

Traction Supplies. The conversion to electric traction of the section of the Cape main line between Touws River and Beaufort West was reported last year. This extension of the electrification accounts for the greater part of the increase in units sold to the South African Railways for traction purposes.

In the early part of March, 1963, five suspension towers of the transmission line to Beaufort West were damaged by a freak localised storm, and steam traction had to be used during the interruption to supply. A study is being made of the localities in which such storms have been known to occur.

Supplies for traction furnished from the Natal Undertakings showed an increase of about 5 per cent.