

BROKEN WIRES AND POLES.

Gales of exceptional severity, accompanied in some instances by heavy snowstorms, occurred in many parts of the Dominion during the past year, and account for the extraordinary large number of breaks reported.

There were 8,290 broken wires reported by electric-supply authorities, with 104,499 miles of conductor erected. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 2,204 broken wires, and 102,718 miles of conductor in use.

In 2,852 instances reported involving 8,290 broken wires, falling trees were again the principal cause of the breaks, and accounted for 47 per cent. of the total, as against 26.6 per cent. for 1935.

As regards broken poles, 451 instances were reported for the year, of which 232, or 51.4 per cent., were New Zealand blue-gum.

For 1935 the total number of broken poles reported was 518, and it is still evident that electric-supply authorities who experimented with New Zealand blue-gum and nondescript Australian hardwoods are now being called upon to make replacements sooner than the anticipated life of fifteen years for poles used on distribution-lines.

ACTUAL MILEAGES AND SIZES OF OVERHEAD CONDUCTORS IN USE AT 31st MARCH, 1936.

Size of Conductors (S.W.G.).	Copper.		Aluminium.		Galvanized Steel.		Galvanized Iron.		Copperweld.		Steel-cored Aluminium.		(1) Bronze, and (2) Cadmium- copper.		Total Break- ages.
	Miles.	Break- ages.	Miles.	Break- ages.	Miles.	Break- ages.	Miles.	Break- ages.	Miles.	Break- ages.	Miles.	Break- ages.	Miles.	Break- ages.	
7/20 ..	6,964	2,510	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,510
7/18 ..	11,086	1,705	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,705
7/17 ..	2,455	230	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	230
7/16 ..	20,144	1,088	36	4	90	1	135	1	..	..	177	..	..	..	1,094
7/15 ..	110	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	78	3	..	..	3
7/14 ..	11,052	258	8	2	49	..	..	..	2	..	723	..	..	..	260
7/13 ..	1,093	6	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
7/12 ..	429	8	146	1	3	..	..	..	5	..	3	..	..	..	9
7/11 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7/10 ..	33	..	204	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	51	..	..	..	..
7/9 ..	76	..	15	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7/8 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7/7 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	585	..	..	..	..
19/18 ..	398	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
19/17 ..	525	128	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	128
19/16 ..	1,707	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
19/15 ..	171	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
19/14 ..	581	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
19/13 ..	2,815	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
19/12 ..	593	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19/10 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
37/16 ..	47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
37/15 ..	400	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
37/14 ..	90	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
37/13 ..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
37/12 ..	76	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	227	..	..	..	..
66/13 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12 ..	2,686	281	..	..	2	..	101	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	281
11 ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 ..	8,896	892	..	..	438	..	256	..	442	9	..	..	30(1)	..	901
8 ..	12,956	623	..	..	4,093	20	5,839	196	634	1	..	..	..	..	840
7 ..	772	5	..	..	..	..	96	..	91	10	..	..	..	..	15
6 ..	305	6	..	..	81	..	142	..	623	..	..	..	..	..	6
4 ..	599	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	78	..	2	..	..	..	..
2 ..	66	92	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
0 ..	79	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2/0 ..	..	..	10	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	59	..	..	..	16
3/0 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	399	..	..	..	..
3/13 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3/12 ..	136	6	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
3/11 ..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3/10 ..	24	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3/9 ..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3/8 ..	..	..	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
4/16 ..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4/14 ..	..	..	..	..	253	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
5/14 ..	..	..	..	..	207	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2/10 ..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6/-144 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	..
7/-186 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	..	..	..	..
7/-136 ..	47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	82
7/-0834 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44	8	..	..	8
7/-0743 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	83	4	..	..	3
7/-112 ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
1/-112 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	281(2)	21	21
Miscellaneous ..	54	..	..	1	..	..	4	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	5
Totals ..	87,514	7,988	473	26	5,228	24	6,573	197	1,907	20	2,493	14	301	21	8,290

Grand total, 104,499 miles.

No returns received from Auckland, Christchurch, and Heathcote.