

EXAMINATIONS.

Officers who were candidates for departmental examinations during the year numbered 1,178, of whom 589 were either wholly or partially successful.

As indicated in last year's report, the departmental Entrance Examination or its equivalent has superseded the Competency Examination as the examination qualification for appointment to clerical positions. It has, however, been decided to regard officers of the Second Division who passed a First Division Competency Examination prior to the 1st April, 1934, as fully qualified by examination for promotion to the First Division.

A pass in the recently introduced School Certificate Examination set by the Education Department is accepted as the equivalent of a pass in the educational section of the departmental Entrance Examination.

SUGGESTIONS BOARD.

Suggestions submitted by officers during the year with a view to improving the working of the Department numbered 281. Twelve awards for meritorious suggestions, involving a total sum of £34, were made. Since the inception of the Suggestions Board in 1927, nearly 2,900 suggestions covering all phases of the Department's activities have been received from officers.

COMMERCIAL BRANCH.

The business handled by commercial officers during the year amounted to £52,605, as against £39,477 for the preceding year—an increase of 33·2 per cent. Of the total amount, £24,720 represented telephone business and £27,885 advertising and miscellaneous services. The increase is gratifying, and is a reflection of the improvement in trading conditions generally.

Opportunity was taken during the year to advertise the Department's toll and radio-telephone services by means of an exhibit at the Wellington Radio Exhibition and at the winter shows at Auckland and Christchurch. From the interest exhibited by the public in the displays, it was evident that the innovation did much to popularize departmental services.

Commercial officers played an important part in explaining and giving publicity to the various new telephone facilities recently introduced by the Department.

STORES BRANCH.

The following statement indicates the value of stores received and issued in the Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington storekeeping districts during the year, and the value of stocks held at the end of the year. For the purpose of comparison, the particulars for the previous year are shown also :—

	1934-35.			1933-34.		
	Receipts.*	Issues.*	Stock in hand, 31st March, 1935.	Receipts.*	Issues.*	Stock in hand, 31st March, 1934.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland ..	98,611	97,370	111,285	76,526	87,694	110,044
Christchurch ..	51,326	53,892	71,106	33,818	39,719	73,672
Dunedin ..	29,646	29,070	48,244	17,874	25,408	47,668
Wellington ..	192,054	192,264	256,624	136,935	159,808	256,834
Dominion totals ..	371,637	372,596	487,259	265,153	312,629	488,218

* Excluding transfers within storekeeping districts.

The total value of orders placed during the year was £272,879. Of this amount £154,101 represented the cost of stores for supply from within the Dominion, including £32,482 for stores purchased under contracts arranged by the Stores Control Board. The total value of orders placed during the previous year was £178,483.

Particulars of purchases arranged by the Post and Telegraph Department on account of other Departments under the Stores Control Board Regulations are set out hereunder, the figures for the previous year being shown also :—

Year ended	Requisitions.	Items.	Value of Items purchased.		
			On Indent.	Locally.	Total.
			£	£	£
31st March, 1935 ..	3,659	17,838	25,025	54,371	79,396
31st March, 1934 ..	3,334	15,921	15,831	45,608	61,439

The purchase was arranged during the year of 168 motor-vehicles for other Departments, and of 28 motor-vehicles for the Post and Telegraph Department. The figures for the previous year were 104 and 48 respectively.