

required and is not produced by hydraulic agency it can be produced in some other way, and the industry for which the power is required can still go on; but in the case of irrigation works, if the water is not supplied, nothing can take its place, and land which might carry from three to five sheep to the acre must remain tussocky waste, carrying less than one-tenth part of the stock; and crops which can be grown most luxuriantly with water cannot be raised at all without it. For every acre irrigated the State as a whole gains in many ways. Although the total number of sheep in the dry counties surrounding the irrigated area decreased between 1914 and 1922 the numbers carried by the irrigated area actually doubled, the increase being progressive and keeping pace with the increasing sale of water. The increase in irrigation receipts ever since irrigation water was first made available has been sustained, and this year I am glad to say that there has been a substantial surplus of receipts over working-expenses and maintenance costs. But more has yet to be earned—and it can be earned—to recoup the State for its expenditure.

EXPENDITURE.

The total net expenditure under all votes and accounts appearing on the public-works estimates for the financial year ended 31st March, 1922, was £6,922,039.

Of this sum £5,286,687 was expended out of the Public Works Fund, and the balance, £1,635,352, out of accounts which have their own ways and means and are quite separate from the Public Works Fund.

A brief summary of this expenditure, as well as the total expenditure since the inception of the public-works policy to the 31st March last, is shown below in tabular form :—

Class of Work.	Expenditure.	
	Expenditure for Year ended 31st March, 1922.	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1922.
	£	£
Railways—		
New construction	1,276,820	28,466,020
Additions to open lines	1,856,380	12,269,621
Roads	564,159	13,111,960
Public buildings	344,739	8,635,603
Immigration	247,528	2,507,271
Purchase of Native lands	...	2,061,739
Lighthouses, harbour-works, and harbour-defences	18,774	1,175,553
Tourist and health resorts... ..	17,996	304,181
Telegraph extension	590,981	5,000,427
Development of mining	2,130	885,805
Defence-works (general)	15,586	1,086,052
Departmental	128,002	1,817,407
Electric-power supply and development	600	...
Irrigation and water-supply	82,713	332,892
Payment to Midland Railway bondholders	...	150,000
Lands-improvement	17,478	157,846
Minor works and services	...	312,607
Plant, material, and stores	106,432	435,638
Timber-supply and sawmills for Public Works Department	16,369	16,369
Cost and discount, raising loans, &c.	174,280	1,427,538
	5,460,967	80,154,529
Wellington-Hutt Railway and Road Improvement { Railway	...	228,374
Account { Road ...	...	101,658
Railways Improvement Account	...	641,275
Railways Improvement Authorization Act 1914 Account	141,860*	814,379
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	51,471	403,113
National Endowment Account—Roads to open up endowment lands	...	53,401
Aid to Water-power Works and Electric Supply Account	834,060	1,638,007
Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers Improvement Account... ..	54,379	243,453
Education Loans Account... ..	563,201	777,772
Totals	7,105,938	85,959,995

* Includes proportionate cost of loan raised under this account.