REPORT OF RESIDENT OFFICER, ROTORUA.

Rotorua, 8th July, 1918.

I BEG to submit my annual report for the year ended 31st March, 1918.

During the year 386 cubic yards of $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. blue metal has been imported from Te Aroha and Te Kuiti for use in repairing Fenton, Hinemoa, Hinemaru, and Arawa Streets, a total distance of 57 chains. In Tutanekai Street 9 chains of new road-formation, consisting of a sheeting of $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. metal covered with a binding of tarred metal chips and sand, for a width of 18 ft., has been laid from the railway-station gate to Erueru Street; 107 cubic yards of tarred metal chips have been used in repairing existing tarred streets. Of the local metal, obtainable from Hemo Gorge, 142 cubic yards have been quarried and used, and about a mile of road in that neighbourhood has been repaired with same. 152 square yards of footpath have been coated with tar and sand. About 2,060 square yards of footpath, in the side streets, have been sheeted with pumice.

A considerable amount of formation (122 chains) on the suburban roads has been done by the County Council's grading-machine, under arrangement with the County Council, and about 15 chains

have been done by our own grader (a much smaller machine).

On account of the moist spring and summer the growth of the trees was quite abnormal, necessitating in many of the streets a double pruning. This had to be done in most cases in order to keep the growth clear of the electric and telegraph wires. The gum-trees along Fenton Street are being topped and brought to a uniform height of about 30 ft. This was rendered necessary because of the continuous trouble we were experiencing with the wires, and the fears of some residents that the trees would come down with a heavy wind and endanger their life and property. The cost of tree-pruning is an appreciable item in our maintenance work. During the year just closed the sum of £113 16s. 10d. was expended on this work.

The continuous leaks in the wooden water-mains give us considerable trouble. About six hundred holes had to be filled last year where leaks had taken place, involving a certain amount of cartage and

spoil for the filling of each hole.

The levy on the Town Account made by the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board for the current financial year was £204 9s. 3d., to meet which a rate (on the capital value) of $\frac{1}{14}$ d. in the pound was struck. The levy made by the Fire Board amounted to £378 10s., which was met by a rate of $\frac{1}{16}$ d. in the pound on the value of buildings within the town area. For the maintenance of the Public Library and Reading-room a rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ od, in the pound on the capital value was levied.

Twenty-three building permits were issued during the year for new buildings and additions to

existing ones, the total value being £8,370.

The rateable capital value of the town is £508,056. I attach a statement of the Rotorua Town Account.

Wm. Hill, Resident Officer.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE TOWN OF ROTORUA FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1918.

General Account.										٠
Receipts.					Expens					
11000.	£ s.	Ы	£	a	d.	Administration—	£ s. d.	£	a	đ.
Balance at 31st March, 1917			214	0	6	0.1	311 2 9			ч.
Treasury—	• •		217	0	U	Printing and advertising	8 11 3			
	1 940 11	7				1 4 94. 0	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$			
Bath fees	1,348 11					Audit				
Rents (Crown lands)	1,939 4	10				Bank charges	0 10 0			
Fees and fines (Magis-		_				Bank interest on overdraft	3 12 6			
trate's Court)	10 5	0				Office expenses	14 14 9			
			3,298	1	5			345	17	11
Sanitary service fees			401		3	Public works—				
Public pound fees			80	- 5	2	Maintenance of streets and				
Licenses and fees—						roads (labour and ma-				
Building permits	20 10	0				terial)	2,919 13 0			
Vehicle	72 0	0				Tree topping and pruning	113 16 10			
Drivers'	7 12	0				Street-lighting	166 10 6			
Publicans'	190 0	0				,		3,200	0	4
Auctioneers'	60 0	Õ				Sanitary service—		-,	_	-
Billiard-rooms	22 0	ŏ				Labour	546 0 0			
Halls	9 0	ŏ				Fodder and plant	146 4 2			
Shooting-gallery	3 0	ŏ				rodder wite plant	140 4 2	692	4	2
TI 1' "	4 3					Public pound-Fodder and	•	052	-	-
	5 0					advertising		, 19	11	8
T1 1 3	0 5	0				Public health—Sanitary in-	• •	, 10	11	o
T	43 2	6						50	0	0
Dog-registration fees	40 2	U	436	10	6	spection Licensing - expenses — Tau-	••	90	v	U
D t			450	12	O			0.4	7	2
Rents	F 10	Λ				ranga County Council	• •	24	•	2
Real property	5 16					Miscellaneous—				
Explosive magazines	2 16	3	0	10	0	Insurance (fire and acci-	00 11 0			
36				12		dent)	39 11 3			
Material sold	• •		35		6	Dog-registration	6 5 0			
Contributions to works	• •		16	11	8	Charitable aid	3 10 9			
Miscellaneous						Maintenance of town clock	11 5 0			
Grazing at sanitary depot	9 5					Grant towards technical				
Guides' badges	0.15	0				school	$20 \ 0 \ 0$			
Sale of by-laws	0 5	0				Maintenance of boat-sheds	30 2 7			
Refunds, hospital and						Sundries	6 0 3			
charitable aid	1 12	0						116	14	10
Sundries	1 12	• 7				Credit balance at 31st March,				
			13	9	9	1918		69	0	8
Ten-per-cent, penalty on										
overdue rates			13	6	9					
			£4,517	16	9			£4,517	16	9
				4,				-1,011		
						F				_