

ARREARS.

Rents in arrear at the 31st March amounted to £358,225, an increase of £190,387 from last year. This increase has been general throughout the Dominion, and has occasioned the greatest anxiety. Very careful attention has been given the problem of reducing arrears; but unfortunately the position is not one that admits of an early recovery. It will be modified partly by remissions and revaluations where necessary. There is, however, a limit to what can be done in this way, and the majority of cases can only be met by stable prices and increased production consequent upon improved farming methods. Undoubtedly this question demands the most careful yet sympathetic handling during the extended period that must necessarily elapse before a normal position can be regained.

EXPENDITURE.

Summary of Expenditure approved during the Year ended 31st March, 1923.

Name of Vote or Account.	Net Amount voted.	Gross Expenditure.	Recoveries.	Net Expenditure.
<i>Consolidated Fund.</i>				
	£	£ s d.	£ s d.	£ s d.
Vote Lands and Survey (Subdivision I) ..	164,459	257,242 11 11	130,852 4 11	126,390 7 0
Vote Lands and Survey (Subdivision II)	40,983	27,533 8 11	1,547 0 0	25,986 8 11
Land for Settlements Account: Expenses	5,258	3,583 16 4	3,180 18 3	402 18 1
Land for Settlements Account: Lands for settlement of discharged soldiers—Expenses	5,123	4,085 11 2	..	4,085 11 2
Scenery-preservation Account ..	11,141	9,403 3 5	2,405 8 11	6,997 14 6
Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account: Expenses of management	44,000	41,131 5 8	..	41,131 5 8
Totals	270,964	342,979 17 5	137,985 12 1	204,994 5 4
<i>Public Works Fund.</i>				
Roads to open up land for settlements ..	110,312	78,891 6 4	540 17 0	78,350 9 4
Totals	110,312	78,891 6 4	540 17 0	78,350 9 4
<i>Other Accounts.</i>				
Land for Settlements Account		28,500 10 9	..	28,500 10 9
Land for Settlements Account: Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account		56,038 14 2	..	56,038 14 2
Rangitaiki Land Drainage Account (section 7, Rangitaiki Land Drainage Act, 1910)		47,649 6 2	674 16 2	46,974 10 0
Hauraki Plains Settlement Account (section 5, Hauraki Plains Amendment Act, 1922) ..		7,979 0 0	8 10 0	7,970 10 0
Hauraki Plains Settlement Account (section 93, Reserves, &c., Act, 1916)		88,456 4 11	3,346 1 8	85,110 3 3
Swamp Land Drainage Account (section 95, Reserves, &c., Act, 1916)—				
Kaitaia		14,847 12 5	5 0 0	14,842 12 5
Waihi		11,021 4 6	9 12 3	11,011 12 3
Poukawa		86 10 0	..	86 10 0
Hikurangi		18,255 15 3	3 7 9	18,252 7 6
Mangawai Kauri-gum Reserve		100 0 0	..	100 0 0
General		3,387 18 3	19 10 0	3,368 8 3
Swamp Land Drainage Account (section 2, Swamp Land Drainage Amendment Act, 1922)		1,658 17 10	..	1,658 17 10
Kauri-gum Industry Account		28,824 11 8	2 10 0	28,822 1 8
National Endowment Account		12,372 18 10	..	12,372 18 10
Native Land Settlement Account: Surveys, &c. ..		55,674 1 11	2,612 17 8	53,061 4 3
Native Land Settlement Account (section 19, Land Laws Amendment Act, 1922)		2,417 6 0	10 5 8	2,407 0 4
Cheviot Estate Account (section 300, Land Act, 1908)		0 18 0	..	0 18 0
Cheviot Estate Account (section 19, Land Laws Amendment Act, 1922)		556 7 3	..	556 7 3
Waimarino Bush-fire Relief Account		40 11 3	1 9 6	39 1 9
General Purposes Relief Account		600 0 0	..	600 0 0
Hunter's Soldier Assistance Trust Account		37 0 8	..	37 0 8
Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account		1,333,513 2 10	..	1,333,513 2 10
Refunds, deposits, &c.		23,171 6 0	..	23,171 6 0
Totals		1,735,189 18 8	6,694 0 8	1,728,495 18 0
Grand totals		2,157,061 2 5	145,220 9 9	2,011,840 12 8