

Departmental activities amounted to £315,870, against which the sum of £77,505 was recovered for services rendered to other Departments and for charges upon expenditure of loan funds administered by the Department. The net expenditure was therefore £238,365, being an increase of £28,962 on the expenditure of the previous year.

The principal items contributing towards the increase are—

	£
Salaries	33,100
Equipment and wages	8,300
Instruments	3,900
Advertising	2,800
Postages, &c.	2,500
Temporary assistance	2,500
Travelling-expenses	3,900
Hauraki Plains (metalling roads)	3,900
Land Board fees	2,400
Maintenance and construction of roads	2,600

As against this the following items appearing in last year's expenditure do not recur :—

	£
War bonus	9,500
Contribution to State forests	9,500
Remission of rent, Section 23, Land Laws Amendment Act, 1915	3,400
Contribution to Waimarino Bush-fire Relief Fund	10,000

The principal cause for the increase in the administrative items is the volume of work arising out of the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915, and its amendments. An appropriation of £20,000 was taken under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account in anticipation of this increase, which amount was duly credited.

Last year the gross credits to the vote £46,474, as against this year, £77,505, an increase of £31,031, which includes the £20,000 referred to.

The Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account shows £7,900,580 charged during the year, as against £594,920 charged for the previous year. Statement of accounts in connection with these transactions appear in the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Report.

The gross amount charged up by the Department shows an increase of £7,469,791 over that of the previous year, operations on the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account being principally responsible for the increase.

Summary of Expenditure approved during the Year ended 31st March, 1920.

Name of Vote or Account.	Net Amount voted.	Gross Expenditure.	Recoveries.	Net Expenditure.
<i>Consolidated Fund.</i>	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Lands and Survey	166,257	232,683 17 3	71,178 6 10	161,505 10 5
Lands and Survey, Miscellaneous	98,037	83,186 1 0	6,326 19 7	76,859 1 5
State Forests Account	136,998	67,142 4 6	323 2 0	66,819 2 6
Land for Settlements Expenses	13,525	5,715 3 6	943 16 1	4,771 7 5
Scenery-preservation Account	6,356	752 10 11	..	752 10 11
Totals .. .. .	..	389,479 17 2	78,772 4 6	310,707 12 8
<i>Public Works Fund.</i>				
Improved-farm Settlements	450	142 0 0	142 10 5	Cr. 0 10 5
Lands, Miscellaneous	8,047	2,964 19 0	..	2,964 19 0
Totals .. .. .	..	3,106 19 0	142 10 5	2,964 8 7
<i>Land for Settlements Account.</i>				
Roads to open up Crown Lands for Settlement	250,000	63,266 11 4	1,574 6 1	61,692 5 3
Land for Settlements Account .. .. .	..	47,391 2 1	11,388 11 2	36,002 10 11
Rangitaiki Land Drainage Account (Section 7, Rangitaiki Land Drainage Act, 1910) .. .. .	..	58,625 2 9	819 6 0	58,616 3 3
Hauraki Plains Settlement Account (Section 95, Reserves, &c., Act, 1916) .. .. .	..	69,229 18 9	370 6 1	68,859 12 8
Swamp Land Drainage Account (Section 95, Reserves, &c., Act, 1916)—				
Kaitaia .. .. .	..	28,917 6 0	0 19 11	28,916 6 1
Waihi .. .. .	..	1,713 13 8	20 0 0	1,693 13 8
Poukawa .. .. .	..	96 10 2	..	96 10 2
Hikurangi .. .. .	..	834 11 10	..	834 11 10
National Endowment Account .. .. .	..	8,930 4 1	..	8,930 4 1
Native Land Settlement Account .. .. .	..	34,284 8 11	..	34,284 8 11
Special Acts, Deposit Account, Refunds, &c. .. .. .	..	8,832 13 11	..	8,832 13 11
Waimarino Bush-fire Relief Account .. .. .	..	18,083 10 1	..	18,083 10 1
Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account .. .. .	..	7,900,580 4 10	..	7,900,580 4 10
Totals .. .. .	..	8,177,519 7 1	11,788 16 8	8,165,730 10 5
Grand totals .. .. .	..	8,633,372 14 7	92,277 17 8	8,541,094 16 11