

APPENDIX B.

REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS OFFICE ACCOMMODATION BOARD.

SIR,— Government Buildings Office Accommodation Board, Wellington, 1st June, 1915.

We have to report that during the past year the Board has met when necessary, and has dealt with the many matters arising in connection with accommodation for Government Departments in various parts of the Dominion.

Members of the Board have made inspections of departmental buildings at Wellington, Auckland, Masterton, Christchurch, and Nelson.

That the results achieved from the Board's proposals in the direction of improving existing conditions have been satisfactory may be gathered from the following extract of a letter from a departmental head:—

“ I have to inform you that the alterations authorized by your Board in connection with the above have been carried out. There is no doubt the general office presents a neater and more business-like appearance, and is more spacious and free from draught than was the case before. All the top hamper has been removed from the desks, and has been cut up so as to be placed under the desks in a manner similar to pedestal tables, the whole arrangement preventing the accumulation of papers upon the officers' desks, besides giving more light and air to the office. Communication between the officers is thus made simpler and time saved thereby.”

Departmental Buildings, Auckland.—The proposals of the Board in regard to the main departmental buildings in Customs Street have practically been completed during the year, and the reports of Departments concerned indicate that considerable improvement has resulted. The Board's recommendations regarding the old Magistrate's Court building in High Street are now being given effect to.

Government Buildings, Wellington.—Several matters regarding the rearrangement of the accommodation for Government Departments in Wellington have received the attention of the Board. In so far as the new building is concerned, plans have been drawn up by the Government Architect, and the Board has at present under consideration the distribution of the rooms in the first new wing. Important proposals affecting the accommodation of the State Advances Department, and the Head Office of the Lands and Survey Department, have received the consideration of the Board, but in view of the disturbed condition of affairs action has been held over regarding these matters.

Departmental Buildings, Nelson.—The Board has, at the request of the Labour, Internal Affairs, and Public Trust Departments, reallocated the accommodation in the old post-office buildings, Trafalgar Street, Nelson.

We have, &c.,

R. TRIGGS, Chairman.

H. J. H. BLOW, } Members of the Board.

J. HISLOP, }

The Hon. the Minister of Internal Affairs, Wellington.