

Flood-lighting has been installed in the following station yards: Palmerston North; Auckland (additional).

One hundred and thirteen houses have been equipped with electric lighting this year.

In connection with electrical equipment, the following is the position: Number of houses electrically lighted, 2,174; number of stations electrically lighted, 278; number of substations, 10; total capacity of substations, 9,745 kv.a.; number of station-yards flood-lighted, 13.

A considerable amount of investigation work has been carried out in connection with the railway electrification, and tentative schemes have been prepared.

Expenditure.—The capital expenditure for the year is as follows: Signals and interlocking, block-working, and level-crossing warning-alarms, £77,530 16s. 4d.; communications, £6,854 0s. 3d.; railway electrification, £28,597 12s. 8d.; electric power, work, and lighting, £28,754 18s. 3d.

Maintenance expenditure for the year was £141,573 12s. 11d. Of this amount £21,347 0s. 7d. was renewals charges for writing off the original value of apparatus and systems which were displaced by more modern appliances; £2,649 12s. 9d. was for betterments, leaving a net total for direct maintenance of £117,576 19s. 7d.

STORES.

Mr. E. J. GUINNESS, Comptroller of Stores, reports as follows:—

The value of stores, material, and plant (purchased under Railway vote) on hand at the 31st March, 1930, at the various stores depots and sawmills amounted to £1,033,310 15s. 10d., as against £1,065,114 17s. 3d. on 31st March, 1929.

The whole of the stock is in good order, has been systematically inspected, and is value for the amount stated.
