

CHANGE OF DESIGNATION.

From the 1st March the designation of the Engineers in charge of the Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington Engineering Districts was changed to District Engineer.

EXAMINATIONS.

Officers who were candidates for departmental examinations during the year numbered 2,873, of whom 1,840 were either wholly or partially successful.

SUGGESTIONS BOARD.

Officers continue to avail themselves freely of the opportunity of making suggestions designed to improve the working of the Department. Suggestions to the number of 280 were received during the year, and 28 awards for meritorious proposals, involving a total sum of £75 10s., were made. Since the Suggestions Board was established ten years ago over 3,300 suggestions covering all phases of the Department's activities have been received.

COMMERCIAL BRANCH.

The revenue value of the business accruing to the Department through the operations of the Commercial Branch during the year amounted to £66,634, representing an increase of £6,629 (9·9 per cent.) on the figures for the preceding year. Of the total amount, £45,865 represents telephone business and £20,769 advertising and miscellaneous services. This is the highest annual revenue recorded by the Branch since its inception seven years ago. In addition, business of a revenue value of £12,040 (telephone, £11,636; advertising and miscellaneous, £404) was obtained by officers operating temporarily as commercial agents at places other than the four main centres. Indicative of the general improvement in conditions were 1,400 orders secured during the year for inter-communicating extension-telephone positions (private automatic exchange and interphone) compared with 561 for the preceding year and 119 for the year ended the 31st March, 1931, the first year of operation of the Branch.

Publicity measures were continued during the year both by newspaper advertising and by the distribution of folders, leaflets, &c.

STORES BRANCH.

The following statement shows the value of stores received and issued in the Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington store-keeping districts during the year, and the value of stocks held at the end of the year. For the purpose of comparison, the particulars for the previous year are shown also :—

	1936-37.			1935-36.		
	Receipts.*	Issues.*	Stock on hand, 31st March, 1937.	Receipts.*	Issues.*	Stock on hand, 31st March, 1936.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland ..	192,910	185,260	103,308	132,898	148,525	95,658
Christchurch ..	72,533	77,945	61,468	57,294	61,520	66,880
Dunedin ..	47,385	47,346	41,534	33,631	40,380	41,495
Wellington ..	349,836	350,508	248,528	276,713	284,137	249,200
Dominion totals ..	662,664	661,059	454,838	500,536	534,562	453,233

* Excluding transfers within store-keeping districts.

The total value of orders placed during the year was £805,624. Of this amount, £238,092 represented the cost of stores for supply from within the Dominion, including £35,615 for stores purchased under contracts arranged by the Stores Control Board. The total value of orders placed during the previous year was £344,387.

Particulars of purchases arranged by the Post and Telegraph Department on account of other Departments under the Stores Control Board Regulations are set out hereunder, the figures for the previous year being shown also :—

Year ended	Requisitions.	Items.	Value of Items purchased.		
			On Indent.	Locally.	Total.
			£	£	£
31st March, 1937 ..	4,363	19,182	16,332	171,073	187,5
31st March, 1936 ..	3,713	16,871	20,800	96,645	117,445

During the year the purchase of 454 motor-vehicles for other Departments and 234 motor-vehicles for the Post and Telegraph Department was arranged. The figures for the previous year were 214 and 87 respectively.