

figures taken. The following table sets out the relative proportions of capital plus reserves and "Outside" liabilities to the total assets employed :—

—				1937.	1936.	1935.	1934.	1933.
Capital and reserves—				Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
North Island	..	..	..	71.4	65.6	67.6	67.2	68.5
South Island	..	..	..	71.9	64.0	66.5	73.3	65.6
New Zealand	..	..	..	71.6	65.0	67.2	69.3	67.6
"Outside" liabilities—								
North Island	..	..	..	28.6	34.4	32.4	32.8	31.5
South Island	..	..	..	28.1	36.0	33.5	26.7	34.4
New Zealand	..	..	..	28.4	35.0	32.8	30.7	32.4

(iii) *Fare Schedules.*

The licensing law requires the Licensing Authorities to consider, *inter alia*, the fares charged by operators. The fares are reviewed each year, and it is open to interested parties to make representations in this connection. During the year qualified officers of the Department examined the accounts and records of licensees to ensure that their requirements as to keeping proper accounts and records were being complied with. By this means the authorities are able to ensure that an equitable portion of the benefits of the licensing system are passed on to the users of the services in the form of reduced fares.

B. GOODS SERVICES, 1936-37.

Tables Nos. 12 and 13 of the Appendix set out the principal statistics of the licensed goods services. Under the 1936 Amendment Act the exemption that applied to cream-carriers was removed. The exemptions applying to carriers operating on rural roads and within five miles of borough boundaries were modified, and the exemption now applies only to those carriers operating within an area lying within a six-mile radius from the chief post-office of the following cities and boroughs :—

Whangarei.	Hastings.	Nelson.
Hamilton.	New Plymouth.	Greymouth.
Rotorua.	Wanganui.	Timaru.
Gisborne.	Palmerston North.	Oamaru.
Napier.	Masterton.	Invercargill.

The special exempted areas around the four main centres still stand.

(a) APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH.

Table No. 12 sets out the numbers of applications dealt with, but owing to the appointment of new Licensing Authorities and the widening of the areas controlled by each authority quite a large number of applications were not dealt with until after the end of March, and the table, therefore, gives no guide as to the actual number of services operating.

The following table summarizes the figures during the past four years :—

—				Applications dealt with.	Granted.	Refused.	Withdrawn.	Deferred.
Continuous—								
1933-34	..	..	..	2,146	1,898	118	43	87
1934-35	..	..	..	2,146	2,016	91	25	14
1935-36	..	..	..	2,080	1,999	56	14	11
1936-37	..	..	..	2,139	1,750	79	47	149
Seasonal—								
1933-34	..	..	..	99	88	3	8	..
1934-35	..	..	..	108	89	9	7	3
1935-36	..	..	..	104	93	4	6	1
1936-37	..	..	..	52	25	1	16	3
Temporary—								
1933-34	..	..	..	3,800	3,793	7	..	..
1934-35	..	..	..	7,399	7,390	9	..	..
1935-36	..	..	..	8,489	8,458	31	..	..
1936-37	..	..	..	11,181	11,141	40	..	..

The temporary-license figures again show a substantial increase as compared with the previous year.