

Level-crossing Automatic Alarm-bells.—Five level crossings have been equipped with warning-bells and wig-wag signals, as follows: Stratford (two—Fenton Street and Regan Street), Wanganui (Ferguson Street), Petone (Hutt Road), and Christchurch (Riccarton Road).

The level crossings at Onslow Road and Edendale Road, near Kingsland, have been replaced by overbridges, and the warning-bells removed.

The following level crossings equipped with warning-bells have been provided with wig-wag signals: Wanganui (two—Victoria Avenue and Liverpool Street), East Town (No. 3 Line). The present number of level crossings fitted with warning-bells, &c., is seventy-three.

Expenditure.—Particulars of expenditure for the Signal Branch for the year ended 31st March, 1926, are as follows:—

New Works:—

	£	s.	d.
Additional signalling and interlocking	7,067	19	7
Fixed signals at officered stations	9,278	19	4
Tablet locking at flag stations	299	7	9
Power interlocking at stations	45,211	10	1
Automatic signalling	38,489	1	3
Additional telephone and telegraph lines	4,387	8	4
Metallic circuiting electric lines	16,275	7	10
Additional telephones installed	475	16	6
Electric tablet-working	2,221	18	2
Level-crossing alarms	1,170	0	1
Electric lighting	17,756	13	0
Electric equipment, Frankton Junction	3,928	8	8
	146,562	10	7
Installing electric motors and works for other Departments ..	19,750	0	0
Total	£166,312	10	7

Maintenance:—

	£	s.	d.
Signals and interlocking	27,322	1	10
Automatic and power signalling	13,507	3	11
Level-crossing signals	1,735	6	11
Telegraph, tablet and block instruments	18,557	19	7
Overhead lines, telegraph, telephone, and block working	15,017	16	11
Overhead lines for automatic signalling	3,449	10	7
Electric lighting used in operation	8,281	4	7
Overhead electrification	2,978	4	6
Electric-power appliances used in operation	1,180	1	2
Signal Branch buildings	3,750	12	0
Superintendence	8,700	16	7
Betterments	582	14	8
Total	£105,063	13	3

LOCOMOTIVE.

Mr. G. S. Lynde, A.M.I.Mech.E., M.I.Loco.E., 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 31st March, 1926, there were 704 engines. The additional stock during the year consisted of thirty-five Class AB engines, imported from the North British Locomotive Company, Glasgow; four Class AB, built by Messrs A. and G. Price (Ltd.), Thames; and six Class AB built in the Government Railway workshops. One old engine was written off, and two engines were sold.

There was an increase of 899,497 lb. (equal to 8.71 per cent.) in the tractive force available due to the above alterations in stock, also to locomotives being reboilered.

In the Government Railway workshops 217 engines have been built to date, and twenty-four old locomotives have been rebuilt.

Details of work on locomotives in the Government workshops during the year were as follows: Number passed through workshops, 743; built new, 6; erected new, 35; re-erected, 1; heavy repairs, 210; medium repairs, 62; light repairs, 142; wreck or defect repairs, 209; running repairs, 78. Included in the above are three engines repaired for the Public Works Department and three engines for private firms.

There were on order at the close of the year four Class AB, ten Class WAB, being built in the Government workshops, and eight Class WAB being built by Messrs, A. and G. Price (Limited), Thames.