

EMPIRE PRESS RATE.

To encourage the dissemination of news through the press during the war period, a reduction in the Empire press rate from 2½d. to 1d. a word was made on the 1st October, 1941.

RADIO SERVICES.**OVERSEAS RADIO-TELEGRAPH EMERGENCY CIRCUITS.**

In order to ensure the continuity of overseas telegraphic communications in the event of dislocation of the cables, emergency radio-telegraph channels were arranged between New Zealand and the United Kingdom (two circuits), the United States of America (two circuits), and Australia (one circuit).

RADIO BROADCASTING.**RECEIVING LICENSES.**

The total number of licenses as at the 31st March, 1942, was 371,257, representing an increase of 15,777, or 4·4 per cent., compared with the number current at the close of the previous year.

TELEPHONE-EXCHANGE SERVICES.**TELEPHONE DEVELOPMENT.**

The number of telephone subscribers increased during the year from 171,965 to 176,171, an advance of 2·32 per cent. As a result of the restrictions placed upon the provision of new telephone connections in December, 1941, however, the number of telephones relinquished towards the close of the year exceeded the number of new connections installed.

Toll calls also reached a new high level during the year, the number handled being 16,886,371, compared with 15,711,671 for the previous year, an increase of 4·94 per cent.

TELEPHONE-EXCHANGES.

The number of exchanges in the Dominion is 349, of which 19 are automatic in operation.

NEW AUTOMATIC-TELEPHONE-EXCHANGE EQUIPMENT.

The telephone-exchange at Gisborne was cut over to automatic working on the 5th July, 1941. The first stage of the comprehensive programme to extend the automatic-switching system in the Auckland metropolitan area was completed during the year, and the second stage of the programme is being proceeded with as rapidly as possible. This stage comprises the establishment of new exchanges at St. Heliers, Mount Albert, and Birkenhead, and the installation of additional switching-equipment at the Remuera and Takapuna exchanges.

PUBLIC CALL OFFICES.

During the year the number of public call offices (coin-in-the-slot telephones) installed in the Dominion increased from 1,240 to 1,293, an increase of 53. The total collections from the machines for the year was £78,736, an increase of 8·8 per cent. over the previous year.

APPENDIX.**Table No. 1.**

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEARS 1940-41 AND 1941-42.

Year.	Balance forward.	Receipts.	Payments for Working-expenses.	Balance of Receipts over Working-expenses Payments.	Other Disbursements.			Payment to Consolidated Fund.	Balance.
					Depreciation Fund Investment, including Expenditure on Renewals, and Replacements of Assets.	Contributions to Post and Telegraph Officers' Sick-benefit Fund.	Interest on Capital Liability.		
1940-1941 ..	38,467	5,106,193	3,615,902	1,490,291	788,280	6,720	665,000	30,000	38,758
1941-1942 ..	38,758	5,388,013	3,827,662	1,560,351	650,100	7,178	667,196	235,963	38,672

Table No. 2.

POSTAL ARTICLES POSTED AND DELIVERED IN NEW ZEALAND DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1941.

					Letters, Letter-cards, and Postcards.	Registered Articles.	Accounts, Circulars, Newspapers, Packets, &c.	Parcels.
Posted ..	..	..	..	..	139,760,347	3,236,319	113,090,120	5,874,105
Delivered ..	..	..	..	..	146,056,884	2,740,855	124,231,137	5,078,133
Total ..	..	..	..	..	285,817,231	5,977,174	237,321,257	10,952,238