

Department to give a complete and satisfactory service to intending travellers. As in the previous year, the Department has continued to provide and directly control facilities at several scenic resorts vested in the Department. The more important of these are Waitomo Caves and Hostel; Rotorua Baths, Gardens, &c.; Te Aroha Springs and Gardens; Lake House, Waikaremoana; Queenstown Gardens; and Glade House, Milford Track. The vesting under the Department's control of an area of the Tongariro National Park, on which is located the Chateau Tongariro, has already been referred to. So far as these activities may be expected to return a direct revenue, they have, of course, been detrimentally affected, in common with all hotel and similar undertakings, by the general falling-off in traffic during the past year or two. Several of the other more important reserves which are vested in the Department have been leased, and unfortunately the lessees have in general been experiencing difficulty in carrying on.

In many respects the Department is called upon to assist in improving the tourist facilities in the Dominion, and work of this nature has been done during the past year in many localities. The amount available for this class of work has, however, been reduced, and the only important undertaking of a developmental character now proceeding is the completion of the work of construction of the new Blue Bath buildings in Rotorua.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the Department during the financial year under review was £58,876, a decrease of £9,648 over that of the previous year, and the expenditure, including the Overseas Publicity Branch, was £91,951, as against £120,413 for the previous year.

The following tables give details of revenue and expenditure for the past six years; also the receipts and expenditure at the main tourist resorts:—

Return of Receipts, 1926-32.

	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts	61,674	65,447	72,658	75,083	68,524	58,876

Return of Expenditure, 1926-32.

	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Consolidated Fund ..	76,378	76,865	82,987	130,615*	120,413*	91,951*
Public Works Fund ..	31,981	36,673	39,254	20,546	60,288	87,609†

* Includes expenditure Overseas Publicity Branch.
of Chateau Tongariro.

† Largely represented by repayment of loans in respect

Passenger Booking Branch—Ticket Sales.—1930-31, £173,930; 1931-32, £241,415: increase, £67,485. Sales, 1931-32, include Central Railway Booking-offices' sales at Auckland and Wellington.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure at Main Resorts.

Resort.	Year 1931-32.				Year 1930-31.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.	Excess of Receipts over Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.	Excess of Receipts over Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Te Aroha	1,133	3,004	1,871	..	1,244	3,541	2,297	..
Rotorua	35,475	31,642	..	3,833	38,367	39,330	963	..
Waitomo Caves ..	7,322	6,651	..	671	10,352	8,391	..	1,961
Lake House, Waikaremoana ..	2,096	2,834	738	..	2,491	3,585	1,094	..
Queenstown	256	602	346	..	223	735	512	..
Glade House and Milford Track ..	1,564	4,364	2,800	..	2,845	7,179	4,334	..
Morere Hot Springs ..	450	316	..	134	539	394	..	145
Passenger-booking bureaux ..	8,743	11,762	3,019	..	7,893	12,296	4,403	..