

The revenue of the town from all sources since its incorporation in 1901 has been as follows:—

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Crown rents ...	873	1,198	2,016	1,940	1,976	1,870	1,618	2,277
Bath fees ...	106	474	869	1,269	1,442	1,203	1,324	1,294
Nightsoil fees ...	149	279	374	411	512	517	513	950
Publicans' licenses ...	6	168	169	165	184	186	189	182
General licenses ...	...	38	93	81	124	169	128	189
Library fees ...	9	21	23	34	70	62	58	81
Pound fees ...	15	29	28	31	77	39	47	50
Dog-registration ...	...	14	14	22	47	36	29	34
Sundries ...	6	15	34	22	15	25	57	93
Total ...	1,164	2,236	3,620	3,975	4,447	4,107	3,963	5,150

The total increase in revenue for the last year—viz., to £5,150, from an average of £4,022 for the previous five years, a difference of £1,028—is thus made up mainly of non-recurring items—viz., £327 in Crown rents, and £437 in nightsoil fees—leaving a normal revenue for the past year of £4,400. The actual increase in normal revenue is thus only from £4,000 in 1904 to £4,400 in 1908, and for the current year the total estimated revenue is still less—viz., £4,300. During this period the population has approximately doubled, and the municipal requirements have increased three- or four-fold. The revenue is still sufficient to meet these requirements, but failing any new sources of revenue, it is necessary to spend every pound that is available on such permanent improvements as are calculated to reduce the cost of cleaning and maintaining the roads and streets in future, when the increasing municipal needs will overtake the practically fixed revenue. This is particularly necessary, since under the Rotorua Town Act the town has no power to raise a loan to cover such permanent improvements. With this object in view, the works carried out during the past year have been of as permanent a nature as possible in the streets and roads, and of a revenue-producing character in other directions. With careful administration the existing revenue should serve the needs of the town for some years to come. But the question of seeking supplementary sources, or of increasing the existing sources of revenue, will require to be dealt with later, in order to meet the municipal requirements of a growing community.

In addition to the realisable assets shown in the balance-sheet, amounting to £4,328, the following is an approximate estimate of the value of the permanent improvements to the streets and roads, the greater portion of which has been carried out from the municipal revenue of the town during the past eight years:—

	£
Earth roads formed (1,600 chains, at £2) ...	3,200
Roads formed and pumiced (800 chains, at £4) ...	3,200
Streets metalled (30 chains, at £20) ...	600
Streets metalled and tarred (80 chains, at £28) ...	2,240
Wooden culverts (40 chains, at £2) ...	80
Pipe culverts (20 chains, at £4) ...	80
Concrete kerbing (200 chains, at £2 5s.) ...	450
Concrete channelling (200 chains, at £2 5s.) ...	450
Tarred pavements (160 chains, at £6) ...	960
Total ...	£11,260

The expenditure for the year under review has been £5,833, which has been distributed over the following items, the expenditure on the corresponding items for each year since the incorporation of the town being added for comparison:—

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Works ...	330	1,160	2,797	2,710	3,195	3,429	2,723	4,240
Nightsoil ...	186	269	363	314	412	394	417	485
Fire-prevention ...	...	...	...	39	153	4	151	154
Isolation hospital ...	...	...	...	56	46	17	38	92
Licensing expenses ...	...	11	15	39	20	17	37	22
Library ...	...	13	26	104	62	50	170	110
Pound ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	24
Charitable aid ...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	6
Insurance ...	...	...	13	19	20	20	18	23
Salaries ...	98	192	334	337	335	374	334	337
Office expenses ...	16	52	55	47	102	64	170	157
Sundries ...	74	105	104	42	101	124	70	183
Total ...	904	1,802	3,707	3,708	4,447	4,500	4,128	5,833
Assets ...	...	...	1,387	...	...	...	1,383	4,328