

authority or association of local authorities which desires to have the benefit of its knowledge. The far-reaching effect of the new finances provided by the Motor-spirits Taxation Act is just beginning to make itself felt, and during the coming paving season extensive works in high-class paving will be in progress around a great many of the main centres of population, and, in addition the County Councils and smaller boroughs will be able to improve their maintenance and at the same time lessen the actual expenditure from their own funds.

EXPENDITURE.

The total net expenditure under all votes and accounts appearing on the public-works estimates for the financial year ended 31st March, 1928, was £7,061,201. Of this sum £3,200,664 was expended out of General Purposes Account, and the balance, £3,860,537, 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, 1928.	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1928.
Railways—	£	£
New construction	908,669	35,166,168
Additions to open lines	233,153	15,790,234
Payment to Midland Railway bondholders	..	150,000
Roads	705,805	16,966,026*
Public buildings	223,540	10,136,524
Immigration	67,157	3,184,565
Purchase of Native lands	..	2,061,148
Lighthouses, harbour-works, and harbour defences	23,870	1,249,214
Tourist and health resorts	36,673	460,766
Telegraph extension	625,540	9,291,948
Development of mining	..	881,845
Defence works (general)	39,986	1,280,916
Departmental	130,951	2,490,564
Irrigation and water-supply	49,735	781,282
Lands-improvement	72,898	426,607
Minor works and services	..	312,607
Plant, material, and stores	Cr. 1,288	348,219
Quarries (acquisition and operating)	Cr. 9,325	11,143
Timber-supply and sawmills for Public Works Department	Cr. 6,997	5,689
Motor-transport services	..	33,635
Cost and discount, raising loans, &c.	100,297	2,596,622
Total General Purposes Account	3,200,664†	103,625,722
Aid to Water-power Works and Electric Supply Account	1,389,341‡	7,235,205
Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers Improvement Account	59,644‡	507,989
Total Public Works Fund	4,649,649	111,468,916
Wellington-Hutt Railway, &c.—		
Railway	..	228,374
Road	..	101,658
Railways Improvement Account	..	641,275
Railways Improvement Authorization Act, 1914 Account	1,488,739§	4,458,793
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	6,337	590,025
National Endowment Account	..	53,401
Education Loans Account	368,479§	3,371,426
Main Highways Account Construction Fund	547,997§	1,745,436
	7,061,201	123,563,338

* 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.