

DETAILED EXAMINATION OF IMMEDIATE POSITION

An economic and statistical analysis has therefore been prepared in the Ministry of Works covering the following aspects:—

- (1) The overall capacity of the Dominion to construct works and buildings and whether steps should be taken to increase this capacity;
- (2) The appropriate proportion of the Dominion's capital construction which might be undertaken—
 - (i) For the Government.
 - (ii) For local authorities.
 - (iii) For private enterprise having regard to prevailing economic conditions;
- (3) The allocation of Government and subsidized work—
 - (i) As between the various types of work,
 - (ii) As between the various parts of the Dominion.

Though the conclusions reached as a result of this analysis are under consideration at the present time and will be embodied in the actual programme of works when this is finalized, it is possible to outline the method and to quote certain of the preliminary results which have been arrived at.

(1) *Overall Capacity*

New Zealand's capacity to carry out building and constructional work is limited at the present time, apart from a shortage of trained personnel, principally by four major factors—man-power, timber, cement, and steel.

A close examination of the *man-power* position in the building and constructional industries has been made through the National Employment Service and directly with the Departments employing substantial numbers of men. The following is a summary of information received:—

*Estimate of the Building and Constructional Labour Force as at
31st January, 1946*

Item.	Total Men.	Estimated Number employed on Work for—		
		Government.	Local Authorities.	Private.
National Employment Service Survey—				
Apprentices and trainees	3,700	1,200	200	2,300
Own account workers	1,900	300	100	1,500
Other workers	23,100	7,900	1,400	13,800
Public Works Department	6,600	6,600	..	..
Railways Department	900	900	..	..
Lands Department	640	640	..	..
Native Department	160	160	..	..
Armed Forces	150	150	..	..
Post and Telegraph Department	100	100	..	..
Local authorities (maintenance)	12,000	..	12,000	..
Total labour force	49,250	17,950	13,700	17,600
Percentage of whole building and constructional labour force	100.0	36.5	27.8	35.7

NOTE.—The above total of 49,250 may be compared with a total labour force in all industries of some 720,000.