

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

The increase in the number of subscribers to the several exchanges for the financial year ended the 31st March last is given below :—

	Mar. 31, 1889.	Mar. 31, 1888.
Auckland	461	439
Napier	114	104
Wanganui	61	81
Wellington	426	402
Nelson	53	64
Blenheim	43	45
Greymouth	34	...
Christchurch	347	332
Timaru	52	60
Oamaru	46	47
Dunedin	541	515
Port Chalmers	14	14
Invercargill	55	57
Bluff	7	6
Totals	2,254	2,166

—an increase of 88 subscribers for the year.

An exchange was opened at Greymouth on the 20th September last.

The capital expended in connection with the several telephone exchanges up to the 31st March, 1889, was £59,755 7s. 5d.

The subscriptions received during the year amounted to £17,613 4s., and the cost of maintenance, &c., was £11,244 6s. 2d.

The number of private wires increased from 82 to 86, and the receipts from £1,122 19s. 6d. to £1,190 2s. 3d.

AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

The following extensions have been carried out during the year : Kaipara Heads line, Pukekararo line, Wangarei Heads line, Hikutaia wire, Auckland to Remuera, Railway Block line : total, eighty-one miles of wire.

Telephone stations have been opened at Hakaru, Hikutaia, Marsden Point, Parua Bay, Pouto (Kaipara Heads), Pukekararo, Scarrotts', Wangarei Heads, Wellsford, and Whirinaki.

Beyond the rebutting of a considerable number of the kauri poles, the maintenance calls for no special remarks.

The district lines are in good working order.

HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT.

The Tenui-Waipukurau section has undergone thorough repair ; rebutt and new poles erected where necessary, and five miles and a half shifted to suit the road. A portion of the Gisborne line has also been shifted.

A branch line from Ormondville to Norsewood has been erected and a loop-line at Matata.

The following lines have been overhauled : Tolaga Bay to Napier, Napier to Puketapu, Napier to Waipawa, Napier to Taupo, Maketu to Opotiki, Thames to Maketu.

All other sections are in good order.

The Woodville-Waipukurau section has been rearmed between Takapau and Kopua.

All offices throughout the district have been visited and inspected.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT.

The following extensions and overhauls to lines in this district have been made during the year : From Wellington to Hutt office ; from Kai Iwi to Waitotara, and a telephone wire extended from Kai Iwi to Waitotara ; from Wanganui to Bulls, including overhaul of line to cable-hut at mouth of Wanganui River ; from Sentry Hill to Waitara ; from Stoney River to New Plymouth ; from Bulls to Foxton *via* Sandon ; from Greatford to Carnarvon Junction, *via* Halcombe and Palmerston North ; and from Foxton to Wellington as far as the junction of the Hutt line.

For the Railway Department a block instrument wire has been erected between Upper Hutt and Kaitoke.

The line between Tenui and Castlepoint has been converted to a telephone line, effecting an annual saving of £80.

Cables.—All the cables, with the exception of the No. 4, continue in good repair, so far as may be judged from their respective insulation-tests.

NELSON DISTRICT.

The following extensions have been completed during the year : Blenheim to Awatere, Boatmans to Cronadun, Lyell to Inangahua Junction, Totara Flat to Little Grey, Motueka to Riwaka, Nelson to Wakapuaka Suburban, Brightwater to Spring Grove, Cullensville Loop, Longford to Owen River Junction.

A private wire for the Westport Harbour Board, and a wire for the Marine Department, connecting Pilot-station and the Nelson Lighthouse, have also been erected.

Repairs and Overhauls.—Motueka to Richmond, Manuka Flat to Hope Junction, Lyell to Inangahua Junction.

The lines in this district are in thorough good order.