

- The laying of twenty-five miles of underground-cable ducts.
- The laying or erecting of 102 miles of lead-covered cable, containing 18,196 miles of wire, for subscribers' circuits.
- The erection of 838 miles of pole-line and 6,781 miles of open aerial wire for telephone-exchange subscribers' circuits.
- The reconstruction of the open-wire systems at twenty-four exchanges.
- The connection of 12,779 new subscribers' main stations and the disconnection of 8,575 subscribers' main stations.
- The installation of sixty-six public call offices.
- The maintenance of 157,767 telephone-stations.
- The installation of additional secondary batteries at the Wellesley Street, Mount Eden, Onchunga, South Dunedin, and Dunedin automatic exchanges.
- The installation of rectifier charging-plants at Onchunga and Blenheim.
- The replacement of hand-ringers by pole-changers at Kaponga and Ranfurly.
- The installation of frequency-converters at a number of exchanges in replacement of motor-generator sets and pole-changers for the purpose of improving the ringing facilities at those exchanges.

In addition to the work enumerated in the foregoing summary a considerable number of extensions to the switching and cabling portion of local telephone-exchange systems was commenced but not completed during the year.

The length of various items of telephone-exchange plant in existence on the 31st March, 1930, and 1931, respectively, was as follows :—

	Pole-line.	Single Duct Line.	Cable.		Wire.			
			Under-ground.	Aerial.	In Under-ground Cable.	In Aerial Cable.	Open Aerial.	Under all Headings.
	Miles.	Chains.	Chains.	Chains.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
In existence on 31st March, 1930	14,349	39,243	84,137*	45,180	351,365	59,358	102,373	513,096
Erected during year	839	2,015	5,397	2,766	15,031	3,165	6,781	24,977
Dismantled during year	62	..	902	3,188	3,331	4,839	1,335	9,505
In existence on 31st March, 1931	15,126	41,258	88,632	44,758	363,065	57,684	107,819†	528,568

* Revised figures. † Includes 117 miles of earth-working circuit.

The percentages of the total wire-mileage in underground and aerial cables and open aerial wire respectively for the year ended 31st March, 1931, are as under :—

Telephone-exchange wire in underground cables	..	..	..	69 per cent.
Telephone-exchange wire in aerial cables	..	..	..	11 „
Telephone-exchange open aerial wire	..	..	..	20 „

TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

The steady growth of the telephone system is exemplified in the following table, which shows annually since 1922 the number of exchanges, the total wire-mileage, the revenue, and the total number of telephone-stations, together with the number of telephones for each 1,000 of population of the Dominion :—

Year.				Number of Exchanges.	Miles of Wire.	Revenue.	Number of Telephone-stations.	
							Total.	Per 1,000 Population.
1922	..	..	..	301	207,529	£ 614,367	94,683	72·78
1923	..	..	..	320	229,882	595,967	107,036	80·78
1924	..	..	..	327	269,421	830,470	111,441	82·67
1925	..	..	..	340	331,453	867,218	120,097*	87·09
1926	..	..	..	341	402,433	980,281	130,186*	94·40
1927	..	..	..	342	440,253	995,071	137,307*	95·48
1928	..	..	..	344	463,356	1,057,177	144,552*	99·40
1929	..	..	..	351	495,470	1,135,795	152,541*	103·72
1930	..	..	..	349	513,096	1,206,714	161,323*	108·37
1931	..	..	..	349	528,568	1,238,649	161,739*	107·04†

* Includes approximately 4,000 non-exchange stations. † Decrease owing to temporary loss of subscribers due to Hawke's Bay earthquake.