

The extension of the automatic switching-equipment at Dunedin by 200 lines.
 The rearrangement of the equipment at Lower Hutt to provide an additional 700 numbers for unrestricted service to Wellington.
 The conversion of a number of rural subscribers' lines at Oamaru from magneto to semi-automatic operation.
 The provision of facilities for the release of automatic calls by either the called or the calling subscriber at Whangarei and Marton.
 The provision of additional numbers for P.B.X. operation at Hamilton, Wellington Central, Courtenay Place, and Dunedin automatic exchanges by the conversion of existing equipment.
 The installation of a wire chief's emergency-control desk at the Wellington Central exchange and the provision of an additional wire chief's desk for ordinary requirements.
 The replacement of the 48 volt exchange battery at Hamilton.
 The replacement and conversion to end-cell voltage control of the secondary battery and the installation of a motor-generator set for fully-floated battery charging at Ponsonby.
 The replatal of the central exchange secondary battery at Auckland.
 The installation of tubular heaters to control atmospheric humidity in the switchrooms at Hawera and Dannevirke automatic-telephone exchanges.
 The installation of timing-devices in a large number of public call offices at automatic-telephone exchanges.
 The cabling and wiring of the new Chief Post-office building at Dunedin.

The length of various items of telephone-exchange plant in existence on the 31st March, 1936 and 1937, respectively, was as follows:—

—	Pole-line.	Single Duct Line.	Cable.			Wire.				
			Under-ground.	Aerial.	Sub-marine.	In Under-ground Cable.	In Aerial Cable.	Sub-marine.	Open Aerial.	Under all Headings.
	Miles.	Chains.	Chains.	Chains.	Chains.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
In existence on 31st March, 1936	15,529	46,204*	99,914	37,210	1,266	400,597*	46,157	1,920*	109,229	557,903*
Erected during year	379	2,625	3,850	395	..	14,169	359	..	3,473	18,001
Dismantled during year	44	5	862	782	17	4,207	1,288	4	800	6,299
In existence on 31st March, 1937	15,864	48,824	102,902	36,823	1,249	410,559	45,228	1,916	111,902†	569,605

* Revised figures. † Includes 154 miles of earthworking circuit.

The percentages of the total wire-mileage in underground, aerial, and submarine cables and open aerial wire respectively for the year ended 31st March, 1937, are as under:—

Telephone-exchange wire in underground cables	..	..	72.2 per cent.
Telephone-exchange wire in aerial cables	..	..	7.9 „
Telephone-exchange wire in submarine cables	..	..	0.3 „
Telephone-exchange open aerial wire	..	..	19.6 „

TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

A comparison of statistics in respect of the telephone system is made in the following table, which shows annually since 1928 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.
			£		
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†
1932	349	556,735	1,218,072	160,779*	105.45
1933	349	559,890	1,169,512	155,560*	101.21
1934	349	560,509	1,164,711	155,059*	100.18
1935	349	548,186†	1,190,773	159,170*	102.06
1936	348	557,834	1,252,964	166,565*	105.85
1937	348	569,605	1,338,958	178,599*	112.52

* Includes approximately 4,000 non-exchange stations.
 to Hawke's Bay earthquake.

† Revised figures.

† Decrease owing to temporary loss of subscribers due