

STATEMENT OF THE COLONIAL TREASURER.

5 B.—No. 1B.

Auditor would therefore suggest that it is not advisable to disturb the adjustment of the whole Surplus Revenues from the year 1858, as is done in the Parliamentary Paper. The proposition to be worked out is a simple one: it is to distribute the sum of £306,887 2s. 4d. equitably among the Provinces. Under this proposal each Province would receive a share of the dividend, and the sum allocated to each should bear the same proportion to the gross sums to be distributed as the Revenues bear to the aggregate Revenues of the Colony, taking into the calculation the whole Revenues collected since the year 1858.

Redistributing the sum of £306,887 2s. 4d. among the Provinces in the proportions now proposed, the new adjustment is shown in the following tabular Statement. It will be seen, on comparing it with the Parliamentary Paper, that no important change is made. It is thought best, however, to supply it for the information of the Provinces.

PROVINCES.	OVER-ISSUED.		TO BE ISSUED UNDER PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT.		SUMS TO RECEIVE.		SUMS TO PAY.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Auckland	39,445	8 7	67,151	11 0	27,706	2 5	...	...
Taranaki	6,132	6 5	6,396	11 0	264	4 7	...	...
Wellington	21,281	14 4	33,530	15 4	12,249	1 0	...	...
Hawke's Bay	7,993	9 6	7,995	16 0	2	6 6	...	...
Nelson	12,533	11 3	19,051	0 0	6,517	8 9	...	...
Marlborough	13,745	9 0	2,695	12 0	...	...	11,049	17 0
Canterbury	65,976	15 0	63,447	2 0	...	...	2,529	13 0
Otago	120,296	3 4	91,936	17 0	...	...	28,359	6 4
Southland	19,482	4 11	14,681	18 0	...	...	4,800	6 11
Totals	306,887	2 4	306,887	2 4	46,739	3 3	46,739	3 3

This adjustment is only a settlement of differences: it leaves untouched the more important question, How is the sum of £306,877 2s. 4d. to be made good to the Treasury? The over-issue has not been made out of the Ordinary Revenues, but out of other moneys held by the Treasury; nor has the Legislature been called upon to make provision for more of it than £183,688 9s. 6d. "The Appropriation Act, 1867-8," appears to charge this last-mentioned sum on the Ordinary Revenues of 1867-8; but the Comptroller is of opinion that the Act simply indemnifies the Colonial Treasurer for the unauthorized issue, without charging it on any particular fund. As the case stands at present the Colonial Chest is deficient by the whole of the sums issued in excess, and the Treasury is only enabled to carry on its operations by the disposal of Treasury Bills, and by the use of Savings of Votes, Reserve Fund, and other moneys, as will be seen on reference to an analysis of the Treasury Balances, near the end of this Report.

ABSTRACT II.

The Advances made out of the General Chest on account of "Auckland Reserves" and the "Bay of Islands Settlement" are still outstanding.

The Land Revenue Account of the Province of Otago, as shown in the Colonial Treasurer's Statement, includes no Gold Fields Revenue for the months of April, May, and June, 1867, nor for the previous months of January, February, and March, for Nokomai. On reference to the Accounts for the Financial Year 1867-8, it is found that the greater portion of the deficient Accounts are introduced into the Treasury Accounts for the month of December, 1867.

ABSTRACT III.

It will be observed that the Half-Million Loan, 1856, has been credited with the sums issued to the Half-Million Provinces of Auckland and Wellington in excess of the moneys allotted under "The Provincial Debt Loan. Apportionment Act, 1858."

The total charge for Interest and Sinking Fund on this Loan is £30,000. Of this sum £9,360 is a charge on the General Revenues of the Colony; the remainder is apportioned among the Provinces in the several amounts shown at page 15 of the printed Statement. The Colonial Treasurer states that the following sums have been *reimbursed by Provinces*, viz.:—

	£
Auckland	5,400
Wellington	1,620
Hawke's Bay	1,620
Nelson and Marlborough	2,700
Canterbury	4,440
Otago	3,780
Southland	1,080
Total	£20,640

On reference, however, to the Land Revenue Accounts, page 100, it will be seen that the sums actually reimbursed by Provinces are as follows:—

	£	s. d.
Auckland	3,853	15 9
Wellington	485	5 0
Hawke's Bay	Nil.	
Nelson and Marlborough	2,925	0 0
Canterbury	4,440	0 0
Otago	3,780	0 0
Southland	1,080	0 0
Total	£16,564	0 9