

MOTOR TRANSPORT.

The control of the Public Service garage system is still a function of the Department.

Mention was made in last year's report of the practice of having departmental motor-vehicles throughout the Dominion inspected at suitable intervals by an officer specially detailed for the work. The results obtained justify a continuance of the arrangement.

During the year a contract was let to a New Zealand firm for the making of two seven-seater saloon and two seven-seater landaulet bodies for four English motor-car chassis. The cars are now in commission, being used for the higher-class service work.

The Department continues to purchase motor-vehicles for other Departments.

BUILDINGS.

The need still exists at many places for new or additional accommodation for the conduct of post and telegraph business. During the year, however, satisfactory progress was made with the building programme. Notable works were the erection of a post-office building at Waverley, the making of extensive additions to the post-office buildings at Hawera and Waipukurau, and the erection of a large garage at Dunedin.

At Napier the erection of a chief post-office building is well under way, and will be completed in 1930.

At Dunedin, the old chief post-office building has been demolished, and the site has been excavated in readiness for the erection of the new building.

At Greymouth extensive alterations and additions are being made to the chief post-office building.

Among other departmental buildings the erection of which is to be proceeded with in the near future are Courtenay Place (Wellington), High Street (Christchurch), and Upper Symonds Street (Auckland). Large additions will shortly be made to the post-office buildings at Masterton, Nelson, Newton, and Whangarei.

During the year a number of sites have been acquired with a view to erecting thereon post-office buildings when required.

The increase in the number of motor-vehicles in use in the Department has necessitated the provision of further garage accommodation. The practice is to erect garages at places at which suitable accommodation for renting is not available or at which the renting of accommodation would be unprofitable.

In order to keep the expenditure on garages as low as possible and to provide accommodation for motor-vehicles at places at which tradesmen are not available for the erection of garages, the Department is, by way of trial, having small movable garages constructed at a centre and forwarded in sections to the places at which they are required.

The maintenance of departmental buildings and fittings involves considerable expenditure. Control of the expenditure was assumed by the Department from the beginning of the financial year 1928-29. Previously such expenditure was controlled by the Public Works Department.

SUGGESTIONS BOARD.

Since the Suggestions Board was constituted in August, 1927, 612 suggestions have been reviewed by the Board. In the case of twenty-five of these suggestions, awards totalling £115 10s. have been made. In the case of the remaining suggestions, the officers concerned have been commended or thanked for the suggestions.

POST AND TELEGRAPH ACT, 1928.

The several enactments of the General Assembly in and since 1908 relating to the Post Office, electric lines, and the Post and Telegraph Department were consolidated in the Post and Telegraph Act, 1928.