

2. CONSTITUTION OF BOARD

As originally constituted and added to from time to time the Board consisted of fourteen members, but this was found to be too cumbersome a body for the effective discharge of its functions. In May, 1947, the Board was reconstituted to consist of three members only, with two associate members—one representing the Right Hon. the Minister of Finance and one representing Treasury. The personnel so appointed was as follows :—

Mr. F. R. Picot (Chairman),

Mr. F. W. Furkert,

Mr. W. N. Pharazyn,

with Mr. T. H. McCombs, M.P., and Mr. A. B. Taylor as the two associate members. During the year under review the two associate members have been replaced, the former, on his elevation to Cabinet rank, by Mr. H. E. Combs, M.P., and the latter by Mr. D. W. A. Barker.

3. ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Several Advisory Committees have been set up by the Board from time to time, the functions of such Committees being to report to the Board on all matters referred to them for investigation and to make recommendations to the Board in regard to the disposal of any stores coming within their scope. Advisory Committees are empowered, subject to the approval of the Board, to co-opt the services of representatives of trade organizations, business houses, and other bodies as may be deemed expedient. Advisory Committees so set up are as follows: (a) Buildings; (b) Motor-vehicles; (c) M.T. Parts and Accessories; (d) General Stores; (e) Mechanical Plant and Machinery; (f) Radio and Electrical Materials and Equipment; (g) Metals; (h) Aircraft and Aircraft Materials; (i) Chemicals.

4. ORGANIZATION OF BOARD

The head office of the Board is located at Wellington, with branch offices at Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch, each in charge of a District Executive Officer. Until recently sub-branches were operating at Dunedin and Blenheim—working under Christchurch and Wellington respectively—but these have now been closed. It is anticipated that the Christchurch office should close down at the end of this year.

The activities of the Board are divided into five main sections—Buildings, Motor-vehicles and Parts, Machinery and Aircraft, Radio and Electrical, General Stores, the latter being further divided into a number of subsections each dealing with a particular group of commodities.

5. STAFF

Reference has been made in previous reports to staffing problems. The Board has had the greatest difficulty in retaining in its service an adequate and efficient staff to cope with the work of the Board. There is a natural desire on the part of members of the staff to transfer to some more permanent Department or to establish themselves in outside industry, and the Board has been, and will continue to be, faced with many transfers and resignations, in many cases involving key personnel whom the Board can ill afford to lose. In this connection it is to be noted that during the four years the Board has been in existence no fewer than 120 resignations and transfers have taken place. At the present time, apart from storemen, the staff of the Board throughout New Zealand, including the Auckland District Office, the Christchurch District Office, the Wellington District Office, and headquarters totals 97, against a total staff of 123 as at the 31st March, 1947, a reduction of 20 per cent. during the last twelve months.