

1881.
NEW ZEALAND.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BY THE COLONIAL TREASURER, THE HONORABLE MAJOR ATKINSON

Wednesday, 6th July, 1881

MR. SPEAKER,—

I have before me this evening a much more pleasing and satisfactory task than that which fell to my lot when I last had the honor of addressing you. As, however, the Statement which I am about to make is far more intimately connected than usual with its predecessors, I must ask permission to recall to the mind of honorable members the financial position of the colony in November, 1879, and at the close of March, 1880. This is necessary, because our condition in 1879 was so unsatisfactory as to require very vigorous treatment on the part of this House, and it is to the results of the action then taken that I have to call your attention to-night. In November, 1879, I estimated that the Consolidated Revenue, including the receipts from land sales, for the nine months to 31st March, 1880—the date proposed for the termination of the financial period then current—would not be sufficient to meet the expenditure chargeable against it to that date by the sum of £796,886, and, in confirmation of that opinion, I pointed out that the revenue between the 30th June, 1879, and the time at which I was speaking, had already proved inadequate to meet the expenditure by about £600,000, which sum had been raised by deficiency bills, and these bills it was hopeless to expect to redeem out of current revenue. The causes of this deficiency were not far to seek. It arose chiefly from the great falling off in the sales of land, and from a lavish and rapidly increasing expenditure at a time when New Zealand, in common with the rest of the civilized world, was suffering great commercial depression. But, although the difficulty was serious and embarrassing at the time, a comparison of the revenue of 1878–79 with that of former years, proved conclusively that our receipts from “Taxation” and for “Services rendered” had been steadily and proportionately increasing, year by year, and that the check which we were then experiencing was temporary only. This House no sooner understood our real financial position than it took immediate steps to equalize expenditure and revenue. A determination was made to rely no longer upon the proceeds of land sales as ordinary revenue, a vigorous system of retrenchment was initiated, and measures were at once adopted for the imposition of additional taxation to cover the charge for interest, amounting to nearly £300,000 a year, payable upon the new loan and Treasury bills created. As, however, one-half of the financial period of nine months had already passed, it was, of course, impossible to meet such a large and unexpected deficit as £796,886 by means of fresh taxation or retrenchment during that period, especially as every item of revenue was either declining or stationary; the only course open was to place the amount upon loan, which was accordingly done by passing “The Treasury Bills Act, 1879,” in which provision was made for £800,000. But the actual deficit on the 31st

March, 1880, instead of £796,886 as estimated, proved to be nearly £200,000 more, and it was found necessary to obtain further aid by the issue of deficiency bills for that amount, which sum, by "The Treasury Bills Act, 1880," was also added to the public debt. It must be remembered, moreover, that this deficit has entailed upon the colony an additional expenditure of at least £50,000 a year for interest, until this sum of £1,000,000 is repaid.

THE FINANCIAL PERIOD, 1879-80.

The House will remember the proposal which I made in 1879, that in future the receipts within the year should be dealt with as the revenue of the year, and the payments made within the year as the expenditure of the year. It will also be in the recollection of honorable members that it was determined not to apply this new system of keeping the account to the financial period of nine months ending on 31st March, 1880, but that whatever sum might be required to equalize the revenue and expenditure to that date should be provided for out of loan, so that we might start clear of liabilities. In consequence of this determination I estimated, in making the Financial Statement last year, that the liabilities of that period would exhaust the available assets with the exception of £9,918. This, however, has not proved to be the case, for, after discharging all liabilities in respect of the period now being referred to which came in course of payment to 31st March last, there remained a credit balance of £38,555, particulars of which will be found in Table No. 1 attached to this Statement. The deficit, therefore, to 31st March, 1880, was £961,445, being the difference between the credit balance of £38,555 and £1,000,000, the amount of the Treasury and deficiency bills issued in aid of the revenue.

EXPENDITURE OF THE ORDINARY REVENUE OF THE YEAR 1880-81.

In the Statement which I had the honor to make last year I estimated the cost of the services for the year at £3,423,709, and the amount which would come for payment in the ordinary course of business within the year, at £3,248,709. On the passing of the Estimates these sums were modified to £3,348,889 and £3,123,889 respectively. The actual expenditure was £3,168,183 (Table No. 2), or £44,294 more than I thought would come in course of payment during the year. The House will not, however, look upon this fact with disapprobation, but rather, I venture to think, with satisfaction, when I state that it means simply that I took advantage of the opportunity of paying amounts which I had estimated would remain outstanding at the end of the financial year, thus reducing these from £225,000 to £165,514. I may add that the total amount voted for the departmental services of last year, inclusive of Lands and Surveys, was £1,929,807, and the actual expenditure was £1,754,041, or £175,766 less than voted; and if from this we deduct the outstanding liabilities, we find that the services of the year have been performed for rather less than the votes, a result which, considering the searching revision to which the Estimates were subjected by the Committee of Supply, will probably be thought very satisfactory.

ORDINARY REVENUE OF THE YEAR 1880-81.

I now come to the estimated revenue as compared with the actual receipts for the year, full particulars of which will be found in Table No. 3 attached to this Statement. I do not include here the receipts from land sales, of these I will speak presently. The estimated revenue was £3,238,000, while the actual receipts amounted to £3,123,961, being £114,039 less than my estimate. It will be seen upon reference to the table to which I have referred, that the receipts from railways were less than the estimated amount by £111,377, but, notwithstanding this fact, it will be gratifying to the House to know that, through the economical management of my friend the late Minister for Public Works, they have yielded about 3½ per cent. upon the £9,228,000 spent in their construction. The Property-Tax yielded £80,283 less than I had estimated, but of this sum £42,000 had yet to come in, being the amount outstanding and collectable on the 31st March, of the remainder, £20,000 is accounted for by the alteration of the schedules which was authorized during the session, and £20,000 is an over-estimate.

I will, however, say no more about the Property-Tax here, as I shall have to speak somewhat fully upon that subject presently. Telegraphs also yielded £12,562 less than estimated. On the other hand Customs and Stamps (in the latter I include Land and Deeds) produced more than was estimated—the former by the sum of £57,634, the latter by £10,886. The increase in the Customs and Stamp duties is, I think, a subject for congratulation, as showing that the commercial depression under which we have been suffering is passing away, and that the spending power of the community is gradually resuming its normal condition.

LAND FUND OF THE YEAR 1880-81.

The estimated expenditure chargeable against the Land Fund was £158,706, exclusive of £51,648, representing one-half of the proposed subsidies to local bodies. Honorable members will doubtless recollect that when it was found impossible, from want of time, to consider the Local Public Works scheme of the Government, it was determined to continue the subsidies at a reduced rate. I then thought that the Land Fund would not bear the whole of these subsidies, but I am glad to say that it has proved quite sufficient for the purpose, I have therefore charged against the Land Fund the full amount paid on this account. The total expenditure, including £110,506 for subsidies, has been £266,793.

The estimated revenue from land sales was £200,000, but, through the successful handling of affairs on the West Coast of this Island by my honorable friends the late and present Native Ministers, we have had most satisfactory sales of land in that district, which have brought up the receipts from lands sales to £299,166. The expenditure having been £266,793, leaves a credit balance of £32,373. The liabilities outstanding at the close of the year amounted to £37,561. (Tables Nos. 1, 2, and 3.)

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The gross public debt of the colony on 31st March, 1880, amounted to £27,422,611. On 31st March, 1881, it was £29,165,511, or, deducting the accrued Sinking Funds, £2,057,241, the net public debt was £27,108,270. (Table No. 4.)

It will be observed, on reference to the Statement I made last year, that the gross amount of the debt on 31st March, 1880, did not include £992,000 Treasury and deficiency bills taken up out of the moneys at credit of the Public Works Fund, or the £800,000 unsold debentures of the loan of 1870 guaranteed by the Imperial Government. As £560,100 of the bills referred to have been disposed of during the year, and advances amounting to £300,000 have been obtained upon security of the debentures, these sums have now to be added to the public debt as on 31st March, 1880. The public debt has further been increased during the year by the conversion of £4,476,000 5 per cent. debentures into £5,371,200 4 per cents. under the option, expired on 16th March last, given to subscribers to the Five Million Loan of 1879. This operation resulted in an increase of the debt by £895,200.

Since 31st March, 1880, the following debentures have been redeemed and cancelled—Nelson Waterworks Loan of 1864, £6,200, North Otago District Public Works Loan of 1872, £6,200. The net increase of debt during the year, exclusive of the increase by conversion into inscribed stock, was therefore £847,700, but inclusive thereof it was £1,742,900. Adding to the gross debt on 31st March, 1881, the balance of the guaranteed debentures £500,000, and the Treasury bills £431,900, held by the Public Works Fund, the total gross public debt when these securities are disposed of will amount to £30,097,411, or, deducting the Sinking Fund accrued to 31st March, 1881, £2,057,241, the net debt will be £28,040,170, in respect of which the annual charges will amount to about £1,543,000. I may add that, by the conversion of £4,476,000 5 per cent. debentures into £5,371,200 4 per cents., a saving of £8,952 interest per annum has been effected.

PUBLIC WORKS FUND.

On 31st March, 1880, the total Ways and Means available, subject to liabilities, was £3,778,173. This sum included—Cash in the colony and in

London, £862,410; advances in the hands of officers of the Government, £315,763; balance of the Five Million Loan, £751,000; guaranteed debentures of the Immigration and Public Works Loan of 1870, £800,000; amount advanced temporarily at interest, £57,000; and advances to the Consolidated Fund upon Treasury and deficiency bills, £992,000. During the past year special receipts and recoveries amounting to £43,174 came to credit of the fund, making, with the balance of £3,778,173 at the beginning of the year, a total of £3,821,347. The expenditure, a summary of which will be found in Table No. 1 appended to this Statement, amounted to £1,960,974, thus leaving an unexpended balance of £1,860,373 at the close of the year.

The liabilities outstanding on 31st March last, including £997,725 for land purchase, as certified to by the heads of departments, amounted to £1,585,512, particulars of which will be found in Table No. 6.

Setting the amount of these liabilities against the unexpended balance of £1,860,373, there remains to be appropriated for new services the small sum of £274,861. But, in arriving at this balance of £274,861, honorable members will observe that £997,725 is set aside as a liability on account of land purchase. Should, however, the policy in reference to such purchases enunciated by the Government be carried out, the sum which it will be necessary to reserve out of the existing balance will not exceed £200,000. The available balance for future appropriation will then be £1,072,586, instead of £274,861, as just stated.

FINANCIAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR 1880-81.

Honorable members will recollect that it was determined last year that for the future the revenue of the year should be the actual sum paid into the Treasury during the year, and that the expenditure should be the money actually paid away during the year, thus dismissing both assets and liabilities from the Public Accounts; the one being treated as revenue of the succeeding year, and the other being provided for in its votes.

I have said that the expenditure within the year was £3,168,183, and the receipts from revenue £3,123,961, exclusive of land sales, but, including the balance of £38,555 brought forward from last year's account, the receipts amounted to £3,162,516, so that upon this division of the account there was a deficit of £5,667. The expenditure from Land Fund was £266,793, and the receipts £299,167, the surplus upon this account being £32,373. The total expenditure, therefore, of the Consolidated Fund was £3,434,976, and the total revenue £3,461,682, thus leaving a surplus balance of £26,706 upon the actual transactions completed within the year.

Now, if honorable members will compare the position as just stated with the state of things in March, 1880, they will at once see that the view taken of the financial position of the colony by the Government has been borne out by facts. I then stated, and gave my reasons for the belief I expressed, that the check we were then suffering was only temporary, and that, notwithstanding the very large deficit which had to be met out of loan, the financial condition was thoroughly sound, requiring only reasonable self-sacrifice and care, and prudence in the management of our affairs, to restore us to renewed prosperity. At the close of the financial period ended 31st March, 1880, we had borrowed in aid of the revenue of that period £1,000,000, by way of Treasury bills, after closing the accounts of the year ended 31st March, 1881, we can see our way to provide out of ordinary revenue for the liabilities outstanding at that date, with every prospect of a fair margin of receipts in excess of expenditure at the end of the year; and this notwithstanding the fact that the interest we have to pay has been increased by some £300,000 a year.

LOCAL FINANCE.

I now come, Mr. Speaker, to the consideration of that difficult problem, "Local Finance" a problem difficult of solution chiefly because of the restless pushing energy which still demands more local works to open up the country; and this notwithstanding the fact that we have already borrowed so largely for these purposes that we are compelled in our general taxation to trench somewhat

upon the funds which we should like to see left free to supply local wants; while at the same time it seems to be entirely forgotten that the localities themselves have largely benefited by the Public Works scheme, and that by the construction of railways, roads, and bridges at the charge of the colony, they have been permanently relieved of much expenditure. It is, indeed, quite certain that if we are to people the waste lands and make the country progress, as we have determined it shall progress, we must find the means not only to keep in proper repair our roads and bridges already constructed, but also to extend our road system throughout the colony step by step with advancing settlement. I propose to-night to speak only in relation to the financial aspect of the question, without reference to the organization or powers of the local bodies: of these I shall speak at large at an early date. I now take it for granted that the local bodies will be charged with the duty of making and maintaining the roads within their jurisdiction, and that upon these works the bulk of their expenditure will be made. The local bodies have other duties to perform, but, if that part of the problem relating to roads and bridges can be satisfactorily solved, the rest will follow without much difficulty. This, then, is the great question for solution—how are funds to be provided for the construction and maintenance of our roads and bridges? And the question naturally divides itself into two branches—first, maintenance; and second, construction. But, before proceeding further, let me say what, in my opinion, are the requisites of a sound local finance. These are, that local finance should be as distinct from and independent of our general finance as possible, and that the funds should be sufficient.

MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND BRIDGES.

First, then, let us consider the means at our disposal for the maintenance of roads and bridges already constructed. With very little consideration, it will be evident, I think, to every one, that our roads and bridges must be maintained for the future, with perhaps one or two exceptions, by local rates. The landed property in each district must, as a rule, maintain the roads and bridges of the district. This being so, it is evident that all land must pay rates. The Government therefore propose that Crown lands and Native lands shall be rated, with certain exceptions, with which I need not now trouble the House. This proposal is the same as that which I had the honor to submit last year, with one or two important alterations. The proposal is shortly this. that, within boroughs, the property of the Crown, with certain exceptions, and of Maoris, shall, for the future, be rated under "The Rating Act, 1876," the Maoris being in this case placed on the same footing as European holders of town property; and that country lands, both Crown and Native, shall be divided into two classes, agricultural and pastoral, and shall be rated at £1 an acre for agricultural land, and 6s. 8d. an acre for pastoral land, which amounts, for rating purposes, will be taken as the value of the fee-simple. Honorable members will observe that, while last year it was proposed to estimate Native land at one-half the value of Crown land, it is now proposed to value them alike; and I cannot but believe that, upon considering all the circumstances of the case, the House will think this fair and reasonable. If the Crown and Native lands are to pay rates, the question arises: who is to be responsible for their payment to the local bodies, and out of what funds are they to be paid? We propose in every case that the Colonial Treasurer shall be primarily liable, and shall pay the rates to the local bodies. The rates on Crown property within boroughs we propose to charge against the Consolidated Fund, the rates on country Crown lands against the Land Fund; and the rates on country Native lands we propose to advance out of money appropriated by Parliament for the purpose, but to remain a charge against the Native land for which the rates are paid, and to be recovered without interest, as a duty under the Stamp Act, from the first purchaser or lessee of the land so charged. With regard to making the rates to be paid upon Crown property within boroughs a charge against the Consolidated Fund, I think all sides will agree that these rates are a proper charge against that fund. In respect to the rates upon country Crown lands, I hope it will need no argument to prove that they should be a charge against the Land Fund. Having determined that the land shall maintain the roads, there can be no reason to make an exception in favour of

the estates of the Crown, and it is from the proceeds of this estate that we propose to make the payment in charging the rates against the Land Fund.

The proposal, however, to advance rates upon Native lands will require some explanation. As a matter of strict justice, there is no reason why our Maori fellow-subjects should not pay their share of the cost of local works, which, as they are undertaken and completed, improve their lands in common with the lands of their European neighbours. But, although this might not unfairly be insisted upon, there are reasons which will, I hope, induce this House to make such provision as will, without unduly pressing upon the Maoris, deal fairly with the local bodies who are charged with the maintenance of roads passing through Native lands within their jurisdiction. The reasons are chiefly those of public policy. It would be a great mistake on our part, especially now that our relations with the Natives have so greatly improved, to make demands which large numbers of them could only meet with great difficulty, if at all. The Maoris will, I think, at once recognize the fact that the time has arrived when we may reasonably ask them to charge their lands with rates for local works which greatly enhance the value of those lands, the rates, without interest, to be payable only by Europeans when such lands are parted with to Europeans. I shall propose, if the House agrees to this plan, to charge these rates in the first place against the Consolidated Fund.

Before leaving this part of the question, there are two other important matters to which I must refer—the limitation of self-rating to one shilling in the pound, and the cost of the yearly valuation. It is, Sir, well known that in some parts of the colony a shilling rate is insufficient to maintain the roads. The Government are unable to see upon what grounds of either reason or justice the local bodies can be called upon to maintain the roads, while at the same time they are denied the power of raising enough money for that purpose. We shall therefore propose to increase the rating power to two shillings in the pound,—a power already possessed by several of the local bodies,—believing that that limit will be approved by the country, and be found ample for the duty imposed. With regard to the valuations, experience has shown that they are required by law to be made much oftener than is necessary, thereby causing the local bodies a large and useless expenditure. The Government propose to relieve the local bodies entirely of this charge, and so save them from an unprofitable expenditure of probably not less than £16,000 a year. We shall ask the House to permit all local bodies to use for rating purposes the valuation under the Property Assessment Act, with annual correction. I have had a Table prepared (No. 10), showing the valuations under the Act as compared with the valuations made by the local bodies, and, when honorable members compare the two valuations, the totals of which are remarkably near, the proposition will, I think, commend itself to their judgment.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND BRIDGES.

And this brings me, Mr Speaker, to the second branch of my subject, the construction of roads and bridges. Now, there are three distinct classes of roads with which we have to deal under this branch of our subject—first, there are the main roads through Crown lands not yet settled, second, the main roads running through the settled or partially-settled districts; and third, district roads both in settled and unsettled districts.

We will first consider the question of how money is to be provided for roads through Crown lands not yet settled. My colleague, the Minister of Lands, has given much attention to this subject during the recess. He has, by means of roads cleared and formed, with sufficient culverts to make them passable, opened a large quantity of land for settlement; and he will this year submit a scheme involving the expenditure for this purpose of £150,000 out of loan; the expenditure to extend over a period of three years, at the rate of £50,000 a year. This work, wherever practicable, will be done as hitherto by the local bodies.

But every one acquainted with the country must know that these provisional roads are only the beginning of a necessary work, and that settlement of small blocks of land cannot be successful without good roads. As a matter of sound policy, a good road, if it does not precede, ought certainly to immediately follow, settlement.

Now, there are only three ways in which money for this purpose can be obtained: it must be got either from the proceeds of the land, or from loan, or from both these sources. After carefully considering the subject, the Government have come to the conclusion that the necessary funds can be obtained from the land itself, not only without injury but with advantage to settlement. We propose, therefore, that, after the land has been surveyed and the roads marked out, an estimate of the cost of forming and metalling the main road through the block shall be prepared by the local body having charge of the district, that to the fixed upset price per acre of land to be served by the road shall be added a sum, according to situation, sufficient to cover the cost of construction, and that the money so obtained shall be set apart and paid over to the local body, under proper safeguards, to be used for that purpose only. And we further propose that, when half the land in any block is sold, the Government shall advance the money to complete the main road through the block, recouping itself from time to time as the rest of the land is sold.

We now come to the roads of the second class—those unconstructed main roads running through settled or partially-settled districts. Our proposals in respect to these are in substance the same as last year, but the machinery of the Roads Construction Bill, by which it is proposed to give effect to the scheme, is, I hope, an improvement upon that of the Local Public Works Bill of last session. The constitution of the Board, which was objected to by many honorable members, has been altered, and it is now proposed that it shall consist of the Minister for Public Works, and three members to be appointed by this House. In order to provide for this necessary work, I shall ask the House to make a grant to the Board of £150,000 out of loan, and to cause to be paid over to it yearly a further sum not exceeding £150,000 out of the balance of the Land Fund. This fund will be applied in the following manner. Suppose a local body desires to construct a piece of main road or build a bridge, which we will say is to cost £1,000, it will prepare estimates showing the cost of the proposed work, and submit them to the Board, and ascertain if there is money available; if there is money available, the local body will, after taking an affirmative vote of the ratepayers, strike such a special rate over that part of the district benefited by the proposed work, including Government and Native lands, if any, as will in ten years repay, without interest, one-quarter of the amount obtained from the Roads Construction Board. In the case supposed of the work costing £1,000, the Board would have to strike a special rate which would produce £25 a year, or £250 in ten years; or, if the local body had £250 in hand which it could apply to the proposed work, or chose to first raise the money by general rate, it could then obtain from the Roads Construction Board £750, the balance of the £1,000 estimated to complete the work. In other words, for the purpose of main-road construction, for every pound which the district finds, three pounds is added from the Land Fund. In case more money should be applied for than the Board has at its command, grants *pro rata* would be made, but all applications in cases where a main road or bridge had been destroyed or washed away by a flood would take precedence.

We have now only to consider the third class of road, that is, district roads. To enable Road Boards to make these district roads, we propose to ask the House to make a free grant of £100,000 to the Roads Construction Board, and to permit it to borrow another £100,000 at 5 per cent. from the Trust Funds, thus making a fund of £200,000 available for this purpose. We propose that this fund should be self-supporting, and that it should be dealt with in this way. Suppose a Road Board wishes to borrow £100 for a small bridge or other work, it would submit an estimate of the proposed work to the Roads Construction Board, on ascertaining that there was money available, and, after taking an affirmative vote of the ratepayers, the Road Board would strike a special rate which would produce £9 a year for thirteen and a half years. The produce of this rate would be paid over to the Board half-yearly, and by the expiration of the period I have named the whole of the amount borrowed, with interest at 3 per cent. per annum, would be repaid.

So far I have only been dealing with Counties and Road Boards. As will have been observed by honorable members, my proposals do not affect the Boroughs, except to the extent of granting them power of rating all Government property within their boundaries. I think, with every desire to help the Boroughs, we must recognize the fact that the surest and most effectual method of helping them is to encourage successful settlement upon the land. With a well-roaded and prosperous country the difficulties of the Boroughs will end.

In the above proposals I conceive that we are, in fact, carrying out the idea of the Legislature in withdrawing the 20 per cent. of the produce of land sales from appropriation by the County Councils. That fund was meant to be devoted to the opening out of the very districts from which it arose. Unfortunately, the Councils (following suit to the Legislature itself) had treated it as ordinary revenue, applicable to any of the objects under their control and administration, using it, in effect, to lighten local rates, or dispense with them altogether. The result of the proposals I have just submitted will not then be to reduce the proportion of the Land Fund locally expended, but in most cases, and for some time to come, to increase it materially, but it will be expended under such safeguards as will insure its application to the colonizing uses to which this House desired to devote it. I think the warmest advocate of the localization of the Land Fund can desire no more.

Before quitting this branch of my subject I will deal shortly with the suggestion that the Government should take over and maintain the main roads of the colony, a proposition which goes far beyond the centralizing tendencies sometimes imputed to the present Government. We are not ambitious to take charge of some thousands of miles of roads, and do not feel ourselves competent to the task. The House will certainly not appropriate the needful funds out of ordinary revenue, nor will it invite an annual repetition on its floor, and on a petty scale, of the struggles for local appropriations which have impaired the success of the Public Works policy. In the face of the complaints which are already abroad of the concurrent rating powers of County Councils and Road Boards, the House is not likely to undertake itself the duties of a third rating authority, nor can it, in the present condition of the general finance, abandon any part of the proceeds of the Property-Tax to local administration.

Such, then, Mr Speaker, is a brief sketch of the proposals of the Government with regard to local finance. It may be said that there is nothing very new or startling about this scheme, and that, Sir, may be true, but the question is, is it a plain workable scheme, easily understood, and will it give us what we must have, as rapidly as our means will permit, roads throughout the country? I submit, Sir, with confidence, that it will, and that it will also relieve both this House and Ministers from pressure to supply local wants which cannot be ignored if settlement is to advance, but which it is very undesirable should be dealt with directly by this House. I do not, to-night, intend to trouble the House with elaborate arguments in support of it, because I believe honorable members desire, upon such an occasion as this, only a broad outline, to enable them to judge of the effects of the proposal upon general and local finance. That the scheme, if it becomes law, will make our local finance as distinct from and independent of our general finance as possible cannot, I think, be doubted, and that it will make as ample provision for the local bodies as our means now permit is, I think, also certain. It has also this great advantage, that, should it prove successful, it can be expanded without difficulty to meet all the future wants of the country, and is equally suitable to our local bodies whether we enlarge them and multiply their functions or keep them much as they are.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FROM ORDINARY REVENUE, 1881-82.

I now come, Mr. Speaker, to the consideration of the estimated expenditure for the current year. It will be within the recollection of honorable members that last year the Government, with the assistance of the Committee of the House, made very large reductions in the Estimates as sent down, and that, after these reductions had been made, I stated to the Committee that the net results for the year amounted

to £197,000, and that, if the Government succeeded in carrying out the retrenchments it had in view, the Estimates for the annual appropriations for this year would be £252,000 less than those for 1880–81 as introduced last year. I am happy to say that my anticipations in this respect have been more than realized. The estimates as brought down last year for the twelve classes of services—under the control respectively of the Speakers of both Houses, the Colonial Secretary, the Colonial Treasurer, the Minister of Justice, the Postmaster-General and Commissioner of Telegraphs, the Commissioner of Customs, the Commissioner of Stamps, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Native Affairs, the Minister of Mines, the Minister for Public Works, and the Minister of Defence—amounted to £2,108,613, full particulars of which will be found in Table No. 7 attached to this Statement. The estimates for the same services are, for this year, £1,774,612 only, or, in other words, £334,001 less than those of last year. Honorable members will see, upon reference to the table, that upon every class, without exception, there is a reduction, and that in Class XI., that of the Minister for Public Works, there is a reduction of £53,491, notwithstanding the fact that the estimates for the current year are for an average mileage of ninety-three miles greater than was worked during the past year, and that ample provision is made for their efficient working and maintenance. I should not, perhaps, include in this sum the item £52,500 for Contingent Defence, which has been removed from the Estimates, this being one of those cases in which it may be said that no reduction of expenditure had been made, because the item was placed on last year's Estimates to provide for a contingency merely; but I think we may in fairness claim to include the amount, in consideration of the fact that our being able to dispense with the item is due to better prospects of continued amicable relations with the Natives. Such a result, then, as the reduction of £281,501, or, including £52,500 for Contingent Defence, £334,001, in twelve classes of the Estimates, in one year, is a work upon which I think I am fairly entitled to congratulate the House. These reductions have not been accomplished without much hard work and painful thought, and could certainly never have been made at all but for the hearty co-operation of the Committee of Supply and the House with the Government in effecting these necessary economies. The total proposed votes for the year inclusive of liabilities, which now appear in the ordinary votes, is £3,270,531 (Table No. 8), divisible into two parts—Permanent Charges, amounting to £1,570,919, and Annual Appropriations, amounting to £1,699,612, in which latter division alone can reductions be made at present. As I have said, great reductions have been made under this division during the past year, but, notwithstanding this fact, the Government believe that they can during the present year effect still further reductions. I cannot, however, do more on the present occasion than point out that the line in which the Government is moving is in the direction of the simplification of the services, the consolidation of offices, and, consequently, the diminution of the number of employés. There are, I think, no special items of expenditure to which I need call the attention of the House, except that the item of Interest and Sinking Fund has increased by £46,157, while that of Constabulary has decreased (including the sum of £52,500 for Contingent Defence already referred to) by about £113,000, through the steady reductions the Government have been enabled to make in this force in consequence of our improved relations with the Maoris. This fact will, I am sure, be heard by every honorable member with great satisfaction.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FROM THE LAND FUND, 1881–82.

I ought, Sir, perhaps to have said before this that, in speaking of the ordinary revenue, I have not included the proceeds of land sales. If the scheme which I have submitted for the consideration of this House should be adopted, the Government will propose that any balance there may be left from land sales, after payment of the charges it is intended to place upon them, shall by law be paid into the Public Works Fund, but without prejudice to the public creditor. The estimated expenditure chargeable against land sales is as follows, as honorable members will see upon reference to Table No. 9: for Charges fixed by Acts of the General Assembly, £84,966, for the Crown Lands and Survey

Departments, £134,584, for rates to local bodies, £27,000, for Roads and Bridges, a sum not exceeding £150,000, to be paid to the Roads Construction Board; the balance, if any, after payment of these charges, to be paid over to the Public Works Fund.

PROPERTY-TAX.

I will now, Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the promise made in the early part of this Statement, again refer to the Property-Tax. The Act, Sir, although requiring some amendment, has been found, upon the whole, effective, and, now that its provisions are generally understood, it is admitted throughout the colony that the tax is thoroughly fair in principle, and that it has, generally, worked satisfactorily. I do not mean, Sir, to imply by this that direct taxation is palatable; but I venture to say that in no country in the world has direct taxation been accepted more willingly, or paid more readily, than the Property-Tax has been by the people of New Zealand. I have had prepared, for the information of the House, several very interesting Tables (No. 10), which will, I think, greatly increase our knowledge with regard to the distribution of wealth, and especially in reference to the ownership of land. There are, I find, 21,761 freeholders within boroughs, and 43,058 freeholders of country land. The total number of freeholders in the colony is 60,658; being somewhat less than the aggregate of freeholders of borough and country lands, because some owners of property hold land under both designations. It is, perhaps, desirable that I should give the House, at this point, some particulars as to the cost of collecting the tax. The total expenditure made for last year, including outstanding liabilities, but exclusive of Land-Tax charges, was £31,000, being made up of the following items: cost of valuation, £16,000, salaries, £7,275; preparing tables, £700, miscellaneous, including cost of collection, £7,025. With regard to the valuation, I find it has cost about £3,000 more than the Land-Tax valuation, the valuation under the latter being £13,000, and under the Property Assessment Act £16,000, but if the proposals of the Government are agreed to, and this valuation is used by the local bodies as the basis for their rating, the whole of the cost of this assessment will be saved to the country during the next year, the saving going into the coffers of the local bodies. In fact, Sir, if we make one triennial valuation do for both general and local purposes, the cost of it will be so small as not to amount to 1 per cent. upon the rates and taxes collected. If this suggestion should be accepted, it would not be fair to charge more than £5,000 per annum for the cost of valuation against the Property-Tax for the three years during which the valuation continues in force. But, admitting that the whole of the introductory expenses and the triennial valuation are to be charged against the Property-Tax, even then the rate per cent. for levying and collecting the tax, supposing it to be continued at the rate of one penny in the pound for three years, will be very moderate. The estimated cost of the Property-Tax Department for the next two years is £12,000. For this year I shall ask for £6,000, exclusive of liabilities, so that the total cost for three years will not, I think, exceed £44,000, and the total receipts for that period, provided the present rate of one penny in the pound be continued, will certainly reach £860,000, thus making the total cost of the tax a little over 5 per cent. upon the amount actually paid into the Treasury. And, if a proportionate deduction is made from the triennial valuation on account of the use made of it by the local bodies, it will be seen that the Property-Tax can be collected for less than 4 per cent., a result with which, I think, we may be well satisfied. Of course any alteration in the rate of the tax will necessarily increase or diminish, as the case may be, the relative cost of collection.

When the Property-Tax was first imposed a strong fear, perhaps not unnaturally, was expressed by many persons that one of the effects of the tax would be to drive away foreign capital seeking investment in this colony. I have consulted gentlemen from all parts of the colony who are authorities upon this subject, and I have not found one who entertains the opinion that the Property-Tax has had any appreciable effect upon the flow of capital to the colony, and, as a matter of fact, during few periods of our history has more foreign capital come into the country and found investments than during the last year at an equally low rate.

REVENUE FOR THE YEAR 1881-82.

Before, Sir, I proceed to the consideration of the estimated revenue for the current year, I desire, with the permission of the House, to refer to one or two important questions which are doubtless occupying the minds of honorable members. And the first which presents itself to most of us is, I think. Will it be necessary to impose fresh taxation this year? I am happy to be able to inform the House that I can answer that question with an emphatic negative. And then, Sir, that question having been answered satisfactorily, comes its fellow—Can taxation be reduced this year? The answer must depend on the view the House may adopt of the action to be taken in the early future towards completing the great arterial communications of the colony. The Government, after the past year's study of the condition of the country under circumstances of exceptional depression, have decided to assume that the Legislature will require the finance to be shaped in the sense of continuing its great undertakings. The experience of the past will enable us to do this on a surer basis of calculation than hitherto. The general reasonableness of the expectations, as well as the dangers of the policy of 1870, is fully exposed in the revenue returns and trade and population statistics of the last ten years, and these justify me in recommending that, whilst avoiding what I will call high-pressure finance, we should arrange for the construction of all the defective links in the trunk lines of railway, necessarily at a reduced speed, but without intermission.

While this recommendation forbids us to propose any very imposing reduction of taxation, it need not prevent us diminishing, to an appreciable amount, our demand on the taxpayer. Returning to the Property-Tax, it will be in the recollection of honorable members that, when the Act was passed, it was determined, on grounds of public policy, not to include foreign capital as liable to taxation. On a fuller consideration, the Government have determined to ask the Legislature to bring this excluded capital within the Act this year. We shall, therefore, shortly ask leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Property Assessment Act in the direction indicated, and for the purpose of correcting some faults and unfairnesses which have appeared in the working of the Act. Should the Act be amended as proposed, I estimate that the taxable property under it will be increased by no less than £11,000,000, of which estimate particulars will be furnished when the Bill is under consideration. This amount, at 1d. in the pound, would yield, say £45,000, and in the present condition of the revenue will enable us to propose, first, a reduction in the Customs duties, and, second, a diminution of the Property-Tax. We propose to admit free of duty, calicoes, white and grey, moleskins, corduroy, colored cotton shirting (all in the piece); axes, spades, and shovels, and to admit free or reduce the duties on a variety of other articles which I need not now detain the House to enumerate—all these remissions and reductions tending to encourage local manufactures. With respect to the Property-Tax we shall ask for the continuance of the present penny rate till September next, to be reduced after that date to one half-penny for the remainder of the year.

ORDINARY REVENUE.

We have, now, Mr Speaker, to consider on the above basis the Ways and Means for the current year. I estimate that the total receipts of the year, from all sources, in the ordinary Revenue Account, will amount to £3,297,650, full particulars of which honorable members will find in Table No. 8 attached to this Statement. Of this, £1,826,000 is to be raised by taxation, and £1,471,650 is receivable for services rendered, &c. Speaking then, first, of the amount raised by taxation, we find that the Customs duties last year yielded £1,307,635, this year I have estimated them at £1,360,000, or at an increase of about £53,000, which, considering the steady and satisfactory improvement in the circumstances of the colony, will, I think, be fully realized, but from this amount it will be necessary to deduct £15,000, if the remissions which I have just suggested are agreed to, thus leaving the Customs duties for the year at £1,345,000. The Property-Tax I have estimated to yield £270,000, upon the supposition

that the amending Bill of which I have spoken becomes law. But, of this amount, £42,000 represents that portion of last year's tax which remained uncollected on the 31st March last, so that the tax is estimated to yield this year £228,000. When first proposed, it was estimated that the Beer-Tax at sixpence per gallon would yield £100,000, and when the duty of threepence per gallon was imposed, I estimated it to produce £60,000 a year. The actual receipts for the ten months in which the Act was in operation during last year was at a rather less rate than the estimate, but I think we may not unreasonably expect to receive from Beer Duty £60,000, I have therefore estimated to receive that amount during the year. With regard to the Stamp Duties, I estimate they will produce £150,000, if the Deceased Persons' Estates Duties Bill becomes law. This Bill is substantially the same as the one which passed this House last session, and was thrown out in another place. I hope it may become law this session, as the Bill is a great improvement upon the present law, and the duties charged under it are certainly moderate. There is not, I think, a more legitimate tax imposed than that upon property at the death of its owner. The Bill as it passed last session would have increased the revenue by about £10,000 a year, but as now proposed, the increase to the revenue is not estimated at more than £5,000. There is, I think, only one item in the revenue estimated to be received for services rendered calling for special remark, and that is the Railways. I have estimated the receipts from the railways for this year at £910,000. The actual receipts for last year were £838,622, and, as we have now about ninety-three more miles open for traffic, and prosperity is steadily returning, the estimate may, I think, be considered not excessive. There is no other item of revenue to which I need call the attention of the House.

I have said that the estimated expenditure to be made within the year—and honorable members will understand that this now includes outstanding liabilities—is £3,270,532, to which I add the deficit at the end of last year £5,667, making a total of £3,276,199, and that the estimated revenue is £3,297,650. Deducting, then, the estimated expenditure from the estimated revenue we have a surplus of £21,451, a result, Sir, which, if attained, will I think be extremely satisfactory, as showing the steady progress of the colony and the wonderful elasticity of our own resources.

LAND FUND.

The receipts from the sales of land are estimated at £333,000. My honorable friend the Minister of Lands has given great attention to the subject of selling land by small holdings, and has opened blocks of land for settlement upon this principle throughout the colony with marked success during the year, and, if the proposals of the Government are agreed to with regard to road making, I have no doubt that still more settlement will take place during the current year, and that it is probable that my estimate of £333,000 may prove to be exceeded, but if it should, it will not, under our proposals, be absorbed in the ordinary charges of Government, but be set apart for public works only. Adding, then, the balance at credit of the Land Fund on 31st March, £32,373, to the estimated receipts from land sales, we get a total of £365,373, and deducting therefrom the expenditure, £246,551, there remains a surplus of £118,822, which will be payable under our proposals to the Roads Construction Board.

I will, now, Mr Speaker, with the permission of the House, ask the attention of honorable members to a subject which has been floating in the minds of many people in a more or less definite shape for some time past. The feeling has been gradually growing of late years, not only here but in the Australian Colonies, that the several Governments might, with great advantage to the community, give some further facilities for the investment of local capital in small amounts than is afforded by the Post Office Savings Bank. That institution has been a great success, in putting within the reach of thrifty people a place for the safe keeping of small savings, and it is satisfactory to know that, notwithstanding the hard times we have had for the last eighteen months, the deposits have steadily increased. It is also a gratifying fact, well worthy of note, that no less than five-sixths of the deposits are for sums of less than £50. The Government think it

possible that many of these depositors, as well as the public generally, might be glad of a more permanent form of investment, if one can be provided which is at the same time secure and easily convertible into cash. I shall therefore submit, for the consideration of the House, a Bill authorizing the issue at par of a loan of £250,000, the principal and interest of which will be payable in New Zealand only. I propose that the loan shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent., and that it shall be issued in the form of Inscribed Stock, with the right to the subscriber to obtain from time to time bonds payable to bearer of ten pounds and upwards. The advantages of such a form of investment will doubtless require some time to be generally understood, but if a local market can be once created, as I think it may be with judicious management, the stock would be found a great public convenience as a means of temporary as well as of more permanent investment. It is possible, Sir, that the time for such a 5 per cent. stock has not arrived, and if so, the proposal will fall to the ground, and we shall have learned, at any rate negatively, something about our power of obtaining money locally. The time for making the experiment is very opportune, because the money market is easy and we are not dependent for money upon its success. The Government, Sir, do not propose in any way to force this loan, recognizing that with the object in view—that of supplying a local want—the time necessary for the proposal to be understood by a wide class must be allowed; but they think the offer should be made, and they will use all serious endeavours to familiarize the public mind with its nature. The proceeds of the loan it is proposed to use for public works: authority will therefore be asked to pay them into the Public Works Fund, to be dealt with in due course by Parliament.

Before concluding, it may be desirable, Mr. Speaker, to glance briefly at the progress of the colony since 1870, and to compare it with that of our great neighbours in these seas. The population in 1870 was 248,400: it is now 489,700—that is, it has almost doubled in ten years; and what, Sir, have our two powerful and attractive neighbours, Victoria and New South Wales, done during the same period? In 1870 the population of Victoria was 726,599; of New South Wales 502,861. It is now 858,582 and 750,000 respectively; thus showing an increase in the Victorian population of 18 per cent.; and in that of New South Wales of 49 per cent.; while in New Zealand the increase has been 97 per cent. Then, Sir, let us look at the value of our imports and exports. In 1870 they were respectively £4,639,015 and £4,822,726. Last year—that is, for the year 1880—they were: Imports, £6,162,011; exports, £6,352,692; showing an increase in imports of £1,522,996, and in exports of £1,529,936, a not unsatisfactory result when the universal commercial depression of the year 1880 is remembered. And, lastly, let me compare the net revenue of 1870–71, exclusive of land sales and the revenue appropriated to local bodies, with that of 1880–81. In the former year it was £1,057,218, in the latter £3,123,960, a difference, Sir, which is ample to cover all the additional interest we have to pay, and with a good margin to spare, to provide for the increased cost of Government. It may however be said that this increased income does not arise from natural growth, but from the far heavier taxation under which the country now labours than it did in 1870. But is this so; are we in truth more heavily taxed now than we were in 1870? I venture to think we are not taxed now more than in 1870. The taxation per head then was £3 4s. 6d., it is now £3 11s. 9d.; but education is now paid for by the State,—an additional charge since 1870; if, therefore, the rate per head of the cost of education, 9s. 9d., is deducted from the taxation of 1880–81, we find that it is less now by 2s. 6d. than it was in 1870.

For these and other reasons, Sir, we may claim that our Immigration and Public Works scheme has been fairly successful. Had, however, the purposes of the loans of the period been more precisely defined, and more strictly adhered to; had the amount of those loans been limited as originally proposed, and had economy prevailed from first to last, we should have been able now to affirm, without fear of contradiction, that they had been an eminent success. With the clear view which is now open of the dangers we have escaped, and of their sources, the Legislature may, if it is resolute, make the future operations more thoroughly

matters of business. With that resolve, it will define and fix with all exactness the objects of future loans, and determine their amounts not by the flush of the revenues of the most prosperous years, but by the reliable averages of a considerable period. It has other considerable advantages for the work. The abolition of the provincial system has placed more administrative experience at the service of the colony at large, and the generalization of the Land Fund makes the produce of land sales wholly available for the greater and lesser public works, whilst we start with a steadily increasing revenue from the railways already constructed, which is an unimpeachable basis for our continued operations. The spontaneous immigration to these shores, and the natural increase of the present population, with the extension of the manufactures already planted, not to speak of others which will spring up of themselves, must alone insure a growth of revenue adequate to support the charges of the moderate loans necessary for our purpose. And we should ill appreciate the blessings of our climate and soil, if we did not confidently anticipate the birth of other most important rural industries under the advantages which our daily improving system of communication affords, and by means of the capital which continually flows to our land by an attraction as certain as that of gravitation itself. And there is another consideration—one of mere justice—which should decide us to do all that prudence will allow to complete our arterial system. I mean the claims of those districts which have patiently awaited the fulfilment of the pledge of the Legislature in the Schedule of the Act of 1870. It is not yet the time, nor is it my place, to submit a specific proposal for carrying out the work I have here suggested; but I trust the House will agree with the Government in this opinion, that the finance of the colony should be so shaped as to make a definitive proposition practicable on the meeting of the next Parliament.

In conclusion, I must warmly thank honorable members for the patient attention with which they have listened to my Statement. The circumstances of the times have not permitted me to offer proposals which can excite much enthusiasm, but I believe they are of a practical nature resting upon a solid basis, and such as will reassure the country and enable it to look forward to the future with sober confidence.

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STATEMENT of the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the
ORDINARY REVENUE

RECEIPTS.					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
FINANCIAL PERIOD 1879-80.													
Balance on 31st March, 1880,—													
Cash in the Public Account								94,892	16	3			
Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government...								197,171	7	6			
Assets realized,—											292,064	3	9
Revenue,—													
Land-Tax					56,428	5	9						
Postal					55	0	0						
Telegraphic					27	10	0						
Miscellaneous					254	9	2						
Miscellaneous Recoveries								56,765	4	11			
Bills Receivable,—								15,146	6	2			
Instalments on account of Sale of Reclaimed Land and Supreme Court Site, Wellington								15,097	12	0			
											87,009	3	1
											<u>£379,073</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
FINANCIAL YEAR 1880-81.													
Balance from the Financial Period 1879-80											38,555	12	6
Ordinary Revenue,—													
Raised by Taxation,—													
Customs £1,307,634 19 3													
Stamps 142,803 8 4													
Beer Duty 45,986 19 8													
Property-Tax 219,716 1 0								1,716,141	8	3			
Receipts for Services rendered,—													
Railways £888,622 10 8													
Postal 149,042 12 7													
Telegraphic 67,437 18 8													
Judicial 56,222 2 11													
Land Transfer and Deeds Registry 40,082 19 7													
Registration and other Fees 32,205 11 3													
Marine 14,220 5 3													
Miscellaneous 69,320 9 6								1,267,154	10	5			
								2,983,295	18	8			
Territorial Revenue,—													
Depasturing Licenses, Rents, &c.					126,083	10	5						
Miscellaneous					4,080	8	8						
Miscellaneous Recoveries								130,163	19	1			
								10,500	19	9			
											3,123,960	17	6
*Receipts in Aid,—													
Deficiency Bills issued under "The Public Revenues Act, 1878"											94,200	0	0
Total											<u>£3,256,716</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>

LAND FUND

Land Sales,—													
Ordinary								275,135	4	5			
On Deferred Payments								24,031	14	7			
											299,166	19	0
Total											<u>£299,166</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>

* During the year Bills to the amount of £500,000 were issued in aid of Revenue; but of these, £405,800 were redeemed in cash, leaving £94,200 outstanding on 31st March, 1881.

CONSOLIDATED FUND for the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1881.
ACCOUNT.

EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
FINANCIAL PERIOD 1879-80.										
Liabilities paid,—										
Permanent Appropriations,—										
Civil List	...	1,208	2	4						
Interest and Sinking Fund	...	19,311	4	6						
Under Special Acts of the Legislature	...	2,732	5	1						
Subsidies to Local Bodies	...	2,093	4	7						
Twenty per cent. of Land Revenue paid to Counties	...	7,487	0	6						
One-third of Proceeds of Land sold on Deferred Payments paid to Local Bodies	...	5,906	4	9						
New Plymouth Harbour Board Endowment	...	327	6	5						
Ellesmere and Forsyth Reclamation and Akaroa Railway Trust	...	321	19	6						
					39,387	7	8			
Annual Appropriation,—										
Miscellaneous Services	...	...			301,130	6	8			
Balance carried forward to next Financial Period	...	...			...			340,517	14	4
								38,555	12	6
								£379,073	6	10
FINANCIAL YEAR 1880-81.										
Permanent Appropriations,—										
Civil List	...	26,867	3	2						
Interest and Sinking Fund	...	1,450,542	17	7						
Under Special Acts of the Legislature	...	39,755	9	6						
Twenty per cent. of Territorial Revenue paid to Counties	...	13,704	15	0						
					1,530,870	5	3			
Annual Appropriations,—										
Class I.—Legislative	...	35,070	7	11						
„ II.—Colonial Secretary	...	189,086	1	7						
„ III.—Colonial Treasurer	...	52,126	9	5						
„ IV.—Minister of Justice	...	122,124	13	2						
„ V.—Postmaster-General	...	238,566	13	6						
„ VI.—Commissioner of Customs	...	76,774	6	9						
„ VII.—Commissioner of Stamps	...	22,966	16	2						
„ VIII.—Minister of Education	...	263,000	7	8						
„ IX.—Minister of Native Affairs	...	8,302	16	10						
„ X.—Minister of Mines	...	9,147	1	9						
„ XI.—Minister for Public Works	...	515,249	9	8						
„ XII.—Minister of Defence	...	92,546	1	2						
					1,624,961	5	7			
Services not provided for	...	...			6,151	13	9			
Debentures issued under "The Nelson Waterworks Loan Act, 1864," redeemed	...	...			...			3,161,983	4	7
								6,200	0	0
								3,168,183	4	7
Balance on 31st March, 1881,—										
Cash in the Public Account and <i>in transitu</i>	...	...			10,686	3	4			
Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,—										
Colonial	...	24,883	7	0						
Foreign	...	44,463	15	1						
					69,347	2	1			
Worn Silver Coin in transitu to Melbourne Mint	...	...			8,500	0	0			
								88,533	5	5
Total	...	...			...			£3,256,716	10	0

ACCOUNT.

Permanent Appropriations,—										
Subsidies to Local Bodies	...	110,506	2	11						
Twenty per cent. of Land Sales Revenue paid to Counties	...	11,480	9	8						
One-third of Proceeds of Land sold on Deferred Payments paid to Local Bodies	...	4,911	3	5						
New Plymouth Harbour Board Endowment	...	9,296	6	7						
Ellesmere and Forsyth Reclamation and Akaroa Railway Trust	...	1,519	2	7						
					137,713	5	2			
Annual Appropriations,—										
Crown Lands and Survey Departments	...	...			129,080	5	5			
								266,793	10	7
Balance on 31st March, 1881,—										
Cash in the Public Account	...	...			28,909	11	3			
Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,—										
Colonial	...	3,043	17	2						
Foreign	...	420	0	0						
					3,463	17	2			
								32,373	8	5
Total	...	...			...			£299,166	19	0

CONSOLIDATED FUND for the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1881.

LOCAL BODIES.

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Revenue paid over to Local Bodies,—									
Revenue from License and other Fees	47,119	17	4						
Revenue from Lands made over	6,074	17	4						
Gold Fields Revenue	19,264	13	7						
Gold Duty	29,794	18	2						
							102,254	6	5
Counties Separate Accounts,—									
Amount distributed amongst Road Boards in Counties where "The Counties Act, 1876," is not in operation							17,308	15	11
									119,563 2 4
Balance on 31st March, 1881,—									
Cash in the Public Account							6,580	19	5
Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government, Colonial							6	1	0
									6,587 0 5
Total									<u>£126,150 2 9</u>

ACCOUNTS.

Withdrawals,—									
Armed Constabulary Reward Fund							221	10	9
Armed Constabulary Reward Fund Investment							2,000	0	0
Canterbury Surplus Land Revenue							13,164	9	3
General Assembly Library Fund							75	0	0
Hawke's Bay Surplus Land Revenue							96	5	2
Imperial Pensions Expenses							2,133	8	0
Nelson Rifle Prize Fund... ..							392	15	2
Nelson Rifle Prize Fund Investment							300	0	0
North Otago District Public Works Loan Act							10,794	1	11
Otago Educational Reserves							31	12	3
Outlying Districts Sale of Spirits Act							20	0	0
Temporary Deposits							56,374	13	10
Unclaimed Balances							1,481	16	11
Westland Loan Act Redemption							143	10	10
									87,229 4 1
Balance on 31st March, 1881,—									
Cash in the Public Account							33,047	17	7
Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government, Foreign							25,694	13	11
									58,742 11 6
Total									<u>£145,971 15 7</u>

JAMES C. GAVIN,
Secretary to the Treasury.

JAMES B. HEYWOOD,
Accountant to the Treasury.

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the PUBLIC WORKS

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance on 31st March, 1880,—									
Cash in the Colony and in London				862,410	4	2			
Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,—									
In the Colony	24,694	3	11						
In London	291,069	6	0						
Wanganui Harbour Board Debentures				315,763	9	11			
Waimea Plains Railway Company Debentures				17,000	0	0			
Treasury and Deficiency Bills, representing temporary Advances to the Consolidated Fund				40,000	0	0			
				992,000	0	0			
							2,227,173	14	1
“New Zealand Loan Act, 1879,”—									
Balance of Loan				751,000	0	0			
Special Receipts under Section 9 of “The Railways Construction Act, 1878”				1,841	2	1			
Miscellaneous Recoveries				41,333	2	8			
Temporary Advances obtained on the Security of the Imperial Guaranteed Debentures of “The Immigration and Public Works Loan Act, 1870”				300,000	0	0			
							1,094,174	4	9
							£3,321,347	18	10
NOTE.—Balance on 31st March, 1880, subject to Liabilities,—									
Balance as above							£2,227,173	14	1
Balance to be received of the Five Million Loan of 1879				751,000	0	0			
Imperial Guaranteed Debentures unissued				800,000	0	0			
Total				£3,778,173	14	1			

Treasury, Wellington, 20th April, 1881.

Examined and found correct.

JAMES EDWARD FITZGERALD,
Controller and Auditor-General.
23rd May, 1881.

FUND for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1881.

EXPENDITURE.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Annual Appropriations,—												
Class	I.—Immigration	...	...	31,134	10	4						
"	II.—Public Works, Departmental	...	...	13,659	1	8						
"	III.—Railways	...	...	969,165	8	6						
"	IV.—Surveys of New Lines	...	...	7,769	3	6						
"	V.—Roads	...	...	179,599	15	9						
"	VI.—Land Purchases	...	...	55,327	18	1						
"	VII.—Waterworks on Gold Fields	...	...	16,596	13	11						
"	VIII.—Telegraph Extension	...	...	45,281	8	4						
"	IX.—Public Buildings	...	...	205,733	14	5						
"	X.—Lighthouses	...	...	2,635	15	3						
"	XI.—Miscellaneous Public Works	...	...	84,091	3	0						
"	XII.—Contingent Defence	...	...	154,000	0	0						
"	XIII.—Charges and Expenses	...	...	193,356	16	5						
							1,958,351	9	2			
Services not provided for							2,622	19	6			
										1,960,974	8	8
Balance on 31st March, 1881,—												
Cash in the Colony and in London, and <i>in transitu</i> to London							693,544	4	1			
Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government,—												
In the Colony				10,519	4	0						
In London				113,410	2	1						
							123,929	6	1			
Amount in fixed deposit with the Colonial Bank of New Zealand, London, due 1st April, 1881							50,000	0	0			
Wanganui Harbour Board Debentures							17,000	0	0			
New Zealand Government 5/40 Debentures							44,000	0	0			
Treasury Bills, representing temporary Advances to the Consolidated Fund							431,900	0	0			
										1,360,373	10	2
										£3,321,347	18	10
NOTE.—Balance on 31st March, 1881, subject to Liabilities,—												
Balance as above							£1,360,373	10	2			
Balance of Imperial Guaranteed Debentures unissued							500,000	0	0			
							£1,860,373	10	2			

JAMES C. GAVIN,
Secretary to the Treasury.

JAMES B. HEYWOOD,
Accountant to the Treasury.

Table No. 1—continued.

SUMMARY OF BALANCES ON 31st MARCH, 1881.

—	CONSOLIDATED FUND.			PUBLIC WORKS FUND.			SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.			TOTAL.			FUNDS.			—				
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
CASH	79,224	11	7	693,544	4	1	393	18	6	773,162	14	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
ADVANCES IN HANDS OF OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT	98,511	14	2	123,929	6	1	...	...	...	222,441	0	3	Ordinary Revenue Account	...	88,533	5	5	...
WORN SILVER COIN IN TRANSIT TO MINT	8,500	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,500	0	0	Land Fund Account	...	32,373	8	5	...
AMOUNT IN FIXED DEPOSIT WITH THE COLONIAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND, LONDON, DUE 1st APRIL, 1881	...	...	...	50,000	0	0	...	...	...	50,000	0	0	Accounts of Local Bodies	...	6,587	0	5	...
WANGANUI HARBOUR BOARD DEBENTURES	...	...	...	17,000	0	0	...	...	...	17,000	0	0	Deposit Accounts	...	53,742	11	6	...
NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT 5/40 DEBENTURES	...	...	...	44,000	0	0	...	...	...	44,000	0	0	PUBLIC WORKS FUND	...	...	...	...	...
TREASURY BILLS REPRESENTING TEMPORARY ADVANCES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FUND	...	...	...	431,900	0	0	...	...	...	431,900	0	0	SUSPENSE ACCOUNT	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	186,236	5	9	1,360,373	10	2	393	18	6	1,547,003	14	5	Total	1,547,003	14	5

* Balance of Public Works Fund, brought down ... £1,360,373 10 2
 Add balance of Imperial Guaranteed Debentures unissued ... 500,000 0 0
 Total Public Works Fund ... £1,860,373 10 2

Table No. 2.

STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED and ACTUAL EXPENDITURE of the CONSOLIDATED FUND for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1881, and of the ESTIMATED LIABILITIES at that date.

	Estimated Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure.	Outstanding Liabilities on 31st March, 1881.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
ORDINARY REVENUE ACCOUNT:—			
Permanent Appropriations,—			
Civil List	29,750 0 0	26,867 3 2	300 0 0
Interest and Sinking Fund	1,453,161 7 2	1,450,542 17 7	...
Under Special Acts of the Legislature	50,587 14 0	39,755 9 6	225 7 10
	1,533,499 1 2	1,517,165 10 3	525 7 10
Annual Appropriations,—			
Class I.—Legislative	35,300 5 10	35,070 7 11	...
" II.—Colonial Secretary	191,977 18 6	189,086 1 7	22,490 0 0
" III.—Colonial Treasurer	50,330 5 6	52,126 9 5	2,163 9 0
" IV.—Minister of Justice	133,706 16 4	122,124 13 2	5,110 0 0
" V.—Postmaster-General and Commissioner of Telegraphs	261,357 12 1	238,566 13 6	8,166 6 0
" VI.—Commissioner of Customs	89,244 5 2	76,774 6 9	4,334 7 4
" VII.—Commissioner of Stamps	23,897 10 0	22,966 16 2	520 8 10
" VIII.—Minister of Education	276,162 0 0	263,000 7 8	3,550 0 0
" IX.—Minister of Native Affairs	15,177 9 1	8,302 16 10	1,267 2 3
" X.—Minister of Mines	23,141 13 4	9,147 1 9	7,820 0 0
" XI.—Minister for Public Works	604,446 16 7	515,249 9 8	86,595 17 5
" XII.—Minister of Defence	163,446 11 3	92,546 1 2	22,971 7 7
	1,868,189 3 8		
Less 10 per cent. deducted from Salaries	66,666 0 0		
	1,801,523 3 8	1,624,961 5 7	164,988 18 5
Special Appropriations,—			
20 per cent. Territorial Revenue paid to Counties	13,867 11 0	13,704 15 0	...
Nelson Waterworks Debentures redeemed ... ..	...	6,200 0 0	...
Services not provided for ... ..	...	6,151 13 9	...
	13,867 11 0	26,056 8 9	...
SUMMARY.			
Permanent Appropriations	1,533,499 1 2	1,517,165 10 3	525 7 10
Annual Appropriations	1,801,523 3 8	1,624,961 5 7	164,988 18 5
Special Appropriations	13,867 11 0	26,056 8 9	...
	3,348,889 15 10		
Less Amount estimated not to be expended within the year	225,000 0 0		
Totals, Ordinary Revenue Account	3,123,889 15 10	3,168,183 4 7	165,514 6 3
LAND FUND ACCOUNT:—			
Annual Appropriations	128,284 3 2	129,080 5 5	8,955 15 4
Special Appropriations,—			
Subsidies paid to Local Bodies	103,296 0 0	110,506 2 11	100 0 0
20 per cent. Land Sales paid to Counties	11,421 17 9	11,480 9 8	...
One-third of Land Sales on Deferred Payments	16,000 0 0	4,911 3 5	12,620 7 6
25 per cent. Land Sales paid to New Plymouth Harbour Board	3,000 0 0	9,296 6 7	15,618 14 5
Ellesmere and Forsyth Reclamation, &c. ... ..	...	1,519 2 7	266 9 7
	133,717 17 9	137,713 5 2	28,605 11 6
Totals, Land Fund Account	262,002 0 11	266,793 10 7	37,561 6 10
ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS RECAPITULATED:—			
Ordinary Revenue Account	1,801,523 3 8	1,624,961 5 7	164,988 18 5
Land Fund Account	128,284 3 2	129,080 5 5	8,955 15 4
	1,929,807 6 10	1,754,041 11 0	173,944 13 9

Table No. 3.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED and ACTUAL RECEIPTS of the CONSOLIDATED FUND for the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1881 (exclusive of Revenue of Local Bodies and Deposits).

RECEIPTS.	ESTIMATED.		ACTUAL.		DIFFERENCES.			
					More than Estimate.		Less than Estimate.	
ORDINARY REVENUE :—								
Raised by Taxation,—	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Customs	1,250,000	0 0	1,307,634	19 3	57,634	19 3		
Stamps	140,000	0 0	142,803	8 4	2,803	8 4		
Beer Duty	48,000	0 0	45,986	19 8			2,013	0 4
Property Tax	300,000	0 0	219,716	1 0			80,283	19 0
Receipts for Services Rendered,—								
Railways	950,000	0 0	838,622	10 8			111,377	9 4
Postal	145,000	0 0	149,042	12 7	4,042	12 7		
Telegraphic	80,000	0 0	67,437	18 8			12,562	1 4
Judicial	60,000	0 0	56,222	2 11			3,777	17 1
Land and Deeds	32,000	0 0	40,082	19 7	8,082	19 7		
Registration and other Fees	32,000	0 0	32,205	11 3	205	11 3		
Marine	16,000	0 0	14,220	5 3			1,779	14 9
Miscellaneous	50,000	0 0	69,320	9 6	19,320	9 6		
TERRITORIAL REVENUE :—								
Depasturing Licenses, &c.	135,000	0 0	130,163	19 1			4,836	0 11
SPECIAL RECEIPTS :—								
Miscellaneous Recoveries			10,500	19 9	10,500	19 9		
	3,238,000	0 0	3,123,960	17 6	102,591	0 3	216,630	2 9
							102,591	0 3
							£114,039	2 6
LAND FUND :—								
Land Sales	200,000	0 0	299,166	19 0	99,166	19 0		

Table No. 4.
THE PUBLIC DEBT OF NEW ZEALAND ON 31ST MARCH, 1881.

LOANS.	DEBENTURES AND TREASURY BILLS IN CIRCULATION.		SINKING FUNDS ACCRUED.		NET INDEBTEDNESS.		ANNUAL CHARGE.			TOTAL.				
	Amount.		When Redeemable.		£	s. d.	Rate.	Amount.	Rate.	Amount.	£	s. d.		
	£	311	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	p. cent.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.			
UNDER ACTS OF THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT:—	...	311	...	...	311	0	0	...	...	...	...	...
Ordinance of Legislative Council ...	375,000	311	On presentation	...	311	0	0	...	...	...	...	...
New Zealand Loan Act, 1856 ...	25,000	500,000	15 January, 1888	387,812	11	8	4	4	20,000	0	0	30,000	0	0
	50,000		October, 1888											
	50,000		October, 1889											
	50,000		June, 1894											
New Zealand Loan Act, 1860 ...	488,000	93,100	1 July, 1891	62,696	8	6	6	2	1,862	0	0	7,448	0	0
	500,000		15 July, 1914						24,400	0	0	4,880	0	0
	201,500	1,519,400	1 November, 1915						20,000	0	0	5,000	0	0
New Zealand Loan Act, 1863 ...	236,000		15 March, 1891	447,425	19	3	9	2	12,000	0	0	16,120	0	0
	93,900		15 June, 1891						14,160	0	0	4,720	0	0
			15 December, 1891						5,634	0	0	1,878	0	0
Consolidated Loan Act, 1867 ...	458,310	4660,100	36 years from issue						229,155	0	0	45,831	0	0
	64,000		1 January, 1893						3,200	0	0	...	...	...
	13,000		15 April, 1913						520	0	0	...	...	...
Defence and Other Purposes Loan Act, 1870 ...	600,000	1,000,000	36 years from issue						30,000	0	0	6,000	0	0
	50,000		31 December, 1885						2,500	0	0	...	...	...
	20,000		1 July, 1910						900	0	0	...	...	...
	75,000		15 April, 1913						3,000	0	0	...	...	...
	5,000		25 June, 1881						225	0	0	...	...	...
	250,000		15 July, 1906 (5/30)	1,972,034	7	9	3	5	12,500	0	0	...	...	...
Immigration and Public Works Loan Act, 1870 ...	2,100,000	3,200,000	36 years from issue						105,000	0	0	21,000	0	0
	372,100		15 April, 1913						14,884	0	0	...	...	...
	27,900		15 April, 1882						1,255	10	0	...	...	...
	200,000		1 June, 1907						8,000	0	0	...	...	...
	500,000		1 Feb., 1904 (5/30)						22,500	0	0	...	...	...
North Otago District Public Works Loan Act, 1872 ...	...	17,000	1 November, 1902	3,476	12	7	5	5	850	0	0	7,850	0	0
Immigration and Public Works Loan Act, 1873 ...	1,500,000	2,000,000	1 Feb., 1904 (5/30)						67,500	0	0	...	...	...
	500,000		15 July, 1906 (5/30)						25,000	0	0	...	...	...
General Purposes Loan Act, 1873 ...	12,300	750,000	15 May, 1914						492	0	0	492	0	0
	49,500		15 December, 1881						2,475	0	0	...	...	...
	20,900		15 October, 1883						830	0	0	...	...	...
	18,500		15 October, 1913						740	0	0	...	...	...
	6,200		15 October, 1885						279	0	0	...	...	...
	142,600		Various						7,130	0	0	...	...	...
	500,000		15 July, 1906 (5/30)						25,000	0	0	...	...	...
Carried forward ...	13,739,911	1,973,445	19	9	11,766,465	0	3	5	665,811	10	0	116,201	0	0

* This rate is payable on the amount of the original issue, viz., £79,000.

Table No. 4—continued.

THE PUBLIC DEBT OF NEW ZEALAND ON 31st MARCH, 1881—continued.

LOANS.	DEBENTURES AND TREASURY BILLS IN CIRCULATION.		SINKING FUNDS ACCRUED.		NET INDEBTEDNESS.		ANNUAL CHARGE.			TOTAL.				
	When Redeemable.		Rate.		Rate.		SINKING FUND.							
	Amount.	£	£	s. d.	p. cent.	£	s. d.	Rate.	Amount.		£	s. d.		
Brought forward	13,739,911	£	1,973,445	19	9	11,766,465	0	3	665,811	10	0	782,012	10	0
UNDER ACTS OF THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT—														
<i>continued.</i>														
Westland Loan Act, 1873	50,000	£	935	15	7	49,064	4	5	2,500	0	0	2,500	0	0
Immigration and Public Works Loan Act, 1874	4,000,000	£	...	...	...	4,000,000	0	0	180,000	0	0	180,000	0	0
New Zealand Loan Act, 1876	1,000,000	£	...	...	...	1,000,000	0	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	0	0
New Zealand Loan Act, 1877	2,500,000	£	...	...	...	2,500,000	0	0	125,000	0	0	125,000	0	0
New Zealand Consolidated Stock Act, 1877	5,371,200	£	...	...	...	5,371,200	0	0	214,848	0	0	214,848	0	0
New Zealand Loan Act, 1879	524,000	£	...	...	...	524,000	0	0	26,200	0	0	26,200	0	0
Treasury Bills,—														
Treasury Bills Extended Currency Act, 1873	180,000	£	...	...	...	900,100	0	0	46,200	8	11	46,200	8	11
Treasury Bills Extended Currency Act, 1876	60,000	£	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Financial Arrangements Act, 1876	23,000	£	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills Act, 1879	310,100	£	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills Act, 1880	326,100	£	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
UNDER ACTS OR ORDINANCES OF THE LATE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS:—														
Auckland Loan Act, 1862	31,600	£	9,490	19	6	22,109	0	6	1,806	0	0	2,528	0	0
Wellington Loan Act, 1866	13,500	£	6,576	7	5	6,923	12	7	1,080	0	0	1,350	0	0
Nelson Loan Act, 1874	18,000	£	...	...	...	18,000	0	0	1,260	0	0	1,260	0	0
Lytelton and Christchurch Railway Loan, Ordinance, 1860	77,700	£	32,291	0	8	45,408	19	4	4,662	0	0	6,216	0	0
Canterbury Loan Ordinance, 1862	22,800	£	2,196	2	1	20,603	17	11	1,368	0	0	1,596	0	0
Otago Loan Ordinance, 1862	116,700	£	32,395	10	1	84,394	9	11	7,902	0	0	8,169	0	0
ADVANCES ON SECURITY OF DEBENTURES, AND TREASURY BILLS:—														
Immigration and Public Works Loan Act, 1870	300,000	£	...	...	...	300,000	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills Act, 1879	500,000	£	...	...	...	500,000	0	0	...	...	...	25,664	1	3
Totals	29,165,511	£	2,057,241	15	1	27,108,269	4	11	1,353,492	0	2	1,473,544	0	2

* Rate of interest varies.

Table No. 5.

STATEMENT showing the Total WAYS and MEANS of the PUBLIC WORKS FUND, and the Total NET EXPENDITURE to the 31st March, 1881.

WAYS AND MEANS.		£	s.	d.	NET EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
LOANS:—									
Immigration and Public Works Loan, 1870	...	4,000,000	0	0	Immigration	...	1,921,419	15	10
Immigration and Public Works Loan, 1873	...	2,000,000	0	0	Public Works Department	...	157,343	1	11
Immigration and Public Works Loan, 1874	...	4,000,000	0	0	Railways, including Surveys of New Lines	...	9,437,145	9	2
General Purposes Loan, 1873...	...	750,000	0	0	Roads	...	1,208,323	9	2
New Zealand Loan, 1876	...	750,000	0	0	Land Purchases*	...	829,457	1	2
New Zealand Loan, 1877	...	2,200,000	0	0	Waterworks on Gold Fields	...	497,506	10	11
New Zealand Loan, 1879	...	5,000,000	0	0	Telegraph Extension	...	412,546	17	3
					Public Buildings	...	857,753	5	0
					Lighthouses	...	8,838	19	0
					Miscellaneous Public Works	...	557,149	7	11
					Contingent Defence	...	259,000	0	0
					Charges and Expenses	...	751,442	14	1
					Coal Mines	...	10,835	8	0
					Interest and Sinking Fund	...	218,500	0	0
							17,206,261	19	5
							123,929	6	1
							193,544	4	1
							500,000	0	0
							17,000	0	0
							44,000	0	0
							50,000	0	0
							431,000	0	0
							500,000	0	0
							1,736,444	4	1
							£19,066,635	9	7
							£19,066,635	9	7

* Land purchases originally included expenditure on "Roads to open up Lands recently purchased," now included under the head of "Roads."

Table No. 6.

STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED LIABILITIES of the PUBLIC WORKS FUND outstanding on the 31st March, 1881.

		£	s.	d.
Class I.—Immigration	...	664	1	6
Class II.—Public Works Department	...	647	18	3
Class III.—Railways	...	428,687	1	8
Class IV.—Surveys of New Lines of Railways	...	406	6	8
Class V.—Roads	...	74,411	2	5
Class VI.—Land Purchases	...	997,725	0	0
Class VII.—Waterworks on Gold Fields	...	11,029	17	8
Class IX.—Public Buildings	...	33,249	18	5
Class X.—Lighthouses	...	100	0	0
Class XI.—Miscellaneous Public Works	...	38,591	8	10
Total	...	£1,585,512	15	5

Table No. 7.

ORDINARY REVENUE ACCOUNT.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATES for SERVICES annually voted by Parliament, as sent down to the House, for the Years 1880-81 and 1881-82.

		1880-81.	1881-82.	Less than for 1880-81.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Class I. Legislative	...	39,851 15 10	35,400 0 0	4,451 15 10
„ II. Colonial Secretary	...	170,220 8 5	162,777 3 0	7,443 5 5
„ III. Colonial Treasurer	...	49,470 6 8	28,947 5 6	20,523 1 2
„ IV. Minister of Justice	...	*126,872 4 6	112,751 8 8	14,120 15 10
„ V. Postmaster-General and Commissioner of Telegraphs	...	278,646 10 0	227,650 4 2	50,996 5 10
„ VI. Commissioner of Customs	...	92,743 11 4	69,820 10 10	22,923 0 6
„ VII. Commissioner of Stamps	...	23,785 0 0	22,395 0 0	1,390 0 0
„ VIII. Minister of Education	...	297,730 0 0	277,416 2 9	20,313 17 3
„ IX. Minister of Native Affairs	...	24,529 8 9	19,084 19 3	5,444 9 6
„ X. Minister of Mines	...	23,200 0 0	21,033 10 0	2,166 10 0
„ XI. Minister for Public Works	...	†646,582 13 0	593,090 18 1	53,491 14 11
„ XII. Minister of Defence	...	334,981 11 3	204,245 6 8	130,736 4 7
Deduct contribution from Loan for Defence Services	...	2,108,613 9 9	1,774,612 8 11	334,001 0 10
	...	154,000 0 0	75,000 0 0	
Totals	...	1,954,613 9 9	1,699,612 8 11	

* £10,267 2s. 1d. transferred to Class IX.

† £1,900 transferred to Class VI., and £14,403 4s. 4d. added to this class, being the unexpended balance of items shown in the Estimates of 1880-81 as liabilities of 1879-80, now included in the votes for the services of the current year.

Table No. 8.

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the ORDINARY REVENUE ACCOUNT for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1882.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
RAISED BY TAXATION:—					PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS:—			
Customs ...	...	1,345,000	0	0	Civil List ...	29,750	0	0
Stamps ...	...	150,000	0	0	Interest and Sinking Fund ...	1,499,318	2	1
Beer Duty ...	...	60,000	0	0	Under Special Acts of the Legislature ...	41,851	8	4
Property-Tax ...	...	270,000	0	0				
Land-Tax Arrears ...	...	1,000	0	0				
					ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS:—			
FOR SERVICES RENDERED:—					Class	35,400	0	0
Railways ...	...	910,000	0	0	I. Legislative ...	162,777	3	0
Postal ...	...	150,000	0	0	II. Colonial Secretary ...	28,947	5	6
Telegraphic ...	...	76,000	0	0	III. Colonial Treasurer ...	112,751	8	8
Judicial ...	...	58,000	0	0	V. Postmaster-General and Commissioner of Tele-			
Land Transfer and Deeds Registry ...	...	40,000	0	0	graphs ...	227,650	4	2
Registration and other Fees ...	...	33,000	0	0	VI. Commissioner of Customs ...	69,820	10	10
Marine ...	...	13,000	0	0	VII. Commissioner of Stamps ...	22,395	0	0
Miscellaneous ...	...	60,000	0	0	VIII. Minister of Education ...	277,416	2	9
					IX. Minister of Native Affairs ...	19,084	19	3
DEPASTURING LICENSES AND ASSESSMENTS, &c. ...	...	...			X. Minister of Mines ...	21,933	10	0
					XI. Minister for Public Works ...	593,090	18	1
					XII. Minister of Defence ...	129,245	6	8
					DEFICIT ON 31ST MARCH, 1881	...		
						3,270,531	19	4
						5,066	14	7
					SURPLUS ON 31ST MARCH, 1882	...		
						3,276,198	13	11
						21,451	6	1
Total ...	...	£3,297,650	0	0	Total ...	£3,297,650	0	0

Table No. 9.

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the LAND FUND for the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1882.

Land Sales	RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.			Balance on 31st March, 1881		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
...	Permanent Appropriations,—	...	...	...	...	...
...	One-third of proceeds of Deferred-payment Land, payable to	...	...	...	...	...
...	Local Bodies	30,600	0	0	...	...
...	New Plymouth Harbour Board Endowment	33,000	0	0	...	...
...	Ellesmere and Forsyth Reclamation and Akaroa Railway Trust	21,266	9	7	...	...
...	Subsidies to Local Bodies in arrear	100	0	0	84,966	9 7
...	Annual Appropriations,—	...	...	...	...	...
...	Crown Lands Department	20,415	5	0	...	...
...	Crown Lands, Miscellaneous Services	7,023	0	0	...	...
...	Coal Fields	221	5	0	...	...
...	Survey Department	91,278	16	6	...	...
...	Native Lands Court and other Special Surveys	13,600	0	0	...	...
...	Photographic and Lithographic Printing Branch	2,044	0	0	...	...
...	Rates to Local Bodies	27,000	0	0	134,584	6 6
...	Roads Construction Board	118,822	12	4	145,822	12 4
...	Balance on 31st March, 1881	32,373	8	5	£365,373	8 5
...					£365,373	8 5

Table No. 10.

"PROPERTY ASSESSMENT ACT, 1879."

STATEMENT showing TOTAL CAPITAL and TOTAL ANNUAL VALUE as assessed under the Property Assessment Act in each Assessment District; also the Total Annual Value as assessed by Local Bodies.

Assessment District.	Property Assessment.		Annual Value as assessed by Local Bodies.	Number of Years' Purchase.	
	Capital Value.	Annual Value.		Property Assessment.	Local Bodies.
	£	£	£		
Canterbury ...	16,874,837	1,166,509	1,121,963	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	15
Otago ...	11,269,068	888,619	771,832	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wellington ...	12,205,050	807,033	828,277	15	14 $\frac{3}{4}$
Auckland ...	10,290,120	762,866	677,384	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	15
Hawke's Bay ...	5,320,967	409,646	349,001	13	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Waitaki ...	9,012,360	592,067	612,784	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{3}{4}$
Nelson ...	4,002,106	314,154	283,314	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	14
Southland ...	4,983,674	275,637	270,469	18	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
	73,958,182	5,216,531	4,915,024	Average, 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ years	Average, 15 years

J. SPERREY,
Property-Tax Commissioner.

PROPERTY-TAX ACT, 1879.

CLASSIFICATION of TAXPAYERS according to the Amount of Tax paid.

Under £1 ...	5,417
£1 and under £5 ...	9,048
£5 and under £10 ...	3,267
£10 and under £20 ...	2,146
£20 and under £50 ...	1,390
£50 and under £100 ...	480
£100 and under £200 ...	194
£200 and under £300 ...	66
£300 and under £400 ...	27
£400 and under £500 ...	14
£500 and under £1,000 ...	23
£1,000 and under £2,000 ...	12
£2,000 and under £3,000 ...	1
£3,000 and under £4,000 ...	0
£4,000 and under £5,000 ...	1
£5,000 and under £6,000 ...	0
£6,000 and under £7,000 ...	1
	<u>22,087</u>

J. SPERREY,
Property-Tax Commissioner.

Table No. 10—*continued.*

RETURN of FREEHOLDERS' INTERESTS in LAND compiled from the Assessments made under the Property Assessment Act, classified according to the Value of each Owner's interest.

Value.				Land in Boroughs.	Land outside Boroughs.	Colony.
Under £100	...	...	...	3,337	11,380	13,130
£100 and under £200	...	...	...	3,618	6,843	9,774
200	"	300	...	3,281	4,633	7,407
300	"	400	...	2,264	3,207	5,251
400	"	500	...	1,611	2,394	3,822
500	"	1,000	...	3,606	6,456	9,626
1,000	"	2,000	...	2,123	4,111	5,807
2,000	"	3,000	...	706	1,452	2,097
3,000	"	4,000	...	332	731	1,018
4,000	"	5,000	...	198	444	667
5,000	"	10,000	...	452	778	1,157
10,000	"	20,000	...	172	327	509
20,000	"	30,000	...	36	123	164
30,000	"	40,000	...	15	62	78
40,000	"	50,000	...	3	30	44
50,000	"	60,000	...	3	22	29
60,000	"	70,000	...	2	12	17
70,000	"	80,000	...	...	8	8
80,000	"	90,000	...	1	13	14
90,000	"	100,000	...	...	4	8
100,000	"	150,000	...	1	14	12
150,000	"	200,000	...	...	5	10
200,000 and over	...	...	...	...	9	9
Totals				21,761	43,058	60,658

RETURN of FREEHOLDERS, classified according to Area, showing Total Value of their interests as assessed under the Property Assessment Act.

Areas.				Land in Boroughs.		Land outside Boroughs.		Colony.	
				Number of Owners.	Value.	Number of Owners.	Value.	Number of Owners.	Value.
1 acre and under	...	...	...	18,140	£ 10,705,017	11,151	£ 1,860,739	26,004	£ 9,591,749
Over 1 acre and under 5 acres	...	...	...	2,527	4,899,409	3,815	1,174,016	5,659	4,041,165
" 5 acres	"	10 "	...	445	1,435,558	1,601	706,711	1,878	1,571,079
" 10 "	"	50 "	...	479	1,763,368	6,093	2,280,348	6,481	3,841,806
" 50 "	"	100 "	...	96	327,484	5,969	2,573,680	6,108	3,416,960
" 100 "	"	200 "	...	42	181,822	6,116	4,443,272	6,159	5,487,925
" 200 "	"	300 "	...	13	111,932	3,069	3,209,585	3,090	3,867,412
" 300 "	"	400 "	...	10	78,896	1,299	2,064,616	1,305	2,506,964
" 400 "	"	500 "	...	5	13,453	820	1,616,398	834	1,965,189
" 500 "	"	1,000 "	...	4	134,259	1,522	4,425,734	1,516	5,089,297
" 1,000 "	"	5,000 "	...	...	...	1,182	8,063,171	1,202	10,061,719
" 5,000 "	"	10,000 "	...	...	...	171	3,269,004	172	3,500,251
" 10,000 "	"	20,000 "	...	...	...	141	4,606,150	141	4,781,525
" 20,000 "	"	30,000 "	...	...	...	54	2,479,979	54	2,546,234
" 30,000 "	"	40,000 "	...	...	...	18	1,086,713	18	1,138,293
" 40,000 "	"	50,000 "	...	...	...	10	748,888	10	756,661
" 50,000 "	"	100,000 "	...	...	...	20	1,956,671	20	2,026,851
100,000 acres and over	...	...	...	...	...	7	2,556,480	7	2,582,273
Totals				21,761	19,651,198	43,058	49,122,155	60,658	68,773,353

NOTE.—The above values do not include the assessed values of leasehold interests, for which see next table.

Table No. 10—*continued.*

RETURN of LEASEHOLDERS under the CROWN, classified according to the Value of the Leasehold Interest held by each Lessee, as assessed under the Property Assessment Act.

Value.				Land in Boroughs.	Land outside Boroughs.	Colony.
Under £100	...	...	...	313	400	710
£100 and under £200	...	...	...	78	114	191
200	300	...	...	34	66	100
300	400	...	...	21	52	72
400	500	...	...	15	20	35
500	1,000	...	...	20	83	103
1,000	2,000	...	...	13	50	63
2,000	3,000	...	...	4	28	31
3,000	4,000	...	...	3	17	20
4,000	5,000	...	...	...	7	8
5,000	10,000	...	...	1	33	34
10,000	20,000	...	...	...	8	8
20,000	30,000	...	...	...	...	...
30,000	40,000	...	...	...	1	1
40,000	50,000	...	...	...	1	1
50,000	60,000	...	...	...	1	1
60,000	70,000	...	...	...	...	...
70,000	80,000	...	...	...	...	...
80,000	90,000	...	...	...	...	...
90,000	100,000	...	...	...	...	...
100,000	150,000	...	...	...	...	...
150,000	200,000	...	...	...	...	...
200,000 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals				502	881	1,378

RETURN of LEASEHOLDERS under the CROWN, classified according to Area, showing Total Value of Leasehold Interest, as assessed under the Property Assessment Act.

Areas.	Land in Boroughs.		Land outside Boroughs.		Colony.	
	Number of Lessees.	Value.	Number of Lessees.	Value.	Number of Lessees.	Value.
1 acre and under	...	£	...	£	...	£
Over 1 acre and under 5 acres	490	91,319	280	23,412	766	111,531
5 acres and under 10	6	2,500	22	4,529	27	6,829
10	2	9,800	23	8,507	23	8,507
50	4	695	40	6,928	46	17,423
100	...	...	58	5,071	58	5,071
200	...	...	65	9,401	65	10,206
300	...	...	39	8,187	39	8,387
400	...	...	13	3,699	13	3,699
500	...	...	11	6,233	11	6,233
1,000	...	...	33	12,206	33	12,206
5,000	...	...	63	35,011	63	37,406
10,000	...	...	43	16,141	43	16,141
20,000	...	...	46	42,578	46	42,578
30,000	...	...	48	65,843	48	65,843
40,000	...	...	29	75,523	29	75,523
50,000	...	...	14	53,151	14	53,151
100,000 acres and over	...	...	40	188,735	40	188,735
Totals	502	104,314	881	708,476	1,378	812,790

Table No. 10—*continued.*

RETURN of LEASEHOLDERS (exclusive of Crown Leases and Licenses), classified according to the Value of the Leasehold Interest held by each Lessee, as assessed under the Property Assessment Act.

Value.				Land in Boroughs.	Land outside Boroughs.	Colony.
Under £100	...	...	...	1,030	1,745	2,817
£100 and under £200	...	...	...	709	688	1,432
200	300	...	...	382	352	755
300	400	...	...	256	188	449
400	500	...	...	162	109	260
500	1,000	...	...	380	246	641
1,000	2,000	...	...	274	140	406
2,000	3,000	...	...	113	35	146
3,000	4,000	...	...	47	25	71
4,000	5,000	...	...	33	12	38
5,000	10,000	...	...	35	30	64
10,000	20,000	...	...	6	8	15
20,000	30,000	...	...	1	4	5
30,000	40,000	...	...	...	...	...
40,000	50,000	...	...	...	...	...
50,000	60,000	...	...	...	...	...
60,000	70,000	...	...	...	...	...
70,000	80,000	...	...	...	...	...
80,000	90,000	...	...	...	...	...
90,000	100,000	...	...	...	...	...
100,000	150,000	...	...	...	...	...
150,000	200,000	...	...	...	...	...
200,000 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	...	3,428	3,582	7,099

RETURN of LEASEHOLDERS (exclusive of Crown Leases and Licenses), classified according to Area showing Total Value of Leasehold Interest, as assessed under the Property Assessment Act.

Areas.	Land in Boroughs.		Land outside Boroughs.		Colony.	
	Number of Lessees.	Value.	Number of Lessees.	Value.	Number of Lessees.	Value.
1 acre and under	...	£	...	£	...	£
Over 1 acre and under 5 acres	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	10	...	...	...	...	...
10	50	...	...	...	...	...
50	100	...	...	...	...	...
100	200	...	...	...	...	...
200	300	...	...	...	...	...
300	400	...	...	...	...	...
400	500	...	...	...	...	...
500	1,000	...	...	...	...	...
1,000	5,000	...	...	...	...	...
5,000	10,000	...	...	...	...	...
10,000	20,000	...	...	...	...	...
20,000	30,000	...	...	...	...	...
30,000	40,000	...	...	...	...	...
40,000	50,000	...	...	...	...	...
50,000	100,000	...	...	...	...	...
100,000 acres and over	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	...