77,150	12,420	64,730	..
Transfer to Loans Redemption Account of Sinking Funds set free to redeem Debentures	400	..	400	..
	12,392,863	9,454,749	2,942,115	4,001
			2,938,114	..
Totals	23,781,924	18,673,599	5,108,325	..

The annual charges for interest, sinking funds, and pensions have largely increased, whilst the expenditure of the departmental services is £2,938,114 above that of the preceding year. The increased cost of all classes of labour and materials, as well as the expansion of Departments in proportion to the increase in population, have combined to produce this result. Nevertheless, I deem it my duty to direct the earnest attention of honourable members to the growth in expenditure due to new services and increasing demands,