

CORONATION MEDALS.

The sale of Coronation medals in the Dominion was undertaken by the Department, the total number sold being 7,085.

COMMERCIAL BRANCH.

With the steadily increasing knowledge on the part of the public that officers are available to give advice on all matters pertaining to the Department's activities, the call for the services of commercial officers in an advisory capacity has become greater. Notwithstanding the demands thus made on officers' time, the search for new business, which constitutes the primary function of the Branch, has been pursued actively.

Apart from the large number of transactions which do not affect the revenue position, such as the internal or external removals of telephones, the rearrangement of existing equipment and the transfer of telephones from one person to another, the revenue value of the business secured by the Branch during the year amounted to £69,204, compared with £66,634 for the preceding year. The value of the telephone business obtained was £48,041, the balance (£21,163) representing advertising, postal, and miscellaneous business.

Publicity measures respecting various phases of the Department's activities were continued, both by newspaper advertising and by the distribution of folders and leaflets.

STORES BRANCH.

The following statement shows 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 :—

	1937-38.			1936-37.		
	Receipts.*	Issues.*	Stock on hand, 31st March, 1938.	Receipts.*	Issues.*	Stock on hand, 31st March, 1937.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland ..	272,554	234,953	140,909	192,910	185,260	103,308
Christchurch ..	107,136	98,113	70,491	72,533	77,945	61,468
Dunedin ..	84,109	75,162	50,481	47,385	47,346	41,534
Wellington ..	630,849	532,839	346,538	349,836	350,508	248,528
Dominion totals ..	1,094,648	941,067	608,419	662,664	661,059	454,838

* Excluding transfers within storekeeping districts.

The total value of orders placed during the year was £980,491. Of this amount £297,893 represented the cost of stores for supply from within the Dominion, including £50,707 for stores purchased under contracts arranged by the Stores Control Board. The total value of orders placed during the previous year was £805,624.

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, 1938 ..	4,328	21,058	20,088	199,979	220,067
31st March, 1937 ..	4,363	19,182	16,332	171,073	187,405

During the year the purchase of 404 motor-vehicles for other Departments and 107 motor-vehicles for the Post and Telegraph Department was arranged. The figures for the previous year were 454 and 234, respectively.

SALE OF OBSOLETE AND UNSERVICEABLE MATERIAL.

Several auction sales of obsolete and unserviceable material, including worn-out motor-vehicles from various Departments, were held during the year. The total value of property disposed of was £3,293. This sum includes the value of scrap copper and other metals.

MARINE INSURANCE FUND.

The insurable value of stores from countries within the Empire and the United States of America covered under the New Zealand Government Marine Insurance Fund was £618,865.