

	Miles of Poles.	Miles of Wire.
For Railway Department—		
Frankton Junction—Ruakura	0½	4½
Auckland—Ellerslie Railway	...	7
Paeroa Railway-station to Post-office	0½	0½
Rangiriri Railway-station	1	1
Helensville—Waitakerei	...	19
Te Aroha Railway to Post-office	0½	0½
Thames Railway-station to Frankton Junction	...	68
Ellerslie Railway blocks	...	3½
For Public Works Department—		
Otorohanga—Porootarao	1	1
Total	85	324½

The new wire from Auckland to Mahoenui, which continues thence to New Plymouth, gives an alternate route between Auckland and Wellington, and direct communication between Auckland and the New Plymouth district.

Maintenance.

The following sections have been overhauled and repaired, the aggregate length being 246 miles: Hamilton to Cambridge and Pirongia; Kawakawa to Rawene and branches; Maketu to Rotorua; Waipu to Maungaturoto; Auckland to Howick; Auckland to Drury; Mercer to Rangiriri; Thames to Morrinsville and Frankton Junction.

Diversions on the main line at Kawakawa and at Whangarei have been made, involving the removal and re-erection of 35 poles.

Between Auckland and Rangiriri, on the Waikato line, the repairs and renewals have been considerable, all decayed and weak poles having been removed and replaced by wooden poles of larger dimensions or by iron poles. All angles have been renewed. In the Thames River 700 yards of three-core submarine cable were laid to replace the old cable, which had failed.

The following sections, of a total length of 230 miles, are being overhauled and repaired: Cape Maria van Diemen to Awanui; Coromandel to Tairua; Hamilton to Raglan and Kawhia; Rangiriri to Hamilton; Drury to Mercer.

Offices.

The Kawakawa and Pirongia offices have been, and the Taupo building is now being, painted. The whole of that portion of the Auckland Post-office building used for telegraph and exchange purposes has been painted and well renovated. A number of offices has been rewired and fitted with new test-boards, and a number of others supplied with bridging bell telephones in place of the old-type instruments. Eight new offices have been opened for railway business only—three on the Morse system and five with bridging bell telephones.

A railway cadets' learning gallery has been fitted up at the Auckland Railway-station.

Telephone Exchanges.

A branching multiple switchboard was erected in a new exchange-room, and came into use on the 12th November last. A power-room for the gas-engine, dynamo, magnetos, and accumulators was built. The arrangements are convenient; everything has worked smoothly, and the new system has given great satisfaction. The number of subscribers is 1,041, a slight increase on the previous year.

600 new-type telephones have been used to replace the old ones.

THAMES.

The exchange is in good order. The number of subscribers does not vary much, being now 80, as compared with 83 last year.

WELLINGTON.

Construction.

The following extensions of lines and wires were completed during the year:—

	Miles of Poles.	Miles of Wire.
Ormond to Te Karaka and Whatatutu	15½	15½
New Plymouth to Mahoenui	72	135
Wanganui to New Plymouth	...	104
Bell Block to Lepperton	1	6½
Rona to Muritai	0½	0½
Worser Bay to Seatoun	0½	0½
Feilding Racecourse	...	1
Cunningham's	0½	0½
Dannevirke to Takapau	...	21
Dreyerton loop	...	0½
For Railway Department—		
Petone to Upper Hutt (along railway)	13	13
Upper Hutt to Featherston, on railway-line <i>via</i> Summit	...	24
Woodville to Ngawapurua	3½	4
Wangaehu to Aramoho Junction	15	15
Wanganui semaphore circuit	0½	1
New Plymouth Railway to Stationmaster's house... ..	0½	0½
Total	122½	342½