

The total mileage now equipped with tablet apparatus is 1,657 miles of single line out of 2,950 miles of single line open for traffic.

The number of tablet instruments now in use is 908, at 376 stations.

No new automatic tablet exchangers were installed. The total now in use is 345.

Lock and Block.

The electric lock-and-block system has worked satisfactorily during the year.

The total mileage equipped is forty-three miles of double line.

Lock-and-block instruments in use, eighty, at thirty-six stations.

The insulated sections of rail at Ngahauranga have been divided and new type of relays fitted.

Alterations have also been carried out at Islington.

Telegraph and Telephone Facilities.

Seventy-one miles of new line and fifteen miles of poles have been brought into use, and improvements and additions to existing lines have been carried out.

The telephone-lines between Wellington and Lower Hutt have been converted to metallic circuit.

A new telephone-line from Wellington to Upper Hutt has been erected with metallic circuit, and the existing No. 9 Morse wire has been renewed with copper wire.

Fifty-eight connections to railway telephone circuits, seven new connections to public exchanges, and nine extensions to existing exchange telephones have been made.

Seventeen electric bells and three new Morse sets have been installed.

Total now in use are: Morse sets, 281; telephones, 1,633; electric bells, 280; miles of wire, 7,077; miles of poles, 2,606.

Electric Light and Power, &c.

Electric light has been installed as follows: Auckland, booking-office; Newmarket, locomotive workshops; Frankton, store and orderly-room; Te Aroha, one cottage; Rotorua, two cottages; East Town, locomotive workshops; Picton, station buildings, yard, wharf, and Stationmaster's house; Heathcote, station building, signals, and Stationmaster's house; Christchurch, refreshment-rooms; Kaiapoi, station building, yard, goods-shed, and signals; Ashburton, new station and yard; Belfast, station buildings.

Additions and alterations to present installations have been made as follows: Auckland, engine-depot and goods-shed; Rotorua, goods-shed; Taihape, engine-depot; Thorndon, locomotive yard and station; Lambton, station and goods-shed; New Plymouth, station-yard; Linwood, station building; Fendalton, road-crossing; Gore, Stationmaster's house.

Electric Power.

Work has been done in connection with the electrification of machinery in locomotive workshops, &c., as follows: Auckland, engine-depot and Pintsch-gas house; Newmarket, workshops and new car-shops; Thorndon, sleeping-car sheds; Picton, locomotive workshops; Addington, locomotive workshops; Outram water-supply.

Electric fans have been installed in the railway refreshment-rooms at Frankton, and in the Auckland booking-office.

Electric fire-alarms have been installed in the goods-shed and yard at Auckland, and in the new car and wagon shops at Newmarket.

Complete electric heating-apparatus for urns and for warming the dining-rooms was installed in the Frankton Junction refreshment-rooms.

Two additional electric heaters have been provided in the Railway Head Office, Wellington.

Level-crossing Automatic Alarm-bells.

Seven level crossings were fitted with automatic electric warning-bells at the following places: 156 m. 60 ch., 156 m. 63 ch., 155 m. 65 ch., 158 m. 14 ch., near Oamaru; 215 m. 66 ch., near Warrington; 202 m. 18 ch. and 203 m. 20 ch., near Tumai. The present number now in use is thirty. These bells have given satisfaction during the year.

Expenditure.

Particulars of the expenditure for the year on electric block-working, telegraph and telephone facilities, and electric power and lighting, &c., is as follows:—

New works—		£	s.	d.
Electric tablet-working .. .. .	.. .. .	1,354	1	10
Telephone and telegraph lines .. .. .	.. .. .	3,558	13	4
Electric light .. .. .	.. .. .	4,714	12	9
Electric motors, &c. .. .. .	.. .. .	6,066	5	1
Level-crossing alarms .. .. .	.. .. .	843	6	8
		<u>£16,536</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>
Maintenance—				
Electric block working and telegraph and telephone facilities ..	.. .. .	12,652	1	1
Lines, &c., maintained by Post and Telegraph Department ..	.. .. .	1,753	8	6
Electric light .. .. .	.. .. .	3,071	9	5
Electric motors, cranes, fire-alarms, level-crossing bells, &c. ..	.. .. .	1,025	18	2
		<u>£18,502</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>