

tinue in existence, so that we may secure for the people of the country the highest efficiency with regard to local government, and thus obtain the very best results in every direction. In other words, what I would like to see is a general development and evolution of the local governmental machine, in order that by the use of the collective finances of every district the security, convenience, comfort, and progress of the people who reside in that district may be appreciably increased.

(3.) *Economy of Administration.*—I now come to the question of economy of administration, and here I think the figures that I have to lay before the Conference will be of sufficient importance to warrant my making at this stage detailed reference to the results as shown by the Statistical Department of the Government.

The total receipts of all the ordinary local-government bodies in New Zealand during the year ending 31st March, 1911, were £5,428,070, made up as follows:—

General rates	£	1,117,398
Special and separate rates		474,489
Licenses, tolls, rents, and other sources		1,829,613
From Government as subsidies, &c.		229,611
Total revenue		3,651,112*

to which must be added

Receipts not revenue—that is, loans, special Government grants, subscriptions, &c., for ordinary or special works	£	1,776,958
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making a grand total of receipts of £5,428,070

The expenditure of all the ordinary local-government bodies in New Zealand during the year ending 31st March, 1911, was £5,138,976, made up as follows:—

On public works	£	2,974,689
On management		333,502
Grants to Road, Town, and River Boards		6,819
Interest, &c., on loans, and maintenance other than roads, &c.		1,823,964
		<u>£5,138,976*</u>

Eliminating the Harbour Boards, whose finances are of a somewhat exceptional character, the following are the figures for all other local authorities, excluding Hospital and Charitable Aid Boards and Tramway Boards:—

Revenue raised locally	£	2,613,027
General rates included in the above		1,082,594
Cost of management		253,551

On the above figures the cost of management represented 9·70 per cent. of the total revenue raised locally, and no less than 23·42 per cent. on the total general rates, while the cost on public-works expenditure of the various Boards was 11·32.

Taking the general rates as a basis for the cost of management, they work out as follows:—

	Per Cent.
All boroughs	29·84
Boroughs under 3,000 population	39·32
Boroughs over 3,000 population	27·92
Counties	19·49
Road districts	15·38
Town districts	31·54
River districts	30·81
Land drainage districts	23·54
City and suburban drainage districts	20·95
Water-supply districts	23·48

* Shillings and pence omitted.