

2. DEVELOPMENT OF MOTOR TRANSPORT.

A. REGISTRATIONS OF MOTOR-VEHICLES, BY TYPES OF VEHICLE.

Under the Motor-vehicles Act a new vehicle is registered and simultaneously licensed for the ensuing year or part thereof. The license is renewable each year. If a license is not renewed, the registration is classed as "dormant," and after remaining "dormant" for two complete years is cancelled, the assumption being that the vehicle in question is permanently off the road. If, however, the vehicle is again brought into use after its registration has thus been cancelled, it is treated as a new registration. The registration figures set out hereunder, therefore, are not an exact record of the number of new vehicles introduced into our traffic system; they include an unknown but probably small number of vehicles which have been out of commission for more than two years.

The following table sets out the annual registrations since 1938:—

Year ended 31st March,				Cars.	Commercial Vehicles.	Cycles.	Total Registrations.
1938	..	..	..	29,837	10,413	3,018	43,268
1939	..	..	..	28,937	10,862	2,233	42,032
1940	..	..	..	18,107	9,849	1,814	29,770

In comparison with the year 1938-39, new motor-car registrations for 1939-40 have fallen off by 37·4 per cent., commercial vehicles by 9·3 per cent., and motor-cycles by 18·8 per cent.

B. REGISTRATIONS OF MOTOR-VEHICLES, BY COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE.

The following table shows the country of manufacture and the number of motor-vehicles registered during the years ended 31st March, 1938 to 1940, inclusive:—

Year ended 31st March,				Great Britain.	United States of America or Canada.	Other Countries.	Total Registrations.
<i>Motor-cars.</i>							
1938	..	..	..	16,610	12,919	308	29,837
1939	..	..	..	16,452	11,884	601	28,937
1940	..	..	..	10,936	6,735	436	18,107
<i>Commercial Vehicles.</i>							
1938	..	..	..	2,032	5,697	2,684	10,413
1939	..	..	..	1,961	5,419	3,482	10,862
1940	..	..	..	1,394	4,345	4,110	9,849
<i>Motor-cycles.</i>							
1938	..	..	..	2,714	302	2	3,018
1939	..	..	..	2,005	226	2	2,233
1940	..	..	..	1,587	223	4	1,814

The proportion of car imports of American or Canadian origin to the total new car registrations has fallen from 41 per cent. in 1938-39 to 37 per cent. in 1939-40, while the proportion of cars of English origin has increased from 57 per cent. to 60 per cent.

Omitting the imports of commercial vehicles from "Other countries," 4,004 of the 4,110 vehicles were trailers, imports from America or Canada account for 75 per cent. of the new registrations, against 73 per cent. in the previous year.

C. MOTOR-VEHICLES LICENSED AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1940.

The appended figures show the number of motor-vehicles licensed for the year 1939-40 as at 31st March, 1940 (the licensing year expires on 31st May each year):—

Type of Vehicle.				North Island.	South Island.	New Zealand Total.
Cars	..	..	..	146,475	73,463	219,938
Light trucks (2 tons and under laden)	..	..	..	18,332	9,307	27,639
Heavy trucks (over 2 tons laden)	..	..	..	14,818	6,711	21,559
Passenger trucks	..	..	..	1,121	664	1,785
Omnibuses	..	..	..	551	203	754
Taxis	..	..	..	1,121	167	1,588
Service cars	..	..	..	369	253	622
Rental and private-hire cars	..	..	..	411	312	753
Dealers' cars	..	..	..	1,285	576	1,861
Local-authority road vehicles	..	..	..	2,780	3,093	5,873
Government vehicles	..	..	..	2,971	1,319	4,290
Trailers	..	..	..	6,931	4,587	11,518
Dealers' motor-cycles	..	..	..	97	48	145
Motor-cycles	..	..	..	12,118	7,083	19,201
Totals	..	..	..	209,410	108,116	317,526