

The flat-bed rotary printing-machine which has been under order for two years has not yet been started on, and the contractor has just advised that he is not able, owing to difficulties in securing labour, to fix a date when he can proceed with it. This machine is badly needed, and the manufacturer has been urged to speed up its delivery.

A letter-card machine is on order from Messrs. Bell and Valentine, of Melbourne, and is now completed and awaiting delivery.

The disk ruling-machine, which has been under order since 1916, is likely to come to hand very shortly, though at an advanced price on that given when the order was placed.

Tenders were called for the sale of the steam-engines, generator, and water-tank, and the generator was disposed of. The engines and water-tank were not sold, and are now for private sale.

The railway-ticket-printing machines are worn and out of date, and new machines are required. These machines are the property of the Railway Department, and representations have been made upon the matter to that Department.

*Returned Soldiers.*—Wherever possible in engaging temporary assistance preference has been given to returned soldiers, but in a technical department such as this there are not many vacancies for other than tradesmen. I have, however, fitted in a few returned men, and it is proposed to continue this course wherever practicable.

*The Staff.*—The staff has had a busy year, and I have pleasure in testifying to the valuable services rendered by all in responsible positions.

I have, &c.,

MARCUS F. MARKS,  
Government Printer.

Hon. Mr. Russell, Minister in Charge.

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