

As a precaution against earthquake damage, the post-office clock-towers at Ashburton, Bluff, Greymouth, Kaiapoi, and Lyttelton were demolished.

The old post-office building at Cronadun and the post-office building and site at Te Pahu were disposed of during the year.

Sites no longer required at the following places were also disposed of: Caplestone, Elsthorpe, Horopito, Karioi, Linton, Lower Hutt, Lyell, Makirikiri, Manawaru, Marshalvale, Stratford, Thames, Tolaga Bay, Top Valley, Waikino.

At the end of the year the following buildings were in course of erection: residences at Balclutha, Eketahuna, Hataitai, Martinborough, Ohaeawai, Outram; store-garages at Darfield and Papakura; automatic-exchange building at Island Bay; post-office and store-garage at Kaikohe (also conversion of old post-office quarters to residence); carrier building at Ohakune; cable-hut at Oreti Beach; post-office at Te Kuiti; power and battery room at Tikitiki. In addition, Air Force buildings were in the course of being adapted for use as transit flats and line-depot accommodation at Hamilton, and alterations to the post-office building at Tauranga were in hand.

### NATIONAL SAVINGS

For the year ended 31st March, 1946, investments in national savings amounted to £9,369,696. Of this sum, investments received through post-offices were £8,173,881, while those received through the trustee savings-banks at Auckland, Dunedin, Invercargill, and New Plymouth amounted to £1,195,815. Deposits to accounts totalled £8,079,859, and bond sales amounted to £1,289,837. National savings gift coupons to the value of £1,589 were sold during the year. Sales of national savings stamps amounted to £8,989.

Since the introduction of national savings in October, 1940, and up to the 31st March, 1946, investments in national savings (including interest credited to investors) amounted to £40,154,990. Of this sum, £28,550,191 was derived by way of deposits to investment accounts and £11,604,799 from the sale of bonds.

At the close of the financial year the total number of accounts opened to date throughout the Dominion was 480,890, an increase for the year of 26,257.

Of the new accounts, 23,396 were opened with the Post Office and 2,861 were obtained by the trustee savings-banks.

The group system of saving continues to function satisfactorily. During the year, 150 new groups comprising 9,255 depositors were established.

The position regarding group and individual accounts as at the 31st March, 1946, is as follows:—

	Groups.	Depositors.
Opened with the Post Office .. .. .	7,333	151,572
Opened with trustee savings-banks .. .. .	1,147	27,848
Individual accounts—		179,420
Through Post Office .. .. .		278,867
Through trustee savings-banks .. .. .		22,603
Total .. .. .		480,890

### FAMINE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE: "FOOD FOR BRITAIN" CAMPAIGN

In accordance with the arrangement whereby the national savings organization is assisting in the "Food for Britain" campaign inaugurated by the Famine Emergency Committee, the Post Office also is co-operating in the appeal. In addition to cancelling meat and butter coupons voluntarily surrendered by people supporting the scheme, a record of the number and value of the surrendered coupons is kept at Post Offices and the figures made available from time to time for the information of the Famine Emergency Committee.