

Manufacturing is restricted almost entirely to the Wellington workshops, where the plant is more suitable for this class of work. The principal manufactures during the year consisted of telephone and telegraph equipment, office furnishings, parcel-post boxes, metal rural mail-boxes, wicker parcel-post hampers, and public-telephone cabinets. In addition, rubber stamps were manufactured to meet the requirements of the whole of the Public Service.

The returns of the various workshops show that the value of the work performed during the year amounted to a total of £95,025, of which £9,139 represents the value of services rendered to other Departments.

STORES BRANCH.

The following statement indicates the value of stores received and issued in the Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington Storekeeping Districts during the year ended the 31st March, 1929, and the value of stocks held at that date. For the purposes of comparison the particulars for the previous year are shown also :—

	1928-29.			1927-28.		
	Receipts.*	Issues.*	Stock in hand, 31st March, 1929.	Receipts.*	Issues*	Stock in hand, 31st March, 1928.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland ..	229,089	254,924	100,882	201,514	209,992	126,716
Christchurch ..	151,933	143,869	83,824	163,338	166,310	75,760
Dunedin ..	82,805	101,751	41,051	108,977	111,294	59,997
Wellington ..	376,324	436,499	276,407	507,394	542,047	336,583
Totals ..	840,151	937,043	502,164	981,223	1,029,643	599,056

* Excluding transfers within storekeeping districts.

PURCHASES.

The total value of stores purchased during the year was £484,218. Of this amount, £186,286 10s. 7d. represented the cost of stores for supply from within the Dominion, while £297,931 represented the cost of stores for supply from overseas. The total value of stores purchased during the previous year was £464,164 9s. 3d.

Particulars of purchases arranged on account of other Departments under the Stores Control Board Regulations are set out hereunder. The figures for the previous year are shown also :—

Year ended	Requisitions.	Items.	Value of Items purchased.		Total.
			On Indent.	Locally.	
			£	£	£
31st March, 1929 ..	3,499	14,097	20,305	81,851	102,156
31st March, 1928 ..	3,301	13,529	22,632	91,587	114,219

The purchase was arranged of 145 motor-vehicles for other Departments, and of 124 motor-vehicles for the Post and Telegraph Department. The figures for the previous year were 95 and 130 respectively.

GENERAL CONTRACTS.

Full advantage is taken of the contracts let by the Stores Control Board. Orders placed under such contracts for cement, motor-spirit, and lubricating-oils amounted to £34,941.

At the instance of the Post and Telegraph Department a contract was arranged through the Stores Control Board for the supply of the combined requirements of motor tires and tubes for various Departments. This contract resulted in economy to Government.

ORDERS FOR DOMINION PRODUCTS.

Full preference, as provided in the Customs tariff, has been given to goods manufactured in the Dominion, notwithstanding that this action has involved a greater expenditure than would have been the case had some of the orders been placed overseas. An amount of £12,748 was spent in the purchase of insulator-cups manufactured in the Dominion, and £10,847 in the purchase of 19,856 silver-pine poles. Rata and other timber of a value of £2,949 was obtained for cutting into telegraph arms.