

representation in the larger towns and cities where the facts do not as yet justify the establishment of our own offices. Following this policy, agents have been appointed during the past year in Grey-mouth and Palmerston North, and further appointments at other centres are proposed.

The booking bureaux within the Dominion continue to handle a very large proportion of the traffic, but a decided decline in business which became evident from the beginning of 1931 has seriously affected the returns for the past financial year.

Steps have been taken to secure all possible economy in operation, and staff has in some cases been drafted to vacancies elsewhere. Steps are now being considered to effect further economies, particularly at Auckland and Wellington, while maintaining the high standard of efficiency set in previous periods. The staff at the bureaux have again been called upon to work long hours during the summer, and leave is granted only during the autumn and winter months.

The Department provides and directly controls facilities at various scenic resorts, particularly at Waitomo Caves, Rotorua, Morere Springs, Lake Waikaremoana, Te Aroha, Queenstown, and on the Glade House—Milford Track. These activities have unfortunately been affected financially by the general falling-off in traffic, and every endeavour has been made to reduce costs of operation. The Department also controls, under the Tourist and Health Resorts Control Act, a number of reserves of scenic value, and properties, several of which have been leased (usually under stringent conditions) to private interests. The more important of these are the Hermitage and Reserves in the Mount Cook area, Te Anau Hotel and Reserves, Maruia Springs Reserve (recently leased), and the Wairakei Valley Reserve. The Department also controls the bird sanctuaries on Little Barrier and Resolution Islands.

Action is continuously taken to improve the tourist facilities in the Dominion, and this Department, in conjunction with the Public Works Department, carries out work of this nature in many parts of the Dominion.

In Appendix A of this report references are made to the various works undertaken during the past year. The appendix also contains extracts from the annual reports of officers controlling branches within the Dominion and overseas.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the Department during the financial year under review was £68,524, a decrease of £6,559 over that of the previous year, and the expenditure, including the Overseas Publicity Branch, was £120,413, as against £130,615 for the previous year.

The following tables give details of revenue and expenditure for the past six years; also the receipts and expenditure at the main tourist resorts:—

RETURN OF RECEIPTS, 1925-31.						
	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts	55,391	61,674	65,447	72,658	75,083	68,524

Return of Expenditure, 1925-31.						
	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Consolidated Fund ..	70,794	76,378	76,865	82,987	130,615*	120,413*
Public Works Fund ..	45,096	31,981	36,673	39,254	20,546	60,288

* Includes expenditure of Overseas Publicity Branch.

Passenger Booking Branch—Ticket Sales.—1929-30, £201,766; 1930-31, £173,930: decrease, £27,836.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE AT MAIN RESORTS.

Resort.	Year 1930-31.				Year 1929-30.			
	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	1,244	3,541	2,297	..	1,427	3,391	1,964	..
Rotorua	38,367	39,330	963	..	38,090	34,829	..	3,261
Rotorua Acclimatization District ..	1,456	855	..	601	2,677	2,074	..	603
Waitomo Caves	10,352	8,391	..	1,961	12,968	9,022	..	3,946
Lake House, Waikaremoana	2,491	3,585	1,094	..	2,644	3,042	398	..
Queenstown	223	735	512	..	354	1,069	715	..
Glade House and Milford Track ..	2,845	7,179	4,334	..	3,791	6,449	2,658	..
Morere Hot Springs	539	394	..	145	715	436	..	279
Passenger-booking Bureaux	7,893	12,296	4,403	..	9,704	13,494	3,790	..