

1933.
NEW ZEALAND.

STORES CONTROL BOARD

(ANNUAL REPORT OF).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Leave.

Stores Control Board, Wellington, 29th August, 1933.

The Hon. J. Bitchener, Chairman, Stores Control Board.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the annual report of the Stores Control Board for the year ended 31st March, 1933.

P. ELLERM, Acting Secretary.

REPORT.

PURCHASES.

During the year ended 31st March, 1933, the expenditure on the purchase of stores, as compared with the year ended 31st March, 1932, was as under :—

	Year ended 31st March, 1932.	Year ended 31st March, 1933.
	£	£
Railways	1,048,570	897,104
Public Works	859,666	371,978
Post and Telegraph	124,114	124,276
Mental Hospitals	170,809	165,238
Naval	74,898	76,436
Defence	18,238	36,660
Health	37,111	34,714
Printing and Stationery	32,281	41,131
Prisons	42,169	40,990
Lands and Survey	34,323	19,120
Education	29,034	29,521
State Forest Service	11,927	12,720
Agriculture	42,083	43,672
Marine	16,760	15,265
Mines	19,021	16,598
Native	117,465	102,385
Industries and Commerce, Tourist and Publicity	21,274	20,649
Other Departments	57,471	61,241
Total	<u>£2,757,214</u>	<u>£2,109,698</u>

The expenditure on stores shows a reduction of £647,516, or over 23 per cent., when compared with the previous year.

The purchases during the past ten years were as under :—

	£		£
1924	4,080,000	1929	4,199,822
1925	4,416,833	1930	4,345,030
1926	4,690,569	1931	4,286,803
1927	3,877,275	1932	2,757,214
1928	3,947,117	1933	2,109,698

With the exception of a few instances where circumstances were too urgent to allow of the usual procedure being followed, tenders or quotations were invited for the whole of the stores purchased.

Sales tax and fluctuating exchange-rates have raised special features in connection with the purchase of stores, necessitating the revision of tender conditions and special consideration being given to these factors when reviewing tenders received.

GENERAL CONTRACTS.

At the 31st March, 1933, contracts arranged by the Board were in operation for the supply of the undermentioned stores to all Departments :—

Batteries for motor-vehicles.	Electric lamps.
Bricks, fireclay, earthenware pipes, and fittings.	Motor-lubricating oils.
Brushware—painters' and general.	Motor-spirit and kerosene.
Candles, soap, and soda.	Motor-tires.
Cement.	Photographic work.
Coal, coke, and firewood.	Polish—metal, floor, and boot.
Disinfectant.	Typewriters.

In addition to the above, numerous departmental contracts were also in operation, the principal items concerned being as under :—

- Aviation-spirit.
- Foodstuffs (milk, bread, fish, poultry, hams, and bacon, &c.).
- Fuel oil for Navy and Government ships.
- Lubricating-oil for M.v. "Maui Pomare."
- Tobacco for Mental Hospitals.
- Uniforms for messengers.

Owing to the unstable market conditions the contract system of purchasing stores has not been extended during the year.

CONTRACTORS' SERVICE.

The service given by contractors during the year has, in general, been efficient and satisfactory. It is pleasing to record instances where contractors have voluntarily reduced contract prices consequent on the fall in the wholesale market prices of the lines supplied.

PREFERENCE TO NEW ZEALAND AND BRITISH MANUFACTURERS.

During the year the policy of preference to New Zealand and British manufacturers has been maintained.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (440 copies), £1 12s. 6d.

By Authority: G. H. LONEY, Government Printer, Wellington.— 1933.