down to the humblest toiler all seemed to work as one man; the agitator and labour difficulties are alike unknown, the apparent goal of every group of workers being to carry out the various works well and at the lowest monetary cost. The area affected by the scheme amounts, in round figures, to 87,000 acres, and a low estimate of the rise in value of the land over and above the cost of drainage is at least £1,000,000.

The accompanying statement of accounts shows the expenditure for the year.

I have, &c.,

JAMES MACKENZIE, Under-Secretary.

The Right Hon. W. F. Massey, P.C., Minister of Lands, Wellington.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 10 OF THE RANGITAIKI LAND DRAINAGE ACT, 1910) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1915.

Receipts.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1914—April 1st.		
To Balance—Cash in Public Account		1,835 13 10
1915—March 31st.		
Debentures raised under the Rangitaiki Land Drainage Amendment Acts, 1913, and 1914	12,000 0 0	
Amendment Act, 1913..	5,000 0 0	
		17,000 0 0
"Thirds," &c., received under section 9 of the Rangitaiki Land Drainage Act, 1910		79 14 8
State Advances Amendment Act, 1914, section 3		105 12 6
		£19,021 1 0

Expenditure.

	£ s. d.
1915—March 31st.	
By Expenditure—	
New works by contract and day-labour	11,871 7 4
Purchase, equipment, and maintenance of dredges	3,416 13 7
Travelling allowances and expenses, camp allowance, and general administration expenses	284 0 7
Interest paid into Consolidated Fund on account of debentures ..	417 10 8
New Zealand Loans Act, 1908, charges and expenses	0 10 6
Balance—Cash in Public Account ..	3,030 18 4
	£19,021 1 0

Loan Account.

	£ s. d.
1915—March 31st.	
To Balance	62,000 0 0
	£62,000 0 0

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1915—March 31st.		
By Loan transferred from State Advances Department to Treasury under section 2, State Advances Amendment Act, 1914	..	45,000 0 0
Debentures raised under Rangitaiki Land Drainage Amendment Act, 1913	5,000 0 0	
Ditto, 1913 and 1914 ..	12,000 0 0	
		17,000 0 0
		£62,000 0 0

[NOTE.—The figures represent the actual amounts charged up in the Treasury books, including commitments brought down from the previous year, but do not include all commitments entered into at 31st March, 1915, as several of these had not been brought to charge at that date.]

REPORT BY CHIEF DRAINAGE ENGINEER.

SIR,—

I have the honour, in accordance with the provisions of the Rangitaiki Land Drainage Act, 1910, to report on the various services performed during the past financial year.

The completion of this year's work marks the turning-point in these drainage operations—no succeeding year will see a greater reclamation than has been brought about during this one under review. New works have been actively pushed on, and existing ones improved and maintained, much to the advantage of the area. At a moderate estimate, 75 per cent. of the total area is now permanently free from flood-waters and workable at all seasons, though in places drains will still require deepening before it can be said to be permanently drained, and the balance is sufficiently unwatered to warrant subdivisional drainage, clearing, fencing, &c., being undertaken by the various owners.