

STORES

The value of stores and equipment ordered during the year was as follows, the figures for the previous year being shown for comparative purposes :—

	1944-45.	1945-46.
For Post and Telegraph Department —	£	£
From suppliers in New Zealand	270,953	483,744
Ordered for supply from overseas	294,987	936,294
For other Departments —		
From suppliers in New Zealand	95,992	164,883
Ordered for supply from overseas	89,221	42,583

The foregoing amounts are comprised of actual or estimated costs, plus freight, Customs duty, and sales tax, where applicable.

The value of the stocks, including stores on-cost, held in the Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington storekeeping districts at the end of the year, as compared with that of the stocks held on the 31st March, 1945, was as follows :—

District	31st March, 1945. £	31st March, 1946. £
Auckland	561,847	525,890
Christchurch	217,444	196,152
Dunedin	147,863	142,786
Wellington	1,855,837	2,027,502
	<u>£2,782,991</u>	<u>£2,892,330</u>

BUILDINGS AND LAND

During the year the following departmental buildings were completed : residences at Avondale, Henderson, Levin, and Stratford ; a large and a small garage at Newmarket and Murchison respectively ; an emergency radio-station building at New Plymouth ; and temporary housing for carrier-telephone equipment at Te Kuiti.

Additions were made to the post-office buildings at Clive, Kaitangata, Lumsden, Te Araroa, and Whangarei ; and alterations were made to the post-office buildings at Fitzroy, Kaponga, Karamea, Hamilton, and Piopio.

Army buildings were purchased and converted to provide temporary premises for the Telegraph Engineer and his staff at Whangarei, to provide temporary post-office accommodation at Milford, Mission Bay, Naenae, Paremata, Ramarama, Spring Creek, Taita, Waikuku Beach, Waitati, and temporary money-order and savings-bank premises at Otahuhu.

Residences were purchased during the year at Lower Hutt, Dunedin, Nelson, and Leeston.

Land was acquired at Auckland West (for residence), Balclutha (extension of line-yard), Belmont (Auckland) (for post-office), Carterton (for residence), Cheviot (for store-garage), Christchurch (extension of chief-post-office site), Christchurch (for garage and workshops), Darfield (for post-office), Dunedin (with residence), Dunsandel (for post-office and residence), Glen Eden (for residence), Henderson (for residence and extension of post-office site), Heriot (for post-office), Hikutaia (for residence), Leeston (with residence), Lower Hutt (with residence), Masterton (for residence), Matamata (for store-garage), Matamata (for residence), Milford (for post-office), Morrinsville (extension of line-depot), Nelson (with residence), New Lynn (for residence), North-east Valley (for automatic exchange), Northland (for post-office), Paraparaumu (for residence), Putaruru (for store-garage), Sheffield (for post-office), South Christchurch (for automatic exchange), Taumarunui (for pole-stacking), Thames (for residence), Waikouaiti (for residence), Wanganui East (for post-office), Wellington East (for automatic-exchange), Whangarei (extension of store-garage site), Whitianga (extension of post-office site).