

Photo-litho and Process Engraving Branch. The increased use of illustrations in publications is reflected in the additional work performed by this branch. In order to cope with the estimated future expansion, which will need the services of skilled tradesmen, additional apprentices have been appointed and are receiving a comprehensive training. The steady rise in output is shown in the accompanying table:—

Year.				Number of Maps.	Number of Process Blocks.
1934-35	..	..	..	389	1,805
1935-36	..	..	..	417	1,800
1936-37	..	..	..	463	2,349
1937-38	..	..	..	537	3,078
1938-39	..	..	..	393	4,475

Stationery Office.—The large increase in the turnover of this branch during the year could not be dealt with under previously existing conditions, by reason of cramped accommodation limiting the number of staff, and it was necessary to initiate a night staff. This has worked satisfactorily, and has enabled deliveries of the increased supplies of stationery to be made promptly. Details of operations, as compared with those of previous years, are appended:—

Year.				Number of Requisitions.	Number of Items.	Number of Typewriters supplied.	Value of Stationery and Publications supplied.	Value of Typewriters supplied.	Total Value.
							£	£	£
1934-35	..	..	..	13,828	124,987	223	35,823	3,840	39,663
1935-36	..	..	..	15,820	137,952	380	44,433	6,406	50,839
1936-37	..	..	..	16,706	160,486	599	51,127	9,968	61,095
1937-38	..	..	..	18,657	176,295	881	64,737	14,648	79,385
1938-39	..	..	..	20,331	184,991	1,248	80,545	20,667	101,212

Paper.—The general price level of paper supplies showed a marked decrease during the latter half of the year, after a slight increase in the earlier months. The consumption of paper was considerably greater than in the previous year, the total issues amounting to £65,149 in value, comprising 169,882 packages of paper and boards and 7,558,000 envelopes. In addition, 11,003,000 envelopes were issued through the Stationery and Issuing Offices.

Machinery.—The main items of expenditure under this head were an offset press with an automatic feeder, a lathe for the Engineering Branch, and three wire-stitching machines for use in the Binding Branch.

Staff.—The staff increased from 576 officers as at the 1st April, 1938, to 630 officers as at the 31st March, 1939. No serious accidents at work occurred during the year, every precaution being taken to provide guards wherever machinery in action presented risk in operation. The health of the staff has been good.

Work of the Year. As indicated in the report for the year ended the 31st March, 1938, the Department has approached its maximum productive capacity with the accommodation and facilities available. The increase in production was due to the additional requirements of Departments generally, particularly in regard to work in connection with the General Election, the Centennial Exhibition, and the operation of the Social Security Act, 1938.

Finance.—The operations of the year resulted in a turnover of £356,736, which exceeded that of the previous year by £52,588. The profit for the year amounted to £11,285 0s. 9d., after allowing for interest on capital and depreciation.

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E. V. PAUL,

Government Printer.

The Hon. the Minister in Charge.