

1938.
NEW ZEALAND.

STORES CONTROL BOARD

(ANNUAL REPORT OF).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Leave.

Stores Control Board, Wellington, 31st August, 1938.

The Hon. R. SEMPLE, Chairman, Stores Control Board.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the annual report of the Stores Control Board for the year ended 31st March, 1938.

P. ELLERM, Secretary.

REPORT.

PURCHASES.

During the year ended 31st March, 1938, the expenditure on the purchase of stores, as compared with the year ended 31st March, 1937, was as under :—

	Year ended 31st March, 1937.	Year ended 31st March, 1938.
	£	£
Railways	1,923,502	2,721,427
Public Works	1,401,096	2,136,076
Post and Telegraph	805,624	980,491
Native	162,417	295,977
Naval	199,892	227,000
Mental Hospitals	189,731	214,048
Army	91,137	128,308
Printing and Stationery	133,671	126,763
Lands and Survey	62,854	76,256
Education	41,966	56,715
Industries and Commerce, Tourist and Publicity	37,062	55,864
Justice and Prisons	41,899	52,405
Health	39,854	50,734
State Forest Service	24,098	48,511
Mines	30,981	47,310
National Commercial Broadcasting Service	46,652
Agriculture	26,022	39,072
National Broadcasting Service	14,783	29,420
External Affairs	13,815	24,970
Air	24,801
Marine	22,043	23,385
Scientific and Industrial Research	15,086	14,441
Labour (Employment Division)	15,430	13,903
Transport	13,328
Police	8,132	10,772
Internal Affairs	8,970	10,676
Labour	7,914	7,668
State Fire	5,948	6,860
Other Departments	25,459	31,230
	<u>£5,349,386</u>	<u>£7,515,063</u>

The expenditure on stores during the year is £2,165,677 higher than for the year ended 31st March, 1937. Whilst this increase is due mainly to heavier orders placed by Government Departments as a result of increased activities, it is also, to a lesser extent, due to market increases in the prices paid for many of the items purchased both locally and overseas.

The total amounts expended during each of the past ten years are as under :—

	£		£
1929	4,199,822	1934	2,417,676
1930	4,345,030	1935	2,939,642
1931	4,286,803	1936	3,251,814
1932	2,757,214	1937	5,349,386
1933	2,109,698	1938	7,515,063

CONTRACTS.

At the 31st March, 1938, contracts arranged by the Board were in operation for the supply of the undermentioned items to all Departments :—

Batteries for motor-vehicles.
 Bricks, earthenware pipes and fittings.
 Brushware—painters' and general.
 Candles, soap, and soda.
 Cement.
 Coal, coke, and firewood.
 Cream-separators.
 Cyclostyle stencils and correcting fluid.
 Diesel engines for driving milking-plant, &c.
 Disinfectant.
 Electric lamps.
 Fencing-wire.
 Galvanized sheets, corrugated and flat.
 Ink—cyclostyle, fountain-pen, and writing.
 Milking-machines.
 Motor-vehicle lubricating oils and greases.
 Motor-spirit and kerosene.
 Motor-tires.
 Oil fuel and lubricating-oil for Diesel engines.
 Oxygen and acetylene gases.
 Paper, carbon, toilet, and wrapping.
 Polish, metal, floor, and boot.
 Sensitized papers and linens.
 Spare parts for motor-vehicles.
 Superphosphate and compound superphosphate fertilizers.
 Twine.
 Typewriters and typewriter-ribbons.
 Uniform clothing.

In addition to the above, numerous departmental contracts were also arranged throughout the year, the principal items concerned being :—

Aero-engine lubricating-oil.
 Artificial limbs.
 Aviation-spirit.
 Boots and shoes for Army and Air Departments.
 Crockery for Mental Hospitals Department.
 Foodstuffs (sugar, milk, bread, butter, meat, fish, hams, and bacon, &c.).
 Oil fuel for Government ships.
 Lubricating-oil for m.v. "Maui Pomare."
 Medicines for Native schools.
 Samoan banana-cases.
 Skip-grease and lubricating-oils for Mines Department.
 Tobacco for Mental Hospitals Department.
 Toothbrushes for Naval ratings.

The service rendered by contractors during the year has, in general, been efficient and satisfactory.

PREFERENCE TO GOODS OF NEW ZEALAND AND BRITISH MANUFACTURE.

The policy of preference to goods of New Zealand and British manufacture has been maintained throughout the year.

In the purchase of stores for Government use special consideration is given to locally manufactured items and, provided New Zealand manufactures can supply goods of a satisfactory quality at competitive prices, after allowing the usual preference, they can be assured of the Board's support.

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