

During the late summer the river-level fell so much that the draught-tubes had to be temporarily lengthened, and the river banked at the head-works. The position was very serious for a time as the three generators could not give the supply demanded. The question of an increase in the plant will have to be dealt with very soon. At present the "Peak" load is 160 K.W., while the plant, under the most favourable conditions, can only give 180 K.W. with the three generators working. The plant is rated higher, but the turbines do not give the estimated duty or power. In addition to this, the Waverly turbines, which have been in use since the plant was installed, and the original portion of the flume, are both giving evidence that renewal is required. The whole matter will be dealt with in a separate report.

Energy distributed to private consumers, municipal lighting, and street lights, less distribution, loss, and uncontrolled street lights: 1913-14—191,662 units; 1912-13—169,956 units.

REPORT OF THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT AGENT, SYDNEY.

The New Zealand Government Agent, Sydney (Mr. W. R. Blow) reports as follows:—

I am very pleased to report that the business transacted at this office during the year shows a general all round increase on that done for the previous twelve months.

BOOKING TOURISTS.

The booking of passengers to and through the Dominion has been continued as usual, and it is gratifying to report that, in connection with this part of the work, the takings are £789 19s. 11d. greater than for the previous year. The following figures will no doubt be found interesting:—

	Year 1912-13.	Year 1913-14.
Number of persons booked	154	191
Amount of money received for bookings	£2,146	£3,015

Of the £3,015 received, £2,308 15s. 3d. was taken since I have had charge of the Agency viz., from 1st January to 31st March. I anticipate that next year the takings will be much greater, as I am advertising our booking system whenever and wherever I can.

IMMIGRATION.

During the year about six hundred foreigners were examined with a view to seeing if they could pass the education test as prescribed by the Immigration Restriction Act. Of this number, 535 were successful, and certificates were consequently issued to them. The following list will show the nationalities represented: Assyrian, 2; Austrian, 318; Belgian, 1; Danish, 34; Dutch, 1; Finns, 13; French, 5; German, 38; Greek, 7; Hindoo, 1; Italian, 43; Jew, 1; Negro, 2; Norwegian, 4; Polish, 1; Portuguese, 1; Roumanian, 1; Russian, 8; Servian, 2; Swedes, 6; Swiss, 46: total, 535.

ADVERTISING.

During the year the Dominion has been brought prominently before the public of New South Wales by advertising, as follows: (1) Advertisements in various Australian publications; (2) hoardings at Katoomba and the Royal Agricultural Show-grounds at Sydney; (3) printing and distributing leaflets; (4) advertising on a monogram electric sign situated opposite the Railway-station, Sydney. These advertisements have been instrumental in increasing our business, but I find that the office is not known nearly as well as one would expect, and the Department must therefore spend more on advertising in future if the business at this office is to be greatly increased.

REPORT OF THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT AGENT, MELBOURNE.

The New Zealand Government Agent, Melbourne (Mr. H. J. Manson) reports as follows:—

I have the honour to herewith submit my annual report for the year ended 31st March, 1914.

The year just closed has been one of steady progress in face of the adverse obstacles that have been strewn in our path. The list of callers at the offices do not, under the circumstances, total so large as on former years, nor do the tourist bookings show any marked increase, but these results are readily accounted for in the fact that our temporary offices, pending removal to more commodious quarters, were somewhat inaccessible. In addition the smallpox scare followed by the unfortunate strike was the means of completely paralyzing the tourist traffic at the most favourable period of the year. Notwithstanding these disabilities, however, the affairs of the Agency have been steadily advanced, and our usefulness as an information bureau has become more firmly established than ever. Our period of migration to a less pretentious office to that formerly occupied naturally retarded our progress, but now that we are domiciled in up-to-date premises there is every prospect of making up the leeway lost.

Our present offices in the new building of the Union Steamship Company are spacious and nicely arranged, and will, although not so centrally situated as those vacated in Collins Street, bring us into close touch with the New Zealand and other shipping companies which surround us. We are also well in the centre of things as far as the wharves and railway-stations are concerned. At the same time, such hotels as Menzies', Scot's, the Federal, and Union Club are in close proximity to us.