

But the greatest progress was made in the field of relieving the accommodation difficulties of officers. One hundred and eighty-three transit flats for married officers were completed, the units being located in all parts of the country. For single officers, two large hostels were provided at Wellington and one at Auckland, while at seven country places where lodgings were not obtainable bachelor accommodation for varying numbers of officers was also provided. The provision in this way of extra living-accommodation to meet the most urgent cases is having the further effect of assisting the Department to overcome staffing problems where they are most acute.

It is worthy of record that practically all the work associated with the adaptation of these second-hand buildings, as well as the alterations and additions to post-offices and other departmental buildings, has been arranged and supervised by the Department's own staffs; while in a limited number of cases the actual construction work as well has been carried out by the Department's own workmen. This use of the Department's own resources has materially reduced the amount of work which otherwise would have been placed upon the heavily laden Public Works organization.

Satisfactory progress was made by the Housing Division of the Public Works Department in respect of houses for postmasters. Ten residences for postmasters were completed during the year and thirteen were under construction at the end of the year.

In detail, the Department's building and land transactions during the year were as follow:—

The following new buildings were completed during the year: a carrier building at Culverden; automatic-telephone-exchange buildings at Green Island and Karori; temporary telephone-exchange buildings at Ponsonby, Rotorua, and Whakatane; rural automatic-telephone-exchange buildings at Ngatinoti and Oparau; residences at Inglewood, Masterton, Otaki, Paraparaumu, Point Chevalier, Taneatua, Thames, Tikitiki, Tirau, and Waikouaiti.

Additions were made to the post-office buildings at Brown's Bay, Riverton, Seddon, Takaka, and Wyndham; also to the receiving-station building at Awarua Radio. Alterations were made to the post-office buildings at Addington (including removal of tower), Leeston, Outram, Paraparaumu, Upper Moutere, and Waikaia.

Surplus Defence buildings were used for departmental purposes as follow: additional post-office accommodation at Wainuku and Whakatane; post-offices at Blockhouse Bay, Parakao, Ruatoki North, Surfdale, and Titirangi; post-offices and quarters at Buckland's Beach and Rai Valley; additional store and workshops accommodation at New Plymouth; a temporary line depot at Palmerston North; additional workshops accommodation at Masterton; a staff lunch-room at Hawera; and a staff retiring-room at Te Awamutu.

Surplus Defence buildings were converted into transit flats for departmental employees as follows: Auckland (Bayswater, 15; and Onehunga, 14), Balclutha (1), Blenheim, (3), Bulls (3), Christchurch (3), Dunedin (Ocean Beach, 1; and Central Battery Camp, 10), Gisborne (6), Gore (2), Hastings (9), Hawera (4), Invercargill (2), Kaitiaki (2), Morrinsville (3), Nelson (3 additional), Paeroa (2), Palmerston North (2), Putaruru (3), Ranfurly (1), Rangiora (2), Thames (3), Timaru (6), Wanganui (7), Wellington (Karori, 4; Northland, 6; Rongotui, 3; and Trentham, 50), Westport (1), and Whangarei (4).

Departmental premises were converted as follow: to provide transit flats at Cromwell (1), Dargaville (1), Kaikohe (2), Kawakawa (1), Taihape (2), and Wellsford (1); and to provide bachelor accommodation at Henderson (three-man), Morrinsville (two-man), and Tikitiki (two-man); and also to provide a residence at Seddon.