

SUMMARY OF SERVICES CHARGEABLE ON THE CONSOLIDATED FUND.

	1885-86.		1884-85.	
	£	£	Voted.	Expended.
			£	£
PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS—				
Civil List	29,750	1,800,107	29,750	31,598
Interest and Sinking Fund	1,667,873		1,559,115	1,570,989
Under Special Acts of the Legislature	102,484		53,724	65,093
			1,642,589	1,667,680
ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS—				
Class I.—Legislative	17,572	2,172,026	67,767	66,943
Class II.—Colonial Secretary	221,568		241,854	251,763
Class III.—Colonial Treasurer	49,312		52,688	58,166
Class IV.—Minister of Justice	116,660		118,754	117,405
Class V.—Postmaster-General and Com- missioner of Telegraphs	279,518		262,802	255,161
Class VI.—Commissioner of Customs	86,874		85,288	80,979
Class VII.—Commissioner of Stamps	26,451		27,496	25,964
Class VIII.—Minister of Education	361,186		340,482	334,197
Class IX.—Minister for Native Affairs	19,944		18,611	17,934
Class X.—Minister of Mines	24,610		23,808	15,585
Class XI.—Minister for Public Works	756,591		751,438	714,846
Class XII.—Minister of Defence	211,740		185,466	182,586
			3,819,043	3,789,209
Total Expenditure on Ordinary Revenue Account		3,972,133		

I have already explained the increase in the interest expenditure. I have also referred to an increase under the Acts authorizing permanent payments, owing to the honararium being transferred from an annual to a constant vote. Other items of increase under permanent Acts are those for the payments which have to be made to the Harbour Boards of Westport and Grey-mouth under the Acts of last year. It will be remembered that, although those Boards were gifted with certain endowments, the management, it was provided, was still to remain in the hands of the Public Works Department. Hence the full receipts are carried to public revenue, and the payments are made under the authority of the Acts themselves.

The reduction in the Colonial Secretary's Department is partly due to a less vote for charitable aid. I hope, if the Bill we are introducing be passed, that the amount in future years will be much less. The items electoral and audit also show savings.

The Treasury shows a decrease on the whole, notwithstanding the heavy item of £15,000 for revaluing under the Property-Tax Act and the sums set down for the Exhibitions. The savings are on salaries and on the large item of last year—exchange and commission. The Postal Department shows apparently a considerable increase. It is occasioned by the necessity of placing the amount on the Estimates for payments for the direct mail service with England, although those payments, exclusive of bonuses, are to come out of postages. The receipts are, however, taken into account in the estimates of revenue. There are additions for ordinary purposes. The Postal Department becomes larger each year. The increases of salaries are only for cadets and clerks of £10 each, on salaries less than £120 a year.

In the Customs Department there is increased expenditure for a new steam-launch, for rent at Auckland, and for a few other items, including expenditure for repairs to the "Hinemoa" and "Stella." In the Stamp Department there is a small saving on the votes of last year. The Education Department shows the usual increases for capitation allowances. The Native Department increase is more seeming than real: some small portion of the expenditure last year was charged to the Civil List. The Mines Department shows a small increase on last year's vote, which my colleague the Minister of Mines will take an opportunity of explaining, as also other mining expenditure proposed to be charged