NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS CONSTRUCTION.—RETURN SHOWING THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF MEN EMPLOYED FROM 1920 TO 1928.

——	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
NORTH ISLAND RAILWAYS.									
North Auckland Main Trunk—									
Ngapuhi Northward	..	..	..	42	4	8	..	..	..
Waiotira	..	..	..	560	580	575	310	360	135
Ranganui–Kirikopuni—									
Whangarei District	180	230	265	..	..	..	..	..	..
Auckland District	145	145	185	120	110	60	..	..	..
Okaihau Northwards	..	..	..	..	..	75	175	250	300
Kawakawa–Hokianga	82	55	40	42	..	..	..	..	..
Whangarei Branch	100	95	100	105	95	95	..	..	..
Kaihu Valley Extension	52	42	37	13	..	..	..	..	..
Dargaville Branch	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	200
Tauraroa Quarry	..	..	..	..	..	40	50	50	50
East Coast Main Trunk—									
Tauranga Eastward	350	380	435	460	425	400	345	265	210
Tauranga Westward	45	32	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Waihi Eastward	50	50	105	155	115	82	85	68	45
Waihi Eastward (contractor's men)	..	..	..	..	155	430	475	255	130
Napier–Wairoa	170	115	110	220	340	495	550	505	435
Gisborne–Wairoa	80	80	55	60	45	20	12	6	13
Waikokopu Branch	120	230	335	265	330	205	80	45	40
Auckland–Westfield Deviation	..	..	..	..	..	300	405	405	360
Waiuku Branch	55	51	35	..	..	..	..	..	..
Waikokowai Branch	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paeroa–Pokeno	..	..	..	..	6	5	5	..	..
Huntly–Awaroa	27	60	80	45	21	..	..	..	..
Rotorua–Taupo	..	..	..	5	6	5	3	..	..
Palmerston North Deviation	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	80	200
Rimutaka Deviation	..	8	8	5	4	..	..	..	..
Tawa Flat Deviation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110	245
Hutt Deviation	..	..	..	..	..	80	190	175	..
Stratford Main Trunk Railway—									
West end	..	..	55	35	35	50	45	95	200	260	290
East end	..	..	85	70	110	140	155	150	155	170	215
Opunake Branch	..	..	52	40	110	150	192	185	120	..	..
SOUTH ISLAND RAILWAYS.									
Bealey–Otira	..	..	190	185	215	130	83	3	1	1	..
Nelson–Westland	..	..	30	27	29	50	82	86	83	80	60
Westport–Inangahua	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	60	35	35	110
Greymouth – Point Elizabeth	..	79	48	57	21	..	..	..	..	..	..
Waihao Downs	..	..	31	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clyde–Cromwell	..	..	95	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lawrence–Roxburgh	..	..	..	110	185	200	210	155	163	85	21
Onepuki–Waiau	..	..	45	22	28	47	70	43	..	..	..
Totals	..	..	2,124	2,177	2,568	2,885	3,105	3,652	3,472	3,260	3,059

HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT.

The policy that the Government should provide for the supply of electricity in bulk wherever the same is required was standardized, and estimates were made for a considerable number of years in the future as to the demands in various localities, and a programme of development was decided upon to provide for the demand.

In addition to the Government's policy of developing power in bulk, its policy of having the reticulation and distribution of the power carried out by Electric-power Boards was encouraged and assisted not only by the advice of the Department's officers, but also by the passing of legislation which would make for smoother and more efficient working in connection with the policy of providing every one, within reason, with the advantages of moderately priced electric power.

So far the works carried through have been very successful, and at the present time at least two-thirds of the total population is supplied with electric power.