

Of the new connections made during the year, 4,916 were with Class I exchanges, 2,100 with Class II exchanges, 2,387 with Class III exchanges, and 2,756 with Class IV (country) exchanges. The waiting-list at these exchanges now stands at 180; 48; 73; and 358 respectively: total, 659, compared with 2,241 on the 31st March, 1927. The waiting-list for Class IV exchanges includes 77 applicants for connections at telephone exchanges authorized but not yet opened.

The following table shows the number of telephone-stations in each engineering district on the 31st March, 1927 and 1928, respectively, and the percentage of increase in each case:—

Engineering District.	Number of Stations on 31st March,						Per-centage of Increase.
	1927.			1928.			
	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	
Auckland	33,271	5,073	38,344	35,584	5,472	41,056	7.1
Wellington	47,252	8,627	55,879	49,286	9,315	58,601	4.9
Canterbury	16,770	3,545	20,315	17,884	3,760	21,644	6.5
Otago	15,050	2,501	17,551	15,751	2,688	18,439	5.1
Totals	112,343	19,746	132,089	118,505	21,235	139,740	5.8

The number of subscribers' stations (main and extension) connected with each of the fourteen principal exchanges on the 31st March, 1928, was—Auckland, 17,460; Wellington, 17,167; Christchurch, 11,188; Dunedin, 7,774; Wanganui, 3,630; Palmerston North, 2,892; Hamilton, 2,771; Gisborne, 2,618; Napier, 2,611; Invercargill, 2,604; Hastings, 2,446; Timaru, 1,956; Masterton, 1,910; New Plymouth, 1,813.

The number of party and rural lines on the 31st March, 1928, was 9,508 to which were connected 37,379 main stations—an increase of 356 and 2,032 respectively on the figures for the previous year.

The following table shows, for each class of exchange, the respective percentages of business and residential stations, also the respective percentages of individual- and party-line stations, on the 31st March, 1928:—

Percentage of	Class I Exchanges.	Class II Exchanges.	Class III Exchanges.	Class IV Exchanges.	Dominion Percentages.
Business stations	40	33	29	22	31
Residential stations	60	67	71	78	69
	100	100	100	100	100
Individual-line stations	90	75	56	38	68
Party- and rural-line stations	10	25	44	62	32
	100	100	100	100	100

The length in miles of the various items of telephone-exchange plant in existence on the 31st March, 1927, and 1928, respectively, was as follows:—

	Pole-line.	Cable.		Wire.			Under all Headings.
		Under-ground.	Aerial.	In Under-ground Cable.	In Aerial Cable.	Open Aerial.	
In existence on 31st March, 1927	11,912	814*	637*	285,331	71,719*	83,559*	440,609*
Erected during year ..	1,086	97	71	32,938	7,053	8,305	48,296
Dismantled during year	51	21	103	9,912	13,139	2,498	25,549
In existence on 31st March, 1928	12,947	890	605	308,357	65,633	89,366†	463,356

* Revised figures.

† Includes 149 miles of earth-working circuit.