

Summary of Votes under Control of Minister of Public Works and Proposed Ways and Means of Raising the Necessary Funds—Year ending 31st March, 1942.

Vote.	Loans.	Consolidated Fund.	Special Revenue.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Departmental	200,000	..	..	200,000
Railway-construction	607,100	..	..	607,100
Public Buildings	900,000	..	..	900,000
Lighthouses and Harbour-works	50,000	..	..	50,000
Development of Tourist Resorts	20,000	..	..	20,000
Roads	350,000	..	..	350,000
Land Improvement	200,000	..	..	200,000
Irrigation	552,000	..	..	552,000
Electric Supply	1,987,000	..	970,375	2,957,375
Main Highways	642,200	..	2,100,000	2,742,200
Maintenance of Public Works and Services .. .. .	..	600,000	..	600,000
Totals	5,508,300	600,000	3,070,375	9,178,675

For the current financial year 1941–42 a sum of £600,000 will be provided from the Consolidated Fund for expenditure on maintenance of Public Works and Services, including £100,000 for housing workmen engaged on farm production. The expenditure on main highways (including permanent appropriations estimated at £307,800) is estimated to reach £3,050,000, of which a sum totalling £2,100,000 is expected to be raised by way of special revenue. It is anticipated that the revenue from the supply of electrical energy will reach a sum of £2,288,000, which will be utilized for the payment of arrears of sinking-fund instalments, interest, operating-expenses, and income-tax, &c.

The proposed expenditure from loan-moneys and revenue for votes comprised in the Public Works Fund coming under the control of other Ministers of the Crown is set out hereunder :—

Vote.	Loans.	Consolidated Fund.	Special Revenue.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Railway Improvements and Additions to Open Lines (Minister of Railways)	150,000	..	1,800,000	1,950,000
Education Buildings (Minister of Education) ..	500,000	..	..	500,000
Telegraph Extension (Postmaster-General) ..	275,000	..	..	275,000
Small Farms Development (Minister of Lands) ..	388,200	..	287,800	676,000
Native Land Settlement (Minister of Native Affairs)	250,000	270,000	425,000	945,000
Linen-flax development (Minister of Industries and Commerce)	600,000	..	369,000	969,000
Total	2,163,200	270,000	2,881,800	5,315,000

MAIN HIGHWAYS.

Having regard to the necessity for curtailing expenditure as far as possible on works that, although they may be desirable under normal conditions, are not essential at the present time, it has been the policy during the last year to taper off all improvement or reconstruction works in hand, so that when they reach a stage where they can be left without endangering the safety of the travelling public, they can be closed down altogether. The programme for the elimination of dangerous railway crossings has been suspended for the present except that particular schemes, which were well advanced, are being carried through to completion.