

The first storage installations were made at Paekakariki and Taihape, and with the conversion proceeding to plan the complete installations will be as follows :—

					Gallons.
Paekakariki	..	..	..	..	22,000
Palmerston North	..	..	..	..	66,000
Napier	..	..	..	..	15,000
New Plymouth	..	..	..	..	11,000
Taihape	..	..	..	..	33,000
Taumarunui	..	..	..	..	66,000
Frankton Junction	..	..	..	..	66,000
Auckland	..	..	..	..	66,000

COAL POSITION

The following table shows the consumption and stocks of locomotive coal during the past nine years :—

Year ended 31st March,						Coal Consumption.			Coal Stocks.
						Hard.	Soft.	Total.	
						Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1939	..	..	..	..	..	284,295	200,128	484,423	93,046
1940	..	..	..	..	..	301,512	190,944	492,456	53,570
1941	..	..	..	..	..	298,465	230,087	528,552	76,109
1942	..	..	..	..	..	307,948	229,784	537,732	73,332
1943	..	..	..	..	..	333,773	278,068	611,841	65,087
1944	..	..	..	..	..	284,688	349,319	634,007	20,817
1945	..	..	..	..	..	205,577	371,349	576,926	20,954
1946	..	..	..	..	..	209,943	400,143	610,086	11,841
1947	..	..	..	..	..	233,651	360,180	593,831	7,166

An indication has already been given of the difficulties experienced in maintaining passenger services during the year as a result of the coal shortage. Goods traffic has also been affected, and while successful efforts have been made to cater for all essential traffic, and the assistance of road transport called in, the Department has been seriously hampered in the supply of rolling-stock where needed by the inability to run special trains to deal with empties.

Coal consumption for the year totalled 593,831 tons—233,651 tons hard and 360,180 tons soft. Of the hard coal, 35,345 tons were imported from Canada and the United States, so that the local supply totalled 558,486 tons, as against last year's total of 610,086 tons.

The following table shows for the same years the consumption of coal from the point of view of efficiency and economy :—

Year ended 31st March,			Steam-engine Miles (000's).	Pounds per Engine-mile.	Steam Gross Ton-miles (000's).	Pounds per 1,000 Gross Ton-miles.	Percentage of Soft Coal used.
1939..	..	..	16,978	64	2,767,240	392	41
1940..	..	..	17,069	65	2,828,326	390	39
1941..	..	..	17,072	69	2,991,761	396	44
1942..	..	..	17,368	69	3,078,801	391	43
1943..	..	..	18,840	73	3,467,082	395	45
1944..	..	..	18,955	75	3,562,997	399	55
1945..	..	..	16,087	80	3,117,337	415	64
1946..	..	..	16,804	81	3,281,499	416	66
1947..	..	..	16,403	81	3,243,256	410	61

These figures once again demonstrate the effect on fuel efficiency of the proportion of soft coal used.