

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE of the CONSOLIDATED FUND (Revenue Account) for 1902-3, compared with Actual Expenditure of 1901-2.

	Estimate for 1902-3.	Actual for 1901-2.	Differences.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
REVENUE ACCOUNT.				
Civil List	£ 33,100	£ 32,258	£ 842	£ ..
Interest and Sinking Fund	1,893,194	1,803,939	89,255	..
Under special Acts	587,933	561,472	26,461	..
	2,514,227	2,397,669	116,558	..
Annual Appropriations,—				
Legislative Departments	21,105	22,382	..	1,277
Colonial Secretary's Department	156,291	229,717	..	73,426
Colonial Treasurer's Department	42,554	41,537	1,017	..
Justice Department	131,823	131,457	366	..
Postal and Telegraph Department	477,775	463,817	13,958	..
Customs and Marine Department	86,179	89,405	..	3,226
Stamps and Deeds Department	26,948	27,106	..	158
Education Department	529,976	502,873	27,103	..
Lunacy and Charitable Department	67,554	65,343	2,211	..
Department of Labour	9,585	9,933	..	348
Mines Department	19,481	21,159	..	1,678
Department of Agriculture	89,383	101,285	..	11,902
Working Railways Department	1,300,000	1,280,772	19,228	..
Public and School Buildings and Domains	47,900	47,852	48	..
Defence Department	189,232	193,184	..	3,952
Police Department	123,867	120,932	2,935	..
Lands and Survey Department	125,868	120,180	5,688	..
Valuation Department	26,415	25,407	1,008	..
Rates on Crown lands	900	418	482	..
	3,472,836	3,494,759	74,044	95,967
Services not provided for	3,486	..	3,486
			190,602	99,453
			99,453	..
Total	5,987,063	5,895,914	91,149	..

REVENUE.

I anticipate a revenue for the year ending 31st March next of £6,026,000, to which has to be added proceeds of debentures authorised to be raised by "The Consolidated Stock Act, 1884," amounting to £57,500, issued against the accretions of sinking fund. These figures will give total receipts amounting to £6,083,500, and, compared with similar receipts last year amounting to £6,110,070, are not unsatisfactory.

I have placed the Customs duties at £2,220,000, which will be nearly £19,000 in excess of last year's revenue. The trade of the colony is keeping up well, and it must not be lost sight of that the value of crossbred wool has appreciably increased, and that the prices of dairy and agricultural produce are exceptionally good and likely to continue so.

Although I have thought it well to keep the estimated revenue from stamps (£898,000) some £10,000 below the amount which was received last year, I shall be disappointed if it does not reach the previous figures, £908,000.

Land-tax and income I have set down at £300,000 and £185,000, and as I refer to them in a separate paragraph I will pass on to other heads.

Beer duty, £92,000, I estimate at nearly £2,000 more than last year's receipts.

For our working-railways revenue I have set down £1,875,000, as against £1,869,500 received last year, and for which I estimated £1,760,000. I am quite satisfied that we shall reach the figures I have set down, notwithstanding the liberal concessions already made, and further reductions to which I shall refer later on.

Registration and other fees I estimate at £70,000, as against £76,000 received, arising from a smaller amount of valuation fees being recoverable from the Land-tax Department.

Marine, £31,000, is substantially the same as the receipts of last year.