

development of Air Force Stations, Civil Aerodromes, Seaplane alighting areas, Seaplane base at Auckland, and all facilities relating to Air routes, both internal and overseas. In all cases the most efficient and expeditious methods of construction are being adopted and the contracting principle utilized where possible.

*Local Air Services:* Internal Air Transport has continued to expand and consolidate its position. The only new service commencing during the year was Union Airways' extension from Auckland to Gisborne via Tauranga and Opotiki, but the rearrangement of the Auckland-Dunedin main trunk service with a through calling point at Wellington, has materially assisted to build up traffic. This steady growth of traffic and the increased importance of air transport is shown in the following table.

Year ending.	Length Air Lines (Miles).	Distance flown (Miles).	Passengers.		Freight.		Mail.	
			Number.	Passenger- miles.	Pounds.	Ton-miles.	Pounds.	Ton-miles.
30th June, 1936 (half year)	1,108	356,900	10,490	1,117,000	15,590	725	26,300	1,969
30th June, 1937 ..	1,566	857,947	26,617	2,889,600	52,110	2,339	128,250	10,550
30th June, 1938 ..	1,669	1,662,997	58,431	6,394,803	113,192	5,607	248,680	21,551
30th June, 1939 ..	2,015	1,992,159	65,483	7,185,957	224,731	1,034	332,648	30,688

A feature of air service operations has been the regularity and safety that has been achieved by the operating companies, and this shows that the aerodromes and air route facilities are being developed along sound lines.

The work on civil aerodrome and landing-grounds at 30th June, 1939, may be summarized as follows:—

Fields licensed .. .. .	59
Emergency fields available .. .. .	10
New fields initially licensed .. .. .	6
Fields removed from license register as not required or unsatisfactory .. .. .	1
Major construction work has been in hand during the year on ..	21
Fields already licensed but under enlargement or improvement ..	16
New fields under development .. .. .	16
Available emergency-landing grounds under improvement .. .. .	2
New emergency-landing grounds under development .. .. .	4
Total number of fields on which work was in hand .. .. .	48
Fields maintained as Government emergency-landing grounds or fields in remote localities .. .. .	23
Licensed fields maintained pending handing over to local authorities .. .. .	13

A number of new fields may be expected to come into initial use this coming summer, and an extension of trunk air services and feeder services is confidently anticipated. Investigations, surveys, and construction proposals have been undertaken in connection with many other possible aerodrome-sites with a view to their development in the future either as licensed aerodromes to augment the network serving air transport needs or as emergency-landing grounds.

My Department has continued to co-operate with the Post and Telegraph Department in the provision of aeradio facilities to assist the safe and efficient operation of internal air lines. Transmitting-stations have now been provided and are operating at fifteen aerodromes, two initially this year. In addition, separate aeradio-receiving and direction-finding stations are being provided at eleven centres. All station buildings have been erected, one station is operating, and the installation of equipment is in train at the remainder. A radio approach beacon has been provided at Taieri, Dunedin, and although not yet in regular use has been operating experimentally.