

Exchange.	Number of Subscribers or Connections:	
	March 31, 1902.	March 31, 1903.
Hokitika	95	122
Ross	—	7
Invercargill	291	313
Bluff	25	29
Edendale	6	5
Gore	66	78
Lumsden	16	16
Mataura	10	9
Otautau	26	28
Riversdale	17	18
Riverton	19	17
Winton	19	21
Woodlands	4	5
Wyndham	12	11
Masterton	111	134
Carterton	22	29
Eketahuna	14	15
Greytown North	—	11
Napier	334	357
Hastings	54	65
Weber	—	1
Nelson	138	185
New Plymouth	253	299
Inglewood	17	17
Waitara	14	14
Oamaru	173	183
Ngapara	1	1
Pahiatua	71	78
Woodville	17	21
Palmerston North	187	223
Rotorua	—	37
Stratford	86	95
Thames	81	79
Paeroa	17	23
Timaru	162	185
Fairlie	10	12
Temuka	15	17
Wanganui	328	379
Hunterville	6	6
Marton	29	36
Okaiawa	—	1
Waverley	—	11
Wellington	1,731	1,902
Westport	—	87
	9,260	10,633

The connections are classified: Paying, 9,769; free, 232; bureaux, 632: total, 10,633.

The exchange subscriptions amounted to £62,151 8s. 11d., or £6,609 4s. 2d. more than the previous year's.

The year's working-expenses, *plus* 5 per cent. on the capital cost, amounted to £56,276 19s. 8d.

The marked increase in number of exchanges and subscribers indicates the appreciation of the public both in town and country of the telephone-exchange system.

The following are particulars of telegraph and telephone wires, &c., in the colony on the 31st March, 1903:—

	Telegraph.	Telephone.
Miles of line, 1st April, 1902	7,469	601
" 31st March, 1903	7,748 $\frac{7}{8}$	667
Miles of wire, 1st April, 1902	21,705	7,767
" 31st March, 1903	22,672 $\frac{3}{8}$	8,727
Increase during the year—		
Miles of line	279 $\frac{7}{8}$	66
Miles of wire	967 $\frac{3}{8}$	960