

The work of installing electric-welding plants has been carried out at Newmarket, East Town, Petone, and Hillside.

Motor generator sets for charging batteries of electric platform trucks have been installed at Auckland, Lambton, Christchurch, and Dunedin. A motor generator set for train-lighting has been installed at Thorndon.

Level-crossing Automatic Alarm-bells.—Eight level crossings have been equipped with automatic warning-bells; bells only at Mount Albert (Asquith Avenue) and Kaiapoi (Peraki Street), and automatic flag visual signals (“wigwag”) at New Lynn (Titirangi Road), Mount Albert (Roslyn Terrace and Gladstone Road), Hastings (Lyndon Street), Inglewood (Rate Street), and Mosgiel (Gordon Road). The present number of level crossings fitted with warning-bells, &c., is 66.

Expenditure.—Particulars of expenditure for the Signals Branch, including work for other branches, for the year ended 31st March, 1924, are as follows:—

New works—					£	s.	d.
Signalling and interlocking	..	..	..	..	7,327	3	1
Electric-tablet working	..	..	..	..	794	16	5
Telegraph and telephone facilities	..	..	..	..	14,911	13	0
Electric light	..	..	..	..	5,149	6	0
Electric motors, &c.	..	..	..	..	3,034	12	7
Level-crossing alarms	..	..	..	..	1,588	18	7
Automatic signalling	..	..	..	..	101,313	10	10
Total	...	..	..	..	£134,120	0	6
Maintenance—							
Signalling and interlocking	..	..	..	..	27,134	0	10
Signals at level crossings	..	..	..	..	2,343	7	5
Telegraph and telephone facilities	..	..	..	..	9,149	2	6
Lines, &c., maintained by Post and Telegraph Department	..	..	..	..	1,421	11	1
Electric block and tablet working	..	..	..	..	11,770	3	0
Electric light	..	..	..	..	7,171	10	3
Electric power signalling	..	..	..	..	10,250	7	10
Electric motors, cranes, fire-alarms, &c.	..	..	..	..	4,623	3	8
Total	..	..	..	..	£73,863	6	7

LOCOMOTIVE.

Mr. E. E. Gillon, Chief Mechanical Engineer, reports as follows:—

The plant, locomotives, tenders, carriages, brake-vans, wagons, machinery, and tools have been maintained in good working-order during the year.

Locomotives.—On the 1st April, 1923, there were 639 engines in service, and on the 31st March, 1924, there were 655 engines. Three old engines were condemned and written off stock. Nineteen new engines were added to stock, nine of which were built in the Government railway workshops, two being Pacific-type simple superheated tender engines, Class AB, and seven heavy-tank engines, 4-6-4 type, Class Ws; five Pacific-type simple superheated tender engines, Class AB, were built by Messrs. A. and G. Price (Limited) of Thames; the balance of engines added to stock, five, completed the contract with the North British Locomotive Company (Limited) of Glasgow.

In the Government railway workshops to date 209 engines have been built, and twenty-four old locomotives have been rebuilt. During the year 798 locomotives passed through the workshops, the details of work done being as follows:—

Particulars.	Number and Type.						Total.
	Four-cylinder Balanced-compound Tender Engines.	Tender Engines.	Tank Engines.	Fell Engines.	Single Fairlies.	Electric Engines.	
Number passed through shops..	75	354	340	9	14	6	798
Built new .. .. .	..	2	7	..	..	..	9
Erected new .. .. .	..	5	6	..	..	6	17
Re-erected .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Thoroughly overhauled ..	23	64	74	7	6	..	174
Heavy repairs	5	47	30	..	2	..	84
Light repairs	47	236	222	2	6	..	513
Painted	23	64	82	6	6	..	181
Paint touched up	30	204	118	2	8	..	362