

1920.
NEW ZEALAND.

TOURIST AND HEALTH RESORTS DEPARTMENT

(ANNUAL REPORT OF THE)

BY THE MINISTER OF TOURIST AND HEALTH RESORTS, HON. W. NOSWORTHY.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

THE MINISTER IN CHARGE OF TOURIST AND HEALTH RESORTS DEPARTMENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

MY LORD,

Wellington, 27th July, 1920.

I have the honour to submit to Your Excellency the report of the Department of Tourist and Health Resorts for the year ended 31st March, 1920.

I have, &c.,

W. NOSWORTHY,

Minister of Tourist and Health Resorts.

His Excellency the Governor-General of New Zealand.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER OF TOURIST AND HEALTH RESORTS.

SIR,—

Wellington, 18th July, 1920.

I have the honour to submit herewith my report for the year ended 31st March, 1920.

I have, &c.,

B. M. WILSON,

General Manager.

The Hon. W. Nosworthy, Minister of Tourist and Health Resorts.

ANNUAL REPORT.

I REPORTED last year that the direct revenue for the year ending the 31st March, 1919, was the highest in the history of the Department—viz., £33,689—and I am pleased to report that this year these figures have been considerably exceeded, as the returns give a total of £42,218, an increase of £8,529. This advance may fairly be taken as marking a growth in popularity of our scenic resorts as they become better known in Australia, America, and Europe, and it is safe to look forward with confidence to a considerable advance on the figures for the coming season.

The most important fixture in which the services of the Department were availed of was the return visit of H.M.S. "New Zealand" with Admiral Viscount Jellicoe. The whole of the official arrangements in connection with his visit to Rotorua, and his tour of the South Island, and the visits of officers on visits of inspection to the West Coast and other places were carried out by officers of this Department.

There has been a decided increase in the number of visitors from Australia, and for the first time for many seasons there has been no untoward happenings to retard visitors from crossing to New Zealand. Naturally in past seasons the war, the epidemic, and other events have made themselves felt on the tourist traffic.

During the past season a great deal of advertising has been done by way of sending lantern-slides to be used in lecturing-tours in America and England. Among those using them largely in America are Miss M. L. Clemens, Miss Bloomfield, Mr. C. H. Poole, and others. The

booklets descriptive of the alpine district and Rotorua were republished, and the Department assisted in the publication of works by Mr. W. Lawson as follows: "Picton to Christchurch via Kaikoura"; "Across Marble Mountains" (which is a description of Nelson and Takaka districts); "Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty"; "Mount Egmont"; and "The Wonderful West Coast."

The expenditure on all resorts has increased from £53,656 to £68,858, a result mainly due to the increased cost of supplies, and the cost-of-living increases in salaries of the officers.

SCHEDULE SHOWING FINANCIAL POSITION AT MAIN RESORTS.

Resort.	Year 1919-20.				Year 1918-19.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.	Excess of Receipts over Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.	Excess of Receipts over Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Te Aroha	1,798	3,281	1,483	..	1,370	2,813	1,443	..
Rotorua	19,245	26,435	7,190	..	17,631	18,349	718	..
Rotorua Acclimatization District	1,065	1,043	..	22	789	506	..	283
Waitomo Caves	6,699	3,886	..	2,813	3,866	2,815	..	1,051
Hanmer Springs	2,327	5,029	2,779	..	2,272	4,097	1,825	..
Hermitage, Mount Cook	5,912	5,918	6	..	4,529	5,370	841	..
Te Anau and Manapouri steamers, Glade House, and Milford Track	1,978	2,621	643	..	849	2,188	1,339	..
Queenstown	179	627	448	..	158	488	330	..

NOTE.—No allowance is made in these figures for interest on capital expenditure or for depreciation of plant or buildings.

Return of Receipts.

The following table shows the receipts of the Department from all sources since 1914-15:—

	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts	26,630	31,067	33,137	32,935	33,689	42,218

The amount of the passenger bookings at the different agencies shows an increase from £30,812 to £53,369.

Return of Expenditure.

The following is a comparison of the expenditure for the past six years:—

	£	£	£	£	£	£
Consolidated Fund	49,823	47,966	45,785	48,732	53,656	68,858
Public Works Fund	8,232	5,167	1,094	967	1,620	6,194

I give below a short summary of the operations of the Department in the various places under its control.

ROTORUA.

Tourist Season.—The value of tickets sold exceeds the total of the previous year by £660, while the fares and launch hires in connection with the "round trip" show an increase of over £900 on the revenue of the previous year.

Buildings.—The usual maintenance work has been attended to, the principal items being the re-roofing of a large portion of the Pavilion Bath building and the launch-master's house at Te Wairoa with malthoid; the renovation of departmental residences at Kuirau and Whakarewarewa, the head gardener's residence, and the exterior of the Sanatorium. Various buildings in the gardens have also been repainted, notably the Duchess bath and the bowling pavilion.

Gardens and Reserves.—The new grass tennis-courts behind the main bath building are now in grass, and should be ready for playing next season if the necessary equipment in the form of subdividing the ranges of courts can be provided in time.

A commencement has also been made with the establishment of the asphalt tennis-courts on a new site, fronting the Queen's drive and opposite the new grass courts. The site has been cleared, excavated, roughly levelled, and prepared for the concrete bed. A new site was necessary owing to the continuous damage done to the asphalt on the present courts by sulphur deposits underneath.

The new sports-ground for football and hockey has been cleared, ploughed, disked, and harrowed, and is now ready for sowing in the early spring.

A large area formerly in scrub has been cleared behind the main bath building, and is being used as a nursery for native plants and shrubs. When sufficiently advanced these will be transplanted to various parts of the gardens. This is in pursuance of a policy of making a greater feature of native flora than has hitherto been done.

The boundary-fence around the model pa at Whakarewarewa is being renewed, special care being given to the palisading of the front entrance.

Acclimatization.

Deer.—During the season twenty-one licenses at a fee of £3 each were issued to shoot red-deer stags, and each licensee was allowed two heads of not less than ten points each. A total of thirty-four heads was secured, ranging from ten to fourteen points.

The red-deer herds at Mahia Peninsula and Lake Waikaremoana are now increasing, and the addition of new blood in past seasons should benefit both herds. A separate license was issued for each of these herds and several fair heads were shot, the bush stags from the Waikaremoana Forest having good heavy antlers. Some very fine stags are reported as having been seen in this locality, but they are mostly in the heavy bush country, rather than near the lake.

One fine full-grown hind was presented to the Department by Mr. Shrimpton, of Hastings, and one fallow buck was presented to the Department by the Wellington Zoo in exchange for a stag of the same species given to the Zoo by this Department.

Eight Sambar deer were captured by the Ranger in the Himatangi district, and were brought to Rotorua for liberation with the existing herds of the same species.

Feathered Game.—Twenty-eight young pheasants were reared by the Ranger, 132 were purchased from the Auckland Game Farm at Cambridge, and eight from the North Canterbury Acclimatization Society. All of these (total 168) were liberated in various parts of the Rotorua Acclimatization District.

Fishing.

Distribution of Trout-fry.—During the past season 165,000 rainbow-trout fry were liberated in the following waters of the Rotorua district: Okataina Lake, 16,000; Okareka Lake, 2,000; Rotoma Lake, 20,000; Okara Lake, 4,000; Whakatane River, 50,000; Whirinaki River, 6,000; Tahanatara River, 15,000; Tikitapu Lake, 2,000; Rotokakahi Lake, 2,000; Ngahewa Lake, 4,000; Rerewhakaitea Lake, 2,000; Waikato River, 10,000; Mokai Stream, 6,000; Rangitaiki River, 26,000.

The fish in Lake Okataina are in very good condition, and in compliance with numerous requests a small launch has been put in this lake, where it is now available for hire by fishing-parties.

Waikaremoana Hatchery.—This hatchery was enlarged, and an outfit of ten new hatching-boxes was added to the plant. These were fitted with the necessary wire screens for baskets and trays to facilitate the stripping and hatching of the requisite amount of ova and fry required to stock up the lakes and rivers in the Wairoa (Hawke's Bay) County. The whole of the work of renovating the hatchery and stripping was carried out by the Ranger.

The following quantities of ova were received and hatched and liberated in this district: 50,000 brown-trout ova from Marine Department Hatchery, Hakataramea; 60,000 brown-trout ova stripped from Lake Waikaremoana trout; 250,000 rainbow-trout ova from Rotorua hatchery; 205,000 rainbow-trout ova stripped from Lake Waikaremoana trout: total ova laid down in hatchery boxes, 565,000.

In the liberation valuable assistance was given to the Ranger by Messrs. George Ormond and A. Hall, the president and the secretary respectively of the Wairoa Rod and Gun Club.

Electrical.

During the year thirty-six new consumers were added, and 512,163 units of energy were generated at the power-house. The usual maintenance work was carried out, and the only noteworthy fact in connection with this branch of the work is that we have now reached a stage when the machines at Okere cannot fully meet the public demand for energy. The fact has been recognized by the Government, and arrangements are now under way for the erection of a new power-house on the site farther down the river, where greater water-power will be available. Certain formalities are necessary in the taking of the Native land for site and roadways, and these will take time.

Water and Drainage.

During the year eighteen new consumers have been connected with the water-mains, and eleven drainage connections have been made. The wooden water-mains still continue to give us considerable trouble with leaks, the total number during the year averaging eleven per working-day. It is satisfactory, however, to be able to record that the work of replacing these wooden mains with iron ones is now definitely in progress, and during the year a total of about 58,000 ft. of 6 in. mains has been laid in various streets. The work has been very much delayed by the disorganization of shipping through strikes in Australia, but matters in that respect have considerably improved, and long-delayed shipments of pipes are now coming to hand.

Work for other Departments.

A considerable amount of work (running into several thousand pounds in value) has been carried out by the works staff of this Department for the Defence and Public Health Departments, principally the former. The work was mostly in connection with the Military Hospital on Pukeroa, and comprised plumbing, installation of pumps and pipe-line for supply of hot mineral water for massage treatment and baths, electrical installations, water-supply, drainage, and concrete-work in connection with baths. This enables these Departments to dispense with the necessity for keeping a mechanical staff in Rotorua to carry out these works.

Bath Building and Balneological Work.

During the year Dr. A. S. Herbert, who was for so many years in charge of this branch of the Department's activities, found it necessary for private reasons to return to England, and the Department was reluctantly obliged to part with the services of this most courteous and capable officer. Arrangements have, however, been made with Dr. Herbert to act in an advisory capacity in England, so that New Zealand will not be altogether deprived of his services. The vacancy was filled by the appointment of Dr. J. D. C. Duncan, formerly in charge of Hammer Springs (but who was absent for four or five years serving with the military forces at the front).

Dr. Duncan reports:—

“In the aggregate there has been an increase in the general receipts for the year: this mainly due to fees from the Sanatorium patients and baths.

“In July, 1919, the Sanatorium was handed over by the Defence Department, and reconstituted for civilian patients. Also, later in the year, the King George V Military Hospital was able to deal with the majority of their patients requiring mineral-water treatment. This made our own baths available for a greater number of the general public.

“For the first half-year the consultation fees were markedly diminished, owing, no doubt, to the various administrative changes.

“During the past year many changes have occurred in the massage staff, which at times has led to considerable difficulty in the work. However, the present staff, which has been chosen with a keen regard to qualifications and efficiency, are quite alive to the best interests of the place, and the work should be maintained at a higher standard.

“Naturally, following upon a portion of the strictest economy in expenditure during the war, there will be a greater outlay required on repairs and additions to keep the baths and treatments in line with the progress of science during the past few years. Already equipment brought from the New Zealand General Hospital in England has been purchased from the Defence Department, and has, in part, been installed; however, extra accommodation will be required to bring our treatments to the level of the most up-to-date spas in Europe.

“Also, at the present time various works are in hand for an augmented supply of mineral waters, as the past season has indicated an increasing popularity of this place, and with the present tide of tourists and patients we have not a sufficient supply of mineral waters to meet the demand for our treatments.

“The work of painting and repairing the main bath building is in progress, and, when finished, will greatly add to the attractiveness of this place.

“Since I have taken over administrative control of the baths at Rotorua I have had the opportunity of appreciating the zeal and good work of the various members of my staff, and would like to place on record my indebtedness to their interest and co-operation in carrying out my work as Government Balneologist.

“In conclusion, I should like to state that, with the closing of the spas in foreign countries to British and Allied nations, one expects that a fair proportion of patients will migrate to our Rotorua Spa for treatment. Especially does one anticipate an influx of visitors from America and Australia. Therefore, it would be a wise policy to put our house in order to meet this highly probable contingency.”

The total revenue from this branch was £7,621, against £7,264 for last year.

WAITOMO CAVES.

The year just ended has been very successful. The increased popularity of this resort has resulted in an increase in cash of £2,833 over last year, and 3,109 more people visited the hostel and caves than last year.

All buildings, fences, and tracks have been maintained in good order throughout the year, and lately a start was made on the work to provide a gravitation water-supply for the hostel. Good progress has been made on this work, and a temporary supply of water has been laid on until more labour is available to enable the work to be completed.

The following is a statement of receipts received for the year: Accommodation, £3,597; cave fees, £2,785; equipment, £267; rent, £11; cattle, £32; photographs, £7: total, £6,699. Number of visitors, 7,721.

A commencement has been made in carrying out a scheme which will provide for a greatly improved water-supply for this establishment. Rights have been secured to the output of a good spring, situated in high country about 70 chains from the hostel. This will enable the water to be brought by gravitation, thus eliminating the present expense of pumping an inferior water from the river. The reservoir has been placed in the hill above the house, which will enable the water to be delivered at the hostel at a fair pressure in case of fire.

TE AROHA.

Altogether Te Aroha has had a most successful year, the receipts showing a satisfactory increase from £1,370 to £1,798. The baths taken increased from 28,466 to 38,376. All the bath buildings, springs, and playing-areas were maintained in good order, and the ground for two new playing-areas was surveyed and a start made in a work which will have the effect of relieving the congestion which at holiday time sometimes prevails.

WAIKAREMOANA, TE PUIA, AND MORERE.

There is little to report in connection with these resorts. At the first-named it was decided to discontinue the system of paying a subsidy to the management, and to place a permanent married couple in charge. Various minor repairs will be effected before the coming season; but there is great need for a more commodious and up-to-date building. The proposed new building at Te Puia was not proceeded with on account of the cost, and the caretakers, Mr. and Mrs. Cottrell, have maintained the baths at great difficulty and inconvenience. Minor improvements were effected at Morere, and it is intended to place a caretaker permanently in charge.

TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK.

The shelter-hut at Whakapapanui was completed and was largely availed of. It will certainly be found to be inadequate for the growing traffic, and the erection of further huts and the making of road is now under discussion between the Department and the gentlemen most interested in the sport and development of the district.

HERMITAGE.

The season has been an exceptionally heavy one at this resort. Over nine hundred people visited the Hermitage, and the management was compelled to occasionally decline visitors, though

tents were supplied for the overflow. The extension of the veranda mentioned in my last report was duly completed, and resulted in a considerable improvement. The weather being generally an improvement of that of last season, the guiding staff was kept busy, and the fees for guiding and equipment and livery rose from £592 to £945.

A considerable amount of repairing-work and improvements was carried out during the off season. The repairs to the King Memorial Hut and the Sefton Bivouac, which were damaged by snow the year before, were completed after the close of last season. This was quite a big job, and it was necessary to almost double-timber the building throughout.

A 50 ft. suspension bridge was almost constructed across Black-birch Creek, thus connecting the Governor's Bush and the Sabastopol tracks. This is a very popular walk, and the bridge was much appreciated, especially by elderly visitors.

Every care was taken to protect the reserves from fire, and I am pleased to say that none has occurred.

The chamois have been seen on many parts of the reserves this season: herds of between thirty and forty, and as many as seventy, have been noticed at one time, including many young. The thar, too, have often been noticed by parties while on excursions. Twice during the summer a herd of twenty was observed by the Chief Guide on the Sealy Range, behind the Hermitage. By the number of chamois and thar noticed at different times they are apparently steadily on the increase.

The following is a list of the high ascents during the season:—

List of High Ascents at Hermitage during Season of 1919-20.

Date.	Name of Peak.	Height, in Feet.	Climbed by	Name of Guide.	Route and Remarks.
1919.					
June 12	Mount Sealy	8,651	Miss E. Masterton ..	F. Milne, J. McDonald	Ascent by north face and descent by west face from Mueller Hut.
Dec. 3	Minarets Peaks ..	10,058	Miss D. Theomin ..	P. Graham	Ascent and descent by east face from Halte Brun Hut.
Dec. 22	Mount Johnston ..	8,858	Mr. D. Seannell, Mr. H. A. Holl	F. Milne ..	Ascent by west face and descent by north-west <i>arête</i> from Ball Hut.
Dec. 23	Mount Blackburn ("Rotten Tommy")	7,835	Miss B. Holdsworth, Mr. H. Chambers	P. Graham	Ascent and descent by western <i>arête</i> .
Dec. 25	Mount Johnston ..	8,858	Miss D. Theomin ..	F. Milne ..	Ascent and descent by west face from Ball Hut
Dec. 28	Mount Green	9,325	Miss H. Lorimer, Miss D. Theomin, Mr. H. A. Holl	F. Milne ..	Ascent and descent by east face of north <i>arête</i> from Malte Brun Hut.
Dec. 29	Minarets Peak	10,058	Miss M. Macpherson, Mr. D. Macpherson	P. Graham	Ascent and descent by east face from Malte Brun Hut.
Dec. 29	Aiguille Range	9,731	Miss D. Theomin ..	F. Milne ..	Ascent by north-east <i>arête</i> ; descent by north-east face from Malte Brun Hut.
Dec. 30	Mount Hamilton	9,915	Miss M. Lorimer, Mr. H. A. Holl	F. Milne ..	Ascent and descent by west face and north <i>arête</i> from Malte Brun Hut.
1920.					
Jan. 6	Mount Massey	7,800	Miss H. Lorimer, Mr. H. Sloman, Mr. H. A. Holl	Guideless	Ascent by north face and east <i>arête</i> ; descent by west face to Sladden Glacier.
Jan. 6	Mount Johnston	8,858	Miss I. Chambers ..	P. Graham	Ascent and descent by west face from Ball Hut.
Jan. 7	Mount Spence	7,864	Mr. H. Sloman, Mr. H. A. Holl	F. Milne ..	Ascent and descent by north-east <i>arête</i> from Barron's Saddle.
Jan. 7	Mount Montgomery ..	7,661	Ditto	F. Milne ..	Ascent by south <i>arête</i> to Mueller Glacier.
Jan. 7	Mount Malte Brun ..	10,421	Miss B. Holdsworth, Mr. H. Chambers	Guideless	Ascent and descent by west <i>arête</i> from Malte Brun Hut.
Jan. 8	Mount Hamilton	9,915	Mr. H. Chambers ..	P. Graham	Ascent and descent by west face and north <i>arête</i> from Malte Brun Hut.
Jan. 21	Mount Hutton	9,297 and 9,275	Miss M. Lorimer, Mr. H. Sloman, Mr. H. A. Holl	F. Milne ..	Ascent and descent by western face of <i>arête</i> from the Murchison Glacier.
Jan. 25	Lean Peak	8,000	Miss D. Theomin ..	P. Graham	Ascent and descent by south <i>arête</i> from Copland Pass and Hooker Hut.
Jan. 26	Mount Jean	8,000	Miss M. Lorimer, Miss D. Theomin, Mrs. Linden, Mr. H. A. Holl	Guideless	Ascent and descent by west face from Sladden Glacier.
Jan. 26	Mount Jeannette	8,000	Miss M. Lorimer, Mr. H. A. Holl	Guideless	Ascent by eastern <i>arête</i> ; descent by east face from Sladden Glacier.
Jan. 29	Mount Sealy	8,651	Mr. Wm. Williamson, Mr. Hadley	P. Graham	Ascent and descent by west face.
Jan. 29	Ruareka Peak	8,000	Mr. H. A. Holl ..	F. Milne ..	Traverse—ascending to the Copland Pass, traversing Lean and Edith Peaks, thence by main divide to summit of Ruareka; descent by east face to Hooker Glacier.
Jan. 30	Pibrac Peak	8,472	Miss D. Theomin, Mr. H. A. Holl	F. Milne ..	Ascent by western <i>arête</i> ; descent by north face and Mona Glacier.

List of High Ascents at Hermitage during Season of 1919-20—continued.

Date.	Name of Peak.	Height, in Feet.	Climbed by	Name of Guide.	Route and Remarks.
1920.					
Feb. 1	Mount Sealy	8,651	Mr. Stott, Mrs. Stott	J. Stout ..	Ascent and descents by west face.
Feb. 2	Mount Darby	8,287	Mr. L. H. Lindon, Mrs. Lindon	P. Graham	Traverse—ascend by north <i>arête</i> ; descent by east face.
Feb. 2	Mount Jeannette ..	8,000	Ditto	P. Graham	Ascent and descent by west face.
Feb. 5	Mount Maunga-Ma ..	8,335	Mrs. Linden ..	P. Graham	Ascent and descent by east face from Mueller Hut.
Feb. 12	Anzac Peak	7,623 and 8,323	Mrs. Linden ..	F. Milne ..	Ascent and descent by north face from Memorial Hut.
Feb. 12	Lean Peak	8,000	Mr. L. H. Lindon ..	P. Graham	Ascent and descent by south <i>arête</i> from Copland Pass and Hooker Hut.
Feb. 13	Mount Johnston ..	8,858	Mrs. Linden ..	F. Milne ..	Ascent and descent by west face from Ball Hut.
Feb. 17	Mount Sealy	8,651	Mr. J. Barker, Miss D. Barker, Mr. D. Deans, Mr. C. Deans, Mr. C. Burdon, Miss S. Fox, Miss N. Smithson	P. Graham	Ascent and descent by west face and thence over Annette and down ridge to Sabastopol and the Hermitage.
Feb. 18	Mount Malte Brun ..	10,451	Mrs. Linden ..	F. Milne ..	Ascent and descent by west <i>arête</i> from Malte Brun Hut.
Feb. 23	Ruareka Peak	8,000	Mr. L. H. Lindon, Mrs. Lindon	F. Milne, J. Stout	Ascent and descent by east face from Hooker Hut.
Mar. 26	Turner Peak	7,540	Miss E. Joachim ..	P. Graham	Traverse—ascend by way of Ball Pass and east face, descent north-western face from Hooker Hut.

THE ANAU—MILFORD TRACK.

It is satisfactory to note that this popular route is again regaining its popularity, and last season was an exceptionally heavy one. Unfortunately, the rush was somewhat unexpected, and some difficulty was experienced in the early part of the season. However, this year the track staff will be sent down considerably earlier to get the track and the boats in proper order.

Additional accommodation will be provided at the Quintin huts and at Pompolona, and it is hoped to get the telephone-line on the track restored. Arrangements have been made with Mrs. Sutherland to again open her residence for visitors, and this should have the effect of relieving congestion at Sandfly Point. The season was marred by an unfortunate occurrence resulting in the loss of a Dunedin lady, Miss Reed, who in bad weather became separated from her companions, and was never seen again. Active search was made by the guiding staff, the police, and others, but without effect.

OVERSEAS AGENCIES.

The usual annual reports have been received from the officers in charge of Melbourne and Sydney agencies, and show that a large amount of work has been satisfactorily dealt with, and that the offices have been of great use to other Government Departments. The expenditure at these places has been—

	Sydney.	Melbourne.
	£	£
Rent	390	300
Salaries (including clerical assistance)	465	670
Miscellaneous	711*	176

REPORT OF THE RESIDENT OFFICER, ROTORUA.

I beg to submit my annual report for the year ending 31st March, 1920.

During the year the maintenance work on the streets and roads has been attended to as far as funds would permit. As regards suburban roads, 48 chains have been re-formed, 71 chains have been ploughed and re-formed with the small grader, and all have been coated with pumice. Some 26 chains of the metalled street in the inner area of the town have been hand-picked, given a coating of 2½ in. metal, rolled, and blinded with either metal chips or obsidian gravel from Hemo Gorge.

The advent of a motor tractor in the town afforded a long-sought opportunity of doing some heavy ploughing on the Wairoa Road and on Fenton Street South. The scarifying of these roads would have sufficed, but, as we have not the necessary implements, ploughing had to be resorted to. Fifty chains were thus treated, and much more was necessary, but a halt had to be called on account of a depleted exchequer. The result was satisfactory so far as it went, but in the case of Fenton Street the full advantage was not secured because of the fact that we could not afford to put a heavy-enough sheeting of 2½ in. blue metal on the scarified surface, and we have not a heavy-enough road-roller to give the metalled surface the necessary consolidation. As a consequence the work done cannot be regarded with much satisfaction, but it must serve as a temporary measure, and will probably suffice till after the winter season. That portion of Fenton Street from Erucera Street intersection to the goods entrance of the railway-yards has to carry very heavy traffic, and will have to be similarly treated, but it is useless disturbing the present road-surface till we have a sufficient reserve of blue metal with which to sheet the section.

* Includes cost of furnishing new offices.

My remarks in last year's report as to the difficulty in carrying on with insufficient revenue apply with added force to the year under review. The difficulty has appreciably increased with the rising prices of materials and labour. Two separate awards giving local bodies' workmen increases of wages have been made during the year, and although the Department is exempt from the operations of awards the municipal staff had been given the increases in wages, thus putting them on the same footing as men employed in other boroughs. These increases of wages were inevitable, but in the absence of rating-powers or some other means of supplementing our fixed revenue the resultant effect on our finances is disastrous. All new work such as increasing our area of tarred-macadam road-formation has had to be stopped, and practically no new tarred footpaths have been laid down during the year. Indeed, several sections of footpaths previously tarred but now in urgent need of renovation cannot be dealt with. This is the first year in our civic history in which such a condition of affairs has had to be recorded, and the consequent condition of the streets is not viewed with any pride or satisfaction by those responsible for the maintenance.

The levy on the Town Account made by the Waikato Hospital and Charitable Aid Board for the current financial year was £237 6s. 8d., as compared with £246 18s. 5d. for the previous year. To meet this a rate of $\frac{1}{10}$ d. in the pound on the capital value was levied. The levy for fire-prevention purposes made by the Fire Board was £720 5s., as compared with £418 for the previous year. This was met with a rate of $\frac{1}{16}$ d. in the pound on the value of buildings within the town area. The library rate was $\frac{1}{18}$ d. in the pound.

Forty-two building permits were issued during the year for new buildings and alterations to existing ones, the total value of such being £15,580. The rateable (capital) value of the town is £528,359. I attach a statement of the Rotorua Town Account.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE TOWN OF ROTORUA FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1919.

General Account.

	Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Treasury—				
Bath fees	1,398	9 8		
Fees and fines	2	5 0		
Rents (Crown lands)	2,156	1 5		
			3,556	16 1
Sanitary service fees			443	9 3
Public pound fees			175	0 0
Licenses and fees—				
Building permits	41	0 0		
Vehicle	79	10 0		
Driver	7	18 0		
Publicans'	208	0 0		
Auctioneers'	100	10 0		
Shooting-gallery	3	0 0		
Billiard-rooms	28	0 0		
Hall	33	15 0		
Show	13	0 0		
Hawkers'	0	10 0		
Second-hand dealers'	0	5 0		
Storage of explosives	2	5 0		
Dog-registration fees	24	12 6		
			542	5 6
Rents—				
Real property	7	10 0		
Explosive magazines	6	5 0		
			13	15 0
Peace celebrations—public subscriptions, &c.			225	15 9
Miscellaneous—				
Contributions to works	25	8 6		
Material sold	16	0 0		
Sale of by-laws	0	8 0		
Refunds—				
Charitable aid	9	8 11		
Government insurance	1	7 0		
Miscellaneous	1	8 2		
Guides' badges	0	10 0		
			54	10 7
Ten-per-cent. penalty on overdue rates			18	10 10
Debit balance at 31st March, 1920			765	10 8
			<u>£5,795</u>	<u>13 8</u>
Debit balance at 31st March, 1919				563 16 10
Administration—				
Salaries	299	18 7		
Printing and advertising	6	8 0		
Audit	6	0 0		
Legal expenses	4	4 0		
Bank charges	0	10 0		
Interest on overdraft	22	1 6		
Office expenses	20	12 9		
				359 14 10
Public works—				
Maintenance of streets and roads (labour and material)	3,266	6 3		
Tree topping and pruning	62	13 6		
Street-lighting	192	10 6		
				3,521 10 3
Sanitary service—				
Labour	535	7 0		
Fodder and plant	156	6 3		
				691 13 3
Public pound—Wages, fodder, and advertising				136 19 10
Public health—Sanitary inspection				89 3 1
Peace celebration—Advertising, prize-money, &c.				310 13 3
Licensing - expenses—Tauranga County Council				22 19 7
Miscellaneous—				
Insurance (fire and accident)	46	4 6		
Dog-registration	26	11 1		
Charitable aid	2	2 10		
Maintenance of town clock	20	0 0		
Sundries	4	4 4		
				99 2 9
			<u>£5,795</u>	<u>13 8</u>

Separate Accounts.

No. 1. HOSPITAL AND CHARITABLE AID ACCOUNT.

	Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Rates—				
Arrears	73	1 10		
Current	196	10 3		
			269	12 1
			<u>£269</u>	<u>12 1</u>
Debit balance at 31st March, 1919				25 8 10
Waikato Hospital Board				237 6 8
Printing and advertising				3 7 10
Refund rates overpaid				0 7 7
Postages				0 12 6
Credit balance at 31st March, 1920				2 8 8
			<u>£269</u>	<u>12 1</u>

No. 2. FIRE-PREVENTION ACCOUNT.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Credit balance at 31st March, 1919	..	41 16 3	Rotorua Fire Board	..	644 12 6
Rates—	£	s. d.	Printing and advertising	..	3 7 10
Arrears	..	120 1 8	Refund rates overpaid	..	0 8 3
Current	..	634 0 11	Postages	..	0 12 6
		754 2 7	Credit balance at 31st March, 1920	..	146 17 9
		<u>£795 18 10</u>			<u>£795 18 10</u>

No. 3. LIBRARY ACCOUNT.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Credit balance at 31st March, 1919	..	4 1 7	Salaries	..	72 10 0
Rates—			Books and papers	..	86 0 10
Arrears	..	2 5 1	Maintenance of building	..	8 15 3
Current	..	65 9 8	Light and fuel	..	12 13 8
		67 14 9	Stationery, postages, &c.	..	13 16 0
Subscriptions	..	62 2 4			
Rents of office	..	30 0 0			
Hire of room for meetings	..	14 7 6			
Debit balance at 31st March, 1920	..	15 9 8			
		<u>£193 15 10</u>			<u>£193 15 10</u>

No. 4. CEMETERY ACCOUNT.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Credit balance at 31st March, 1919	..	12 13 9	Concreting and cementing grave of late Mrs. Forsyth	..	7 10 0
Fees for sale of exclusive right	..	18 0 0	Rental of telephone	..	5 10 0
Burial fees	..	13 8 0	Bank charges	..	0 10 0
			Credit balance at 31st March, 1920	..	30 11 9
		<u>£44 1 9</u>			<u>£44 1 9</u>

Reconciliation of Account Balances with Bank and Cash.

<i>Accounts.</i>			<i>Bank and Cash.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
General Account, <i>Dr.</i>	..	765 10 8	Rotorua Town Account, <i>Dr.</i>	..	581 18 5
Library Account, <i>Dr.</i>	..	15 9 8	Outstanding cheques	..	49 5 6
		781 0 4	Overbanked	..	0 10 0
Hospital and Charitable Aid Account, <i>Cr.</i>	..	2 8 8			631 13 11
Fire-prevention Account, <i>Cr.</i>	..	146 17 9	Rotorua Town Cemetery Account, <i>Cr.</i>	..	30 11 9
Cemetery Account, <i>Cr.</i>	..	30 11 9			
		179 18 2			
		<u>£601 2 2</u>			<u>£601 2 2</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

<i>Assets.</i>			<i>Liabilities.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Cash in bank—Cemetery Account	..	30 11 9	Overdraft at bank, Rotorua Town Account	581 18 5	
Outstanding rates, 1919–20	..	109 8 4	Outstanding cheques, Rotorua Town Account	..	49 5 6
Outstanding rates, 1918–19	..	19 17 0	Outstanding accounts, Rotorua Town Account	..	201 2 5
		129 5 4			
Outstanding rents	..	114 3 8			
Outstanding sanitary fees	..	316 14 11			
Sundry accounts	..	47 8 10			
Estimated assets—					
Library buildings and furniture	..	600 0 0			
Sanitary depot, building, and plant	..	80 0 0			
Poundkeeper's cottage	..	80 0 0			
General working-plant	..	440 0 0			
Rowing-club shed	..	200 0 0			
Office furniture and plant	..	125 0 0			
Cemetery chapel	..	90 0 0			
Benzine-magazine	..	90 0 0			
		<u>£2,343 5 6</u>			<u>£732 6 4</u>

14th June, 1920.

WM. HILL,
Resident Officer, Rotorua.*Approximate Cost of Paper.*—Preparation, not given; printing (630 copies), £10.

By Authority: MARCUS F. MARKS, Government Printer, Wellington.—1920.