

this Statement), and the balance of eighty-eight thousand pounds to Railway Works, under Part III. of the Fund (as shown on Table C).

The following table shows the state of the Public Works Fund on the 31st March last, and an estimate of how it will stand on the 31st March next if the proposals which I have now the honour to submit to the House are approved of:—

	Part I.	Part II.	Part III.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Cash balances on 31st March, 1891	110,645	356,107	251,344	718,096
Credit from released sinking funds	112,000	...	88,000	200,000
Probable recoveries during the year	14,000	14,000
	222,645	356,107	353,344	932,096
Amount proposed for actual expenditure during 1891-92	200,139	197,631	261,426	659,196
Estimated cash balances on 31st March, 1892, available for expenditure after that date ...	22,506	158,476	91,918	272,900

	Part I.	Part II.	Part III.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Cash balances on 31st March, 1891	110,645	356,107	251,344	718,096
Credit from released sinking funds	112,000	...	88,000	200,000
Probable recoveries during the year	14,000	14,000
	222,645	356,107	353,344	932,096
Total appropriation proposed for expenditure during 1891-92, and to cover liabilities at end of year ...	221,419	267,631	348,426	837,476
Estimated balance on 31st March, 1892, available for future appropriation	1,226	88,476	4,918	94,620

The expenditure on all works and services throughout the colony under the Public Works Fund up to the 31st March last, including the purchase of the Provincial and District railways, has amounted to a total sum of £28,110,081, the principal items being as follows, viz.: Railways, £15,208,374; Roads, £3,598,163; Immigration, £2,145,150; Public Buildings, £1,780,785; Purchase of Native Lands, £1,196,479; Lighthouses, Harbour-works, and Harbour Defences, £881,818; Defence Purposes generally, £429,719; Telegraph Extension, £606,648; Waterworks on Goldfields, £561,101; Cost of and Discount on raising Loans, &c., £1,021,472; and Departmental, £352,170.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION.

On taking charge of the Public Works Department, I expected to have found that the expenses in connection with its administration would have been but small, seeing that our predecessors had advised the abolition of the department, and that their policy in this respect was initiated three years ago. On procuring the returns showing the Head and District offices' administrative expenses, however, I found that they were still very large, and that the department was considerably overmanned in view of the reduced amount of work which it is now called upon to perform.

The country having decided upon strict economy being observed in all departments of the Government service, and the Government having determined to administer this department in future on business lines, it became evident that further retrenchment must be made therein, and the services of some forty officers were accordingly dispensed with, the saving in salaries being over £8,000 per annum, while the compensation payable to the officers leaving amounted to £2,239.