

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 10 OF RANGITAIKI LAND DRAINAGE ACT, 1910)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
1916—April 1st.			1917—March 31st.		
To Balance forward	5,835	6 0	By Drainage - works, stop-		
New Zealand Loans Act, 1908—De-			banks, clearing chan-		
bentures issued under the Rangitai-			nels, and all expenses		
taiki Land Drainage Amendment			incident al thereto ..	12,364	6 7
Acts, 1913 and 1914	17,000	0 0	Equipment, and mainten-		
Receipts under the Rangitaiki Land			ance of dredges, wages		
Drainage Act, 1910	16	2 8	of dredgemasters, &c.	4,635	4 10
			Travelling-allowances and		
			general expenses ..	236	0 11
			Office upkeep	5	15 3
			Material	79	14 9
			Compensation for land		
			taken	886	17 2
				18,207	19 6
			Interest on debentures		
			issued recouping the		
			Consolidated Fund ..	3,356	0 5
			New Zealand Loans Act,		
			1908—Charges and ex-		
			penses in connection		
			with debentures issued	0	17 6
			Rangitaiki Land Drainage		
			Amendment Act, 1913		
			(section 6)—Rate Ac-		
			count : Refund of rates		
			collected	110	13 6
			Balance—Cash in Public		
			Account	1,175	17 9
				£22,851	8 8
	£22,851	8 8			

Loan Account.

1917—March 31st.	£	s.	d.	1916—April 1st.	£	s.	d.
To Balance	98,000	0	0	By Debentures issued under the State-guaranteed Advances Act, 1909, and amendments	45,000	0	0
				Debentures issued under the Rangitaiiki Land Drainage Amendment Acts, 1913 and 1914	53,000	0	0
	<u>£98,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£98,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

REPORT OF CHIEF DRAINAGE ENGINEER.

SIR,—

I have the honour, in accordance with the provisions of the Rangitaiki Land Drainage Act, 1910, to report on the various services performed during the financial year ending 31st March, 1917.

Good progress has been made with the various works throughout the year, but much more could be done were more men available, the dearth of suitable labour consequent upon the war and its exigencies being severely felt in this district.

For the above reasons it has not been possible to proceed with certain proposals in connection with Te Rahu and Whakaire outfalls. It is very manifest that the latter will require a diversion direct to the Rangitaiki River, as the late floods have overtaxed its capacity in times of abnormal conditions.

The weather for the last twelve months has been exceedingly wet for the Bay of Plenty district, and has caused a considerable growth of raupo, &c., necessitating much more maintenance than in former years. A flood occurred at the end of February and was considered to be the highest for some years, but no great damage was done, and the Rangitaiki River did not overflow in the lower reaches at all. Stop-banking is now being done where the river overflowed in its upper reaches, and this should help matters considerably.

The new Tawapera cut should relieve the northern end of the swamp, and it will certainly lower the old Rangitaiki and Awaitei Streams considerably and make a large expanse of country comparatively dry.