

At the end of the year the following works were in progress: Auckland East and Auckland West (erection of Postmasters' residences); Awarua Radio (erection of six staff residences); Balclutha (erection of post-office building); Cheviot (erection of new carrier-telephone building); Dunedin (erection of arm-boring depot); Feilding (erection of post-office building); Greymouth (conversion of residence into transit flats); Greytown (erection of Postmaster's residence); Kaitaia (alterations to store-garage building); Karamea (erection of Postmaster's residence); Kilbirnie (erection of automatic-telephone-exchange building); Moray Place (erection of Postmaster's residence); Musick Radio (erection of four additional transit flats by utilizing the old post-office building from Papakura Military Camp); Naenae and Nelson (erection of automatic-telephone-exchange buildings); Oamaru (conversion of existing residence to provide two transit flats); Opunake, Ponsonby, Remuera, South Dunedin, and Wellesley Street (erection of Postmasters' residences); and Whangarei (erection of Chief Postmaster's residence).

A contract was let early in 1949 for the erection of a new post-office building at Hokitika.

STORES

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

	1947-48.	1948-49.
For Post and Telegraph Department—	£	£
From suppliers in New Zealand ..	943,039	1,322,870
Ordered for supply from overseas ..	2,469,697	4,106,358
For other Departments—		
From suppliers in New Zealand ..	519,578	627,476
Ordered for supply from overseas ..	119,956	62,204

The above amounts represent actual or estimated costs, including 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, 1948, was as follows:—

District.	31st March. 1948. £	31st March, 1949. £
Auckland	482,113	828,426
Christchurch	236,520	398,600
Dunedin	188,706	240,273
Wellington	1,747,063	2,310,360
	<u>£2,654,402</u>	<u>£3,777,659</u>

DEPARTMENTAL MOTOR-VEHICLES

STRENGTH OF FLEET

The fleets of the Public Service Garages, which are administered by the Post Office, total 1,405 vehicles—906 trucks and vans and 499 cars. The mileage travelled last year was 10,865,000. Cars averaged 9,650 miles each, and trucks and vans 6,550 miles each, for the year.