

in the ledger, and found that they agreed in all cases, allowance being made in certain instances for "extras" specially authorized. In cases where the contract was of small amount and paid in one sum no separate account with the contractor was opened in the ledger, the payment being charged direct to the general account for roads. In these cases I did not, for lack of time, check the sums paid against the sum contracted for. I took care, however, in examining the vouchers to see that each was certified as correct by the Inspector of Works, and, as each of these payments during the past two or three years at least was specifically approved by the Council by means of the accounts-book (already described), I passed them without further question. As regards the payments for the antecedent period, during which, as already stated, the accounts-book was most imperfectly kept, I did not feel justified in devoting the time which a rigid audit would have required, but contented myself with the certificate of the Inspector of Works.

54. In my remarks on the system of accounts in use in the county, I have stated that no separate accounts were kept showing the expenditure made in respect of moneys granted by the Government for particular works. In some of the annual balance-sheets attempts have been made to distinguish the expenditure made for certain works. It is, however, very incomplete, and the sums stated in each case must have been picked out of the General Roads Account by some process which I was unable to follow.

55. I endeavoured to check the sums stated in the several balance-sheets as expended under the Roads and Bridges Construction Act, viz. :—

				£	s.	d.
In balance-sheet 1883-84	...	...	...	2,773	6	3
In balance-sheet 1884-85	...	...	...	3,547	4	0
In balance-sheet 1885-86	...	...	...	1,370	10	5
				£7,691	0	8

The purposes and amounts of the several grants as defined in each by the Public Works Department were,—

				£	£
Grant No. 28.—Road, Arrow to Cardrona	...	...	...	774	
Road, Deep Creek to Skippers Point	...	...	...	956	
Road, Arrow Bridge to Kawarau Bridge...	...	...	...	359	
					2,089
Grant No. 178.—Road, Arrow to Cardrona	...	...	...	562	
Road, Queenstown to Skippers	...	...	...	188	
					750
Grant No. 304.—Road, Arrow to Cardrona	...	...	...	375	
Road, Queenstown to Skippers	...	...	...	750	
					1,125
					£3,964

For purposes of expenditure, these sums may be classified as follows :—

				From Grant			Total.
				No. 28.	No. 178.	No. 304.	
No. 1.—Arrow to Cardrona	...	...	...	£ 774	£ 562	£ 375	£ 1,711
No. 2.—Queenstown to Skippers	...	...	...	956	188	750	1,894
No. 3.—Arrow Bridge to Kawarau Bridge	...	...	...	359	...	...	359
Totals	...	...	...	2,089	750	1,125	3,964

The expenditure has been as follows :—

—	Contracts.			Extras.			Advertis- ing, &c.			Surveys.			Land- purchase.			Inspection.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
No. 1 ...	2,669	16	8	147	2	10	9	4	6	270	0	0	...	...	...	5	0	0	3,101	4	0
No. 2 ...	3,261	9	8	300	7	11	17	5	0	15	0	0	59	0	0	...	...	...	3,653	1	9
No. 3 ...	130	2	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	17	0	153	19	0
Salary of Sub-Inspector, not distributed							...	...	...	...	...	...	344	10	0	344	10	0	...	...	...
Totals ...	6,061	8	4	447	9	11	26	9	6	285	0	0	59	0	0	373	7	0	7,252	14	9

\* This item includes a contract of £14 18s. 9d. for gravelling, which, as I was informed by the late Inspector, was no part of the work on the main road.

† This sum includes an item of £17 for a culvert on a section of the road made by the Government.

‡ This sum includes an item of £10 expended on an altogether different road—Wanaka to Wilkin River.

§ The item £23 17s., for inspecting the performance of a contract amounting to £130 2s., seemed so extravagant that I made special inquiry of the late Inspector of Works on the subject. He informed me that the contract-price