

It was necessary during the year to purchase at Maungakarama, Plimmerton, Riccarton, and Waipahi buildings to accommodate the post-offices at those places. At Kohukohu a residence was bought for the Postmaster.

The extended use of motor-vehicles rendered necessary during the year the provision of workshop and garage accommodation at Invercargill, Palmerston North, Wanganui, and Wellington. Small garage buildings were provided at Matamata, Morrinsville, Opotiki, Papakura, Rotorua, Whakatane, and Whangarei; and a garage and store building was erected at Masterton.

A portion of the new building erected for the Department in Hereford Street, Christchurch, has been occupied by the Telegraph Branch, thus releasing for postal purposes accommodation urgently required in the Chief Post-office building. Necessary alterations are now being made to the latter building.

A portion of the old post-office building at Patea was moved to Whenuakura for use as a post-office.

At Lichfield and Okaramio small post-office buildings were provided by the settlers. In each case the cost of the work was subsidized by the Department.

In consequence of the opening of the Otira Tunnel, the post-office building at Otira was moved to a position nearer the western end of the tunnel and the site of the railway-station.

The new post-office building at Stratford has been completed, and a building to house the automatic-telephone exchange in Wellington, is nearing completion.

The post-office building at Paeroa, which has served its period of usefulness, is to be replaced by an up-to-date structure on a new site.

Owing to increased business, additional accommodation for post-office purposes is required at Gisborne, Greymouth, Invercargill, Masterton, and Nelson, and the question of making additions to the post-office buildings at these places will require to be faced shortly. In the case of Gisborne, it is hoped to proceed during the ensuing year with an extensive addition to the existing building.

#### MONEY-ORDERS.

Money-orders issued during the year numbered 684,979, for a total of £4,390,159; those paid 580,836, for £4,034,239. The total commission received for the transaction of money-order business amounted to £28,357.

#### POSTAL NOTES.

Twenty-one offices were opened and five closed, leaving 1,099 postal-note offices in operation at the end of the year. At these offices 2,652,777 postal-notes, for £804,343 6s. 11d., were issued, and 2,633,537 were paid.

### TELEGRAPHS.

#### TELEGRAPH AND TOLL TRAFFIC.

The following comparative tables show the position in regard to telegraph and telephone traffic:—

—	1923-24.	1922-23.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase per Cent.	Decrease per Cent.
<i>Ordinary Telegrams.</i>						
Number .. ..	5,581,185	5,285,175	296,010	..	5·601	..
Revenue .. ..	£291,225	£324,771	..	£33,546	..	10·329
<i>Urgent Telegrams.</i>						
Number .. ..	265,772	228,904	36,868	..	16·106	..
Revenue .. ..	£27,686	£27,448	£238	..	0·867	..
<i>Press Telegrams.</i>						
Number .. ..	432,120	389,607	42,513	..	10·912	..
Revenue .. ..	£58,619	£50,297	£8,322	..	16·546	..
<i>Night Letter-telegrams.</i>						
Number .. ..	106,219	32,880	73,339	..	223·050	..
Revenue .. ..	£5,287	£2,554	£2,733	..	107·009	..
<i>Government Telegrams (for which no payment is received).</i>						
Number .. ..	69,597	170,385	..	100,788	..	59·153
Value .. ..	£4,930	£9,727	..	£4,797	..	49·316
<i>Toll Communications.</i>						
Number .. ..	8,021,973	7,406,257	615,716	..	8·313	..
Revenue .. ..	£317,512	£294,374	£23,138	..	7·860	..