

2. FINANCE.

Receipts.

The total receipts from all sources (£133,790) show an increase of approximately £27,000 on the figures for the previous year, an indication that the sawmilling industry continues to share in the general improvement in economic conditions, and is the highest total recorded for eleven years. Details of the receipts under the various headings for the past four years are shown hereunder :—

Item.	1936-37.	1935-36.	1934-35.	1933-34.
Indigenous-forests receipts—	£	£	£	£
Timber-sales	91,980	74,828	47,179	31,017
Timber royalties and trespass	6,257	5,006	5,449	3,164
Leases, grazing	1,692	1,757	1,646	1,816
Sawmill-sites, industrial, &c.	705	957	1,417	1,348
Miscellaneous	4,252	2,844	2,125	2,206
National Endowment Account allocation ..	21,807	15,712	10,990	6,612
Nurseries and plantations—				
Trees and seeds	7,097	5,874	4,094	6,546
Firewood and poles				
Miscellaneous				
Totals	133,790	106,978	72,900	52,709

Payments.

The net expenditure for the year shows an increase of £103,000 on that of the previous year, the greater part of which (£79,000) is accounted for in the afforestation section. This is due to the fact that in the previous year the employment of casual labour on planting, &c., was wholly financed from the Employment Promotion Fund, whereas for the year under review, with the exception of the first two months of the year, payment was made from the State Forest Account and a subsidy of 40 per cent. for single men and 60 per cent. for married men recovered from the Employment Promotion Fund.

The other increases are—Salaries, £10,000, chiefly due to the restoration of cuts; National Endowment Account and local-body payments, £11,000, due to the increase in revenue; and management of indigenous forests, £3,000, due to increased roading and other activities in kauri forests.

Item.	1936-37.	1935-36.	1934-35.	1933-34.
Fixed charges and staff salaries—	£	£	£	£
Interest and expenses of raising loans ..	801	525	172	269
Staff salaries	51,616	41,374	34,155	32,901
Allocation of revenue—				
National Endowment Account	10,934	7,117	3,436	3,893
Local-body payments, &c.	16,739	9,243	5,903	3,508
Management, establishment, and develop- ment—				
Indigenous forests	17,863	14,763	11,735	8,817
Fire-fighting equipment and prevention ..	415	415	805	820
Educational: Reference library, &c. ..	194	260	445	120
Research and experimental equipment, &c.	567	836	528	1,022
Afforestation: Nurseries and plantations ..	139,761	60,642	59,136	54,292
Land-purchase	..	70	..	10,542
Miscellaneous	84	500	343	202
Totals	238,974	135,745	116,658	116,386

3. HONORARY FOREST RANGERS.

A record of achievement in the protection of State forests from damage by fire and vandalism would be incomplete without appreciative reference to the support of the 161 honorary forest rangers holding appointment under the Forests Act, 1921-22. The voluntary assistance of this group is the only protective link of many State forests remotely situated from damage by fire and vandalism, and not the least of many important duties performed is the regulation of burning within "fire districts" during seasons when burning without a written permit of a forest officer is an offence punishable by a fine of £50 or three months' imprisonment.

The guardianship of some State forests would, by reason of their isolation, be quite inadequate were it not for the supervision given by local honorary forest rangers, and to one and all I extend my grateful thanks.