

The following table shows the number and horse-power of these boilers, and the districts to which they have gone :—

District.	Local.		Imported.		Total.	
	Number.	Horse-power.	Number.	Horse-power.	Number.	Horse-power.
Auckland ... ..	50	714½	30	902¾	80	1,617¼
Auckland South ... ..	19	331½	6	27	25	358½
Hawke's Bay ... ..	16	89	18	293½	34	382½
Taranaki ... ..	19	138	2	14	21	152
Wellington North ... ..	15	295	12	192	27	487
Wellington ... ..	50	459½	11	161	61	620½
Marlborough ... ..	6	38½	...	...	6	38½
Nelson North ... ..	25	57	13	459	38	516
Nelson South ... ..	3	139	3	28	6	167
Westland ... ..	10	130½	4	25½	14	155¾
Canterbury ... ..	49	259½	19	338	68	597½
Canterbury South ... ..	24	149½	10	83	34	232½
Otago ... ..	54	114½	19	70	73	184½
Southland ... ..	43	421	13	99	56	520
Totals ... ..	383	3,336½	160	2,692¾	543	6,029¼

#### GAS- AND WATER-DRIVEN MACHINERY, LIFTS, AND MACHINERY INSPECTIONS.

The oil-engine is being rapidly introduced as a power, especially in country and remote districts, and is superseding the steam-engine where the work is of an intermittent nature and scattered over a wide area. It is used in farm-work especially for many power purposes, and in the hands of careful attendants the results are very satisfactory, as it can be used at a moment's notice, and is in a portable form.

The lifts have been carefully inspected, and in some of the passenger-lifts where the speeds are high very close and detailed inspections were made. In forty-eight cases new ropes were ordered, in seventeen new chains, and in twenty-one the chains were ordered to be annealed.

During the year a total of 6,123 inspections were made, including 1,489 gas-engines and 1,717 oil-engines. The number of lifts and motors examined, including water and electric motors, was 2,782, also 135 steam-machinery inspections.

#### FENCING OF MACHINERY.

The guarding of machinery in motion has been very carefully looked to during the year, and in every case where guarding had to be enforced no objection or trouble has arisen with any owner. It is difficult to provide protection from danger in the case of every machine or appliance, but guarding is provided so far as this can be done without impairing the efficiency of the machinery.

Return No. 4 gives full particulars of the guarding done.

#### EXAMINATION OF LAND ENGINEERS AND ENGINE-DRIVERS.

Examinations have been held at the following places during the year: Auckland,\* Alexandra,\* Balclutha, Christchurch,\* Cromwell,\* Dunedin,\* Eketahuna, Gisborne,\* Greymouth,\* Hamilton,\* Havelock, Invercargill,\* Karama, Kawakawa, Napier,\* Nelson,\* Paeroa, Palmerston North,\* Pongaroa, Timaru,\* Waihi, Wanganui,\* Wellington,\* Westport, and Whangarei.

Seventeen candidates sat for the extra first-class engineer's certificates, and fourteen of them passed; 132 sat for the first-class engine-driver's certificate, sixty-four of whom passed; 209 sat for the second-class engine-driver's certificate, and 146 passed; thirty sat for the winding-engine driver's certificate, and twenty-five passed; 211 sat for the locomotive- and traction-engine driver's certificate, and 151 passed. The total number of candidates who sat for examination was 599.

The Board of Examiners sat six times during the year at Wellington.

Reciprocal certificates were issued to applicants who held certificates from other States as follows: Victoria, 7; New South Wales, 1; Western Australia, 2; Tasmania, 3; Queensland, 2; and Canada, 4.

Returns Nos. 7 to 12, inclusive, give full particulars of those who passed these examinations, together with the different grades and classes of examination.

#### ACCIDENTS.

It is pleasant to be able to report that no boiler-explosion has occurred during the year, and the Department certainly takes some of the credit for this. During the twenty-one years that I have been connected with the Department only two boiler-explosions, so far as I know, have occurred. One explosion occurred at a sawmill at Waikanae, and the other at a sawmill at Kumara. In each

\* Places at which examinations have been held more than once during the year.