

SECURITIES held by the PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE on the 31st December, 1893.

	Nominal Value.			Cost Price.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Treasury bill No. 23	15,000	0	0	15,000	0	0
Treasury bill No. 30	153,400	0	0	153,400	0	0
Treasury bill No. 31	59,000	0	0	59,000	0	0
Consolidated stock debentures Nos. 920 and 921	10,000	0	0	10,000	0	0
Consolidated stock debenture No. 835	10,400	0	0	10,400	0	0
Consolidated stock debenture No. 841	11,000	0	0	11,000	0	0
Government Loans to Local Bodies, debentures Nos. 852 to 866	15,000	0	0	15,000	0	0
Government Loans to Local Bodies, debentures No. 713	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0
Immigration and Public Works Loan, 1870, debentures Nos. 4 to 11	800	0	0	672	0	0
Immigration and Public Works Loan, 1870, debentures Nos. 1921 to 1925	500	0	0	500	0	0
General Purposes Loan, 1873, debentures Nos. 32 to 35	400	0	0	340	0	0
General Purposes Loan, 1873, certificate No. 74	800	0	0	696	0	0
Kaihu Valley Railway Company (Limited), debentures Nos. 6 to 27	22,000	0	0	23,100	0	0
Borough of South Invercargill Loan, debentures Nos. 11 to 20	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0
Borough of Masterton Gasworks Loan, debentures Nos. 1 and 2	200	0	0	200	0	0
Dunedin Waterworks Loan, debentures Nos. 1137 and 1143	100	0	0	104	0	0
Dunedin Waterworks Loan, debentures Nos. 1032, 1033, 1044, 1074, and 1075	500	0	0	535	0	0
City of Dunedin Mortgage Bonds, Nos. 552 to 555	200	0	0	228	0	0
Wellington Trust, Loan, and Investment Company (Limited), shares certificate	350	0	0	350	0	0
New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company (Limited), shares certificate	185	0	0	185	0	0
National Mortgage and Agency Company of New Zealand (Limited), shares certificate	182	0	0	182	0	0
Northern River Steam Navigation Company (Limited), shares certificate	87	10	0	87	10	0
Wellington Gas Company (Limited), shares certificate	300	0	0	300	0	0
National Bank of New Zealand (Limited), shares certificate	747	10	0	747	10	0
Bank of New Zealand, fixed-deposit receipts	629	19	8	629	19	8
Mortgages	289,680	10	11	289,680	10	11
Total	£593,462	10	7	£594,337	10	7

J. K. WARBURTON, Public Trustee.
E. F. WARREN, Accountant.

Examined and found correct except as stated in the report herewith.

JAMES EDWARD FITZGERALD,
Controller and Auditor-General.

6th June, 1894.

The CONTROLLER and AUDITOR-GENERAL to the Hon. the COLONIAL TREASURER.

SIR,—

Audit Office, 7th June, 1894.

I have the honour to enclose herewith my report on the balance-sheet of the Public Trust Office for the year 1893.

I have, &c.,

JAMES EDWARD FITZGERALD,
Controller and Auditor-General.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

REPORT ON THE BALANCE-SHEET OF THE PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE FOR THE YEAR 1893.

I REGRET that I have again to report that, owing to the unsatisfactory manner in which the accounts of the Public Trust Office are kept, I am unable to certify to the accuracy of the balance-sheet without taking exception to errors it still contains, notwithstanding the correction of the numerous mistakes in the accounts to which attention has been called by the Audit Office in the course of the past year. Out of 347 Audit queries on the past year's accounts, a considerable number of which affected the figures in the balance-sheet, in 320 instances the errors have been admitted and corrected. Of the remaining twenty-seven, eleven are still unanswered. Of the errors in the balance-sheet pointed out in my report last year, the whole have been adjusted in the accounts of the present year. It cannot, therefore, be said that the objections raised by the Audit Office have been idle or unnecessary. Nor can the above figures fail to indicate the unsatisfactory manner in which the accounts of the Public Trust Office are kept. In the accounts of any other Government office, including the Treasury and the Government Insurance Office, which are subjected to a similar vigilant scrutiny, mistakes and errors such as those here pointed out are unknown, nor would they be found in the balance-sheet of any of the principal local bodies in the colony.

Objections are taken to the following entries in the balance-sheet under review:—

1. The balance-sheet states the cash receipts for the year to have been £433,828. The total cash received, however, was only £226,376. The difference is accounted for by Treasury bills which were renewed on maturity, but where no cash passed. The result is that cash receipts are represented to have been £200,000 in excess of those of former years, which was not the fact.

2. In the *Expenses Account*,—

(1.) A sum of £17 10s. is charged as agent's salary, a part of which should have been shown as salary of an officer employed in the head office, in effect diminishing the apparent cost of the latter.