

Hereunder is a return showing automatic-exchange equipment installed and in use in the Dominion on the 31st March, 1927 :—

Exchange.	Number of Individual Lines installed.	Number of Party Lines installed.		Number of Individual Line Stations.	Number of Party-line Stations.	Total Number of Main Stations.	Number of Extension Stations.	Total Number of Automatic Telephone Stations.
		Two-party.	Four-party.					
Auckland Exchange Area—								
Wellesley Street	7,200	..	100	5,642	250	5,892	2,179	8,071
Remuera	1,600	..	100	1,595	320	1,915	150	2,065
Mount Eden	1,600	..	100	1,598	324	1,922	100	2,022
Ponsonby	1,200	..	100	1,194	278	1,472	96	1,568
Onehunga	400	..	..	365	..	365	35	400
Devonport	500	..	..	496	..	496	30	526
Takapuna	400	..	..	281	..	281	13	294
Christchurch Exchange Area—								
Hereford Street*	1,500	..	..	1,492	..	1,492	179	1,671
St. Albans*	500	..	..	500	..	500	60	560
Sydenham*	300	..	..	299	..	299	32	331
Wellington Exchange Area—								
Courtenay Place	3,800	100	100	3,305	306	3,611	847	4,458
Wellington South	1,800	100	100	1,845†	460	2,305	149	2,454
Kelburn	1,200	..	100	1,060	122	1,182	77	1,259
Khandallah	200	100	100	22	361	392	8	400
Stout Street	7,600	..	100	3,976	213	4,189	3,051	7,240
Single-office exchanges—								
Blenheim	700	..	100	708†	158	866	95	961
Hamilton	1,600	..	100	1,520	304	1,824	293	2,117
Hawera	800	..	100	722	214	936	155	1,091
Masterton	1,000	100	..	996	212	1,208	211	1,419
Oamaru	700	..	100	732†	80	812	96	908
Palmerston North	2,000	..	100	1,896	230	2,126	264	2,390
Wanganui	2,200	100	100	2,208†	386	2,604	555	3,159
Totals	38,800	500	1,500	32,452	4,218	36,689	8,675	45,364

* Auxiliary apparatus.

† Party lines used for individual stations.

PUBLIC CALL OFFICES (COIN IN THE SLOT).

Thirty-one new installations were made in various parts of the Dominion, and a further 89 were authorized to be made. The number of public call offices in operation on the 31st March, 1927, was 435. It is regretted that the Department was unable to comply with all the numerous demands for public-call-telephone cabinets.

It has been decided to adopt new types of cabinet for further installations. One type will be of concrete construction, while the other will be of steel framework, and will follow what is known as the "Kiosk" type, in accordance with the design of a noted English architect. From the point of view of utility as well as from æsthetic considerations both these new types can be considered as desirable improvements upon the present type of wooden cabinet.

The revenue from public call offices for the year ended 31st March, 1927, amounted to £27,407, an increase of £2,220 on the figures for the preceding year.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT OF TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH ENGINEERING.

Where such divergent and rapidly advancing subjects as automatic telephony, printing telegraphs, telephone transmission, radio telegraphy and telephony, line-construction, and submarine-cable work have to be studied, and with the public being rapidly educated in the advantages to be derived from the use of telephone, telegraph, and wireless services, both in business and in social spheres, and demanding the most modern facilities, the technical staff is called upon to perform an increasing amount of investigational and developmental work with a view to determining the systems and apparatus best suited to the requirements of the Dominion. In fact, the growth in this higher class of engineering-work has been so considerable during recent years that it has been necessary to increase the qualified personnel of the engineering staff, and further additions to staff as well as increased accommodation will probably have to be provided in the near future. It will be necessary to obtain almost immediately supplies of modern testing apparatus and equipment so as to facilitate investigational work and the testing of materials and apparatus, and to ensure that the Department receives only plant and materials of a relatively high standard.