

I put before the Committee a statement of the actual and the estimated expenditure for the year :—

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	NET EXPENDITURE TO 27TH MAY, WITH ESTIMATE ADDED FOR JUNE MONTH.	EXPENDITURE AS ESTIMATED.	DIFFERENCES.			
			In Excess of Estimate.		Less than Estimate.	
Civil List ... ..	£ 28,738 9 8	£ 29,750 0 0	£ ...	s. d.	£ 1,011 10 4	s. d.
Permanent Charges—						
Interest and Sinking Fund ... ..	598,638 6 9	742,807 10 0	...		144,169 3 3	
Under Acts of the Legislature ... ..	44,050 19 8	47,110 15 6	...		3,059 15 10	
" " " " State Forests...	15,000 0 0	...	15,000 0 0		...	
Appropriations—						
Class I.—Public Departments ... ..	81,631 12 6	76,731 5 1	4,900 7 5		...	
II.—Law and Justice ... ..	71,259 7 1	67,355 15 0	3,903 12 1		...	
III.—Postal and Telegraphic ... ..	217,461 5 6	222,979 0 0	...		5,517 14 6	
IV.—Customs ... ..	53,529 11 11	58,292 14 6	...		4,763 2 7	
V.—Miscellaneous... ..	59,663 19 10	49,934 15 1	9,729 4 9		...	
VI.—Native ... ..	39,005 14 1	37,131 9 2	1,874 4 11		...	
VII.—Militia and Volunteers ... ..	22,401 14 2	22,885 0 0	...		483 5 10	
VIII.—Public Domains and Buildings ... ..	22,838 13 6	29,351 4 0	...		6,512 10 6	
IX.—Railways ... ..	50,160 9 11	100,814 6 0	...		50,653 16 1	
X.—Armed Constabulary ... ..	91,408 18 1	91,000 0 0	408 18 1		...	
XI.—Municipalities, Road Boards, &c....	56,016 11 0	80,000 0 0	...		23,983 9 0	
Railway Stores Account ... ..	20,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	...		...	
Capitation and Special Allowances ... ..	276,825 0 0	276,825 0 0	...		...	
Moiety of Stamp Duties ... ..	56,187 2 5	62,500 0 0	...		6,312 17 7	
Services not provided for ... ..	2,180 14 8	...	2,180 14 8		...	
Refunds of Revenue ... ..	3,785 18 10	...	3,785 18 10		...	
Provincial Public Works Advances Act... ..	48,500 0 0	48,000 0 0	500 0 0		...	
Provincial Appropriations Extension Act ... ..	92,000 0 0	92,000 0 0	...		...	
Advances, Land Fund, Auckland ... ..	201 4 5	...	201 4 5		...	
Totals... ..	1,951,485 14 0	2,155,468 14 4	42,484 5 2		246,467 5 6	
Deduct amount in excess of Estimate	...	...	...		42,484 5 2	
Net amount less than Estimate ... ..	...	...	...		203,983 0 4	

ESTIMATED AND ACTUAL  
EXPENDITURE, 1875-76.

It will be seen that there is a considerable difference between the expenditure as estimated and that which it is now assumed will become chargeable. A large portion of the difference arises from an over-estimate of the amount payable under the head of Permanent Charges. It will be within the knowledge of honorable members that an Act was passed last Session to do away with the Reserve Account; and also providing that the interest and sinking fund payable in London shall be charged in the accounts of the colony on the day the payment has to be made. Hitherto, the interest and sinking fund due on the 15th of July in London, has been treated as a liability of the previous financial year ending the 30th of June. But owing to the provisions of the Act to which I have referred, this will only be a liability on the day it falls due; consequently, £123,800 for interest and sinking fund due on the 15th of July is not included in the year's expenditure or liabilities, although provision was made for it in the last Estimates, and there is an apparent saving to that amount. Beyond that, there is a saving of £8,400 from an over-estimate of the amounts required to be paid on account of Permanent Charges.

Explanation of large  
apparent saving.

There is a saving on the item "Railways." It will also be found that the revenue under the same head has produced less than was anticipated; in other words, there has been a less length of railway completed and open for traffic than was expected. The excess of receipts over expenditure on this account fairly upholds the anticipation formed last year. It was then estimated that the receipts of the year would amount to £120,000, and the expenditure to £100,000. The receipts I now set down as £57,000, and the expenditure as £50,000. It is to be remem-

Railway Expenditure  
and Receipts.