

Post Office activities both by the public and by officers themselves. To this end there was established in the General Post Office in August, 1947, a Public Relations Division. This brought within one organizational unit the general information duties of the Postal (General) Division and the activities of the Commercial Branch, which provided a basis for extending general public-relations activity.

Film-projectors have been introduced for staff training and instruction. Newspaper display advertising and posters of an informative nature have been used to good effect.

Due to war conditions, the commercial and sales organization was greatly reduced in scope in 1941 and turned to the development of the national-savings movement and to assisting to raise various war loans. With the return of normal conditions commercial activities are being resumed, particularly in the progressive restoration of commercial advertisements in telephone directories. By 1950 all directories will be carrying advertisements.

During the year revenue to the value of £4,351 was received from telephone directory advertising.

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR-VEHICLES AND ASSOCIATED WORK

At the 31st March, 1949, licensed motor-vehicles in New Zealand numbered 385,266.

New registrations during the year totalled 35,269.

Motor-registration fees collected amounted to £708,083.

The premiums collected on behalf of the thirty-seven insurance companies authorized to underwrite business in terms of the Motor-vehicles Insurance (Third-party Risks) Act, 1928, totalled £493,797.

Mileage-tax amounting to £39,926 was collected in respect of 563 vehicles.

During the year 97,798 claims for refunds of duty on motor-spirits were authorized for payment, the total amount of tax refunded being £811,007.

The period within which an application for a refund of duty may be lodged has been extended from two to four months following the close of the prescribed quarterly periods. This extension became effective as from the September (1948) quarter.