

The amounts collected by way of totalizator, bank-note, and amusements taxes are shown hereunder:—

| TOTALIZATOR-TAX. | | | | £ |
|------------------|----|----|----|---------|
| 1921-22 .. | .. | .. | .. | 515,248 |
| 1920-21 .. | .. | .. | .. | 497,961 |
| Increase | | | | 17,287 |
| BANK-NOTE TAX. | | | | |
| 1921-22 .. | .. | .. | .. | 227,080 |
| 1920-21 .. | .. | .. | .. | 236,713 |
| Decrease | | | | 9,633 |
| AMUSEMENTS-TAX. | | | | |
| 1921-22 .. | .. | .. | .. | 103,815 |
| 1920-21 .. | .. | .. | .. | 80,103 |
| Increase | | | | £23,712 |

The departmental expenditure vote for 1921-22 was £101,415, but in the estimates for the current year this is reduced by £21,234.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

The amount of revenue collected by the Department during the year was £2,748,481. The principal items were—postages, £1,410,251; telegrams, £685,855; telephone-exchange receipts, £614,367.

The net expenditure was £2,448,688, a decrease of £139,672 when compared with that of the previous year.

The increased expenditure compared with 1914-15 is due entirely to the war or is a result of the war. As an indication of the increases in prices of material and office equipment, it may be mentioned that telephones increased by 52 per cent. in price; poles, 88 per cent.; arms, 100 per cent.; other materials, wire, &c., ranging from 400 per cent. to 600 per cent.; stationery, 103 per cent.

The following return shows clearly how necessary it was to increase the postal and telegraph rates to meet expenditure, including cost-of-living increases, during recent years:—

| Year. | Actual Gross Revenue. | Estimated Revenue if Rates had not been increased. | Expenditure. | Actual Revenue over Expenditure. | Actual Expenditure over Revenue | Revenue over Expenditure if Rates had not been increased. | Expenditure over Revenue if Rates had not been increased. |
|---------|-----------------------|--|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 1915-16 | 1,695,757 | 1,559,505 | 1,296,522 | 399,235 | .. | 262,983 | .. |
| 1916-17 | 1,809,317 | 1,538,553 | 1,300,810 | 438,507 | .. | 167,743 | .. |
| 1917-18 | 1,837,260 | 1,554,250 | 1,489,446 | 347,814 | .. | 64,804 | .. |
| 1918-19 | 1,972,539 | 1,693,262 | 1,702,048 | 270,491 | .. | .. | 8,786 |
| 1919-20 | 2,106,995 | 1,751,488 | 1,944,161 | 162,834 | .. | .. | 192,173 |
| 1920-21 | 2,590,441 | 1,732,810 | 2,591,786 | .. | 1,345 | .. | 858,976 |
| 1921-22 | 2,748,481 | 1,676,220 | 2,448,688 | 299,793 | .. | .. | 775,351 |

The salary expenditure in 1914-15 absorbed 55 per cent. of the total revenue, and 57 per cent. in 1921-22.

The deposits in the Post Office Savings-bank for the year ended on the 31st March totalled £29,125,907, and the withdrawals £30,236,231, leaving an excess of withdrawals of £1,110,324. The amount standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st March, 1922, excluding interest for the year, was £42,241,797, compared with £19,048,029 at the end of 1914.