

## TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

There are 14 central exchanges and 10 sub-exchanges, a total of 24.

The following table gives the number of subscribers or connections for 1894-95 and 1893-94 respectively :—

Exchange.	No. of Subscribers or Connections :	
	Mar. 31, 1895.	Mar. 31, 1894.
Auckland	811	736
Blenheim	58	57
Christchurch	814	735
Dunedin .. .. .	819	788
Balclutha .. .. .	19	15
Milton .. .. .	14	13
Port Chalmers .. .. .	16	17
Greymouth	65	60
Invercargill .. .. .	205	176
Bluff .. .. .	20	19
Gore .. .. .	49	48
Mataura .. .. .	9	9
Riversdale .. .. .	13	10
Winton .. .. .	9	6
Woodlands .. .. .	7	6
Napier	249	222
Nelson	61	60
Oamaru	84	80
Palmerston North	79	75
Thames	74	83
Timaru	70	65
Wanganui .. .. .	107	91
Wellington	963	872
Hutt .. .. .	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,616</b>	<b>4,244</b>

The total increase in number was therefore 372, and the rate of increase 8·76 per cent.

The connections may be classified as follows Paying, 4,202, free, 258, bureaux, 156 total, 4,616.

The telephone-exchange receipts during the financial year amounted to £21,552 12s. 10d., as compared with £21,771 4s. 4d. the previous year Had the free connections been paid for the receipts would have amounted to £23,213 4s. 4d. Particulars of the working of the exchanges are given in Table No. 21.

The working-expenses, interest on capital cost, and allowance for depreciation for the year amounted to £26,041 1s. 9d.

The total expenditure in connection with the telephone-exchange system to 31st March, 1895, was £116,845 10s. 4d.

The following works have been carried out during the year in the several districts :—

## AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

*Construction.*

During the year eight telephone offices were opened namely Birkenhead, Leigh, Ohiwa, Ohinemutu, Opononi, Ramarama, Tokatoka, and Tokatoka Wharf, which involved the erection of six miles of new poles and ten miles of wire. Of the poles about half are double iron poles.

A saving has been effected by converting the office at Kamo from Morse to telephone.

The works in hand are the running of a wire to Cape Maria Van Dieman from Awanui (the route is in course of survey and alignment), and extending the line from Hamilton to Morrinsville. The first-named work will be 60 and the other 18 miles in length.

*Maintenance.*

The southern boundary of the district has been extended as far as Taupo and the East Cape. 712 miles of poles have been examined and cleared, 10 miles of poles and 9 miles of wire have been entirely renewed, and three miles of line dismantled.

The lines are in good working order, with the exception of some of the older wires to the north of Auckland, where (probably from the abnormally moist atmosphere) corrosion is very rapid. From this cause a considerable length of wire will require renewing almost immediately.

The section between Thames and Katikati, in view of its early abandonment, has been merely kept open, no expenditure incurred except what has been necessary to keep the line upstanding.

The direct wire between Auckland and Thames has been duplexed.

There are now 1,508 miles of poles, carrying 3,189 miles of wire, in this district.

*Telephone Exchanges.*

The Auckland and Thames exchanges are in a satisfactory condition. There are indications of greater business activity, and it may be expected that there will be a large increase of subscribers during the coming year.