

REVENUE ACCOUNT, 1930-31.

<i>Debit.</i>			<i>Credit.</i>		
		£			£
To Administration expenses		8,951	By Rent		192,624
Rebates		7,236	Interest		17,319
Remissions		13,935	Royalties		11,586
Rents written off		6,826	Residue of receipts under sec. 317, Land		
“Thirds,” “halves,” and “fourths” ..		7,777	Act, 1924		843
Depreciation on buildings, Kapiti ..		16	Interest under sec. 13, Land Laws Amend-		
			ment Act, 1926		72,532
Total expenditure		44,741	Interest under sec. 47, Land Laws Amend-		
Balance to Net Revenue Account ..		258,650	ment Act, 1929		8,405
			Miscellaneous fees and fines, &c. ..		82
		<u>£303,391</u>			<u>£303,391</u>

NET REVENUE ACCOUNT, 1930-31.

<i>Debit.</i>			<i>Credit.</i>		
		£			£
Balance, Thermal Springs District Revenue			Balance brought down		258,650
Account		167	Balance, Mining District Land Occupation		
Interest on capital at 4 per cent. ..		315,736	Revenue Account		1,454
			Deficiency		55,799
		<u>£315,903</u>			<u>£315,903</u>

819. The administrative expenses of the Department in 1914-15 and in 1930-31 as provided by vote Department of Lands and Survey were as follow :—

	1914-15.			1930-31.		
	Salaries.	Other Charges.	Total.	Salaries.	Other Charges.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Subdivision I—Administration	102,648	102,258	204,906	202,986	71,206	274,192
Subdivision II — Miscellaneous services	..	45,528	45,528	..	18,636	18,636
			250,434			292,828
Less credits-in-aid	45,800	126,937
			<u>£204,634</u>			<u>£165,891</u>

820. The above comparison is, however, not very appropriate, as in 1914-15 considerable amounts were appropriated in respect of recreation-grounds and domains and for road access, and the relative items are not included in the vote for 1930-31. Also the credits-in-aid in 1930-31, owing to larger recoveries being made from individual accounts, are considerably in excess of credits-in-aid in 1914-15, and the recoveries now made are, to a certain extent at least, due to changes in the accounting system.

821. The main point to be noted in the foregoing statement is that salaries have increased by approximately 100 per cent. since 1914-15. The staff in 1914-15 numbered 551, and at the 31st March, 1932, it numbered 680 ; but a reduction of approximately 20 officers has since been effected. As already indicated, we do not consider that this reduction is sufficient, and believe that a review of the duties performed by the technical branch of the Department will disclose that further reductions in staff and in the work performed will be possible.

822. As to the clerical staff, it would be possible to reduce the numbers considerably by the transfer of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement mortgage work to the State Advances Office. It would also be possible to curtail the field staff if this action were taken. This is referred to later.

823. The Dominion is divided into twelve land districts, each in charge of a Commissioner of Crown Lands, who has a professional, clerical, and technical staff to carry out the work in the district.

824. We have considered the possibility of amalgamating some of the district offices, and believe that some economies can be effected by this means.

825. The twelve land districts are as follow :—

Land District.	Office at	Land District.	Office at
North Auckland ..	Auckland.	Marlborough ..	Blenheim.
South Auckland ..	Auckland.	Nelson	Nelson.
Gisborne	Gisborne.	Westland	Hokitika.
Hawke's Bay	Napier.	Canterbury ..	Christchurch.
Taranaki	New Plymouth.	Otago	Dunedin.
Wellington	Wellington.	Southland	Invercargill.

826. It will be seen that there are two offices in Auckland ; but there is only one technical staff for the North and South Auckland Districts, under the control of a separate Chief Surveyor. Formerly there was one combined office for the whole of the Auckland Province, but owing to the great increase in the work following the passing of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act, 1915, and amendments, it was deemed necessary to divide the district, and two offices were accordingly established.