

SESSION II.  
1906.  
NEW ZEALAND.

# PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE

(REPORT RELATING TO THE).

*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.*

The PUBLIC TRUSTEE to the Hon. the COLONIAL TREASURER.

SIR,—

Wellington, 31st March, 1906.

I have the honour to submit for your information a record of the business done by the Public Trust Office during the last financial year.

On comparing it with that of previous years a large increase of business in all branches will be noted.

On the 1st October last the rates of interest payable to beneficiaries were increased from 4 per cent. to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on sums under £3,000, and from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 4 per cent. on all sums in excess of £3,000.

Notwithstanding this, and also the fact that very little money was advanced on mortgage during the second half of the financial year, owing to most of the moneys held on account of the Advances to Settlers Office being paid over, the transactions of the year show a profit of £11,990.

This result is very satisfactory, and unless the rate of interest on money lent falls below that at present obtainable the payment to beneficiaries at the increased rates will be maintained.

The Land Assurance Fund decreased by £9,366 during the year. This fund, which a few years ago was considered inexhaustible, will disappear in about four years from now, and the Consolidated Fund will then have to be drawn upon to make good claims upon it under section 186 of "The Land Transfer Act, 1885." The diminution of the fund has been caused by the large burden placed upon it by "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1892." The payments to the Sinking Fund under that Act are annually increasing, while the additions to the fund by contributions by no means balance them.

In my opinion the claims against the Assurance Fund on account of shortage in area, defective titles, &c., are likely to increase in the future rather than diminish. In 1900 the amount of the fund was £72,252 6s. 1d.; it is now £27,886 19s. 6d. only.

I strongly urge that the Land and Income Assessment Act be amended so that the present heavy tax on Natives interested in the reserves under the administration of the office should be removed. The tax is assessed on the whole grant, so that, no matter how small a Native's share of rent is, when the reserve is of greater value than £500 he has to pay tax, the exemption that is made in the case of a sole owner not applying to him.

It may be argued that no distinction is made between Natives and Europeans. The answer is that lands of Europeans are not in the same position. The grievance should be remedied at once. It is an unfair tax, accidental in its application, and as long as it exists the Natives will have good grounds for complaint.

I have, &c.,  
J. W. POYNTON,  
Public Trustee

## REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE for the Years ended 31st March, 1901 to 1906.

	Year ended 31st March, 1901.			Year ended 31st March, 1902.			Year ended 31st March, 1903.			Year ended 31st March, 1904.			Year ended 31st March, 1905.			Year ended 31st March, 1906.		
EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries ...	8,409	10	2	8,773	15	5	9,143	3	7	9,810	6	8	10,363	15	2	11,219	1	5
Commission to agents	2,187	14	8	1,631	0	3	1,777	15	5	2,154	1	3	2,360	8	7	3,064	17	8
Clerical assistance and auditing ...	272	7	5	276	3	8	266	19	6	165	19	11	555	0	5	591	13	11
Legal expenses ...	363	16	0	211	13	6	208	14	0	262	18	3	236	18	9	246	11	6
Stationery, printing, and office requisites ...	595	13	6	550	11	1	804	13	4	504	11	10	785	1	0	726	13	8
Miscellaneous ...	3,826	15	7	3,396	12	3	7,265	14	6	7,196	11	11	6,536	10	9	8,179	0	4
Unauthorised ...	...	...	...	69	18	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Balance, being excess of revenue	5,691	9	5	10,706	9	11	4,325	12	9	7,897	13	4	11,543	6	0	8,501	2	6
	21,347	6	9	25,616	4	11	23,792	13	1	27,992	3	2	32,381	0	8	32,529	1	0
REVENUE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Commission and charges	11,557	12	10	11,210	3	3	10,133	18	3	12,536	15	7	13,784	8	0	14,401	12	1
Interest in excess of amount credited to estates ...	8,971	18	1	13,678	9	2	12,777	11	5	14,520	16	3	17,796	15	6	16,827	1	11
Miscellaneous ...	817	15	10	727	12	6	881	3	5	934	11	4	799	17	2	1,300	7	0
	21,347	6	9	25,616	4	11	23,792	13	1	27,992	3	2	32,381	0	8	32,529	1	0

\* Includes £2,676 12s. 6d. added to Assurance and Reserve Fund, £300 compassionate allowance to widow of late Accountant, and £330 15s. for deposit-safes.

† Includes £1,750 11s. 4d. added to Assurance and Reserve Fund, and £1,414 cost of plans for proposed new premises.

‡ Includes £2,412 1s. 2d., added to Assurance and Reserve Fund.

§ Includes £3,488 16s. 9d. added to Assurance and Reserve Fund, and £548 19s. 1d. cost of plans for proposed new premises.

## INCOME of the PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE Year by Year from 1901 to 31st March, 1906.

Class of Estates.	Year ended 31st March, 1900.			Year ended 31st March, 1901.			Year ended 31st March, 1902.			Year ended 31st March, 1903.			Year ended 31st March, 1904.			Year ended 31st March, 1905.			Year ended 31st March, 1906.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Intestates' ...	2,888	13	3	2,845	14	2	3,424	14	4	2,867	3	2	3,064	19	11	2,753	8	10	3,407	17	4
Wills, trusts, sinking funds, &c. ...	3,400	7	1	3,897	6	2	3,328	8	7	3,042	8	3	4,754	6	0	6,084	13	9	6,271	10	9
Real and lunatics' ...	1,135	18	10	958	8	0	867	4	3	792	8	9	925	8	0	1,193	7	11	1,103	7	6
Native reserves ...	597	16	7	962	14	6	600	9	0	628	16	7	669	14	2	605	13	5	555	15	6
West Coast settlement reserves ...	1,554	6	4	1,735	5	9	1,779	16	4	1,782	7	9	1,768	0	7	1,756	13	6	1,829	3	11
Miscellaneous ...	1,444	7	4	1,976	0	1	1,937	3	3	1,901	17	2	2,288	18	3	2,190	7	9	2,534	4	1
	11,021	9	5	12,875	8	8	11,937	15	9	11,015	1	8	13,471	6	11	14,584	5	2	15,701	19	1
Interest ...	9,835	4	6	8,971	18	1	13,678	9	2	12,777	11	5	14,520	16	3	17,796	15	6	16,827	1	11
Total income ...	20,856	13	11	21,347	6	9	25,616	4	11	23,792	13	1	27,992	3	2	32,381	0	8	32,529	1	0
Total expenditure	15,886	15	10	15,655	17	4	14,909	15	0	19,467	0	4	20,094	9	10	20,837	14	8	24,027	18	6

## CAPITAL FUNDS of the PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE, and how invested, from 1901 to 31st March, 1906.

	On 31st March, 1901.	On 31st March, 1902.	On 31st March, 1903.	On 31st March, 1904.	On 31st March, 1905.	On 31st March, 1906.
	£	£	£		£	£
The capital funds of the Public Trust Office amounted to ...	1,672,304	1,782,951	1,936,073	1,660,716	1,896,225	1,880,798
Of which the amount held in cash at credit of the Public Trustee's Account was ...	53,925	59,501	74,765	65,386	82,516	29,402
Leaving a balance invested of ...	1,618,379	1,723,450	1,861,308	1,595,330	1,813,709	1,851,396
The investments consisted—						
Of those made by the Public Trustee out of the Common Fund, and amounting to ...	1,407,419	1,049,885	1,239,027	1,477,123	1,548,112	1,526,967
Of those made by the Public Trustee for estates, and amounting to ...	196,230	667,587	616,798	112,689	260,084	319,571
Of those made by other trustees of properties afterwards transferred to the office ...	14,730	5,978	5,483	5,518	5,513	4,858
	1,618,379	1,723,450	1,861,308	1,595,330	1,813,709	1,851,396
The capital funds invested were applied to investments—						
In Government securities of the colony, to the amount of ...	607,798	578,323	578,343	103,363	117,385	41,896
In local bodies' securities, to the amount of ...	19,239	28,129	31,129	44,129	63,429	91,249
In mortgages of real estate, to the amount of ...	991,261	1,116,998	1,251,836	1,447,238	1,632,895	1,718,251
In fixed deposits, to the amount of ...	81	...	...	600	...	...
Total ...	1,618,379	1,723,450	1,861,308	1,595,330	1,813,709	1,851,396

## NUMBER and ESTIMATED VALUE of ESTATES in the PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE.

THE following was the number and estimated value of estates in the Public Trust Office on the 31st March on each of the years 1900 to 1906:—

Class.	Number of Estates.						
	On 31st March, 1900.	On 31st March, 1901.	On 31st March, 1902.	On 31st March, 1903.	On 31st March, 1904.	On 31st March, 1905.	On 31st March, 1906.
Wills and trusts (including sinking funds accounts) ..	576	684	651	744	836	955	1,091
Intestates' estates ..	903	867	923	989	1,062	1,070	1,092
Real estates* ..	75	69	69	71	*	..	..
Mental patients' estates ..	555	626	728	802	854	940	1,031
Native reserves ..	110	110	143	143	119	119	119
West Coast settlement reserves ..	293	293	309	312	333	333	333
Unclaimed lands ..	155	249	226	253	266	268	311
Total ..	2,667	2,898	3,049	3,314	3,470	3,685	3,977

  

Class.	Value of Estates.						
	On 31st March, 1900.	On 31st March, 1901.	On 31st March, 1902.	On 31st March, 1903.	On 31st March, 1904.	On 31st March, 1905.	On 31st March, 1906.
Wills and trusts (including sinking funds accounts) ..	£ 933,567	£ 1,022,838	£ 1,122,404	£ 1,279,743	£ 1,605,143	£ 1,922,303	£ 2,252,813
Intestates' estates ..	136,697	134,820	163,304	197,368	232,695	277,779	318,490
Real estates* ..	8,313	7,459	7,317	7,585	*	..	..
Mental patients' estates ..	113,525	159,087	163,306	170,585	208,573	256,645	280,402
Native reserves ..	363,076	363,076	366,000	375,000	380,000	380,000	400,000
West Coast settlement reserves ..	622,604	622,604	625,000	655,000	700,000	715,000	730,000
Unclaimed lands ..	14,812	17,070	20,283	21,504	26,471	25,628	28,287
Total ..	2,192,594	2,326,954	2,467,614	2,706,785	3,152,882	3,577,355	4,009,992

\* Now included with unclaimed lands.

## THE GOVERNMENT LOANS TO LOCAL BODIES SINKING FUND.

(Placed under control of Public Trustee by Section 5 of "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1892.")

Amounts received by the Public Trustee.

During the Year ended 31st March.	From Consolidated Fund.	Transferred from Land Assurance Fund.	Net Income from Investments.	Total Receipts during each Year.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1893	14,000 0 0	7,015 11 9	...	21,015 11 9
1894	20,528 19 7	4,494 1 5	1,058 16 0	26,081 17 0
1895	11,406 13 7	3,802 4 6	2,148 0 7	17,356 18 8
1896	13,384 18 0	4,461 12 7	2,958 3 3	20,804 13 10
1897	14,960 1 10	4,986 14 0	3,651 3 11	23,597 19 9
1898	16,496 3 8	5,498 14 6	4,477 3 5	26,472 1 7
1899	17,866 7 8	5,955 9 2	5,942 8 3	29,764 5 1
1900	19,245 9 8	6,415 3 2	8,049 0 7	33,709 13 5
1901	19,541 1 2	7,127 6 8	8,314 6 6	34,982 14 4
1902	20,901 2 5	7,997 7 4	9,472 18 11	38,371 8 8
1903	23,641 8 10	9,204 14 9	10,354 4 9	43,200 8 4
1904	26,588 11 2	10,526 18 8	12,017 17 0	49,133 6 10
1905	28,117 17 6	11,571 4 11	13,216 16 0	52,905 18 5
1906	29,352 7 9	12,422 9 0	16,377 14 10	58,152 11 7
Total	276,031 2 10	101,479 12 5	98,038 14 0	475,549 9 3

## "THE GOVERNMENT ADVANCES TO SETTLERS ACT, 1894," DEBENTURE SINKING FUND.

STATEMENT showing Principal Moneys paid over to the Public Trustee, and Amounts withdrawn for Reinvestment.

During the Year ended 31st March.	Amounts received by Public Trustee from Superintendent.	Net Income from Investment withdrawn by Superintendent.	Amounts of Principal withdrawn by Superintendent for Reinvestment.	Balance at Credit on 31st March in each Year.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896	3,369 12 7	20 17 3	...	3,369 12 7
1897	23,843 17 6	435 1 7	...	27,213 10 1
1898	71,187 19 8	2,112 5 3	...	98,401 9 9
1899	104,473 0 2	1,177 8 0	171,284 13 10	31,589 16 1
1900	136,532 5 10	1,221 13 1	118,443 6 8	49,678 15 3
1901	155,237 9 6	1,912 2 8	134,076 8 4	70,839 16 5
1902	172,268 12 3	2,689 12 11	147,154 1 3	95,954 7 5
1903	257,443 12 10	3,579 1 7	227,530 12 5	125,867 7 10
1904	258,305 3 11	4,666 10 11	225,652 7 0	158,520 4 9
1905	218,527 6 4	5,844 13 4	183,160 0 8	193,887 10 5
1906	261,381 2 1	5,059 17 7	371,381 2 1	83,887 10 5

STATEMENT showing Year by Year, from 1887 to 31st March, 1906, the CAPITAL of the PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE, and HOW INVESTED, and the INCOME and EXPENDITURE of the Office.

CAPITAL OF THE PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE.													INCOME OF PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE.			TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF OFFICE			
Year ended	In Cash.	In Investments.	Total.	Yearly Increase or Decrease in Amount.	Invested Total.					Total Common Fund and Special.	Invested in						Total.	Surplus Interest on Investments.	Commission, Charges, &c.
					For Common Fund.	Specially.		Local Bodies' Securities.	Mortgages of Freeholds.		Fixed Deposits in Banks.	Shares in Companies.							
						By Public Trustees.	By Former Trustees.						Total.						
31st Dec., 1887...	£ 8,315	£ 301,226	£ 309,541	£ 35,032	£ 194,261	£ 87,190	£ 19,775	£ 106,965	£ 301,226	£ 172,336	£ 1,907	£ 126,978	£ 5	£ 301,226	£ 6,178	£ 3,735	£ 9,913	£ 8,406	
" " 1888...	14,254	366,886	381,140	71,599	204,857	113,649	48,380	162,029	366,886	220,436	1,607	144,783	60	366,886	7,208	4,012	11,220	8,653	
" " 1889...	964	462,782	463,746	82,606	216,943	195,592	50,247	245,839	462,782	219,208	2,274	181,107	59,792	462,782	8,528	5,799	14,327	9,145	
" " 1890...	14,966	478,895	493,861	30,115	198,622	232,486	46,787	279,273	478,895	199,208	2,174	215,909	60,001	478,895	6,081	3,080	9,161	8,469	
" " 1891...	17,920	505,349	523,269	29,408	252,279	208,188	44,882	253,070	505,349	188,608	2,067	253,070	60,319	505,349	5,471	4,308	9,779	(1)11,751	
" " 1892...	15,960	551,101	567,061	43,792	408,231	96,072	46,798	142,870	551,101	269,608	2,067	276,393	1,449	551,101	5,913	6,177	12,090	(2)14,000	
" " 1893...	21,326	594,337	615,663	48,602	406,220	144,198	43,919	188,117	594,337	300,108	2,067	289,680	630	594,337	7,327	7,370	14,697	(3)15,132	
Fifteen months ended 31st March, 1895	12,101	656,836	668,937	53,274	358,296	259,279	39,261	298,540	656,836	295,108	1,839	354,933	444	656,836	9,066	10,163	19,229	(4)17,289	
Year ended 31st March, 1895	16,960	757,573	774,533	105,596	492,788	206,629	58,156	264,785	757,573	319,108	1,839	432,455	...	757,573	7,632	7,560	15,242	(5)14,902	
March, 1896	16,664	841,974	858,638	84,105	588,483	205,942	47,549	253,491	84,974	354,108	1,839	482,206	...	841,974	8,124	6,376	14,500	(6)13,569	
Ditto, 1897	48,667	912,971	961,638	103,000	631,816	251,643	29,512	281,155	912,971	251,708	7,839	651,160	380	912,971	9,255	8,648	17,933	(7)13,472	
" 1898	13,512	942,641	956,153	Decrease. 5,485	653,710	264,296	24,635	288,931	942,641	160,308	12,839	766,371	1,689	942,641	10,664	8,473	19,137	(8)16,314	
" 1899	27,880	1,028,988	1,056,868	Increase. 100,715	794,967	214,411	19,590	234,001	1,028,988	137,778	19,439	871,771	...	1,028,988	11,022	9,835	20,857	(9)15,887	
" 1900	53,925	1,618,379	1,672,304	561,511	1,407,419	196,230	14,730	210,960	1,618,379	607,798	19,239	991,261	81	1,618,379	12,375	8,972	21,347	15,656	
" 1901	59,501	1,723,450	1,782,951	110,647	1,049,855	667,587	5,978	673,565	1,723,450	578,323	28,129	1,116,998	...	1,723,450	11,938	13,678	25,616	14,909	
" 1902	74,765	1,861,308	1,936,073	153,122	1,239,027	616,798	5,483	622,281	1,861,308	578,343	31,129	1,251,836	...	1,861,308	11,015	12,777	23,792	(10)19,467	
" 1903	65,386	1,595,330	1,660,716	Decrease. 275,357	1,477,123	112,689	5,518	118,207	1,595,330	103,363	44,129	1,447,238	600	1,595,330	13,471	14,521	27,992	(11)20,094	
" 1904	82,516	1,813,709	1,896,225	Increase. 235,509	1,548,112	260,084	5,513	265,597	1,813,709	117,385	63,429	1,632,895	...	1,813,709	14,584	17,797	32,381	(12)20,837	
" 1905	29,402	1,851,396	1,880,796	Decrease. (13) 15,429	1,526,967	319,571	4,858	324,429	1,851,396	41,896	91,249	1,718,251	...	1,851,396	15,702	16,827	32,529	(14)24,027	

- (1) Including £2,280 on account of expenses of Royal Commission, and £1,717 on account of deficiency on realisation of mortgages.  
 (2) Including £1,596 on account of expenses of Royal Commission, and £470 for unauthorised expenditure, and £232 for Assurance and Reserve Fund.  
 (3) Including £2,041 on account of deficiency on realisation of mortgages, and £13 for unauthorised expenditure, and £232 for Assurance and Reserve Fund.  
 (4) Including £340 on account of deficiency on realisation of mortgages, and £39 for unauthorised expenditure, and £230 for Assurance and Reserve Fund.  
 (5) Including £1,272 on account of deficiency on realisation of mortgages, and £39 for unauthorised expenditure, and £230 for Assurance and Reserve Fund.  
 (6) Including £180 on account of deficiency on realisation of mortgages, and £305 for Assurance and Reserve Fund.  
 (7) Including £255 for unauthorised expenditure, and £443 for unauthorised expenditure, and £1,192 for Assurance and Reserve Fund.  
 (8) Including £488 on account of deficiency on realisation of mortgages, and £443 for unauthorised expenditure, and £1,192 for Assurance and Reserve Fund.  
 (9) Includes £1,100 written off on maturity of Kaihu Valley Railway Company's debentures, and £1,004 for Assurance and Reserve Fund.  
 (10) Includes £2,675 12s. 6d. added to Assurance and Reserve Fund, £300 compassionate allowance to widow of late accountant, and £330 15s. for deposit-saves.  
 (11) Includes £1,750 11s. 2d. added to Assurance and Reserve Fund, and £1,414 cost of plans for proposed new premises.  
 (12) Includes £2,412 1s. 2d. added to Assurance and Reserve Fund.  
 (13) Owing to withdrawal of Advances to Settlers Office Funds.  
 (14) Includes £3,483 18s. 9d. added to Assurance and Reserve Fund, and £548 19s. 1d. cost of plans for proposed new premises.

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