

bered that these railways do not include the railways constructed by the Colonial Government, and worked by the Provinces of Otago and Canterbury under a temporary arrangement.

State Forests.

Amongst the items of expenditure is one of £15,000 on account of State Forests. By some oversight, £5,000 which ought to have been set apart for the year ending the 30th June, 1875, was not reserved; and I have caused it to be now added to the £10,000 for the current year. I am of opinion that we should be very unwise if we allowed any consideration to cause us to fail in reserving the money which has been appropriated for this purpose. Experience of almost a world-wide character has shown the immense importance of attending to the forests of a country; and I am convinced that, before many years have passed, questions which now seem to us of great moment will have sunk into insignificance compared with the interest which will be felt in the progress and maintenance of the forests of the colony.

Advances to Provinces.

The expenditure includes £140,700 Advances to Provinces during the year under various Acts. The total expenditure out of Consolidated Revenue for which it is estimated the provinces were, at the end of the year, liable, is about £200,000, which sum includes the balance of expenditure under "The Provincial Public Works Advances Act, 1874," and "The Provincial Appropriations Extension Act, 1875," which the Government have undertaken. On the other hand, under the powers given by the two Acts I have named, the Government have negotiated £172,000 of Treasury Bills, so that the provinces are indebted to the colony in the amount of those bills and whatever balances remained unrecovered at the end of the year.

It is believed that the expenditure will cover all the liabilities of the year; but it is impossible to state so soon after the close of the year what amount under each head had actually been disbursed up to the 30th June, and what will now have to be paid as liabilities.

REVENUE, 1875-76.

Revenue, 1875-76.

I place before the Committee tabulated statements (partly estimated) of the receipts from revenue during 1875-76, together with the estimate for the year and the absolute receipts during 1874-75. The revenue from Railways during the current year is shown separately, in order not to disturb the comparison with the previous year's revenue:—

HEADS OF RECEIPT.	REVENUE TO 27TH MAY, WITH ESTIMATE ADDED FOR JUNE MONTH.			REVENUE AS ESTIMATED.			DIFFERENCES.					
							In Excess of Estimate.			Less than Estimate.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs—Duties, Rents, Seizures, &c. ...	1,225,747	16	10	1,325,000	0	0	...	...	...	99,252	3	2
Bonded Stores ...	5,250	10	8	5,000	0	0	250	10	8	...	...	...
Fees ...	16,417	0	1	16,750	0	0	...	...	...	332	19	11
Stamp Duties ...	112,388	15	11	125,000	0	0	...	...	...	12,611	4	1
Postal ...	93,162	14	3	91,000	0	0	2,162	14	3	...	...	...
Telegraphic ...	63,038	6	7	62,000	0	0	1,038	6	7	...	...	...
Judicial Fees and Fines ...	37,993	2	11	32,000	0	0	5,993	2	11	...	...	...
Registration of Land ...	12,184	4	3	13,500	0	0	...	...	...	1,315	15	9
" Deeds ...	15,453	3	4	16,750	0	0	...	...	...	1,296	16	8
" Births, Deaths, and Marriages ...	5,231	7	4	5,000	0	0	231	7	4	...	...	...
Fees on Issue of Crown Grants ...	4,410	1	2	6,000	0	0	...	...	...	1,589	18	10
" Miscellaneous ...	2,397	1	1	2,700	0	0	...	...	...	302	18	11
Incidental Receipts ...	52,056	8	2	65,000	0	0	...	...	...	12,943	11	10
	1,645,730	12	7	1,765,700	0	0	9,676	1	9	129,645	9	2
Deduct Increase ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,676	1	9
Net amount less than Estimate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	119,969	7	5
Railways ...	57,459	11	4	120,000	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...