

1937.
NEW ZEALAND.

STORES CONTROL BOARD

(ANNUAL REPORT OF).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Leave.

Stores Control Board, Wellington, 20th August, 1937.

The Hon. R. Semple, Chairman, Stores Control Board.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the annual report of the Stores Control Board for the year ended 31st March, 1937.

P. ELLERM, Secretary.

REPORT.

PURCHASES.

During the year ended 31st March, 1937, the expenditure on the purchase of stores, as compared with the year ended 31st March, 1936, was as under :—

	Year ended 31st March, 1936.	Year ended 31st March, 1937.
	£	£
Railways	1,495,279	1,923,502
Public Works	522,327	1,401,096
Post and Telegraph	344,387	805,624
Mental Hospitals	177,175	189,731
Native	110,579	162,417
Naval	69,471	199,892
Printing and Stationery	64,086	133,671
Defence	66,162	91,137
Lands and Survey	57,344	62,854
Education	38,265	41,966
Justice and Prisons	49,057	41,899
Health	29,821	39,854
Industries and Commerce, Tourist, and Publicity	29,151	37,062
Mines	21,083	30,981
Agriculture	26,453	26,022
State Forest Service	19,120	24,098
Marine	18,193	22,043
Labour—Employment Division	56,087	15,430
Scientific and Industrial Research	5,839	15,086
National Broadcasting Service	..	14,783
External Affairs	11,594	13,815
Internal Affairs	5,958	8,970
Police	8,989	8,132
Labour	2,530	7,914
State Fire	6,211	5,948
Other Departments	16,653	25,459
	<u>£3,251,814</u>	<u>£5,349,386</u>

The expenditure on stores during the year is the highest recorded since the Board was constituted in 1922, and exceeds the previous highest total recorded for the year ended 31st March, 1925, by £932,553. The increased expenditure of £2,097,572 for the year ended 31st March, 1937, as compared with the previous year, reflects the increased activities of Government Departments, particularly so in the case of the Public Works Department, which shows an increase of £878,769. The total amounts expended during each of the past ten years are as under :—

	£		£
1928	3,947,117	1933	2,109,698
1929	4,199,822	1934	2,417,676
1930	4,345,030	1935	2,939,642
1931	4,286,803	1936	3,251,814
1932	2,757,214	1937	5,349,386

CONTRACTS.

At the 31st March, 1937, contracts arranged by the Board were in operation for the supply of the undermentioned items to all Departments :—

Batteries for motor-vehicles.
Bricks, earthenware pipes and fittings.
Brushware—painters' and general.
Candles, soap, and soda.
Cement.
Coal, coke, and firewood.
Cream-separators.
Cyclostyle stencils and correcting fluid.
Disinfectant.
Electric lamps.
Fencing-wire.
Fuel oil and lubricating-oil for Diesel engines.
Ink—cyclostyle, fountain-pen, and writing.
Motor-vehicle lubricating oils and greases.
Motor-spirit and kerosene.
Motor-tires.
Oxygen and acetylene gases.
Paper, carbon, toilet, and wrapping.
Polish, metal, floor, and paste.
Sensitized papers and linens.
Spare parts for motor-vehicles.
Superphosphate and compound superphosphate fertilizers.
Twine.
Typewriters and typewriter-ribbons.

In addition to the above, numerous departmental contracts were also arranged throughout the year, the principal items concerned being—

Artificial limbs.
Aviation-spirit.
Boots for Defence Department.
Crocery for Mental Hospitals Department.
Foodstuffs (sugar, milk, bread, butter, meat, fish, hams, and bacon, &c.).
Fuel oil for Navy and Government ships.
Lubricating-oil for m.v. "Maui Pomare."
Medicines for Native schools.
Samoan banana-cases.
Tobacco for Mental Hospitals Department.
Toothbrushes for Naval ratings.
Uniforms for messengers.

The service rendered by contractors during the year has, in general, been efficient and satisfactory.

ADJUSTMENT OF CONTRACT PRICES.

Twenty-nine applications were dealt with for variation of contract prices to cover additional costs due to the payment of higher wages and the introduction of the forty-hour week as a result of alterations to the law which took effect after the contracts had been let, and variation of the contract prices was agreed to in all cases where the contractors' claims were substantiated by investigation by the Department of Industries and Commerce.

PURCHASE OF STORES AT PALMERSTON NORTH.

In June, 1936, the District Storekeeper, Public Works Department, Palmerston North, was appointed the purchasing officer for stores required by Government Departments (other than Railways and Post and Telegraph Departments) in that city and the surrounding district. Satisfactory prices have been obtained, and local purchase has enabled supplies to be delivered promptly.

PREFERENCE TO NEW ZEALAND AND BRITISH MANUFACTURERS.

The policy of preference to New Zealand and British manufacturers has been maintained throughout the year.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given ; printing (500 copies), £2.