

The net expenditure on works and services chargeable against the General Purposes Account for the year was—

	£
(a.) Under appropriations	4,131,440
(b.) Under Ellesmere Land Drainage Act, 1905	439
(c.) Under New Zealand Loans Act, 1908 (stamp duty)	9,832
(d.) Charges and expenses of raising loans	232,098
Making a total of	<u>£4,373,809</u>

This left a credit balance in the account for general purposes at 31st March, 1925, of	£ 379,439
Legislative authority exists for raising a further	4,000,920
It is proposed to transfer from accumulated surplus to capital purposes (if required) to the extent of	1,000,000
and to ask for further legislative authority to borrow, when required	4,000,000
Thus making available for public works, general purposes, a total of	<u>£9,380,359</u>

The estimated expenditure under the account for the current financial year, including the transfer of £200,000 to Main Highways Construction Fund, is £4,918,500

In addition to the requirements for general purposes, there are a number of special accounts for public works with separate ways and means. The most important of these are :—

Name of Account.	Balance available at 31st March, 1925.	Unexhausted Borrowing Authority at 31st March, 1925.	Additional Borrowing Authority to be sought during Current Year.	Total available Ways and Means.
	£	£	£	£
Electric-supply Account	229,248	6,506,990	..	6,736,238
Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers Improvement Account	273	164,000	..	164,273
Railways Improvement Authorization Act 1914 Account	577,601	1,458,310	..	2,035,911
Main Highways Construction Fund	546	3,000,000	..	3,000,546
Totals for these special accounts	807,668	11,129,300	..	11,936,968

From these figures it will be observed that at the end of the last financial year the unexpended balance of the Public Works Fund for general purposes, plus existing and proposed authorities for raising further moneys, amounted to £ 9,380,359

While the balance at the same date in respect to some of the more important public works under special accounts, plus legislative authority to raise additional loans, amounted to 11,936,968

Or a total of £21,317,327

IRRIGATION AND WATER-SUPPLY.

Continued steady progress of irrigation development is to be recorded so far as the operations of last year are concerned. No new works were commenced, the completion of schemes under construction, and surveys and investigation of new schemes proposed, occupying the attention of the Department. The Ida Valley and Galloway schemes are in operation ; and, though the revenue from these schemes is