

The scheme for the linking-up of the more important provincial towns by means of the **multiplex** machine-printing system has now been fully developed, and installation work in connection therewith will shortly be commenced at Napier, Hamilton, and Wanganui.

UNIVERSAL-BATTERY SYSTEM.

The use of primary batteries for telegraph purposes was discontinued at the Chief Telegraph-office, Wellington, in December, from which time the more economical universal-battery system has been in operation. Preparations are now being made for the installation of universal batteries at the Auckland and Dunedin offices. Consideration is also being given to the question of installing these batteries at other large telegraph-offices. In addition to providing a more efficient source of battery power, due to uniformity in the voltage of the electrical energy supplied, the use of universal batteries effects a comparatively large saving in maintenance charges.

MAINTENANCE OF LINES.

The maintenance of the telegraph and toll-line systems has been satisfactorily carried out during the year, and, partly on account of weather conditions having been favourable, no interruptions of service of any magnitude or over an extended period have occurred.

MISCELLANEOUS (TELEGRAPHS).

Particulars of the offices opened, &c., during the year are as follows: Offices opened, 25; offices closed, 56; offices remaining open on 31st March, 1925, 2,264. Of this number, 344 are operated by Morse and 1,920 by telephone, 15 having been converted from telephone to Morse-working and 5 from Morse to telephone. The excess of offices closed over the number opened is due to the extension of the telephone-exchange system to rural and backblock districts by means of party and rural lines.

The following table shows the class and number of instruments and batteries in use at telegraph-offices for the year ended 31st March, 1925 :—

District.	Telegraph Instruments in use.								Number of Cells.						Universal-battery System.
	Constant Current.	Intermittent Current.	Single-current Duplex.	Double-current Duplex.	Direct Sounders.	Quadruplex.	Quadruplex Translators.	Quadruple Duplex Multiplex Sets.	Leclanche.	Gordon.	Daniell.	Bichromate.	Storage.	Dry.	
Auckland ..	48	78	11	8	13	21	13	2	1,465	..	..	..	161	57	..
Canterbury ..	61	66	9	8	2	7	5	3	5,503	164	40	2	174	392	1
Otago ..	52	68	1	2	..	5	3	1	5,484	..	105	..	45	..	..
Wellington ..	109	119	11	19	22	23	24	4	17,057	1,504	545	166	220	505	1
Totals ..	270	331	32	37	37	56	45	10	29,509	1,668	690	168	600	954	2

NEW TOLL CIRCUITS.

The more important of the new toll circuits completed during the year are as follows :—

Glenmurray—Rangiriri—Huntly.	Waharoa—Matamata.
Whakatane—Opotiki.	Auckland—Warkworth.
Tepuke—Rotorua.	Nelson—Richmond.
Blenheim—Renwicktown.	Kaponga—Opunake—Stratford—Dawson Falls.
Napier—Wairoa.	Renwicktown—Okaramio.
Palmerston North—Manawatu Gorge.	Woodville—Dannevirke.
Dannevirke—Ormondville.	Ormondville—Takapau.
Waipawa—Otane.	Patea—Whenuakura.
Ruatiti—Mangaparua.	Wellington—Eastbourne.
Greymouth—Arthur's Pass.	Ashburton—Springburn.
Ashburton—Methven.	Oamaru—Waitaki.
Dunedin—Palmerston—Oamaru.	Invercargill—Riverton—Thornbury—Otautau.
Invercargill—Winton—Dipton.	Hyde—Middlemarch.
Lawrence—Roxburgh.	

POLES AND WIRE.

During the year 133 miles of pole-line and 2,500 miles of wire were erected for telegraph and telephone (toll) purposes, while 109 miles of pole-line and 415 miles of wire were dismantled, or, in localities where no longer required by the Department, sold to settlers for use as private telephone-lines.

The length of pole-line and wire in use for telegraph and telephone toll purposes on the 31st March, 1924 and 1925 respectively, was as follows :—

Pole-line and Wire.					Year ended 31st March, 1924.	Year ended 31st March, 1925.	Increase.
Miles of pole-line	..	..	..	..	12,914*	12,938	24
Miles of wire	..	..	..	..	54,330*	56,415	2,085

* Revised figures.