

Invercargill respectively ; Messrs. A. Morrow, W. C. Spencer, G. A. Beere, E. W. Laceron, E. H. Featon, W. Tole, and H. T. Wadie, Draughtsmen ; E. C. Douglas, Explorer ; and Messrs. W. B. Harlow, D. M. McGoun, J. Rodger, and H. J. Taylor, clerks. All these have served the Dominion very faithfully, and, in the cases of most of the senior officers, with marked ability. The promotions which necessarily follow on these retirements will more properly be dealt with in next year's report. A statement of the expenditure of the Department, which is under the charge of Mr. R. A. Paterson, is appended. The Chief Clerk of the Head Office, Mr. F. T. O'Neill, has shown a full appreciation of the responsibilities of his position, and I am indebted to him and Mr. Paterson for the successful carrying-on of the Immigration Branch of this Department. Mr. Jourdain also merits special notice from the fact that he was selected as Secretary to the Timber Commission, and is now engaged on its duties.

EXPENDITURE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The following is a summary of the expenditure of the Department for the Year ended 31st March, 1909:—

Vote No.	Name of Vote or Account.	Amount voted (Net).	Expenditure (Gross).	Recoveries.	Expenditure (Net).
		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
71	Lands and Survey	165,678	174,754 19 4	19,207 8 5	155,547 10 11
72	Lands and Survey, Miscellaneous	96,252	80,925 9 7	4,305 15 7	76,619 14 0
109	Immigration	10,000	35,020 19 8	19,944 9 3	15,076 10 5
120	Improved-farm Settlements ...	4,950	2,721 14 9	778 4 8	1,943 10 1
121	Lands, Miscellaneous	12,200	15,639 10 2	7 10 6	15,631 19 8
122	Irrigation and Water-supply ...	5,000	1,968 4 6	1 15 8	1,966 8 10
123	State Forests	30,496	27,003 1 9	41 1 9	26,962 0 0
125	Scenery Preservation	17,275	5,872 12 8	107 7 6	5,765 5 2
	Totals	341,851	343,906 12 5	44,393 13 4	299,512 19 1
	Consolidated Fund, Unauthorised Account		935 19 7	359 11 8	576 7 11
	Special Acts Deposit Accounts, &c. ...		58,595 16 7	...	58,595 16 7
	Land for Settlements Account (including votes 126 and 127)		598,253 16 3	8,583 10 5	589,670 5 10
	Cheviot Estate Account		8,881 2 8	...	8,881 2 8
	Maori Land Settlement Account (including vote 128)		4,802 17 4	1,789 14 5	3,013 2 11
	Hauraki Plains Settlement Account ...		11,672 5 6	...	11,672 5 6
	Totals		683,141 17 11	10,732 16 6	672,409 1 5
	Grand totals		1,027,048 10 4	55,126 9 10	971,922 0 6

CONCLUSION.

May I, in conclusion, express the honour conferred upon and the pleasure given to the Department by having the Prime Minister as its Ministerial head. I think I am right in saying that it is the first time that any Prime Minister has taken the portfolio of Lands with his other duties. It also enables me to bring under your immediate notice the faithful and loyal service rendered by all the Commissioners of Crown Lands and their seconds in command, together with the whole of the staff of surveyors, draughtsmen, and clerks, and, last, but not least in rank or service, the good work done by the Receivers of Land Revenue and the Crown Lands Rangers. The discipline of the whole Department is admirable, and personally I am more than grateful for the help I obtain from all ranks and grades in the service.