

on the 31st March the Department had on its books 35,734 tenants, with an annual rent-roll of over £1,220,000. The problem of arrears appears to have been more acute in the purely pastoral districts, and now that the prospects of the sheep-farmer are so decidedly bright it is fair to assume that a large volume of arrears will be gradually extinguished.

EXPENDITURE.

Summary of Expenditure approved during the Year ended 31st March, 1924.

Name of Vote or Account.	Net Amount voted.	Gross Expenditure.	Recoveries.	Net Expenditure.
<i>Consolidated Fund.</i>				
Vote Lands and Survey (Subdivision I) ..	£ 155,902	£ s. d. 248,281 17 2	£ s. d. 119,235 19 7	£ s. d. 129,045 17 7
Vote Lands and Survey (Subdivision II) ..	29,167	26,447 16 1	571 3 9	25,876 12 4
Land for Settlements Account expenses ..	10,005	4,983 1 5	1,019 15 8	3,963 5 9
Land for Settlements Account (Lands for settlement of discharged soldiers) expenses	6,780	2,621 3 3	140 18 10	2,480 4 5
Scenery Preservation Account	6,968	3,335 2 10	215 3 2	3,119 19 8
Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account : Expenses of management	50,000	60,062 11 5	2,687 19 7	57,374 11 10
Totals	258,822	345,731 12 2	123,871 0 7	221,860 11 7
<i>Public Works Fund.</i>				
Roads to open up land for settlements ..	104,900	49,547 4 5	361 11 5	49,185 13 0
Totals	104,900	49,547 4 5	361 11 5	49,185 13 0
<i>Other Accounts.</i>				
Land for Settlements Account	40,704 0 9	27,760 15 3	12,943 5 6	
Land for Settlements Account (Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account	36,553 9 9	21,332 2 6	15,221 7 3	
Rangitaiki Land Drainage Account (section 7, Rangitaiki Land Drainage Act, 1910)	41,396 4 9	866 7 9	40,529 17 0	
Rangitaiki Land Drainage Account (section 8, Rangitaiki Land Drainage Act, 1910)	201 14 0	1 12 0	200 2 0	
Hauraki Plains Settlement Account (section 5, Hauraki Plains Amendment Act, 1922)	9,173 2 10	61 4 1	9,111 18 9	
Hauraki Plains Settlement Account (section 93, Reserves, &c., Act, 1916	83,109 0 2	4,075 0 9	79,033 19 5	
Swamp Land Drainage Account (section 95, Reserves, &c., Act, 1916)—				
Kaitaia	12,776 13 9	34 8 3	12,742 5 6	
Waihi	16,057 9 2	42 16 8	16,014 12 6	
Poukawa	110 15 4	..	110 15 4	
Hikurangi	14,905 6 0	5 4 5	14,900 1 7	
Mangawai Kauri-gum Reserve	..	100 0 0	..	
General	1,662 14 3	4 6 6	1,558 7 9	
Swamp Land Drainage Account (section 2, Swamp Land Drainage Amendment Act, 1922)	3,394 16 6	..	3,394 16 6	
Kauri-gum Account	14,225 0 0	..	14,225 0 0	
National Endowment Account	8,741 19 9	..	8,741 19 9	
Native Land Settlement Account (surveys, &c.) ..	38,339 12 8	973 13 0	37,365 19 8	
Native Land Settlement Account (section 19, Land Laws Amendment Act, 1922)	2,941 19 4	0 8 9	2,941 10 7	
Cheviot Estate Account (section 19, Land Laws Amendment Act, 1922)	1,481 19 7	..	1,481 19 7	
Hunter's Soldier Assistance Trust Account ..	44 2 1	..	44 2 1	
Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account ..	1,679,356 1 6	..	1,679,356 1 6	
Refunds, deposits, &c... ..	35,596 14 8	..	35,596 14 8	
Totals	2,040,772 16 10	55,257 19 11	1,985,514 16 11	
Grand totals	2,436,051 13 5	179,490 11 11	2,256,561 1 6	

It will be seen that the expenditure is an increase on that of previous years, the net expenditure for 1922-23 being £2,011,840. This is largely caused by operations under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account.