

## WAYS AND MEANS.

At the 31st March, 1909, the available ways and means for public-works purposes were ... .. £383,709  
and further funds were received as under:—

Balance of £1,250,000 raised under the Loan Act of 1908	...	50,000
Amount received under similar Act of 1909	...	900,000
Amount received under the Finance Act, 1909	...	1,000,000
Amount received under the New Zealand Loans Act, 1908	...	12,000
Miscellaneous receipts	...	2,833

Making a gross total of ... .. £2,348,542

The ordinary expenditure of the year amounted to £1,993,171; debentures redeemed, £300; transfer to State Coal-mines Account in respect of the Greymouth—Point Elizabeth Railway, £24,990; other charges, £17,715; thus bringing the total disbursements up to £2,036,176, and leaving a credit balance at the end of the year of £312,365.

For the current year it is proposed to provide additional funds as under:—

		£
Balance of 1909 loans	...	350,000
Under the Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1910	...	1,750,000
Under the Aid to Water-power Works Act, 1910	...	500,000
Transfer from Consolidated Fund	...	800,000
Special provision for irrigation works (section 19, Appropriation Act, 1909)	...	100,000

The above, with the balance brought forward, gives a gross total of £3,812,366. The estimated expenditure for public works for the current year (excluding separate accounts having their own ways and means) amounts to £2,855,000, thus leaving a balance of £957,366 to be carried forward to next year. Honourable members will observe that the proposed transfer from the Consolidated Fund is larger than anticipated when the Budget was brought down, but the great improvement in the revenue that has since taken place has enabled the Minister of Finance to provide a larger measure of assistance than was originally considered possible.

## RAILWAY-CONSTRUCTION.

The sections of railway opened for traffic during the last financial year, or since its close, are as under:—

	M.	ch.	Opened.
Ruatapu to Ross	7	21	1st April, 1909.
Waihoaka to Tuatapere	8	7	1st October, 1909.
Riversdale to Waikaia	13	70	1st October, 1909.
Catlin's to Houipapa	2	30	17th December, 1909.
Towai to Hukerenui	4	31	3rd May, 1910.
Wellsford to Te Hana	3	27	16th May, 1910.
Huiroa to Te Wera	7	0	20th June, 1910.
Ngahere to Blackball	3	40	16th July, 1910.
Domett to Mina	3	63	1st August, 1910.
Lawrence to Big Hill	7	37	Ready to open.
Total	61	6	

The total expenditure on railway-works last year amounted to £1,283,932. The particulars are as under:—

	£
Construction of new lines	786,946
Additions to open lines	316,464
Hutt Railway and Road Improvement Account	59,282
Railways Improvements Authorization Act Account	81,249
Wellington and Manawatu Railway Purchase Account	39,991
Total	£1,283,932

I will now refer more in detail to the several railways that have been in hand, and the proposals of the Government in regard to new works for the current year.

## KAIHU EXTENSION.

The extension of the Kaihu Valley Railway to Waima was sanctioned under the Railways Authorization and Management Act, 1891, and on the supplementary estimates last year a vote of £2,500 was taken towards making a commencement with the work. It was found impossible to put actual construction-work in hand