

The installation of electric tablet, telephones and telegraphs, and interlocking has made satisfactory progress during the year. Essential safety appliances have been installed at stations between Wellington and Longburn since the Manawatu line was taken over. Considerable improvements have also been made in the accommodation provided at stations on that line to meet the requirements of the traffic, a very large proportion of which now comes *via* Longburn instead of *via* the Rimutaka Incline as heretofore.

LOCOMOTIVE.

Mr. A. L. Beattie, Chief Mechanical Engineer, reports as follows :—

The engines, rolling-stock, plant, machinery, and appliances have been maintained in thoroughly efficient working-order, the details of work being as follows :—

Locomotives.—The number of engines in service on 1st April, 1908, was 410, and the number on 31st March, 1909, was 452. Twenty new engines were added to stock: of these, ten were built in the Government Railway Workshops, and comprised two Class X, 94-ton tender engines, four-cylinder “*balanced-compound*” type, specially designed and built for the heavy grades on North Island Main Trunk Line, and eight heavy tank engines; ten Class A, 72-ton tender engines, four-cylinder “*balanced-compound*” type, were completed under Messrs. A. and G. Price’s contract. Two tank engines were taken over from Public Works Department after the completion of North Island Main Trunk Line, and twenty engines were taken over in connection with the acquisition of the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company.

In the Government Railway Workshops to date 73 engines have been built, and 24 locomotives rebuilt to more modern types.

Five hundred and fifty-eight locomotives passed through the workshops during the year, details as under :—

Particulars.	Number and Type.							Total.
	Four-cylinder “Balanced-compound” Tender Engines.	Tender Engines.	“Articulated-compound” Tank Engines.	Tank Engines.	Fell Engines.	Fairlies.		
						Single.	Double.	
Number passed through shops	27	215	3	286	7	14	6	558
Built new ...	2	...	...	8	...	...	...	10
Re-erected ...	2	...	...	8	...	...	...	10
Thoroughly overhauled ...	...	33	...	33	...	3	1	70
Heavy repairs ...	6	78	2	112	6	9	2	215
Light repairs ...	17	104	1	125	1	2	3	253
Painted and varnished ...	2	27	...	39	...	6	...	74
Touched up ...	14	70	...	43	...	1	...	128

Included in above return are ten engines for Public Works Department.

In the Railway Workshops at close of year there were under construction six large 94-ton tender engines, four-cylinder “*balanced-compound*” type, specially designed for North Island Main Line, and two heavy tank engines.

Under the contract with Messrs. A. and G. Price, Thames, eight engines were still to deliver, so that altogether there were in hand at close of year sixteen locomotive engines.

Boilers.—Boiler renewals and repairs have been kept well up to date. Nineteen new locomotive boilers and two vertical boilers were completed. The following are details of boiler-work :—

Description.	Number passed through Shops.	Built new.	Heavy Repairs.	Light Repairs.	New Tubes (Sets).	Tubes pieced (Sets).	New Smoke-box Tube-plates.	New Fire-box Tube-plates.	Boilers patched.	New Firebox.
Boilers ...	320	19	91	210	73	17	4	5	84	3

Twelve new boilers are under construction, comprising four Class F, two Class J, one Class S, and five Class X.

Carriages.—The car stock on 1st April, 1908, consisted of 1,002 cars, and on 31st March, 1909, was 1,116 cars. Fifty-eight new cars were built in Railway Workshops, being four 50 ft. refreshment-cars, six 50 ft. sleeping-cars, and twenty-four 50 ft. day cars for North Island Main Trunk Line; fourteen Class A cars, and ten 50 ft. postal cars. One worn-out four-wheel car was written off, and replaced with a new standard 50 ft. car. Fifty-six bogie cars were taken over with the Wellington and Manawatu Railway. The car seating accommodation has been increased 9 per cent. by the additional cars. Equipping cars with lavatory accommodation, cushioned seats in second-class compartments, and platform gates and gangways has been carried out as required.