

until the section was handed over to the Railway Department and opened for all classes of traffic in December last.

Formation work, which was commenced on the next section to Roxburgh Township, is practically complete for 7 miles, and is in progress on the remaining length. The rails have been laid for almost 4 miles and ballasted for 3 miles. The culverting of this section is also nearly complete, and a Stationmaster's house and two platelayers' cottages have been erected at Roxburgh.

The Orawia Section of the Orepuki-Waiau Railway was completed by the Public Works Department, and opened for all classes of traffic in October last. The goods service which was inaugurated in September, 1924, was conducted by this Department until that date.

EXPENDITURE.

The total net expenditure under all votes and accounts appearing on the public-works estimates for the financial year ended 31st March, 1926, was £7,495,094. Of this sum £4,615,585 was expended out of General Purposes Account, and the balance, £2,879,509, out of special accounts.

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, follows in tabular form :—

Class of Work.	Expenditure for Year ended 31st March, 1926.	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1926.
Railways—	£	£
New construction	1,146,292	33,180,728
Additions to open lines	842,322	15,250,391
Payment to Midland Railway bondholders	..	150,000
Roads	568,628	15,684,081*
Public buildings	284,178	9,604,988
Immigration	107,521	2,932,490
Purchase of Native lands	..	2,061,739
Lighthouses, harbour-works, and harbour defences	9,407	1,206,692
Tourist and health resorts	43,486	392,628
Telegraph extension	931,661	8,108,366
Development of mining	..	882,975
Defence works (general)	89,670	1,208,132
Departmental	126,596	2,293,023
Irrigation and water-supply	56,227	677,408
Lands-improvement	70,493	300,151
Minor works and services	..	312,607
Plant, material, and stores	34,471	384,632
Quarries (acquisition and operating)	12,351	14,166
Timber-supply and sawmills for Public Works Department	Cr. 9,892	4,174
Motor-transport services	4,994	33,635
Cost and discount, raising loans, &c.	297,180	2,340,952
Total General Purposes Account	4,615,585†	97,023,958
Aid to Water-power Works and Electric Supply Account	945,574‡	4,715,914
Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers Improvement Account	47,907‡	482,489
Total Public Works Fund	5,609,066	102,222,361
Wellington-Hutt Railway, &c.—		
Railway	..	228,374
Road	..	101,658
Railways Improvement Account	..	641,275
Railways Improvement Authorization Act 1914 Account	881,441§	2,087,510
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
Lands for Settlement Account—Roads to open up Crown lands	17,181	570,974
National Endowment Account	..	53,401
Education Loans Account	564,950§	2,451,993
Main Highways Account Construction Fund	422,456§	647,903
	7,495,094	109,909,483

* Includes £4,500 expended under section 16, subsection (1), Native Land Amendment and Native Claims Adjustment Act, 1923. † Does not include expenditure under the Ellesmere Land Drainage Act, 1905.

‡ Excludes interest during construction.

§ Includes proportionate cost of loan raised under these accounts.