

STORES BRANCH.

The following statement shows the value of stores received and issued in the Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington storekeeping districts during the year, and the value of stocks held at the end of the year. For the purpose of comparison the particulars for the previous year are shown also :

	1938-39.			1937-38.		
	Receipts.*	Issues.*	Stock on hand, 31st March, 1939.	Receipts.*	Issues.*	Stock on hand, 31st March, 1938.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland ..	368,990	314,748	195,151	272,554	234,953	140,909
Christchurch ..	143,265	128,179	85,577	107,136	98,113	70,491
Dunedin ..	117,867	98,727	69,621	81,169	75,162	50,481
Wellington ..	792,277	670,421	468,394	630,849	532,839	346,538
Dominion totals ..	1,422,399	1,212,075	818,743	1,094,648	941,067	608,419

* Excluding transfers within storekeeping districts.

The total value of orders placed during the year was £808,704. Of this amount, £314,634 represented the cost of stores for supply from within the Dominion, including £55,519 for stores purchased under contracts arranged by the Stores Control Board. The total value of orders placed during the previous year was £980,491.

Particulars of purchases arranged by the Post and Telegraph Department on account of other Departments under the Stores Control Board Regulations are set out hereunder, the figures for the previous year being shown also.

Year ended	Requisitions.	Items.	Value of Items purchased.		
			On Indent.	Locally.	Total.
			£	£	£
31st March, 1939 ..	5,299	24,135	21,304	320,201	341,505
31st March, 1938 ..	4,328	21,058	20,088	199,979	220,067

During the year the purchase of 362 motor-vehicles for other Departments and 94 motor-vehicles for the Post and Telegraph Department was arranged. The figures for the previous year were 404 and 107 respectively.

AUCKLAND STORES DISTRICT.

On the 1st March, 1939, a Stores Manager was appointed at Auckland to take over from the Chief Postmaster control of stores activities in that district.

SALE OF OBSOLETE AND UNSERVICEABLE MATERIAL.

Several auction sales of obsolete and unserviceable material, including worn-out motor-vehicles from various Departments, were held during the year. The total value of property disposed of was £3,855. This sum includes the value of scrap metals.

MARINE INSURANCE FUND.

The insurable value of stores from countries within the Empire and the United States of America covered under the New Zealand Government Marine Insurance Fund was £665,009.

WORKSHOPS.

The departmental workshops at various centres throughout the Dominion have continued to provide a very efficient service. Where necessary the operations of the workshops have been extended to meet the increasing demands of this and other Government Departments.

Equipment has been kept up to date, and increased accommodation provided as required. The total value of work performed during the year was £234,542, of which £29,455 represents the value of services rendered to other Government Departments.