

SESS. I.—1897.
NEW ZEALAND.

MEMORANDUM BY THE HON. THE COLONIAL TREASURER,
R. J. SEDDON,

SHOWING APPROXIMATELY THE POSITION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS ON MARCH 31st, 1897

Laid on the Table by the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, with the Leave of the House.

THE necessity for laying this Memorandum on the table of the House arises, as honourable members are aware, from the fact that it was deemed advisable to hold a special meeting of Parliament for the purpose of enabling arrangements to be made for a fitting representation of the colony at the celebration in honour of the sixtieth anniversary of Her Most Gracious Majesty's reign. To get the accounts audited and passed is impracticable, for members will remember that, according to the existing law, the Treasury has thirty days allowed for preparation and printing of the abstract of the revenue and expenditure of the year, and within this period the abstract has to be sent to the Audit Offices, who have a further period of fourteen days allowed for the examination and passing of the accounts. Honourable members may think this is a long period to be allowed when it is compared with the rapidity with which the public obtain somewhat similar information of the year's results of the Australian Colonies; but a little reflection will show that the cases are dissimilar, inasmuch as they have in each colony only one or two centres, and, more important still, the information supplied has not been audited; while in our colony, with quite ten centres, we are obliged to wait until the accounts reach the Treasury from long distances, to be afterwards examined and passed by the Audit officers before they can be finally included in the public accounts of the colony. With this explanation I will now proceed to give you a close approximate result of the past year's financial operations, which will be sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes. The information which I know you are all anxious to ascertain is as to the surplus—for there really is a surplus, and a handsome one too. Well, I make this to be at least £340,000, arrived at thus:—

Receipts for the year ...	...	...	£4,796,000
Expenditure of the year ...	...	...	4,671,000
Excess of receipts over expenditure ...	...	...	125,000
Add balance to begin the year with ...	...	...	215,000
Surplus at end of year ...	...	...	£340,000

This is an exceedingly satisfactory result, I am sure you will be willing to allow. And these figures would have been better still had it not been for the necessity to charge three half-yearly payments of the interest on the Advances to Settlers Loan of £1,500,000 during the past year, so as to bring the accounts in line with the dates upon which the interest is paid over to the Bank of England in London. This extra half-year's interest having to be met, has decreased the surplus by £22,500. The Advances to Settlers Office is doing well; for, notwithstanding it has had to pay £67,500 within the year, it has only required an advance from the Consolidated Fund to the extent of £26,000. For this current year and hereafter of course only £45,000 per annum will require to be paid for interest on the £1,500,000 loan, and there is a certainty that the office will soon be able to provide for each year's charge, and to pay off the arrears of debt due to the Consolidated Fund.

I do not propose to weary you with a mass of figures connected with the results of last year's Treasury work. I have already reminded you that such figures as I shall be able to place before you must not be considered final, but only approximate, and therefore I am sure you will excuse me if I confine myself to the main features of our receipts and expenditure.

AS TO THE RECEIPTS FOR 1896-97.

The receipts for the financial year 1896-97 were estimated at £4,484,000, while the actual receipts, so far as I can at present learn, have reached £4,796,000. Customs revenue exceeded the estimate by £148,500, Railways by £86,000, Stamps by £38,500, Land- and Income-tax by £17,500, Territorial by £5,500, and the remaining heads of revenue and receipts by £16,000. These tell their own tale, and it is quite superfluous to observe that they evidence a substantial increase in the material prosperity of our colony.

EXPENDITURE OF 1896-97.

The approximate results of the revenue can be ascertained with a considerable degree of certainty, but it is more difficult to furnish an estimate of the actual expenditure. It has to be remembered that on the close of business on the 31st March last over £230,000 of imprest moneys were outstanding against the Ordinary Revenue Account of the Consolidated Fund. This amount is reduced by the departments dealing with the imprestees' vouchers, and charging the votes with the respective amounts paid, and also by the cash repayments by the imprestees of their respective balances on the 31st ultimo. If, on the one hand, we estimate the expenditure out of imprests at too large a figure, we unduly reduce the surplus, while, on the other hand, if our estimate is too little, the surplus is proportionately increased. The Treasury and the departments concerned have, however, made very careful estimates, and I am able to submit the results with every confidence. The figures, however, must not be accepted as final, but the alterations are not likely to be large. I estimate our permanent expenditure, including interest and sinking fund, subsidies, payments to local bodies of endowment moneys, pensions, &c., at £2,076,000. My estimate for the year was £2,093,000. For the annual appropriations members were good enough to vote £2,438,000. I do not anticipate, however, that the final expenditure will reach more than £2,420,000. Under the two heads, therefore, a saving of some £35,000 may be expected. Economy has been rigidly practised by departments, but members, I am sure, do not expect large savings to be effected, as it would bear the appearance of having asked the Committee for sums in excess of what was really required. To this expenditure there has also to be added £150,000 transferred to the Public Works Fund out of the previous year's surplus, and also £26,000 advanced to the Advances to Settlers Office.

I do not propose on this occasion to submit what I call the minor accounts connected with the Consolidated Fund, such as the "Accounts of Local Bodies," "Deposits," &c., but I shall at once pass on to the more important accounts, and take up the state of the Public Works Fund. Part I. of this fund commenced the year with a balance of £31,150, and also received £150,000 from the Consolidated Fund surplus of the previous year. Other miscellaneous receipts swelled the available balance to £196,413. During the year we were able to raise £750,000 of the £1,000,000 authorised under "The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896," and of this £375,000 was credited to Part I., making the total receipts, including the balance brought forward, £571,413. The expenditure, after the imprests have been duly accounted for, I estimate at £420,655, leaving a balance of £150,758. £250,000 has still to be raised under the Act I have just mentioned, so there will be further funds available for this account to the amount of £125,000, which, with the amount in hand and the usual assistance from the Consolidated Fund, should be amply sufficient for our requirements during the current year. Part II. had a balance of £13,900 to begin the year with: expenditure will be charged so as to clear off this balance. This account is now practically merged in Part I., where further appropriations for the North Island Main Trunk Railway have been provided.

“The Lands Improvement” and “The Native Lands Purchase” accounts have also been placed in funds to the amount of £187,500 each through the raising of the three-quarters of a million under “The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896,” and with the proceeds of debentures amounting to £52,000 raised under the Act of 1894. The estimated expenditure of the Lands Improvement Account is set down at £109,000, leaving a balance of £134,500 to go on with. In the Native Lands Purchase Account the expenditure is estimated at £127,000, leaving a balance of £97,200 to provide for purchases during the current year. As I have before mentioned, there is still a balance of a quarter of a million to be raised under “The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896,” and when the proceeds have been received “The Lands Improvement Account” and “The Native Lands Purchase Account” will each be entitled to be credited with £62,500 of the £250,000 to be raised. With these sums available I am satisfied that the works in progress to improve and open up the roading of the country will be steadily continued, and further lands can be acquired from the Natives, and our engagements in this direction successfully carried out.

Some large estates have been purchased under “The Land for Settlements Act, 1894,” for which purpose £297,300 has been raised during the past year, and this amount, with some £20,000 derived from rents, has been sufficient to provide for an expenditure of £312,500, leaving a balance in hand of £6,000.

I shall presently deal very briefly with the operations within the Public Debt and Conversion Accounts, but at this point, I think, it may be convenient to recapitulate some of the balances.

The surplus of the Consolidated Fund amounted to	....	£340,000
of which I hope to be able to aid the Public Works expenditure to		
the amount of	....	200,000
leaving	....	£140,000

Of this balance of £140,000 I think it would be expedient to set aside £50,000 for the purposes of assisting the requirements of the Land Improvement and Native Lands Purchase Accounts, in case the available balances of these accounts should not prove sufficient for the expenditure which it may be found absolutely necessary to incur. With this extra assistance, it is quite certain that I shall have plenty of funds to carry on the public-works services of the country, and for the acquisition of Native lands for the current financial year.

		£
The balance of the Public Works Fund was	...	150,000
Proportion of balance of loan	...	125,000
Aid from Consolidated Fund	...	200,000
Total available balance for current year	...	£475,000

		£
The balance of the Lands Improvement Account was	...	134,500
Proportion of balance of loan	...	62,500
Aid from Consolidated Fund, say	...	25,000
Total available balance for current year	...	£222,000

		£
The balance of the Native Lands Purchase Account was	...	97,000
Proportion of balance of loan	...	62,500
Aid from Consolidated Fund, say	...	25,000
Total available balance for current year	...	£184,500

These balances will sufficiently prove that our resources for the current year in respect of our loan accounts are ample, and will cover all possible requirements.

The operations within the “Conversion Account” last year were small, and the table speaks for itself.

I am able to place before you the usual table of the Public Debt. The gross total has increased by £1,315,838, and the net debt by £1,280,682. Of this sum, however, one million is absolutely represented by equivalent assets, and the interest thereon is paid back to the Treasury by those who have obtained the benefit of the expenditure. Of the million authorised by "The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896," £750,000 has been raised; deposits amounting to £136,015 under "The New Zealand Consols Act, 1864," have been received; £93,800 of debentures under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act, 1886," have been issued; purchases under "The Land for Settlements Act, 1894," have required the issue of £297,300 of debentures; and for the purpose of opening roads and giving access to lands £52,000 of debentures under "The Lands Improvement and Native Lands Acquisition Act, 1894," have been sold; £70,300 was issued as Sinking Fund Debentures under "The Consolidated Stock Act, 1884," but of this amount only £20,000 was issued against the accretion of Sinking Fund of the Loans to Local Bodies; and £56,891 of stock was inscribed at 3 and 3½ per cent. for purposes of conversion and redemption of other Government securities. On the other hand, we have paid off or redeemed various parcels of debenture stock amounting to £87,068, and have converted £53,400 of debentures into lower interest-bearing inscribed stock.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE RECESS.

Of course you will expect me to say something about the financial expectations during the time between the 31st March last past and the time when further supplies will be granted. In the first place I shall ask you to extend the appropriations from three months (as provided for by the Public Revenues Act of last session) to twenty-eight weeks, or, say, to the 14th October next. The Public Revenues Act provides that no payments shall be made for any services than those for which provision was made in the respective Appropriation Acts and estimates of the preceding year, or in excess of the scale therein set forth. You therefore tie me down in a narrower compass than would be the case if I were to ask you merely for supply under Imprest Supply Bills. Some effect of this restrictive appropriation is to drain the £100,000 provided for unauthorised expenditure; and it happens frequently, so the Treasury officials inform me, that the limit of £100,000 is practically exhausted by the time that Parliament usually meets and Imprest Supply Bills are obtained. Under these circumstances I am going to ask you for a temporary increase for "unauthorised" expenditure, so that the limit of £100,000 may be raised to £150,000 for services not provided for between this and the 14th October next. You understand that all "unauthorised" expenditure incurred before the estimates are passed, has to be included in the estimates and appropriations of the year, and, of course, the whole of the expenditure made under the extended appropriations.

Last year's appropriations for Consolidated Fund services amounted to	£2,438,000, one-half of which, for services required to the 30th September next, will amount to	....	....	....	....	£1,219,000
Add to this a moiety of permanent charges						1,047,000
Additional estimated expenditure for two weeks						175,000

Making a total for the twenty-eight weeks of expenditure. £2,441,000 required for

Our receipts during last year produced, as I have stated, approximately, £4,796,000, but of this amount £377,500, for Land- and Income-tax, was received, and will again be received during the second half of the year, so that this amount will not be available until after October. The lull in mining business in the Auckland Provincial District may affect the receipts from Customs and Stamps; and, unhappily, the accounts of the grain crops from the Canterbury and North Otago Districts justify me in thinking that our railway revenue may also suffer. But let it be understood that I am by no means depreciating the probabilities of our income; but, as I thoroughly believe in

strong finance, I think it is best to place the position candidly before you. Our resources may be stated thus :—

				£
Receipts for past year...	...	...	...	4,796,000
Deduct land- and income-tax	...	...	£377,500	
Deduct sinking fund debentures	...	...	70,300	
			<u> </u>	447,800
				<u>£4,348,200</u>
A moiety of £4,348,200 is, say	...	...	...	2,174,000
To this may be added the unappropriated balance of the surplus	...	...	...	90,000
Sinking fund debentures to be issued	...	...	...	73,000
Additional estimated receipts for two weeks	...	...	...	167,000
				<u> </u>
Making a total of estimated receipts	...	...	...	2,504,000
Estimated expenditure (as above)...	...	...	...	<u>2,441,000</u>
				<u> </u>
Leaving an excess of receipts	...	...	...	£63,000

I have put these figures before you so as to show you that there is no uncertainty as to the finances being amply sufficient to meet requirements until Parliament is again in session. I must, at the same time, state that the first half of the year is very much the worst half so far as the revenue is concerned : on the other hand, the expenditure is scarcely likely to reach the figures quoted. Members will notice that I have included a sum of £73,000 for sinking fund debentures to be issued during this current year ; but I am carefully considering whether the time has not arrived, as the finances of the colony appear to be able to bear it, to dispense altogether with the issue of debentures against the accretions of sinking fund derived from the Loans to Local Bodies. Probably, next session I shall ask you to have the law amended in this direction. I hope that in placing before the House this memorandum and accompanying tables honourable members will recognise the difficulties there are in the way of giving the necessary information in a more complete form. I trust, however, that I have sufficiently demonstrated that there is no cause whatever for any anxiety in respect to the financial position of the colony.

TABLES ACCOMPANYING THE MEMORANDUM
BY THE
HON. THE COLONIAL TREASURER,
SHOWING APPROXIMATELY THE POSITION OF THE
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
ON THE
31ST MARCH, 1897.

STATEMENT of the **ESTIMATED RECEIPTS** and EXPENDITURE of the **REVENUE**

1895-96.	ESTIMATED RECEIPTS.	1896-97.
£ s. d.		£ s. d.
180,024 5 9	BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	215,558 16 0
	Ordinary Revenue,—	
1,649,810 7 2	Customs	1,818,500 0 0
707,187 12 0	Stamps, including Postal and Telegraph Cash Receipts	730,500 0 0
364,172 12 1	Land-tax and Income-tax	377,500 0 0
54 18 8	Property-tax .. .. .	.. .. .
62,657 11 6	Beer Duty	69,000 0 0
1,182,279 16 6	Railways	1,286,000 0 0
48,434 12 8	Registration and other Fees	49,000 0 0
20,560 6 10	Marine	20,700 0 0
72,419 16 8	Miscellaneous	97,000 0 0
4,107,077 14 1		4,448,200 0 0
	Territorial Revenue,—	
73,521 10 11	Cash Land Sales £70,000 0 0	
53,049 14 3	Deferred-payment Land Sales 42,500 0 0	
165,102 4 8	Pastoral Runs, Rents, and Miscellaneous 163,000 0 0	
4,398,751 3 11		275,500 0 0
	Receipts in Aid,—	
145,400 0 0	Debentures issued under "The Consolidated Stock Act, 1884"— For Increases of Sinking Fund	70,300 0 0
	Amount recovered from the Cheviot Estate Account,—	
8,000 0 0	Balance of the Purchase-money	
3,864 1 7	In respect of Expenditure charged in previous year to "Unauthorised"	2,600 0 0
11,864 1 7		2,600 0 0
4,736,039 11 3		5,012,158 16 0
	Debentures issued under,—	
	"The District Railways Purchasing Act 1885 Amendment Act, 1886," in renewal of like amount matured 1st Oct., 1896	35,000 0 0
18,600 0 0	Sinking Funds set free,—	
	"The Lyttelton and Christchurch Railway Loan Ordinance, 1860"	4,700 0 0
	Applicable to the Redemption of Debentures issued under "The Consolidated Stock Act, 1884," in respect of—	
18,000 0 0	"Auckland Loan Ordinance, 1863"	19,571 0 0
11,101 1 3	"The Lyttelton and Christchurch Railway Loan Ordinance, 1860" .. .. .	.. .. .
	"The New Zealand Loan Act, 1863"	3,396 10 8
47,701 1 3		27,667 10 8
	Amount transferred from Released Sinking Fund Suspense Account	0 9 4
		27,668 0 0
		62,668 0 0
£4,783,740 12 6	Totals	£5,074,826 16 0

TREASURY BILLS

334,000 0 0	Treasury Bills outstanding at beginning of Year,—	
476,000 0 0	In anticipation of Revenue	335,000 0 0
	In redemption of Guaranteed Debentures	400,000 0 0
810,000 0 0		735,000 0 0
1,255,100 0 0	Treasury Bills issued during Year	1,525,000 0 0
£2,065,100 0 0	Totals	£2,260,000 0 0

No. 1.

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1896.

1895-96.		ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.										1896-97.			
£	s. d.											£	s. d.	£	s. d.
23,044	15 11	Permanent Appropriations,—										23,000	0 0		
1,683,775	0 8	Civil List.. .. .										1,712,000	0 0		
200,558	0 3	Interest and Sinking Fund.. .. .										192,000	0 0		
63,879	9 7	Under Special Acts of the Legislature										64,000	0 0		
44,066	7 3	Subsidies paid to Local Bodies										45,000	0 0		
		Amounts paid over to Local Bodies and to Deposit Accounts in respect of													
		Payments under the Land Acts													
		Endowments—													
8,987	11 10	New Plymouth Harbour Board										6,500	0 0		
11,348	10 2	Greymouth Harbour Board										11,000	0 0		
17,013	10 9	Westport Harbour Board										22,500	0 0		
2,052,673	6 5													2,076,000	0 0
18,537	17 11	Annual Appropriations,—										20,000	0 0		
72,380	14 10	Class I.—Legislative										102,500	0 0		
24,784	0 6	" II.—Colonial Secretary										29,000	0 0		
122,728	4 11	" III.—Colonial Treasurer										122,500	0 0		
331,062	11 11	" IV.—Minister of Justice										352,500	0 0		
62,741	10 9	" V.—Postmaster-General										91,000	0 0		
22,565	17 1	" VI.—Commissioner of Trade and Customs										22,500	0 0		
		" VII.—Commissioner of Stamps													
		" VIII.—Minister of Education—													
		Education Department										428,000	0 0		
420,155	14 11	Lunacy and Charitable Aid Department										54,500	0 0		
53,129	4 6	Department of Labour										7,500	0 0		
8,088	6 1	" IX.—Minister of Mines										19,000	0 0		
15,806	14 7	" X.—Minister of Agriculture										52,500	0 0		
43,347	16 4	" XI.—Working Railways										778,000	0 0		
743,670	5 2	" XII.—Minister for Public Works										46,500	0 0		
46,939	2 3	" XIII.—Defence Department										69,000	0 0		
68,647	12 2	" XIV.—Police Department										101,500	0 0		
98,272	1 9	" XV.—Minister of Lands										119,500	0 0		
121,533	15 1	" XVI.—Rates on Crown Lands										500	0 0		
493	1 3	Services not provided for										3,000	0 0		
22,422	16 10													2,419,500	0 0
2,297,307	8 10														
150,000	0 0	Amount transferred to the Public Works Fund, Part I... .. .												150,000	0 0
20,500	0 0	Advanced to Government Advances to Settlers Office Management Account in terms of section 49 of "The Government Advances to Settlers Act, 1894"												26,000	0 0
215,558	16 0	ESTIMATED BALANCE AT END OF YEAR												340,658	16 0
4,736,039	11 3													5,012,158	16 0
29,100	0 0	Debentures redeemed,—										22,968	0 0		
18,600	0 0	Consolidated Stock Act, 1884 (Colonial Issue)										4,700	0 0		
		Lyttelton and Christchurch Railway Loan Ordinance, 1860—due 1st Jan., 1896										35,000	0 0		
		District Railways Purchasing Act, 1885, due 1st Oct., 1896													
1	1 3	Released Sinking Funds transferred to Deposit Suspense Account													
47,701	1 3													62,668	0 0

Table

STATEMENT of the **ESTIMATED RECEIPTS** and EXPENDITURE of the **STATE FORESTS**

1895-96.	ESTIMATED RECEIPTS.	1896-97.
£ s. d. 5,205 19 1	Balance at beginning of Year,— Cash in the Public Account	£ s. d. 7,192 8 6
1,815 15 10 652 10 8	Rents from Lands set apart Miscellaneous	1,000 0 0 5,500 0 0 6,500 0 0
2,468 6 6		
£7,674 5 7	Totals	£13,692 8 6

STATEMENT of the **ESTIMATED RECEIPTS** and EXPENDITURE of the **PUBLIC WORKS**

Part I.

£ s. d. 218,217 2 4	Balance at beginning of Year,— Cash in Public Account	4,811 14 7	
11,730 7 2	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government— In the colony	10,588 14 6	
29,528 9 4	In London	15,749 10 3	
9,000 0 0	Investments .. .. .	..	31,149 19 4
268,525 18 10			
..	Proceeds of Debentures created under "The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896"	375,000 0 0	
..	Premium received in respect of same	5 12 6	375,005 12 6
150,000 0 0	Amount transferred from the Consolidated Fund .. .. .	..	150,000 0 0
1,635 7 0	Special Receipts in connection with the Ellesmere and Forsyth Reclamation and Akaroa Railway Trust .. .. .	..	1,662 3 1
572 15 11	Recoveries,— In respect of Debentures issued under "The Roads and Bridges Construction Act, 1882"	365 0 5	
..	In respect of Expenditure charged in previous years	334 0 0	699 0 5
572 15 11			
64 3 4	Sinking Funds released under "The Consolidated Stock Act, 1884," in respect of— "The New Zealand Loan Act, 1856"	36 13 4	
..	"The Auckland Loan Ordinance, 1863"	12,859 12 9	12,896 6 1
64 3 4			
£420,798 5 1	Totals .. .. .	..	£571,413 1 5

Part II.

24,104 19 10	Balance at beginning of Year,— Cash in the Public Account	12,960 15 7	
2,499 18 3	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government— In the Colony	962 5 2	13,923 0 9
26,604 18 1			
10,000 0 0	Transfer from "The North Island Main Trunk Railway Loan Application Act 1886 Amendment Act, 1889," Deposit Account, in terms of section 4 of the Act ..	..	..
£36,604 18 1	Totals		£13,923 0 9

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1896.

1895-96.		ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.						1896-97.	
£ s. d.		Annual Appropriations,—						£ s. d.	
481 17 1		Class XVII.—State Forests Account						2,500 0 0	
7,192 8 6		Estimated Balance at end of Year						11,192 8 6	
£7,674 5 7		Totals						£13,692 8 6	

Part I.

[illegible]

20,881 17 4			Annual Appropriations,—									
1,800 0 0			Class	I.—Railways	13,923 0 9		
				Public Works, Departmental		
22,681 17 4										13,923 0 9		
13,923 0 9			Estimated Balance at end of Year							..		
£36,604 18 1			Totals							£13,923 0 9		

STATEMENT of the **ESTIMATED** RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the **LANDS IMPROVEMENT**

1895-96.	ESTIMATED RECEIPTS.	1896-97.
£ s. d.		£ s. d.
24,868 15 10	Balance at beginning of Year,—	
10,724 1 2	Cash in the Public Account	19,523 5 1
	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government—	
	In the Colony	11,901 10 1
35,592 17 0		
104,000 0 0	Proceeds of Debentures created under—	
..	“The Lands Improvement and Native Lands Acquisition Act, 1894”	21,200 0 0
..	“The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896”	187,500 0 0
..	Premium received in respect of ditto	2 16 3
..	Recoveries on account of expenditure of previous years .. .. .	..
£139,592 17 0	Totals	£243,503 5 11

STATEMENT of the **ESTIMATED** RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the **NATIVE LANDS PURCHASE**

5,051 12 2	Balance at beginning of Year,—		
4,279 12 0	Cash in the Public Account	4,354 19 10	
	Advances in the hands of Officers of the Government—		
	In the Colony	1,564 18 11	
9,331 4 2			5,919 18 9
160,000 0 0	Proceeds of Debentures created under—		
..	“The Lands Improvement and Native Lands Acquisition Act, 1894”	30,800 0 0	
..	“The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896”	187,500 0 0	
..	Premium received in respect of ditto	2 16 3	
160,000 0 0			218,302 16 3
£169,331 4 2	Totals .. .. .	..	£224,222 15 0

STATEMENT of the **ESTIMATED** RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the **LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS**

554 7 7	Balance at beginning of Year,—		
	Cash in the Public Account .. .. .	..	1,357 11 9
163,200 0 0	Proceeds of Debentures created under—		
	“The Land for Settlements Act, 1894” .. .. .	..	305,990 0 0
5,925 2 8	Receipts derived from Rents and Lease-fees	20,000 0 0	
17 10 0	Proceeds of sale of saleyards, Merivale Estate .. .. .	..
127 14 10	Refund in respect of excess area charged to Blind River Estate .. .. .	..
6,070 7 6			20,000 0 0
£169,824 15 1	Totals .. .. .	..	£327,347 11 9

STATEMENT of the **ESTIMATED** RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the **CHEVIOT ESTATE**

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
14,512 14 3	Receipts under “The Cheviot Estate Disposition Act, 1893” .. .. .	..	14,500 0 0
£14,512 14 3	Totals .. .. .	..	£14,500 0 0

No. 1—continued.

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1896.

1895-96.		ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.						1896-97.			
£	s. d.	Annual Appropriations,—						£	s. d.	£	s. d.
108,168	1 10	Vote 118—Roads and Bridges .. .. .						..	..	109,000	0 0
31,424	15 2	Estimated balance at end of Year .. .. .						..	..	134,503	5 11
£139,592	17 0	Totals .. .. .						..	..	£243,503	5 11

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1896.

163,411	5 5	Annual Appropriations,—						..	..	127,000	0 0
		Vote 120—Native-Land Purchases .. .. .						..	..
5,919	18 9	Estimated balance at end of Year .. .. .						..	..	97,222	15 0
£169,331	4 2	Totals .. .. .						..	..	£224,222	15 0

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1896.

2,411	16 4	Annual Appropriations,—						..	..	3,000	0 0
		Vote 75—Lands for Settlements Expenses .. .. .						..	..
166,055	7 0	Acquirement of estates,—									
		Purchase money						299,500	0 0		
		Expenses						10,000	0 0		
..		Debentures matured and reissued under "The Land for Settlements Act, 1894" ..						..	..	309,500	0 0
										8,690	0 0
1,357	11 9	Estimated balance at end of year .. .. .						..	..	6,157	11 9
£169,824	15 1	Totals .. .. .						..	..	£327,347	11 9

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1896.

£	s. d.	Expenditure,—						£	s. d.	£	s. d.
869	3 6	Interest on Debentures .. .. .						..	..	11,511	0 9
5,499	6 7	Surveys, Roading, &c. .. .. .						..	..	2,609	3 9
6,368	10 1										
8,144	4 2	Appropriations,—									
		Class XVIII., Vote 73 .. .. .						..	..	379	15 6
£14,512	14 3	Totals .. .. .						..	..	£14,500	0 0

Table

STATEMENT of the **ESTIMATED** RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the **CONVERSION**

1895-96.		ESTIMATED RECEIPTS.						1896-97.			
£	s. d.							£	s. d.	£	s. d.
350 4 2		Balance at beginning of Year,—									
3,839 5 6		In the hands of Stock Agents—									
		Cash	£1,054	10	5						
		3½-per-cent. Inscribed Stock .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,054	10	5	
4,189 9 8											
36,177 17 8		In the hands of the Agent-General—									
		3½-per cent. Inscribed Stock .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	61,017	3	2	
40,367 7 4								62,071	13	7	
173 18 6		Less cash overdrawn .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,595	5	3	
40,193 8 10										60,476	8 4
118,000 0 0		3½-per-cent. Inscribed Stock,—									
704,570 0 0		Issued for redemption of Debentures .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	30,271	0	0	
822,570 0 0		Issued in exchange for Debentures .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..			30,271	0 0
..											
		3-per-cent. Inscribed Stock,—									
		Issued in exchange for debentures .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..		26,620	0 0
478,300 0 0		3½-per-cent. Stock (Colonial issue),—									
		Issued under "The Consolidated Stock Act, 1884," for conversion of debentures						..		..
464 0 6		In reduction of Conversion Expenses,—									
		Premium on sale of 3½-per-cent. Inscribed Stock sold above par .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..		3,012	1 9
53,400 0 0		Suspense Account,—									
		"The Consolidated Stock Act, 1884,"—									
		Debentures outstanding now written off .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..		..
£1,394,927 9 4		Totals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..		£120,379	10 1

No. 1—continued.

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st MARCH, 1897, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st MARCH, 1896.

1895-96.		ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.					1896-97.	
£	s. d.						£	s. d.
		Original Amount.		Rate.	Premium.	Converted Stock.		
		£	£	£	£	£		
		Debentures converted into 3½-per-cent. Inscribed Stock,—						
63,195	0 0	Consolidated Loan, 1867	15,900	104	636	16,536		
			1,900	103	57	1,957		
			8,400	102	168	8,568		
			26,200				27,061	0 0
28,417	0 0	New Zealand Loan, 1863 (1914) ..	1,400	111	154	1,554	1,554	0 0
2,650	0 0	Otago Loan, 1862, due 1st July, 1898	1,600	103½	56	1,656	1,656	0 0
1,000	0 0	District Railways Purchasing Act, 1885, due 1st April, 1905 ..	..	..	..	..	..
109,308	0 0	Consolidated Stock Act, 1884 (Colonial issue), due 28th November, 1895..	..	..	..	..	..
500,000	0 0	Bank of New Zealand and Banking Act, 1895, due 31st December, 1896	..	..	..	..	..
704,570	0 0		29,200		1,071			
		Debentures converted into 3-per-cent. Stock at 110,—						
..		Land for Settlements Act, 1894, due 30th April, 1926..	..	..	..	24,200	0 0	30,271 0 0
..		Premium on same .. ..	..	..	..	2,420	0 0	26,620 0 0
		Debentures redeemed,—						
..		Auckland Loan, 1863, due 1st June, 1896 .. ..	..	..	..	16,200	0 0	
44,656	0 0	Consolidated Loan Act, 1867 .. ..	..	..	..	42,586	0 0	
50,000	0 0	Cheviot Estate Payment Act, 1893, due 18th October, 1900 ..	..	..	..	..	..	58,786 0 0
94,656	0 0							
		Debentures converted into 3½-per-cent. Stock under the Consolidated Stock Act, 1884 (Colonial issue),—						
463,300	0 0	Government Loans to Local Bodies Act, 1886, due 1st March, 1896 ..	..	..	..	..	..
15,000	0 0	Nelson Loan Act, 1874, due 23rd March, 1896 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
478,300	0 0							
		Debentures converted into 4-per-cent. Stock,—						
53,400	0 0	Balance of £4,214,100 5 per cent. converted 15th April, 1892 (debentures not handed in at the time) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
		Expenses Account,—						
214	5 0	Brokerage and Commission .. ..	..	..	..	54	10 0	
953	13 9	Stamp Duty .. ..	..	..	..	1,337	11 3	
1,729	7 3	Interest (including overlap of interest) .. ..	..	..	..	1,044	9 2	
307	15 0	Office Expenses .. ..	..	..	..	329	8 9	
..		Printing and Advertising .. ..	..	..	..	363	10 6	
320	0 0	Miscellaneous .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
3,525	1 0							3,129 9 8
		Estimated Balance at end of Year,—						
Dr. 1,595	5 3	Cash in the Public Account .. ..	..	..	..	1,103	10 6	
1,054	10 5	In the hands of Stock Agents:						
61,017	3 2	Cash .. ..	..	..	..	469	9 11	
60,476	8 4	In the hands of the Agent-General:						
		3½-per-cent. Inscribed Stock .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,573 0 5
£1,394,927	9 4	Totals .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	£120,379 10 1

Table

STATEMENT of the **ESTIMATED** RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the **LOANS TO LOCAL BODIES**

1895-96.	ESTIMATED RECEIPTS.	1896-97.
£ s. d. 290 8 0	Balance at beginning of Year,— Cash in the Public Account	£ s. d. 858 13 7
105,500 0 0	The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act, 1886,— Debentures created	93,800 0 0
243 5 7	Refunds under sections 8 and 15 of "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act, 1886"	2,494 15 0
131 0 0	Amount paid last year under section 2 of "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and now refunded,— Coonoor Block .. .. .	..
£106,164 13 7	Totals	£97,153 8 7

STATEMENT of the **ESTIMATED** RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the **NEW ZEALAND CONSOLS**

25 0 0	Balance at beginning of Year,—	90 0 0	
158,000 0 0	Cash in Deposit Account	161,300 0 0	
	Investment Account		161,390 0 0
158,025 0 0			
3,365 0 0	Deposits inscribed .. .. .	..	136,015 0 0
£161,390 0 0	Total .. .. .	..	£297,405 0 0

The Treasury, Wellington, 5th April, 1897.

No. 1—continued.

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st March, 1897, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1896.

1895-96.	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.	1896-97.
£ s. d. 75,249 0 0	Grants to Local Bodies	£ s. d. 65,433 0 0
30,057 0 0	Appropriations,— Vote 119.—Roads to open up Crown lands	30,800 0 0
858 13 7	Estimated balance at end of Year	920 8 7
£106,164 13 7	Totals	£97,153 8 7

ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st March, 1897, compared with the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1896.

90 0 0	Estimated balance at end of Year,—		
161,300 0 0	Cash in Deposit Account.. .. .	5 0 0	
	Investment Account	297,400 0 0	297,405 0 0
161,390 0 0			
£161,390 0 0	Totals .. .. .	..	£297,405 0 0

JAMES B. HEYWOOD,
Secretary to the Treasury.ROBERT J. COLLINS,
Accountant to the Treasury.

Table No. 2.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Estimated and the Approximate RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the CONSOLIDATED FUND (REVENUE ACCOUNT) for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1897.

	ESTIMATED.	APPROXIMATE.	DIFFERENCES.									
			More than Estimate.		Less than Estimate.							
RECEIPTS.												
REVENUE ACCOUNT:—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Customs	1,670,000	0	0	1,818,500	0	0	148,500	0	0	..		
Stamps	692,000	0	0	730,500	0	0	38,500	0	0	..		
Land- and Income-tax	360,000	0	0	377,500	0	0	17,500	0	0	..		
Beer Duty	62,000	0	0	69,000	0	0	7,000	0	0	..		
Railways	1,200,000	0	0	1,286,000	0	0	86,000	0	0	..		
Registration and other Fees	49,000	0	0	49,000	0	0	..			..
Marine	20,700	0	0	20,700	0	0	..			..
Miscellaneous	90,000	0	0	97,000	0	0	7,000	0	0	..		
Territorial	270,000	0	0	275,500	0	0	5,500	0	0	..		
	4,413,700	0	0	4,723,700	0	0	310,000	0	0	..		
Sinking Fund Increases	70,300	0	0	70,300	0	0	..			..
Totals	4,484,000	0	0	4,794,000	0	0	310,000	0	0	..		
EXPENDITURE.												
REVENUE ACCOUNT:—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Permanent Appropriations,—												
Civil List	25,700	0	0	23,000	0	0	..			2,700	0	0
Interest and Sinking Fund	1,720,753	0	0	1,712,000	0	0	..			8,753	0	0
Under Special Acts	191,930	0	0	192,000	0	0	70	0	0	..		
Subsidies	69,000	0	0	64,000	0	0	..			5,000	0	0
Territorial Revenue paid over to Local Bodies, and Deposit Accounts	47,000	0	0	45,000	0	0	..			2,000	0	0
Endowments	39,100	0	0	40,000	0	0	900	0	0	..		
Annual Appropriations,—												
Legislative	20,782	0	0	20,000	0	0	..			782	0	0
Colonial Secretary	102,529	0	0	102,500	0	0	..			29	0	0
Colonial Treasurer	28,657	0	0	29,000	0	0	343	0	0	..		
Minister of Justice	125,207	0	0	122,500	0	0	..			2,707	0	0
Postmaster-General	355,134	0	0	352,500	0	0	..			2,634	0	0
Commissioner of Trade and Customs	92,342	0	0	91,000	0	0	..			1,342	0	0
Commissioner of Stamps	20,665	0	0	22,500	0	0	1,835	0	0	..		
Minister of Education	490,041	0	0	490,000	0	0	..			41	0	0
Minister of Mines	19,851	0	0	19,000	0	0	..			851	0	0
Minister of Agriculture	52,748	0	0	52,500	0	0	..			248	0	0
Working Railways	768,434	0	0	778,000	0	0	9,566	0	0	..		
Public Buildings	47,630	0	0	46,500	0	0	..			1,130	0	0
Defence Department	75,664	0	0	69,000	0	0	..			6,664	0	0
Police Department	106,750	0	0	101,500	0	0	..			5,250	0	0
Department of Lands and Survey	131,362	0	0	119,500	0	0	..			11,862	0	0
Rates on Crown Lands	900	0	0	500	0	0	..			400	0	0
Services not provided for .. .. .	..			3,000	0	0	3,000	0	0	..		
	4,532,179	0	0	4,495,500	0	0	15,714	0	0	52,393	0	0
Advanced to Government Advances to Settlers Office .. .. .	..			26,000	0	0	26,000	0	0	..		
Totals	4,532,179	0	0	4,521,500	0	0				41,714	0	0
										10,679	0	0

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Surplus at 31st March, 1896 .. .. .	..	..	..	215,558	16	0
Approximate receipts, 1896-97	4,794,000	0	0			
Repayment by Cheviot Estate Account	2,600	0	0			
Approximate expenditure, 1896-97 .. .. .	..	..	..	4,796,600	0	0
				4,521,500	0	0
				275,100	0	0
Less—				490,658	16	0
Amount applied in aid of Public Works Fund .. .. .	..	..	..	150,000	0	0
Estimated Surplus at 31st March, 1897 .. .. .	..	..	..	£340,658	16	0

Table No. 3.
The PUBLIC DEBT of NEW ZEALAND on 31st MARCH, 1897.

	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING.	DUE DATE.	ESTIMATED SINKING FUNDS ACCRUED.	NET INDEBTED- NESS.	ANNUAL CHARGE.			REMARKS.
					Rate.	Amount.	When payable.	
New Zealand Loan Act, 1863 ..	£ ..	15 July, 1914	£ 107,900	£ 165,900	% 5	% 1	15 Jan. and 15 July.	Sinking Fund payable 13 Mar. and 13 Sept. + Balance of debentures not yet sent in for payment.
Consolidated Loan Act, 1867 ..	£ ..	Ann. drawing	..	552,500	5	..	Quarterly, 15 Jan., &c.	
Immigration and Public Works Loan Act, 1870 ..	£ ..	1 June, 1907	481,400	518,600	4	2-4	1 June and 1 Dec.	
Lyttelton and Christchurch Railway Loan, 1860..	£ ..	1 Jan. 1897	9,090	Cr. 4,590	..	..	..
Canterbury Loan Ordinance, 1862 ..	£ 3,800 12,200	{ 2 Jan., 1915 2 July, 1916	{ 9,750	6,250	6	1	30 June and 31 Dec.	
Otago Loan Ordinance, 1862 ..	£ ..	1 July, 1898	97,050	Cr. 24,850	6	+	1 Jan. " 1 July.	
Consolidated Loan Act, 1867 ..	£ ..	15 April, 1913	..	13,000	4	..	15 April " 15 Oct.	
Immigration and Public Works Loan Act, 1870	{ 372,100 27,900	{ 15 April, 1913 15 April, 1913	{	372,100 27,900	4 4½	..	15 April " 15 Oct. 15 April " 15 Oct.	
Defence and Other Purposes Loan Act, 1870	{ 25,000 75,000	{ 1 July, 1910 15 April, 1913	{	25,000 75,000	4½ 4	..	30 June " 31 Dec. 15 April " 15 Oct.	
General Purposes Loan Act, 1873	{ 18,500 12,300 54,700	{ 15 Oct., 1913 15 May, 1914 28 Nov., 1914	{	18,500 12,300 54,700	4 4 5	..	15 April " 15 Oct. 15 May " 15 Nov. 15 May " 15 Nov.	
District Railways Purchasing Acts, 1885-86	{ 35,000 40,000 101,600 47,000	{ 28 May, 1898 1 July, 1909 1 April, 1905 1 April, 1899	{	223,600	{ 3½ 6 4 5	..	{ 1 April " 1 Oct.	
Carried forward ..	£ ..	..	705,190	2,035,910	..	..	148,296

* Only £200,000 has actually been issued to the public: the unsold debentures are available for the purpose of obtaining temporary advances from time to time. † Further contributions of Sinking Fund not required.

Table No 3—continued.
The PUBLIC DEBT of NEW ZEALAND on 31st MARCH, 1897—continued.

—	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING.	DUE DATE.	ESTIMATED SINKING FUNDS ACCURED.	NET INDEBTED- NESS.	ANNUAL CHARGE.			REMARKS.	
					Rate.	Amount.	When payable.		
									Int.	S.F.
Brought forward	£ 2,741,100	£ 705,190	£ 2,035,910	% ..	% ..	% ..	£ 148,296		
Government Loans to Local Bodies Act, 1886	..	31 Dec., 1900	..	141,800	3½	1½	20,774*	1 Mar. and 1 Sept.	*The Sinking Fund is payable on £1,054,100; the Land Assurance Fund is also charged with ½ per cent. as a contribution towards Sinking Fund.
Consolidated Stock Act, 1877	..	1 Nov., 1929	..	29,150,302	4	..	1,166,013	1 May	1 Nov.
	..	1 Jan., 1940	..	6,161,167	3½	..	215,640	1 Jan.	1 July
	..	1 April, 1945	..	1,526,620	3	..	45,798†	1 April	1 Oct.
Consolidated Stock Act, 1884—Colonial Issue	263,032 40,000 1,306,100	{ 28 May, 1897 22 May, 1898 28 May, 1898 28 May, 1898 (28 May, 1898	{ 108,857†	{ 1,609,132 253,200 449,743	4½ 4 3½	..	72,411	28 May	28 Nov.
Naval and Military Settlers' and Volunteers' Land Act, 1892	..	31 Oct., 1899	..	27,226	4½	..	1,225	30 April	31 Oct.
Native Land Purchases Act, 1892	140,000 9,700	{ 31 Oct., 1899 31 Oct., 1899	{	{ 140,000 9,700	4½ 5	..	6,300 485	30 April	31 Oct.
Land for Settlements Act, 1892	..	31 Oct., 1899	..	45,276	4½	..	2,037	30 April	31 Oct.
Land for Settlements Act, 1894	134,100 320,990	{ 31 Oct., 1899 31 Oct., 1899	{	{ 134,100 320,990	4 3½	..	5,364 11,235	30 April	31 Oct.
Lands Improvement and Native Lands Acquisition Act, 1894	383,000 117,000	30 Sep., 1908	..	{ 383,000 117,000	4 3½	..	15,320 4,095	31 Mar.	30 Sept.
New Zealand Consols Act, 1894	..	1 Feb., 1910	..	297,405	3½	..	10,409	1 Feb.	1 Aug.
Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1896	250,000 500,000	{ 1 Feb., 1902 15 Aug., 1921§	{	{ 750,000	3½	..	26,250	1 Feb.	1 Aug.
Totals	..	..	814,047	43,552,571	..	..	1,777,521		\$ Loan may be paid off at any time after 15th February, 1907, on six months' notice being given.

Treasury bills amounting to £730,000 are not included.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,500 copies), £20 10s.

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1897.