

It is of interest to note the shooting by Mr. E. J. Herrick recently of the first moose in this district. The herd was originally imported from Canada by the Department, and liberated in 1910 in Dusky Sound.

Plans and specifications for the new bath buildings at Rotorua are approaching completion, and this matter is more fully referred to under the Balneologist's report.

The new bivouac on the Almer Glacier, South Westland, has been completed, and should be of great utility to alpine climbers. Arrangements are also in progress in regard to the new hut on the Chancellor Ridge. Approval has been given to the survey and construction of the Fox Glacier Track and suspension bridge being put in hand.

Speaking generally, the year's work all round has been most satisfactory, and I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the work of an enthusiastic and well-equipped staff of managers and junior officers. The managers all have an intimate knowledge of the country, and the juniors are being sent on information tours at every opportunity. I look forward with confidence to being able to present an equally satisfactory account of our stewardship at the close of the next financial year.

The following tables, giving the details of revenue and expenditure for the past six years, are printed in accordance with the usual custom, and also the receipts and expenditure at the main tourist resorts :—

<i>Return of Receipts, 1923-29.</i>						
	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts	45,704	47,263	55,391	61,674	65,447	72,658

<i>Return of Expenditure, 1923-29.</i>						
	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Consolidated Fund ..	60,445	66,294	70,794	76,378	76,865	82,987
Public Works Fund ..	27,264	12,343	45,096	31,981	36,673	39,254

That the popularity of the Department's passenger-booking system is growing is shown by an increase of £16,379 over the previous year. The total amount received from this source was £206,103.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE AT MAIN RESORTS.

Resort.	Year 1928-29.				Year 1927-28.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.	Excess of Receipts over Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.	Excess of Receipts over Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Te Aroha	1,280	3,437	2,157	..	1,344	3,147	1,803	..
Rotorua	35,670	32,494	..	3,176	32,992	33,712	720	..
Rotorua Acclimatization District ..	2,214	1,673	..	541	1,820	1,062	..	758
Waitomo Caves	12,406	7,570	..	4,836	10,224	5,611	..	4,613
Lake House, Waikaremoana ..	3,155	2,571	..	584	2,424	1,933	..	491
Queenstown	277	1,045	768	..	276	804	528	..
Glade House and Milford Track ..	3,967	5,770	1,803	..	3,443	5,449	2,006	..
Morere Hot Springs	550	475	..	75	564	464	..	100
Passenger-booking Bureaux ..	10,203	11,333*	1,130	..	9,778	10,216	438	..

* Expenditure includes £761 for office fittings at new bureaux at Wellington and Napier.

Here it may be interesting to note some of the overseas parties who have visited New Zealand from America, as a result of this Department's correspondence with leading American travel firms. The Wellington District Manager reports :—

"The majority of the tours were booked with Australians and Americans, and the number of the latter seems to be increasing every season. The number of tourists from the British Isles and the Continent is very disappointing, in view of the amount of money spent on tourist publicity in England. Certainly, the direct boats between England and New Zealand are well filled, but most of the passengers seem to be New-Zealanders returning—very few tourists for New Zealand. Two large parties of Australian bowlers were booked for extensive tours, and the following is a list of parties booked through overseas agencies: Skinner-More party, booked through American Express Co. (Chicago office); Bush party, booked through Crabtree's Travel Office; Borg party, booked through American Express Co. (New York office); Suermondt party, booked through Universal Steamship Agency, Pasadena, California; Buchanan party, booked through Australian Travel Service."