

1880.
NEW ZEALAND.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.
(TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.)

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 31st May, 1880.

I have the honor to submit to your Excellency the Twenty-first Annual Report on the Postal Service of New Zealand, being for the year ended 31st December, 1879. The revenue and expenditure returns, however, have been brought up to the 31st March last.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson,
G.C.M.G., Governor of New Zealand.

JOHN HALL,
Postmaster-General.

REPORT.

THE general progress of the department during the year has been satisfactory, and there has been a marked increase of business in all branches of the service, as disclosed in the several tables hereto appended.

The cash revenue for the financial period of nine months ended 31st March last amounted to £115,680 14s. 3d. The revenue was estimated to yield £101,200, but the receipts were £14,480 14s. 3d in excess of that estimate.

The expenditure for the same period, inclusive of outstanding liabilities, was £117,707 16s. 2d., or £1,436 13s. 11d. less than the appropriations.

The revenue for the current financial year has been estimated at £145,000.

The number of letters dealt with shows a considerably larger increase than in any former year.

The total number of letters, post cards, book-packets, and newspapers received and posted during the year, compared with the number dealt with in 1878, is shown in the following statement:—

	1879.	1878.	Increase.
Letters—Received	10,251,570	8,236,062	
Posted	10,706,248	7,288,699	
	<u>20,957,818</u>	<u>15,524,761</u>	<u>5,433,057</u>
Post Cards—Received	227,786	116,674	
Posted	271,691	137,509	
	<u>499,477</u>	<u>254,183</u>	<u>245,294</u>
Book-packets and pattern parcels—Received	711,477	505,294	
Posted	684,139	413,855	
	<u>1,395,616</u>	<u>919,149</u>	<u>476,467</u>
Newspapers—Received	5,649,579	5,097,907	
Posted	4,408,365	4,312,459	
	<u>10,057,944</u>	<u>9,410,366</u>	<u>647,578</u>

—the letters increased 34·99 per cent., post cards 96·50 per cent., book packets 51·84 per cent., and newspapers 6·88 per cent.

The increase of correspondence in 1878 over that of the previous year was: Letters, 18·92 per cent.; post cards, 107·83 per cent.; book-packets, 23·84 per cent.; and newspapers, 16·66 per cent.

The average number of letters posted in the colony in proportion to the estimated population was 23·08 to each person. In 1878 the average was 16·85.

In England and Wales for 1878-79 the average was 37 letters to each person, in Scotland 28, Ireland 14, and for the United Kingdom 32.

The percentage of increase of letters for 1879 was nearly double that of the previous year, and that of book-packets and pattern parcels more than double. There was, however, a decrease in the proportional increase of newspapers.

The exceptionally large increase of letters may fairly be attributed to three causes: (1) To a more accurate check having been kept at country post offices of the number of letters posted for local delivery; (2) to the natural increase of letters which followed the establishment of more frequent communication both by sea and by railway; and (3) to the larger use made of the post office for the transmission of communications previously forwarded by wire, until the effect of the existing commercial depression had made itself apparent to all classes.

The large increase of post-cards is an evidence of their usefulness. They are now used generally and for a variety of purposes.

The unusually large number of book-packets and pattern parcels dealt with is due to the department permitting articles of merchandise, &c., not exceeding five pounds in weight, and all matter printed or written not being of the nature of a personal correspondence, to pass through the post at parcel and book-packet rates of postage, when intended for delivery within the colony.

The small increase in the number of newspapers is, no doubt, due to the depression of trade. The falling-off is mainly in the number of newspapers posted, and it is difficult to determine any other cause than that suggested.

On the 31st December there were 148 offices at which combined postal and telegraph business was performed.

The business of the Government Life Insurance Department was transacted at 155 post offices, and at a minimum cost to the Government.

It may be remarked that the duties of postal and telegraph officers are not confined to the discharge of merely postal and telegraph business. These officers also act as countersigning officers for Treasury cheques, Government Insurance Agents, Registrars of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, Railway Stationmasters, Land-Tax Collectors, Registrars of Electors, &c. It is also intended that, in several districts, the Postmasters shall collect the property-tax.

With the view of providing a convenience which seemed to be required by the wages class, the several chief post offices have been opened every Saturday night, from 6.30 to 7.45 o'clock, for the receipt of savings bank deposits. Should it be found desirable to keep open the offices on Saturday night, it is probable the interval will be extended, and an earlier closing effected in the afternoon.

The system of returning "special request letters," and letters bearing on the covers the name and address of the writer and sender, has been extended, as may be seen by referring to page 6.

The post office and telegraph duties at Hokitika, Westport, and Reefton were amalgamated on the 1st April last. They have also been combined at Albany Street, North Dunedin. Further amalgamation is to be immediately carried into effect at New Plymouth, Gisborne, Milton, and Mosgiel.

With the view of facilitating the combination of postal and telegraph duties, it has been decided to afford postal officers facilities for acquiring a knowledge of telegraphy. Classes of officers will therefore be drafted from the several chief offices to Wellington, to receive a course of instruction in the Telegraph Learners' Gallery. Following out this principle, no cadet will in future be placed on the permanent staff of the Postal Department until he has first passed through the Telegraph Learners' Gallery.

6 additional iron-pillar receivers were erected during the year; 15 receiving-boxes were established and 4 closed. 29 iron pillars and 88 receiving-boxes were available for the receipt of letters at the close of the year.

88 additional stamp licenses were issued in 1879, and 29 cancelled. The total number of licensed stamp vendors on the 31st December last was 367, who received £991 19s. 10d. by way of poundage on the sale of stamps.

The cost for the carriage of interprovincial and intercolonial mails by unsubsidized vessels was £2,385 12s. 10d.

3,098 private boxes were let, which, together with the fees on 194 private bags, produced a revenue of £3,197 10s.

Government Insurance Agencies have been opened at the post offices at Aratapu, Halcombe, Duntroon, Newton, Te Nui, and Waitara.

The names of the following post offices have been changed: Woodside to Papatoitōi, Waitoa to Morrinsville, Huntly Lodge to Huntly, Upper Ferry (Waitaki) to Kourou, Marewhenua to Livingstone, Harlington to Mount Cargill, Springfield to Ramarama, Bealey Road to Lovat, Horndon Junction to Darfield, Kowai Pass to Springfield, Stokes Point to Northcote, Duvauchelle's Bay to Duvauchelle, Lovat to Aylesbury, Waihi Bush to Woodbury, Warepa to Toiro, Elderslie to Lochiel, and Longbush to Woodlands.

19 money order and savings bank offices were established. At the close of the year 165 post offices were open for the transaction of money order and savings bank business.

The total savings bank deposits amounted to £812,399 11s. 11d., and the withdrawals to £876,180 19s. 3d.; the excess of withdrawals over the deposits for the year being £63,781 7s. 4d., caused no doubt by the severe depression. A reference to Table No. 4 will show to what extent the savings of the people have been affected by the dullness of trade and the dearth of employment.

117,999 money orders were issued, and 88,791 paid. 15,054 orders were issued for transmission by telegraph.

The money order commission on the total issue of money orders was £7,285 1s. 6d.

Money order telegrams may now be forwarded as urgent messages, on payment of the "urgent" telegram fee.

Payment for the carriage of mails by railway is now made at the rate of £10 per mile per annum,

Nine additional inland-mail services were established. The total mileage increased from 2,308,827 in 1878 to 2,589,114. The total number of inland services in operation was 474. These cost £33,719 11s. 1d. per annum, or at the rate of 3½d. per mile.

The net cost of the San Francisco service for the year was £7,227 8s. 1d., against £12,432 16s. for 1878, while the net cost of the Brindisi service increased from £7,391 12s. 1d. in 1878 to £7,526 4s. 1d.

Fortnightly communication between Melbourne and London *via* Brindisi was established in February last. The Southampton route has been abandoned, and the whole of the mails by the Eastern service are now sent *via* Brindisi and Calais.

The colony's share of Imperial postages has, in consequence of recent changes, been reduced by a sum exceeding £2,700 a year.

The postage on official correspondence for the year amounted to £62,437 18s. 11d. The weight of this correspondence was over 200 tons.

The question of the colony entering the General Postal Union is *in statu quo*. It has been decided, for the present, at least, not to take any further action in the matter, seeing that our postage receipts would be seriously diminished whenever the colony became a member of the Union.

The several postal districts have been visited by the Inspector during the year, and the work of inspection has been vigorously prosecuted both in the North and South Islands. In the principal postal districts the more important offices have also been visited by Chief Postmasters as an aid to the Inspector; but for many reasons it is not desirable that Chief Postmasters should frequently be absent from their offices. The growth of the department has, however, rendered the existing provision for postal inspection inadequate for the thorough administration of the service. Some assistance has been received from the Audit and Telegraph Inspectors, who occasionally visited post offices in the charge of permanent officers; but their inspection of postal matters did not extend beyond the accounts. It will, therefore, be seen that the practical work of inspecting the several post offices really devolved upon the Inspector of Post Offices. The work of inspection to be carried out thoroughly is too much for one officer, and the time has arrived when the Inspector should receive some assistance to enable him to complete his work in a thoroughly efficient manner.

It is a matter for regret that the efforts of the department to assist in establishing penny savings banks in the public schools of the colony have not been attended with any degree of success. Only in one school has the system been brought into operation. In many cases the Education Boards and School Committees have opposed the introduction of the system on the ground that the work connected with penny banks could not advantageously be added to the present duties of the teachers. On the other hand, where the Education Boards or School Committees were favourable the teachers refused their co-operation. It is apparent that until such time as the Education Boards interfere actively on behalf of these institutions, and the teachers are required to regard the duties connected with penny banks as part of their school labour, the system will meet with but little favour at their hands. Its success entirely depends upon the co-operation of the teachers, and it is very desirable they should be urged to afford the system a fair trial.

The total strength of the department on the 31st December last, compared with the number of officers in the service the previous year, may be gathered from this return:—

RETURN of Officers of the Postal Department for the Years 1878 and 1879.

Officers.		1879.	1878.	Officers.		1879.	1878.
Postmaster-General	...	1	1	Postmasters	...	11	14
Secretary	...	1	1	Clerks and Cadets	...	121	101
Inspector of Post Offices	...	1	1	Sub-Postmasters	...	819	786
Accountant, Money Order and Savings	...			Letter-carriers	...	55	42
Banks Department	...	1	1	Messengers	...	13	12
Clerks in General Post Office	...	5	6	Mail-cart drivers	...	1	2
Clerks in Money Order and Savings	...			Shipping officers	...	2	2
Bank Department	...	6	4				
Mail Agents	...	3	...	Totals	...	1,056	987
Chief Postmasters	...	16	14				

Of the 1,056 officers, 242 were on the permanent staff of the department, 168 postal and telegraph officials, and 646 non-permanent sub-postmasters.

59 post offices were established, 3 reopened, and 30 offices were closed, during the year, as follows:—

OFFICES OPENED AND CLOSED DURING 1879.

Opened.

Appleby, Invercargill	Kuri Bush, Dunedin	Rae's Junction, Dunedin
Ashhurst, Wellington	Kerry Town, Timaru	Rangitata Island, Timaru
Bishop's, Dunedin	Kowai Bush, Christchurch	Spreydon, Christchurch
Bulmer, Timaru	Loburn, Christchurch	Stanton's, Hokitika
Blackwater, Greymouth	Lowther (reopened), Invercargill	Stony Creek, Dunedin
Bainesse, Wellington	Makino Road, Wellington	Swift Creek, Dunedin
Big Bay (reopened), Hokitika	Midhurst, New Plymouth	Sherwood, Napier
Cheltenham, Wellington	Milford, Timaru	South Malvern, Christchurch
Dunback, Dunedin	Miranda, Thames	Taheke, Auckland
Elderslie, Invercargill	Mania, Auckland	Te Aro (Branch Office), Wellington
Fern Flat, Westport	Mangakahia, Auckland	Taratahi, Wellington
Georgetown, Oamaru	Mayfield, Christchurch	Te Teko, Auckland
Glenham, Invercargill	Middle Kyeburn, Dunedin	Trentham, Wellington
Goodwood, Dunedin	Motupiko, Nelson	Upper Nevis, Dunedin
Hakateramea, Timaru	Owharo, Thames	View Hill, Christchurch
Hobsonville, Auckland	Omata, New Plymouth	Waiho Forks, Timaru
Hunua, Auckland	Paroa (reopened), Greymouth	Waima, Auckland
Huirangi, New Plymouth	Pokeno Valley, Auckland	Waitangi, Hokitika
Kaihoke, Auckland	Pinnacle, Dunedin	Warepa, Dunedin
Kohekohe, Auckland	Razorback, Auckland	Weka Pass, Christchurch.
Kaituna, Blenheim	Redcliffe, Timaru	

Closed.

Addington, Christchurch	Kaikorai, Dunedin	Phillipstown, Christchurch
Adelaide Road (Branch Office), Wellington	Kensington, Dunedin	Queen's Redoubt, Auckland
Anderson's Bay, Dunedin	Kew, Dunedin	St. Albans, Christchurch
Bingsland, Christchurch	Knightstown, Christchurch	The Glen, Dunedin
Caledonian Road, Christchurch	Larry's Creek, Westport	The Willows, Napier
Callaghan's Gully, Hokitika	Mornington, Dunedin	Upper Waikaia, Dunedin
Cashel Street East, Christchurch	Murrayville, Dunedin	Waikari, Dunedin
Forbury, Dunedin	Mahakipawa, Blenheim	Waipapu, Napier
Ferntown, Nelson	Maruia Junction, Westport	White's Point, Westport
Five-Mile Beach, Hokitika	North-East Valley, Dunedin	West Wanganui, Nelson.

The number of offices closed was large, but this is explained by the fact that 18 were "suburban post offices," which, on the extension of the letter-carriers' deliveries at Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland, were no longer required.

The total number of post offices open on the 31st December last was 846. The following table gives the number of offices in the several postal districts, compared with the number open the previous year:—

TABLE showing the Number of Post Offices Open in the several Postal Districts for the Years 1878 and 1879.

Postal Districts.	1879.				1878.			
	Chief Offices.	Second-class Post Offices.	Sub-Post Offices.	Totals.	Chief Offices.	Second-class Post Offices.	Sub-Post Offices.	Totals.
Auckland	1	2	172	175	1	2	162	165
Thames	1	...	13	14	1	...	10	11
New Plymouth	1	...	14	15	1	...	16	17
Napier	1	2	50	53	1	2	51	54
Wanganui	1	...	21	22	...	...	...	...
Wellington	1	...	60	61	1	1	69	71
Nelson	1	1	26	28	1	1	27	29
Westport	1	...	16	17	1	...	19	20
Greymouth	1	...	24	25	1	...	22	23
Hokitika	1	...	29	30	1	...	28	29
Blenheim	1	2	14	17	1	2	14	17
Christchurch	1	2	128	131	1	3	156	160
Timaru	1	...	37	38	...	...	...	...
Oamaru	1	...	17	18	...	...	...	...
Dunedin	1	1	145	147	1	2	165	168
Invercargill	1	1	51	53	1	1	46	48
Chatham Islands ... ..	...	...	2	2	1	...	1	2
Totals	16	11	819	846	14	14	786	814

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The cash revenue and the expenditure (inclusive of the estimated outstanding liabilities) of the Postal Department for the nine months ended 31st March, 1880, are set forth in the following statement:—

REVENUE.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Sale of postage stamps	80,943	14 9	Salaries	33,747	1 3
Money order commission	5,665	5 7	Conveyance of mails by sea	39,507	17 3
Fees for private boxes and bags	3,116	6 0	" inland mails	23,482	16 2
Miscellaneous receipts	7,567	9 5	" mails by railway	5,554	3 0
Imperial postage receipts	15,887	18 6	Contingencies	3,515	18 6
San Francisco service, payments by non-contracting colonies	2,500	0 0	Liabilities	11,900	0 0
	115,680	14 3			
Balance of expenditure over revenue	2,027	1 11			
	£117,707	16 2		£117,707	16 2

The revenue for the nine months was estimated at £101,200; but the receipts exceeded this amount by £14,480 14s. 3d.

As an explanation of this very large increase, it should be stated that the Savings Bank profits for the years 1878 and 1879, amounting to £6,982 15s. 5d., were paid over to the Post Office account in March last, and the sum was dealt with as revenue of the financial period. Hitherto these profits have been treated as incidental receipts; but it has been decided that the item shall for the future be regarded as postal revenue.

The sum appropriated for postal services for the nine months ended 31st March last was £119,144 10s. 1d.; the expenditure, including liabilities of £11,900, amounted to £117,707 16s. 2d., or £1,436 13s. 11d. less than the appropriations.

Excluding the item of Savings Bank profits, the ordinary postal revenue collected for the nine months was at the rate of £144,930 per annum. The receipts for the financial year ended 30th June, 1879, amounted to £129,906 13s. 5d. The annual increase was, therefore, £14,923 6s. 7d., or 11.49 per cent.

The official postage for the nine months amounted to £41,625 6s., which, added to the cash revenue of £115,680 14s. 3d., brought up the gross earnings of the department to £157,306 0s. 3d. for the financial period.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The value of the free or franked correspondence is estimated at £62,437 18s. 11d., against £56,176 0s. 10d. for the previous year, an increase of £6,261. The weight exceeded 200 tons, and the proportion posted in each postal district is shown by the following statement:—

	Letters.	Books.	£	s.	d.		Letters.	Books.	£	s.	d.
Auckland ...	9,634 lb. ...	8,808 lb. ...	3,131	18	9	Blenheim ...	1,187 lb. ...	2,843 lb. ...	417	1	7
Thames ...	1,334 " ...	339 " ...	370	0	8	Christchurch ...	7,861 " ...	22,321 " ...	2,903	11	11
New Plymouth ...	3,081 " ...	209 " ...	883	12	7	Timaru ...	948½ " ...	139 " ...	260	12	0
Napier ...	1,228½ " ...	3,727 " ...	456	8	9	Oamaru ...	437½ " ...	70 " ...	119	0	0
Wanganui ...	3,618 " ...	1,416 " ...	1,013	10	6	Dunedin ...	25,770 " ...	11,891 " ...	7,377	17	9
Wellington ...	131,027 " ...	200,172 " ...	42,927	5	2	Invercargill ...	2,274 " ...	2,248 " ...	700	15	2
Nelson ...	1,715 " ...	2,471 " ...	554	0	6	Total ...	...	...	£62,437	18	11
Westport ...	611½ " ...	311 " ...	178	4	3						
Greymouth ...	1,486½ " ...	56 " ...	399	19	2						
Hokitika ...	2,484 " ...	2,130 " ...	744	0	2						

This description of correspondence is largely on the increase. The newly-organised department for the collection of the land-tax made very free use of the Post Office, and it has been estimated that over 50,000 letters were posted from Wellington alone during the year on the business of the Land-Tax Department. The gratuitous service rendered other departments of the public service by the Post Office was both large and important, and entailed considerable labour and expense.

The list of persons authorized to frank has grown to such an unreasonable size that it has been determined, if practicable, to reduce it, and at the same time bring into operation a more satisfactory system for the franking of official correspondence than at present exists.

Of the several departments of the public service, the Government Insurance Department was the only one which paid for the transmission of its correspondence through the post. Now that the Post Office makes full payment for the carriage of its mails by railway, it has been decided to claim from the Railway Department a reasonable sum for the service rendered in transmitting railway correspondence through the post.

DEAD LETTERS.

The increase in the number of letters dealt with at the Dead Letter Office has not been so large since 1875. The number disposed of during the year was 76,887, against 67,473 for the preceding year.

The table below shows the number of unclaimed letters received in the Dead Letter Office, and how disposed of, year by year, since 1874:—

Manner of Disposal.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
Opened and returned to the writers ...	26,153	39,051	44,067	52,607	53,483	61,589
Returned unopened to other countries ...	6,828	10,321	9,703	9,835	8,733	9,713
Reissued ...	105	78	83	94	117	122
Destroyed ...	4,227	6,081	5,217	3,417	5,140	4,733
Returned unopened by Chief Postmasters ...	...	...	...	...	...	725
Totals ...	37,313	55,531	59,070	65,953	67,473	76,887

There were also 4,820 book-packets and circulars returned to the senders, and 91 book-packets returned to other countries.

The proportion of letters sent to the Dead Letter Office, out of the total number transmitted, was as 1 to 272. In the United Kingdom the proportion was as 1 to 217 for 1878.

The following are the particulars of the number and articles of value enclosed in letters opened in the Dead Letter Office:—

	£	s.	d.
134 money orders for ...	434	10	8
63 bank drafts ...	3,458	10	7
83 cheques ...	592	8	3
2 promissory notes ...	324	1	4
Postage stamps ...	3	19	10
Bank notes ...	99	0	0
Gold ...	21	10	0
Silver and copper ...	0	16	10

Representing a total of ... £4,934 17 6

There were also received in the Dead Letter Office:—

2 silver watches, 5 gold rings (two of which were set with precious stones), 2 war medals, and 1 small gold medal.

811 unclaimed registered letters.

44 letters posted without addresses.

259 letters detained for postage; of which only 13 were subsequently prepaid and forwarded.

749 newspapers and 381 books and other articles without addresses; of these, it was found practicable to deliver 84.

7 letters with obscene and libellous addresses.
 58 letters imperfectly and wrongly addressed.
 612 refused letters.
 4 letters with previously-used postage stamps.

Reference was made in the last report to the amended regulations under which unclaimed letters, having the names and addresses of the writers or senders printed on the address side of the covers, were returned unopened by Chief Postmasters to the senders, instead of being forwarded to the Dead Letter Office for the purpose of being opened and returned to the writers. It was ascertained, however, that, while the principle of returning unopened this description of letters was appreciated by the public, the requirement that the name of the writer or sender must be *printed* on the address side of the envelope prevented general advantage being taken of the regulations. On reconsidering the matter, it was decided to extend the regulations, which, as amended, provide that the names and addresses of the senders may be either written, printed, or embossed on the address side or on the fly of the envelopes.

With respect to the return of "special request letters," *i.e.*, letters having the names and addresses of the senders written, printed, or embossed on the address side or on the fly of the envelopes, in addition to a request on the address side that the letters should be returned if not claimed within a stated period, the regulations also provide for their return unopened to the writers or senders. Such letters, however, cannot be returned unless they shall have remained in the Post Office to which addressed at least ten days. Letters of this class originating at hotels, clubs, or places of public resort are forwarded to the Dead Letter Office for disposal, unless, in addition to the printed or embossed address on the cover, the name of the actual sender also appears.

These extended regulations came into force on the 1st January last. It is of importance, particularly to commercial houses, that letters which cannot be delivered to the addressees should be returned to the senders as speedily as possible. The public would greatly assist to secure this by more generally affixing their names and addresses upon the covers of letters they may forward through the post.

The period during which letters posted in the colony for delivery within the colony (but not having on the covers the address of the writers or senders) remain unclaimed prior to being sent to the Dead Letter Office for return to the writers, has been reduced from two clear months to one clear month. No alteration has been made in the period during which foreign letters are retained at post offices as "unclaimed."

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The total number of articles registered during the year was 88,538, against 68,978 registered in 1878, an increase of 19,560, or 28·35 per cent. The increase is unusually large. The number of letters registered in the previous year was only 8,391 over the number registered in 1877. The increase is believed to be largely due to the exhibition of enamelled notice-plates at nearly all the post offices, directing public attention to the fact that no letters, &c., containing money, coin, or other valuable enclosure should be posted without first being registered. Over 700 of these plates (600 of which serve also as a sign for the Post Office) have been affixed over the posting boxes of the more important post offices. Notwithstanding the increase of registered articles, an unusually large number of letters containing bank-notes has been delivered through the post as ordinary letters. This is particularly the case with letters addressed to the promoters of racing "sweeps" and "consultations;" and the department is now considering how best the evil may be checked, more especially with the desire to relieve its officers from undue temptation.

RETURN of the Number of Registered Letters received from Places beyond the Colony, and the Number of Letters Registered in the several Postal Districts during the Years 1876, 1877, 1878, and 1879.

Postal Districts.	1876.			1877.			1878.			1879.		
	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.
Auckland	1,799	6,468	8,267	1,818	8,405	10,223	2,055	10,374	12,429	2,735	12,569	15,304
Thames	290	887	1,177	123	1,051	1,174	145	919	1,064	154	922	1,076
New Plymouth	230	517	747	186	951	1,137	179	992	1,189	290	1,429	1,719
Napier	483	2,286	2,769	483	2,862	3,345	591	3,095	3,686	627	3,828	4,455
Wanganui	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	309	4,004	4,313
Wellington	2,134	7,946	10,080	1,791	10,358	12,149	2,121	12,510	14,631	2,743	12,167	14,910
Nelson	320	685	1,005	381	1,273	1,654	362	1,407	1,769	487	1,894	2,381
Westport	146	409	555	52	485	537	84	697	781	82	862	944
Greymouth	602	1,451	2,053	181	1,685	1,866	230	1,420	1,650	182	1,205	1,387
Hokitika	394	1,195	1,589	257	1,495	1,752	214	1,636	1,850	219	1,343	1,562
Blenheim	175	665	840	88	767	855	127	740	867	132	938	1,120
Christchurch	3,139	5,846	8,985	1,542	8,242	9,784	2,281	10,786	13,067	2,856	12,640	15,496
Timaru	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	373	2,532	2,905
Oamaru	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	176	1,454	1,630
Dunedin	5,270	6,024	11,294	2,591	11,086	13,677	2,819	9,613	12,432	3,584	11,889	15,473
Invercargill	681	2,824	3,505	234	2,200	2,434	444	3,119	3,563	482	3,381	3,863
Totals	15,663	37,203	52,866	9,727	50,860	60,587	11,670	57,308	68,578	15,431	73,107	88,538

BUILDINGS.

But few offices have been erected or put in hand during the year.

The new building at Timaru is well advanced, and is expected to be completed by the end of July.

The post office and telegraph building at Wanganui is being altered and enlarged. The alterations are expected to be completed in about two months. In the meantime the business of the two departments is carried on in temporary offices.

Competitive designs have been received for commodious post office and telegraph buildings for Wellington, and premiums awarded the authors of the two best designs. No decision, however, has been arrived at with respect to adopting either design; and until parliamentary authority has been obtained for the necessary expenditure the erection of the new offices will not be undertaken. In the meantime the business of the Post Office is seriously impeded from the want of convenient accommodation.

The increase of business at Auckland has made it absolutely necessary to enlarge the chief post office; and the needed alterations will be carried out immediately.

New offices have been erected during the year at Ohaupo, Pahi, Port Albert, Patea, Waitara, Woodville, Duvauchelle, Catlin's River, Gore, Waitahuna, and Wyndham.

The offices at Hawera, Waipawa, Waipukurau, and Foxton, have been altered and enlarged.

New offices are in progress at Dargaville and Greatford; and the offices at Lower Hutt, Kawakawa, and Akaroa are being enlarged.

It is proposed to build new offices at Collingwood, Takaka, Sydenham, and Balclutha.

INLAND MAIL SERVICES.

The inland services were, on the whole, performed satisfactorily, remembering the very difficult nature of the country over which many of these services travel, coupled with the unusual severity of the weather and floods which had to be contended against. The usual delays to the Hokitika and Malvern service occurred, and interruptions to mail communication from floods were very general on the west coast of the Middle Island. Indeed, over the greater part of the colony exceptionally severe floods were experienced, and not only were the ordinary services interrupted, but communication by railway was occasionally suspended. Temporary arrangements, where practicable, were made in every case by the department to maintain communication.

The contracts for the majority of the inland services expired on the 31st December, 1878, and the services were re-tendered for, but with the result, in many cases, that the cost exceeded that of the former contracts, the difference being over £5,000. A proportion of this, however, must be set against new services and extensions or acceleration of existing ones. In 1878 the cost of inland services was £28,435, but the expenditure increased to £33,719 in 1879.

The service between Wanganui and New Plymouth was increased from thrice weekly to once a day. There is now daily communication throughout from Wellington to New Plymouth. A second daily service was established between Patea and Hawera.

A weekly service by coach between Auckland and Waiwera (Hot Springs) was established; but owing to the non-completion of the road the coach has been unable to proceed further from Auckland than the Orewa River.

The twice-weekly mail service between Palmerston North and Kopua was increased to thrice-weekly. Thrice-a-week communication between Wellington and Napier is now secured.

In connection with the Hokitika and Malvern service, a branch service has been established between Kumara and Goodfellows, admitting of the delivery and despatch of the Greymouth mails simultaneously with those to and from Hokitika.

A second daily delivery of mails has been established between the offices at Wanganui, Turakina, Marton, Greatford, Bull's, Feilding, Halcombe, Palmerston North, and Foxton.

The following statement shows the number and description of the inland services for the year together with the cost, compared with that of 1878:—

			1879.	1878.
Performed by coach and mail-cart	...	...	111	113
" horseback	...	...	211	207
" foot	...	...	61	52
" water	...	...	43	45
" railway	...	...	48	48
			<hr/> 474	<hr/> 465
Aggregate mileage	...	...	7,249	8,355
Total number of miles travelled	...	...	2,589,114	2,308,827
Cost to the department	...	...	£33,719 11s. 1d.	£28,435 10s. 8d.
Average cost per mile	...	...	3½d.	3d.

MAIL STEAM SERVICES.

The agreement under which the Imperial Government undertook to convey the colonial mails between London and San Francisco, Galle, or Singapore, and also to pay over to the several colonial post offices the outward postages, less the British inland rates (in the case of letters one penny per half-ounce), on the colonies undertaking to maintain mail services to the points named, expired on the 31st December, 1878. The position of the colonies at the beginning of last year with respect to this agreement may be gathered from the following extract from the last report:—

“In view of the expiration of the agreement, the Secretary of State for the Colonies made proposals to the several Australasian Governments for a readjustment of the amount of postage to be retained by the Imperial Government after the 1st of January of the present year, on the outward correspondence for the colonies. The proposal was that the Imperial Post Office should retain threepence per half-ounce letter in addition to the inland rate, thereby reducing the amount to be paid the several Colonial Governments from fivepence to twopence per half-ounce letter. As there was no apparent reason in justification of the proposed reduced payment, the proposal was naturally met by a strong protest from all the colonies, and the several Agents-General were instructed by their respective Governments to urge for more favourable terms. . . . The result of the negotiations was that the Imperial Government consented to the continuance of the old arrangement until the 31st January next, when the present Suez Contract will expire, and thereafter to retain twopence instead of fourpence per half-ounce letter, as originally proposed. As this Government is, however, in conjunction with that of New South Wales, committed to a heavy annual expenditure until October, 1883, on account of the San Francisco Mail Service, and as the present contract was entered into under the belief that the arrangement of 1874 would not be disturbed during the term of the contract, the Imperial Government has been urged to approve of a further extension of the existing payments until the termination of the San Francisco Mail Contract.”

Considerable correspondence ensued with the Colonial Office, but the efforts of New South Wales and New Zealand to secure a continuance of the payments provided by the agreement of 1874, until the expiration of the existing San Francisco Mail Contract, were unsuccessful. The Imperial Government refused to recognize that the contracting colonies had any claim for special consideration. Commencing, therefore, from the 1st February last, the payments to be made to this colony by the London Post Office were reduced one-fifth. In other words, only fourpence instead of fivepence per half-ounce letter is now credited the colony, which in effect represents an additional loss to New Zealand of about £2,700 a year in respect of its ocean mail services. There was every reason to expect more liberal consideration from the Imperial Government in this matter, and the decision cannot but be regarded as one of an arbitrary character. It was arrived at upon the representation of Mr. Graham Berry, the then Premier of Victoria, who was at that time in London, and, without consultation with the representatives of other Colonial Governments, appointed at the request of the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the express purpose of fully and conveniently discussing the question with the Colonial Office.

The department, through its agent at San Francisco, is endeavouring to obtain a reduction in the charges levied by the United States Post Office for the transit of the Australian and New Zealand closed mails between New York and San Francisco. That gentleman has, at considerable personal inconvenience, taken steps for satisfying the post office authorities of the United States of the impolicy of continuing to charge the present high rates, and there appears every prospect of his appeals being successful. The United States Post Office has been prevailed upon to claim only the actual sums paid to the railway companies, and there is reason to believe these companies will consent to charge a nominal amount only for the service rendered by them between New York and San Francisco. Recent information is to the effect that the United States Senate had empowered the Post Office to remit altogether the transit charges for the conveyance of the Australian and New Zealand mails.

The charge for the carriage of these mails through America is paid to the United States by the Imperial Post Office, and any reduction would, therefore, result in the first instance in a saving to that office. But if, through the exertions of the contracting colonies, a material reduction is made in these payments, the colonies will have a claim upon the Imperial Government for concessions in aid of the San Francisco Service which have hitherto been refused.

The fortnightly service between Melbourne and London *via* Galle and Brindisi was inaugurated in February last. This department decided not to make use of the double service, but to connect only with those services which, alternating with the San Francisco line, would secure to the colony, as far as practicable, a fortnightly exchange of mails with the United Kingdom. Mails however are despatched for New Zealand every fortnight by the London Post Office by the new service, and, in addition, are also forwarded by the Orient steamers, which now alternate weekly with those of the Peninsular and Oriental Company. London mails are now generally delivered in the colony every week, and, in April last, no less than six mails were received from London.

The use of the Brindisi Service is intended, so far as New Zealand is concerned, to be confined to the transmission of correspondence specially addressed to be sent by that route. Numbers of letters, however, have been forwarded from London *via* Brindisi which should have been transmitted either by the San Francisco Service or by the Orient steamers, and it has been necessary to remind the London office that only specially marked correspondence for this colony should be sent by way of Brindisi.

An important alteration in connection with the establishment of the fortnightly service has been the abandonment of the Southampton route, and the decision to forward the whole of the mails by way of Brindisi and Calais at reduced rates of postage. In suggesting the change, the Imperial Government also proposed to reduce the postage from eightpence to sevenpence per half-ounce on letters, from fourpence to twopence per two ounces on books, and from fourpence to twopence per four ounces on newspapers. This reduction was stated to be made practicable by the French and Italian Post Offices having agreed to diminish their overland transit charges, on condition that the mails sent *via* Southampton were forwarded by way of Brindisi and Calais. But, as the reduced rates of postage above proposed were insufficient to defray the entire cost of transmitting the mails through Italy and France, this department, while agreeing to the proposal to abandon the Southampton route, desired to be assured that it would be relieved from any loss in respect of this cost before it would consent to the reduced rates. Before a reply had been received, the Victorian Government invited the department to concur in a proposal to further reduce the Brindisi postage to the same rates as those levied on correspondence transmitted *via* San Francisco, *viz.*, sixpence per half-ounce letter. As this

proposal would have entailed upon New Zealand an obligation to defray heavy European transit charges, without receiving any equivalent in postage collected, and have thus increased the loss which it already sustains on all correspondence sent *via* Suez, the proposal was declined. From correspondence recently received, and laid before Parliament, it appears that, in order to secure the consent of the Imperial Government to this latter proposal, the Agent-General for Victoria undertook to defray the colonies' share of the European transit charge, leaving the question of reimbursement to be made by other colonies to Victoria to be hereafter agreed upon. The charge for the transmission of mails through Italy and France, as now reduced by the French and Italian Post Offices, is, on letters fourpence halfpenny per ounce, and on printed matter threepence three-farthings per pound. Pending the receipt of further information, this department continues to levy in New Zealand the old rates of postage on correspondence sent *via* Brindisi, as the colony is not in a position to sustain further loss in connection with the transmission of its mails to the United Kingdom.

As already stated, the use of the Brindisi service is intended for the transmission of correspondence specially addressed to be sent by that route; but, as the postage now collected by London is the same as that levied on mail matter forwarded *via* San Francisco, and as communication is more frequent by way of Brindisi, a large number of letters which would otherwise have gone by the former route are received by the Eastern service, thus seriously adding to the loss which New Zealand has to submit to, as well as reducing its postage receipts. This will be better understood when it is explained that the payment made to Victoria, for the carriage of our letters between Melbourne and Galle, is at the rate of sixpence per half-ounce. In the case of the homeward mails this and the payment to the Imperial Post Office in respect of the European transit charges for the carriage of the mails from Brindisi to Calais are covered by the postage collected in the colony; but on the outward mails the payments exceed the receipts by twopence per half-ounce letter, and to this loss has to be added £5,000 per annum, the cost of the service between Melbourne and New Zealand. The colony, therefore, loses twopence on every letter received from London by way of Brindisi, *plus* the cost for conveyance from Melbourne and the distribution in New Zealand. On the homeward mails the colony's loss (seeing the payments to Victoria absorb the ordinary postage) is represented by the cost for conveying the mails from the colony to Melbourne. Were the department, however, to reduce the Brindisi postage collected here from eightpence to sixpence per half-ounce letter, and to make a corresponding diminution on printed matter, the loss would be further increased by whatever sum we may have to pay for the transport of the mails from Brindisi to Calais. The free use of the Brindisi route means a diminution of the receipts on the San Francisco line, and an increased loss to the colony on the Eastern service, proportionate to the amount of correspondence forwarded by it.

The manner in which the San Francisco Service has been performed may be seen by a reference to Table No. 7. The contractors continue their efforts to make the service a success in every respect. As an earnest in this direction, they recently proposed to reduce the time from London to the colonies by three days, to be effected by an earlier departure from San Francisco—on Saturday instead of Monday—and the gaining of a day on the voyage to Auckland and Sydney. No additional payment is to be made for the early despatch from San Francisco—but the contractors will receive, in terms of the contract, a bonus of £5 for every hour saved on the voyage to Sydney. The proposal has been accepted; but it is doubtful whether it can be carried into practical effect throughout the year, as its success mainly depends upon the early and regular arrival of the London mails at New York. This cannot be assured during the winter months. The contractors, however, are sanguine that, with the approach of summer, when the prevailing winds on the Atlantic are more favourable to steamers bound to New York, they will be able to deliver the London mails in Auckland and Sydney in thirty-eight and forty-three days respectively. The overland journey between New York and San Francisco has been shortened six hours, and the London mails frequently reached the latter city twenty-four hours prior to the time formerly appointed for the sailing of the mail steamer for Auckland. The steamers are now timed to leave San Francisco on the Saturday, but await the arrival of the London mails.

In connection with this proposed acceleration, arrangements have been made for delivering the inward mails at the larger centres of population in New Zealand more rapidly than hitherto. The mail steamer from Manukau, instead of making a detour to Nelson and Picton, is to come on to Wellington, after landing mails at New Plymouth. The southern mails will be transhipped at Wellington into a fast steamer for Lyttelton, and the Manukau boat proceeds without delay to Picton and Nelson. This improved service admits of the Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago mails being delivered between one and two days earlier than hitherto. The actual delay to the mails for Nelson and the West Coast ports should not exceed twelve hours—a delay of little moment when compared with the earlier delivery secured by the three principal commercial centres.

The homeward mails by the San Francisco Service have, with a single exception, been delivered in London within contract time. The shortest delivery was made in 39 days from Auckland, 41 days from Wellington, and 43 days from Dunedin. The longest transit occupied—from Auckland, 43 days; from Wellington, 45 days; and from Dunedin, 46 days. The average for the twelve months was, Auckland, 40·17 days; Wellington, 42·17 days; and Dunedin, 43·92 days.

The outward mails from London, on the average, have been delivered in Auckland in 40·33 days, in Wellington in 43·33 days, and in Dunedin in 44·75 days. The quickest transit to Auckland was 38 days, to Wellington 41 days, and to Dunedin 42 days. The longest time from London to Auckland was 43 days, to Wellington 47 days, and to Dunedin 49 days. This unusually long transit was attributable to two causes: The Atlantic steamer with the London mails of February last was delayed by fogs and adverse weather, and the mails were three days late in reaching San Francisco. Here they suffered a further delay of 60 hours, owing to a fire which occurred on the mail steamer "City of Sydney" on the 14th March last, after she was ready for sea. Although the "City of Sydney" was five days late in leaving San Francisco, the mails were landed in Auckland only two days late, the voyage having been performed three days within the contract time.

The homeward Brindisi mails reached London, on the average, in 50·17 days from the Bluff, in 2—F. 1.

50·33 days from Dunedin, and in 53·5 days from Wellington. The shortest delivery was accomplished in 48 days from the Bluff and Dunedin, and in 50 days from Wellington. The longest transit from the Bluff occupied 54 days, from Dunedin 55 days, and from Wellington 57 days.

The outward mails from London *via* Brindisi were delivered on the average in 47·12 days to the Bluff, 47·5 days to Dunedin, and 49·62 days to Wellington. The quickest transit to the Bluff was 44 days, to Dunedin 45 days, and to Wellington 46 days. The longest delivery occupied 54 days to the Bluff, 55 days to Dunedin, and 57 days to Wellington.

Comparing the several performances of the two services, it is found that, notwithstanding the acceleration which has been effected on the Brindisi line, the service *via* San Francisco more than holds its own with the rival line. The following comparison may be read with interest; the groups of figures represent the maximum, minimum, and average number of days within which mails have been delivered by each service:—

	San Francisco Service.	Brindisi Service.
London to Auckland	43—38=40·33	60—50=53·37
„ Wellington	47—41=43·33	57—46=49·62
„ Dunedin	49—42=44·75	55—45=47·5
„ Sydney	48—43=45·83	48—41=43
„ Melbourne	50—47=48·58	45—38=40·44
Auckland to London	43—39=40·17	57—50=53
Wellington „	45—41=42·17	57—50=53·5
Dunedin „	46—43=43·92	55—48=50·33
Sydney „	48—44=45·25	50—44=46·17
Melbourne „	50—46=47·25	47—41=43·17

The net cost to the colony in respect of the San Francisco and Galle mail services is shown by the following statement:—

RECEIPTS and Payments on account of the San Francisco and Galle Mail Services for the Year 1879.

San Francisco Service.

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Subsidy to Pacific Mail Company	32,500	0	0			
Estimated bonus due contractors	1,250	0	0			
Interprovincial services, Mail Agents, &c.	7,793	18	6			
				41,543	18	6
CR.						
Postages from London Post Office	14,821	19	1			
Postages collected in the colony	16,448	3	4			
Receipts from non-contracting colonies	3,046	13	0			
				34,316	15	5
Net cost to the colony				£7,227	3	1

The estimated net cost of the service for 1878 was £12,432 16s.

Galle and Suez Service

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments to Victoria	9,016	3	9			
Intercolonial service, &c.	5,331	11	0			
				14,347	14	9
CR.						
Postages from London Post Office	3,815	9	8			
Postages collected in the colony	3,006	1	0			
				6,821	10	8
Net cost to the colony				£7,526	4	1

The estimated net cost for 1878 was £7,391 12s. 1d.

The payment made for the year for the transmission of correspondence by the Torres Straits mail service was £97 15s. 2d.

By the San Francisco service 415,275 letters were received from and 385,055 letters despatched to the United Kingdom.

The number of letters despatched to and received from the United Kingdom by the Galle service was 67,913 and 93,715 respectively.

The services—Wellington, Kaikoura, and Lyttelton, and Wellington and Patea—have ceased to be subsidized, and a saving of £540 a year effected.

By a rearrangement of the West Coast of the Middle Island service a saving of £2,800 a year is secured. The service as performed at present by the “Maori” ceases next month; and from July next the settlements south of Hokitika will be served by a steamer starting every four weeks from Greymouth and Hokitika, and returning to the same ports. This service will cost £1,200 a year, and a twelve-months’ contract has been entered into.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICES.

In the last report mention was made that the question of payment for the carriage of mails by railway was under consideration. It was ultimately arranged that the Railway Department should be paid at the rate of £10 per mile per annum on every mile of railway open for traffic, in consideration of mails being transported over all open lines. The agreement dated from the 1st November last, and £2,000 was paid for the year, or at the rate of £12,000 per annum.

The total length of the railway-lines open for traffic on the 31st December was 1,171 miles. For the financial year 1880–81 the average number of miles has been estimated at 1,250, and £12,500 has been placed on the estimates on account of railway services. A further sum of £1,200 has also been provided for the purpose of defraying the cost of special trains. These are now secured by the department, on all occasions, at the reduced charge of 3s. 6d. per mile, instead of 15s. per mile formerly paid—a charge, it is needless to add, which had the effect of restricting the use of special trains for mail purposes.

In view of the necessity for the strictest economy in all branches of the public expenditure, special trains will in future be used only in cases of pressing emergency.

The travelling post offices attached to the express trains running between Christchurch and Invercargill, in the charge of postal officers, have proved to be a great convenience, not only to the department, but to the public. The mails are in the immediate charge of postal officers, called Railway Mail Clerks, by whom their delivery and receipt along the line is undertaken, and the public on payment of an extra fee are enabled to post letters in the travelling post offices until the departure of the trains. A considerable amount of sorting is performed by these clerks, whereby the delivery of correspondence from the larger offices is accelerated. The post offices are also relieved from despatching mails for intermediate offices, the correspondence being grouped and enclosed to the travelling post offices for distribution.

Travelling post offices have not been placed on other lines, but, where the public requirements seemed to demand the convenience, late-letter boxes have been affixed to the guards' vans.

Railway carriages adapted for post office purposes have been placed at the unreserved disposal of the department. The necessary alterations and fittings were undertaken and supplied by the Railway Department, but the cost was defrayed by the Post Office. It is due to the railway officials to acknowledge the many facilities accorded the department for the convenient discharge of the duties connected with the transport of its mails.

The alterations frequently made of late in the railway time-tables have proved of considerable inconvenience, as each alteration involved a corresponding change in the time of the arrival and departure of the mails at and from several post offices. The recent alterations in the running of the trains between Christchurch and Invercargill have had the effect of materially increasing the attendance of the mail officers, particularly at the Chief Post Office, Dunedin, where they are now required to be on duty from 4.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.

SAVINGS BANKS.

19 post offices were during the past year constituted offices for the transaction of Savings Bank business.

15,401 new accounts were opened during the year, against 13,005 in 1878. 12,786 accounts were closed, against 9,634 in 1878. The number of accounts remaining open on the 31st December was 34,747, against 32,132 at the close of 1878.

The number of deposits received was 71,865, amounting to £812,399 11s. 11d., and the amount of each deposit averaged £11 6s. 1d. The withdrawals were 54,698 for £876,180 19s. 3d., the average amount of each being £16 0s. 4d. The amount at the credit of depositors decreased to £787,005 19s., from £819,071 8s. 2d. at the close of 1878, a difference of £32,865 19s. 2d.

The withdrawals exceeded the deposits by £63,781 7s. 4d., against an excess of deposits in 1878 of £20,030 17s. 9d. The interest credited depositors was £31,715 18s. 2d., against £31,664 12s. 9d. in 1878.

Since the establishment of Post Office Savings Banks in the colony in 1867, 104,662 accounts have been opened, and 69,915 closed. There were therefore 34,747 accounts remaining open on the 31st December, 1879. The total amount deposited from the commencement of the savings-bank system, inclusive of the interest credited to depositors, was £6,642,431 14s. 7d., and the total amount withdrawn was £5,855,425 15s. 7d. The balance remaining on deposit on the 31st December was, therefore, £787,005 19s.

The average cost of every Post Office Savings Bank transaction, deposit or withdrawal, for the year was 5³/₄d., and for the whole period of the existence of the Post Office Savings Banks in the colony, nearly 7d. The total amount of interest placed to the credit of depositors since the establishment of the Post Office Savings Banks in the colony was £245,722 12s. 4d. The average daily number of deposits made during the year was 229, and the average daily amount £2,596.

The proportion of depositors to the population was 1 to 13. In England and Wales, the proportion was 1 in 14; in Scotland, 1 in 70; in Ireland, 1 in 79; and the average for the United Kingdom was 1 in 17. The proportion was 1 in 19 in Victoria, and 1 in 38 in New South Wales.

MONEY ORDERS.

Money Order business was extended to 19 new offices—namely, Caversham, Duntroon, Duvau-chelle, Goodwood, Huntly, Helensville, Kingston, Mohaka, Nelson Creek, Newton, Ohaeawai, Ohaupo, Otaki, Pokeno, Porangahau, Takapau, Te Aro, Wakefield, and Wyndham.

117,999 orders for £428,673 were issued during the year, against 101,017 orders for £368,254 16s. 10d. in 1878, an increase of 16,982 orders and £60,418 3s. 2d.

88,791 money orders for £319,200 5s. 6d. were paid, against 74,937 orders for £270,915 1s. 10d. paid in 1878, the increase being 13,854 orders for £48,285 3s. 8d.

The number of money orders issued for payment in the United Kingdom and the Australian Colonies was 34,520 for £131,382 6s. 4d., and 5,466 orders for £22,968 9s. 3d. were issued in those countries for payment in New Zealand. A balance of upwards of £108,000 was, therefore, remitted out of the colony by means of money orders. In 1878 the balance against the colony was £96,000, in 1877 £80,000, and in 1876 £77,000.

The telegraph was used for the transmission of 15,054 orders, amounting to £63,734 4s. 7d. In 1878 13,228 orders, for £54,807 10s. 6d., were sent by wire. The increase was, therefore, 1,826 orders for £8,926 14s. 1d.

The revenue derived from the issue of money orders was £7,285 1s. 6d., against £6,288 13s., for the year 1878, the increase being £996 8s. 6d.

The average number of money orders issued for every 100 persons in New Zealand was 25·5. The average was 59·4 for England and Wales, 40·4 for Scotland, and 22 for Ireland, and the average for the United Kingdom was 51·4. The average for Victoria was 14·8, and for New South Wales 19·3.

Table No. 1.

TABLE showing the Number and Amount of Money Orders issued and of Money Orders made payable in New Zealand, Year by Year, since the Year 1865.

MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN THE COLONY.																			
Year.	Commission Received.			Where Payable.						Total.									
				In the Colony.		United Kingdom.		Australian Colonies.											
				No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.			No.	Amount.						
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.								
1865	1,463	18	6	6,292	29,742	15	1	7,756	33,426	11	5	3,188	15,406	17	2	17,236	78,576	3	8
1866	1,761	14	0	8,924	42,823	4	7	9,238	41,987	15	0	4,548	23,968	5	2	22,710	108,779	4	9
1867	1,815	19	6	10,293	49,496	13	0	9,242	40,998	14	11	4,938	25,115	5	1	24,473	115,610	13	0
1868	1,863	1	6	11,898	54,342	18	6	9,241	40,581	13	9	4,715	23,286	11	5	25,854	118,211	3	8
1869	1,932	3	0	14,305	63,597	1	10	9,263	39,939	8	6	4,859	23,381	14	7	28,427	127,218	4	11
1870	2,367	3	6	16,821	73,344	11	9	9,624	41,472	3	7	5,419	25,637	12	7	31,864	149,454	7	11
1871	2,608	3	6	20,514	88,546	9	7	10,407	44,197	18	3	5,370	24,653	5	9	36,291	157,397	13	7
1872	3,068	17	6	28,156	120,125	14	8	10,619	44,535	9	9	5,885	26,347	17	7	44,660	191,009	2	0
1873	3,562	3	2	34,288	142,642	4	10	11,913	48,547	11	4	6,150	28,068	5	5	52,351	219,258	1	7
1874	4,393	2	3	40,968	171,683	6	1	14,379	57,821	2	6	7,365	33,659	19	2	62,712	263,164	7	9
1875	4,950	19	4	48,611	193,551	13	9	16,949	66,332	14	9	7,467	33,597	2	3	73,027	293,481	10	9
1876	5,261	19	2	55,748	212,089	1	6	17,331	66,977	4	2	7,176	31,202	0	3	80,255	310,268	5	11
1877	5,714	18	4	64,000	233,804	15	10	18,369	69,670	11	10	8,303	31,498	0	1	90,672	334,973	7	9
1878	6,288	13	0	70,531	250,861	6	0	21,169	80,681	15	8	9,317	36,711	15	2	101,017	368,254	16	10
1879	7,285	1	6	83,479	297,290	13	8	24,461	91,665	4	0	10,059	39,717	2	4	117,999	428,673	0	0

MONEY ORDERS DRAWN ON THE COLONY.

MONEY ORDERS DRAWN ON THE COLONY.																
Year.	Where Issued.						Total.									
	In the Colony.		United Kingdom.		Australian Colonies.											
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.			No.	Amount.						
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.					
1865	6,218	29,282	13	10	762	3,568	15	10	700	3,712	1	5	7,680	36,563	11	1
1866	8,886	42,768	10	9	1,100	5,021	14	9	917	4,753	3	10	10,903	52,543	9	4
1867	10,353	49,931	17	2	1,198	5,649	2	10	1,108	5,570	6	4	12,659	61,151	6	4
1868	11,903	54,349	8	3	1,401	6,502	3	0	1,294	6,685	1	3	14,598	67,536	12	6
1869	14,250	63,820	15	5	1,218	5,630	18	8	1,272	6,382	4	3	16,740	75,833	18	4
1870	16,798	73,245	8	3	1,156	5,523	4	4	1,267	6,055	6	11	19,221	84,823	19	6
1871	20,514	88,592	0	3	1,396	6,217	11	5	1,318	5,914	18	7	23,228	100,724	10	3
1872	27,983	119,676	1	2	1,504	7,078	8	6	1,459	6,803	15	3	30,946	133,558	4	11
1873	34,288	142,642	4	10	1,482	6,625	14	5	1,668	7,689	6	8	37,438	156,957	5	11
1874	40,968	171,683	6	1	1,603	7,284	10	7	1,800	8,316	17	5	44,371	187,284	14	1
1875	48,611	193,551	13	9	1,969	9,262	9	7	1,995	9,340	19	11	52,575	212,155	3	3
1876	55,748	212,089	1	6	2,243	10,202	13	6	2,385	10,838	16	8	60,376	233,130	11	8
1877	64,000	233,804	15	10	2,258	9,744	8	8	2,568	11,056	2	7	68,826	254,605	7	1
1878	70,531	250,861	6	0	2,260	9,833	18	6	2,528	10,698	14	3	75,319	271,393	18	9
1879	83,479	297,290	13	8	2,544	10,673	3	11	2,942	12,295	5	4	88,965	320,259	2	11

Table No. 2.

STATEMENT of the Money Orders issued in New Zealand on the United Kingdom and the Australian Colonies during the Years 1878 and 1879.

Where Payable.	1879.		1878.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
United Kingdom	24,461	91,665 4 0	21,169	80,681 15 8
Victoria	6,263	25,143 6 5	5,923	23,956 12 0
South Australia	364	1,366 14 6	380	1,433 3 3
New South Wales	2,607	9,331 13 1	2,375	8,369 0 2
Queensland	199	945 14 4	172	713 17 4
Tasmania	615	2,891 14 0	450	2,144 17 5
Western Australia	6	37 0 0	17	44 5 0
Totals	34,520	131,382 6 4	30,486	117,393 10 10

STATEMENT of the Money Orders issued in the United Kingdom and the Australian Colonies on New Zealand during the Years 1878 and 1879.

Where Issued.	1879.		1878.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
United Kingdom	2,544	10,673 3 11	2,260	9,833 18 6
Victoria	1,223	4,793 0 2	1,105	4,442 14 5
South Australia	156	668 15 10	124	528 12 6
New South Wales	1,050	4,491 2 9	864	3,617 12 9
Queensland	187	762 15 8	175	756 15 9
Tasmania	310	1,442 15 2	244	1,236 12 10
Western Australia	16	136 15 9	16	116 6 0
Totals	5,466	22,968 9 3	4,788	20,532 12 9

Table No. 3.

TABLE showing the Number and Amount of Transactions at the several Money Order and Savings Bank Offices in the Colony of New Zealand during the Year 1879.

Offices.	Money Orders.						Savings Banks.						
	Issued.			Paid.			No. of New Accounts Opened.	Deposits.			No. of Accounts Closed.	Withdrawals.	
	No.	Commission.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.		Amount.	No.	Amount.			
AUCKLAND ...	6,667	£ 500 8 0	25,124 18 1	11,821	45,253 17 1	938	5,196	64,824 10 9	917	4,692	72,567 2 10		
Alexandra ...	467	18 13 0	1,665 6 6	199	654 3 10	13	67	174 1 0	5	26	307 9 9		
Aratapu ...	510	22 3 6	2,242 18 6	222	110 17 2	59	347	1,804 19 0	15	45	823 4 9		
Cambridge ...	916	47 0 8	3,075 6 6	277	957 6 11	44	146	1,207 1 6	20	58	643 18 10		
Dargaville ...	317	12 7 0	1,586 14 11	19	53 6 0	36	98	1,364 13 0	6	27	562 11 0		
Drury ...	96	5 16 4	325 5 3	144	572 3 9	6	42	251 8 10	4	14	128 3 4		
Hamilton ...	1,010	45 11 2	3,296 11 1	504	1,594 9 5	50	275	1,523 1 0	30	111	1,341 12 7		
Helensville ...	75	3 14 2	235 16 5	12	42 14 11	3	3	19 0 0	...	1	20 0 0		
Hokianga ...	373	28 12 10	1,970 2 4	37	192 10 6	17	55	569 3 0	...	1	18 282 15 2		
Huntly ...	93	4 0 10	236 19 8	11	45 16 11	9	28	203 2 0	...	1	3 0 0		
Kapanga ...	521	23 17 10	1,530 6 10	233	825 18 10	15	67	428 3 0	10	23	359 16 1		
Kawakawa ...	688	39 13 10	2,841 0 8	168	814 17 10	33	193	2,160 19 11	19	60	1,547 4 4		
Mangapai ...	110	3 16 6	440 6 2	21	126 3 4	2	14	133 5 0	...	2	49 5 0		
Mangawhare ...	243	10 5 6	1,371 12 6	15	70 11 3	8	35	439 7 10	7	19	314 7 5		
Mercer ...	229	8 1 4	574 6 4	65	264 18 4	5	54	386 6 1	...	14	128 8 0		
Mongonui ...	245	9 2 6	671 16 2	65	272 6 10	13	51	435 4 0	4	16	143 13 0		
Newton ...	83	4 10 0	234 2 4	99	337 17 11	26	95	276 9 0	2	9	46 3 8		
Ngaruawahia ...	355	15 8 10	1,044 2 5	246	740 3 6	16	93	538 10 4	6	23	643 19 3		
Ohaeawai ...	20	1 0 2	46 17 9	5	6 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ohau ...	83	2 17 8	292 5 2	7	22 9 3	9	21	191 5 0	...	1	6 0 0		
Ohinemutu ...	112	10 16 4	430 3 2	106	555 17 7	5	15	182 0 0	2	16	219 1 8		
Onehunga ...	421	23 9 10	1,612 2 3	521	2,402 7 3	38	235	2,397 6 7	23	79	1,077 2 6		
Opoitiki ...	314	15 12 8	1,046 2 6	161	640 19 2	16	39	675 0 7	13	20	528 13 5		
Otahuhu ...	179	8 17 10	446 1 10	221	869 5 1	13	189	541 5 0	9	38	206 2 6		
Pahi ...	108	6 5 4	415 13 0	68	263 3 10	3	25	294 1 0	...	3	120 10 0		
Pokeno ...	37	1 15 8	117 14 10	25	112 17 6	...	...	...	1	1	10 0 4
Port Albert ...	170	6 11 4	579 1 0	49	282 2 0	6	22	291 17 8	2	18	280 17 6		
Pukekohe ...	142	5 14 10	463 9 8	42	142 15 6	...	...	...	2	2	23 17 9
Raglan ...	272	10 11 6	1,504 13 4	31	124 1 2	9	19	89 11 0	2	7	95 1 3		
Russell ...	307	16 12 8	1,046 19 4	151	459 11 4	17	72	459 1 0	13	28	272 6 6		
Tauranga ...	823	47 16 10	2,976 0 11	493	1,402 2 5	45	189	1,606 17 6	24	57	1,132 13 8		
Te Arai ...	76	3 5 6	307 5 6	15	64 5 1	3	24	261 6 0	3	14	188 5 7		
Te Awamutu ...	496	26 0 6	1,715 9 5	104	722 10 4	27	127	750 19 0	5	27	314 6 3		
Te Kopuru ...	170	6 6 0	801 5 2	26	118 11 4	4	12	114 9 0	2	2	7 3 8		
Waipu ...	377	14 8 10	1,860 12 6	83	397 18 11	14	42	1,005 2 0	4	18	483 11 4		
Waiuku ...	353	13 10 2	1,126 4 3	86	356 16 6	14	87	421 6 4	6	25	367 2 0		
Waiwera ...	250	8 17 2	747 13 9	31	157 7 0	...	14	155 1 0	...	3	63 0 0		
Wangarei ...	516	26 9 2	1,543 16 4	153	591 12 6	21	90	771 16 6	9	35	810 15 10		
Wangaroa ...	383	16 5 4	1,506 6 7	62	293 7 5	17	57	615 17 0	2	10	112 11 4		
Warkworth ...	275	11 16 10	869 4 2	108	489 1 3	12	45	374 10 5	9	37	354 11 3		
BLENHEIM ...	1,834	110 9 0	7,081 18 2	724	2,253 2 7	150	984	11,097 1 0	132	664	14,923 14 8		
Havelock ...	536	23 14 4	1,773 10 3	126	538 15 7	21	90	736 10 3	18	45	906 17 10		
Kaikoura ...	268	17 14 0	1,018 16 9	78	297 2 7	11	34	500 14 4	14	16	761 2 7		
Picton ...	625	28 0 4	2,008 9 0	384	1,210 10 7	36	249	1,548 19 3	26	96	1,772 16 5		
CHRISTCHURCH ...	9,298	697 13 2	34,838 17 8	7,573	25,434 9 1	2,070	11,509	137,423 1 8	2,716	11,073	179,046 12 0		
Akaroa ...	523	27 2 10	1,744 15 8	186	818 15 8	31	145	1,350 15 8	9	39	1,049 9 2		
Amburley ...	246	12 18 4	788 11 5	99	358 5 10	23	70	1,013 13 3	13	33	650 18 6		
Ashburton ...	1,619	94 12 6	5,754 9 6	598	2,179 17 8	137	404	4,752 2 3	94	282	3,471 7 3		
Cheviot ...	116	7 0 4	303 0 11	4	23 19 6	12	28	652 13 0	2	3	61 17 1		
Dunsandel ...	132	5 14 4	301 7 2	52	127 10 11	6	24	287 0 0	3	6	256 15 6		
Duvauchelle ...	10	0 7 6	8 3 10	1	0 15 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hurunui ...	98	6 0 10	383 1 4	17	55 12 6	7	42	427 4 0	6	16	226 16 5		
Kaipoi ...	406	25 3 6	1,346 14 7	356	1,308 16 2	49	316	2,207 5 10	39	155	3,635 5 0		
Leithfield ...	159	6 13 0	460 7 1	44	153 13 1	8	42	293 13 0	7	22	714 2 0		
Lytelton ...	1,190	81 18 0	4,238 17 7	674	2,341 11 4	151	844	7,319 13 1	96	364	4,964 7 2		
Malvern ...	282	16 9 0	1,072 9 2	57	202 18 8	11	24	357 10 0	4	13	501 8 8		
Oxford ...	383	15 4 6	1,066 8 2	152	631 4 4	28	125	1,607 1 0	20	53	1,061 5 8		
Rakaia ...	382	19 19 8	1,470 19 10	95	500 6 5	31	101	1,211 14 0	8	37	471 9 3		
Rangiora ...	488	32 11 0	1,636 11 2	347	1,246 14 7	66	295	2,506 0 4	49	142	3,794 14 10		
Southbridge ...	325	17 1 2	927 13 3	206	658 18 7	17	67	499 2 0	13	30	655 0 5		
Waiau ...	132	8 12 4	583 9 9	28	94 14 0	15	74	1,206 8 0	...	20	481 4 5		
Woolston ...	72	3 14 6	166 19 3	38	170 2 7	14	94	466 8 0	4	30	342 16 7		
DUNEDIN ...	8,222	644 19 4	33,247 16 8	14,187	47,009 18 2	1,745	9,846	107,922 17 6	2,029	9,669	153,705 9 4		
Albany Street ...	904	67 5 6	3,281 17 1	418	1,752 1 11	284	2,007	13,719 9 1	97	424	7,221 1 10		
Arrow River ...	423	23 13 6	1,415 7 5	92	347 0 8	12	31	532 18 0	8	19	468 19 9		
Balclutha ...	584	30 8 6	1,800 8 10	442	1,472 8 1	35	134	1,394 15 7	22	58	1,185 2 1		
Blueskin ...	128	4 16 2	302 15 1	40	95 1 5	15	56	396 9 0	9	18	219 8 4		
Caversham ...	69	3 13 10	227 13 7	93	307 2 11	17	111	871 17 0	2	10	336 12 9		
Clinton ...	458	18 9 0	1,344 11 2	92	333 17 3	12	42	384 19 0	11	22	520 17 7		
Clyde ...	457	21 5 4	2,157 9 10	135	380 12 1	10	42	650 19 4	6	17	597 1 6		
Cromwell ...	542	28 0 8	1,653 9 8	165	545 10 9	8	54	365 18 0	10	20	279 12 0		
Goodwood ...	6	0 3 0	15 18 9	1	0 18 1	3	4	15 18 0	...	...	...
Green Island ...	153	12 19 8	596 11 9	81	238 19 9	21	97	963 12 7	15	40	637 5 11		
Hamilton's ...	140	8 2 6	610 11 11	23	147 13 6	6	23	429 8 0	9	27	947 13 8		
Hyde ...	97	4 4 0	370 5 1	11	50 12 1	1	3	30 0 0	...	...	...
Kaitangata ...	425	17 12 0	1,361 5 10	60	189 9 11	17	59	462 6 0	11	25	197 4 1		
Lawrence ...	774	37 7 2	2,605 5 11	492	1,699 14 8	43	258	1,707 4 0	42	98	1,985 8 10		
Manuherikia ...	319	14 13 10	990 18 11	82	271 18 7	4	8	123 0 0	3	4	76 10 10		
Milton ...	613	29 0 0	1,741 7 10	377	1,251 9 4	63	277	2,621 10 3	43	118	2,702 6 5		
Mosgiel ...	171	10 14 6	512 11 1	79	302 7 3	18	89	617 16 7	12	24	440 8 0		
Naseby ...	469	26 0 10	1,549 10 10	185	614 8 8	12	75	432 18 0	8	23	317 6 1		
Ophir ...	337	14 12 0	1,185 13 10	38	193 9 6	5	20	80 2 0	...	...	...
Outram ...	183	12 15 0	504 5 5	96	352 0 4	11	40	351 7 3	8	27	319 4 11		
Palmerston ...	678	33 12 10	2,169 17 3	316	1,055 11 10	37	153	1,066 10 4	22	66	1,162 0 1		

Table No. 3—continued.

TABLE showing the Number and Amount of Transactions at the several Money Order and Savings Bank Offices in the Colony of New Zealand during the Year 1879—continued.

Offices.	Money Orders.					Savings Banks.					
	Issued.			Paid.		No. of New Accounts Opened.	Deposits.		No. of Accounts Closed.	Withdrawals.	
	No.	Commission.	Amount.	No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.
DUNEDIN—contd.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Port Chalmers	797	64 19 0	3,016 13 11	677	2,470 6 11	175	765	5,929 8 6	78	263	4,189 9 8
Queenstown	522	28 7 8	1,911 9 6	209	634 11 9	10	51	461 16 3	16	24	1,145 6 0
Roxburgh	503	21 19 8	1,518 19 6	126	522 15 8	6	26	297 17 0	8	14	595 19 11
St. Bathans	303	11 6 2	699 16 0	30	95 11 6	3	22	260 9 0	4	8	506 8 0
Tapanui	531	23 12 0	1,663 6 11	195	760 12 10	19	94	460 8 0	15	37	567 11 9
Waikouaiti	105	4 7 6	357 9 1	36	174 14 9	12	37	771 3 0	3	8	117 19 9
Waikouaiti	471	20 9 4	2,018 19 5	73	292 15 9	8	60	709 5 0	6	15	523 10 1
Waikouaiti	487	22 0 4	1,585 5 0	167	640 14 8	14	86	509 8 9	16	36	477 10 9
GREYMOUTH	2,076	128 9 2	7,435 9 9	1,997	6,636 0 3	148	731	9,190 11 3	170	593	11,110 14 2
Abaura	832	38 17 8	4,039 3 9	121	522 4 0	20	99	1,389 16 6	8	35	570 19 7
Nelson Creek	122	5 8 0	470 0 6	2	1 10 0	25	64	991 11 0	1	9	325 0 0
Reefton	1,140	74 10 10	4,376 8 5	666	1,948 17 9	39	175	2,864 11 10	31	79	1,854 14 1
HOKITIKA	1,486	94 19 8	5,143 9 0	1,812	5,720 5 5	96	551	5,835 7 4	97	380	7,359 19 8
Kumara	1,011	57 13 0	3,744 12 1	323	1,047 12 1	74	309	3,970 16 2	43	190	2,939 14 3
Ross	294	14 5 10	999 19 9	176	588 15 3	12	108	966 1 0	14	41	765 15 0
INVERCARGILL	2,873	202 17 2	10,454 16 0	1,903	5,968 11 5	339	1,538	18,494 6 4	355	1,453	24,142 18 5
Campbelltown	378	23 17 8	1,911 18 7	137	443 16 1	9	71	913 14 0	6	21	228 6 9
Gore	742	32 4 2	2,326 17 7	191	704 5 1	30	75	715 16 1	15	41	843 9 11
Kingston	11	0 11 2	67 7 0	2	15 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mataura	369	15 17 10	1,069 18 5	100	408 3 8	18	46	458 18 0	9	24	322 1 3
Riverton	634	35 3 6	2,210 14 5	236	900 3 3	44	154	1,497 19 6	18	62	980 5 5
Winton	245	14 0 10	831 1 6	91	293 19 1	20	68	506 18 6	10	22	393 2 5
Woodlands	161	5 12 2	352 14 9	20	66 2 4	17	83	832 1 0	10	25	368 8 3
Wyndham	32	1 10 4	83 17 6	11	45 1 6	4	5	53 3 0	1	1	12 0 0
NAPIER	2,400	170 11 0	8,778 10 3	1,876	7,166 14 1	326	1,710	18,996 4 0	351	1,555	24,690 9 11
Gisborne	1,405	101 7 6	5,948 10 8	514	1,989 14 8	90	432	3,235 3 9	76	179	2,884 4 9
Hastings	148	9 16 2	672 16 10	66	291 15 0	3	32	405 13 0	...	7	143 0 0
Kopua	362	19 12 8	1,424 3 2	29	102 13 8	24	109	975 1 4	7	26	306 18 0
Mohaka	27	1 18 2	87 12 5	3	4 19 6	8	9	63 13 6	...	...	...
Porangahau	89	3 12 4	316 8 1	10	22 17 6	6	12	102 11 2	3	4	32 12 11
Port Ahuriri	237	16 0 0	810 12 8	121	502 13 1	9	82	650 0 6	2	39	228 0 3
Takapau	129	5 0 10	435 16 5	15	56 15 7	3	7	42 5 0	1	4	57 0 2
Taupo	369	23 16 10	1,538 3 4	55	280 4 7	8	37	253 11 0	...	11	238 0 0
Waipawa	417	25 4 10	1,382 3 4	182	760 13 1	32	119	934 4 6	22	54	732 3 10
Waipukurau	319	21 16 8	1,119 3 7	92	301 1 4	26	101	826 6 7	10	43	1,252 11 7
Wairoa	252	12 15 0	797 12 3	132	462 10 2	11	48	273 18 5	5	20	155 3 10
NELSON	2,120	122 12 10	7,403 12 0	3,660	14,923 9 5	226	1,393	14,482 4 10	171	860	15,700 2 5
Collingwood	302	11 6 6	1,254 14 1	81	406 1 7	3	24	232 16 0	...	6	60 0 0
Motueka	419	18 19 0	1,734 18 2	307	1,447 16 5	33	171	2,174 15 10	21	67	1,718 4 9
Port, Nelson	105	6 18 2	529 19 9	27	113 5 10	17	90	743 5 1	5	22	130 7 10
Richmond	87	4 16 6	294 0 2	128	723 6 11	16	144	1,310 15 4	3	23	536 9 11
Wakefield	81	3 19 10	387 7 1	27	157 1 10	25	97	336 9 0	...	1	2 15 0
NEW PLYMOUTH	1,812	108 13 0	6,596 0 9	919	3,752 4 1	261	1,164	20,300 5 9	249	986	21,804 17 2
Inglewood	216	19 8 10	907 2 6	54	175 10 11	13	35	895 18 2	7	17	433 17 4
Waitara	122	10 4 2	529 16 11	80	290 3 6	13	38	257 4 5	4	14	219 16 4
OAMARU	2,946	200 15 6	11,817 17 8	1,339	4,841 1 3	825	1,859	31,448 0 10	346	1,124	18,490 11 2
Dunroon	114	4 11 2	438 10 8	20	82 6 8	11	19	253 10 9	2	6	79 14 0
Hampden	328	12 4 8	1,070 12 0	119	436 4 2	37	96	952 5 5	8	14	195 7 5
Kakanui	231	10 3 10	950 17 6	34	171 8 10	16	29	571 15 3	3	7	102 16 11
Otepopo	254	10 1 4	866 7 4	44	137 6 1	19	48	780 11 7	2	15	123 11 5
THAMES	1,529	88 19 6	5,323 16 7	1,417	4,778 10 6	249	1,827	19,425 19 3	237	1,770	22,276 9 9
TIMARU	3,239	233 8 8	12,938 5 1	1,582	5,928 19 11	975	2,110	34,542 6 4	387	1,418	21,878 13 3
Geraldine	404	23 3 4	1,328 10 10	81	304 19 3	91	233	2,373 4 6	20	57	705 5 5
Temuka	683	39 9 8	2,330 15 0	263	1,128 11 1	101	256	3,577 11 4	41	115	1,888 3 0
Waimate	1,030	54 19 4	3,685 2 4	363	1,361 2 10	139	277	4,202 9 5	61	158	1,667 0 2
WANGANUI	3,600	238 14 0	13,341 7 2	2,239	8,044 10 8	908	2,084	35,988 1 4	272	1,375	19,833 8 1
Bull's	525	27 19 0	1,645 10 6	170	654 11 2	67	177	1,331 12 1	12	58	490 2 1
Hawera	881	52 13 2	3,176 17 0	248	987 11 4	97	197	4,025 15 11	25	72	2,040 1 1
Manutahi	79	4 2 10	330 11 3	18	58 17 4	3	14	143 1 11	3	9	153 7 3
Marton	699	33 13 6	2,478 17 9	404	1,119 17 2	63	126	1,778 8 7	15	68	1,214 16 9
Patea	530	30 8 4	1,716 15 9	333	1,183 16 2	69	152	2,882 2 0	30	64	1,419 18 8
Turakina	326	16 8 6	1,259 11 3	57	197 11 11	24	124	665 9 3	5	29	483 16 5
Waitotara	312	17 1 0	1,271 7 8	57	200 8 3	18	58	798 2 5	7	23	153 18 0
Waverley	264	12 13 10	874 15 8	88	267 19 9	17	37	727 9 3	4	10	128 17 8
WELLINGTON	10,734	672 14 2	34,929 10 8	12,883	47,414 8 7	1,770	10,702	111,474 9 6	2,220	10,180	146,023 17 3
Carterton	448	23 12 10	1,415 3 9	178	635 16 8	45	134	1,057 9 9	25	66	884 6 3
Featherston	458	28 1 10	1,545 11 7	182	497 6 2	55	228	1,897 4 10	27	87	1,578 2 2
Feilding	1,052	60 13 10	4,166 1 3	355	1,220 7 10	56	188	2,045 12 1	34	84	1,821 18 7
Foxton	447	23 11 6	1,472 0 8	304	984 12 10	24	111	648 5 1	27	60	1,291 2 6
Greytown	484	26 3 0	1,734 16 2	258	821 14 5	64	233	1,922 1 6	23	74	1,305 14 4
Halcombe	223	10 17 0	641 3 1	94	302 10 11	15	54	361 15 11	6	20	267 7 8
Hutt	215	10 4 2	738 12 11	151	641 18 4	35	259	1,927 14 0	0	25	56 825 5 4
Masterton	975	57 11 0	3,471 14 7	382	1,493 17 3	88	240	2,953 7 11	52	167	3,516 12 4
Otaki	118	6 1 4	418 7 11	34	201 4 1	16	31	341 18 0	3	7	48 14 5
Palmerston N.	871	44 18 4	2,661 14 8	597	1,867 9 11	67	190	2,553 4 10	42	92	2,001 8 6
Sanson	271	11 17 10	636 7 5	102	465 17 4	14	62	425 19 5	9	27	687 18 9
Te Aro	221	13 14 8	656 0 8	17	78 0 0	160	660	3,208 8 8	25	123	697 18 5
Upper Hutt	113	5 8 10	395 16 5	81	310 14 9	23	117	1,016 17 0	7	47	731 6 4
WESTPORT	812	52 13 4	2,987 2 1	609	2,296 17 11	78	477	5,569 17 9	71	343	6,024 13 10
Charleston	379	23 4 8	1,292 0 10	124	374 11 2	21	143	1,387 15 0	17	81	2,207 1 4
Lyell	541	29 0 4	2,760 14 2	64	247 8 6	11	68	931 0 10	5	30	417 8 3
Total	117,999	7,285 1 6	428,673 0 0	88,791	319,200 5 6	15,401	71,865	812,399 11 11	12,786	54,698	876,180 19 3

Table No. 5.
BALANCE-SHEET of New Zealand Post Office Account for the Year ended the 31st December, 1879.

	Balances on 1st January, 1879.		Transactions.		Balances on 31st December, 1879.	
	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.
MONEY ORDER ACCOUNTS:—						
Money orders ...	£ 8,354 16 4	s. d. ...	£ 451,730 5 11	s. d. ...	£ 9,319 13 1	s. d. ...
Commission ...	... ..	... ..	8,503 7 4	8,514 4 7	486 16 9	486 16 9
United Kingdom ...	23,588 5 4	... ..	92,594 11 10	96,112 18 11	20,069 18 3	188 9 8
Victoria ...	354 12 7	... ..	25,837 5 11	25,830 8 2	...	5 6 3
South Australia ...	90 9 1	... ..	1,377 19 0	1,473 14 4	835 8 9	...
New South Wales ...	48 1 5	... ..	9,411 16 1	9,124 8 9	102 1 5	...
Queensland ...	117 7 3	... ..	953 6 10	968 12 8	138 19 9	...
Tasmania ...	79 14 5	... ..	2,912 0 0	2,852 14 8	...	...
Western Australia ...	...	... ..	97 4 6	137 10 3	...	91 3 0
SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS:—						
Deposits and withdrawals ...	819,071 8 2	...	844,115 10 1	876,180 19 3	787,005 19 0	...
Transfers ...	3,395 0 1	...	102,734 13 7	105,793 4 7	336 9 1	...
Unpaid expenses ...	1,250 0 0	...	...	1,250 0 0	...	...
REVENUE ACCOUNTS:—						
Postage stamps ...	28,042 14 4	...	119,853 9 2	105,887 3 1	42,009 0 5	...
Postal Guides ...	1 7 0	...	493 8 0	491 16 6	2 18 6	...
Private-box and bag rents ...	...	...	3,268 11 0	3,268 11 0	...	...
Miscellaneous revenue ...	...	...	24,890 15 9	24,890 15 9	...	...
Postal revenue—total ...	8,535 6 4½	...	141,448 19 7	149,268 11 3	715 14 8½	...
GENERAL ACCOUNTS:—						
Post Office Account ...	...	...	583,169 19 5	527,333 17 9	...	21,210 18 2
Postmasters ...	...	...	1,523,702 4 4	1,533,833 5 8	...	54,233 9 1
Investments ...	...	...	208,700 0 0	227,000 0 0	...	764,421 15 6
Accrued interest on investments ...	...	...	7,652 9 8	8,108 17 4	...	8,108 17 4
Imperial pensions ...	...	...	43 8 5	43 8 5	...	...
Receipts in aid of voted services ...	60 0 0	...	190 18 0	227 18 0	23 0 0	...
Advances to Treasury for payment of foreign money orders... ..	...	...	31,950 0 0	30,000 0 0	...	18,050 0 0
Commission on postage stamps ...	...	...	997 11 7	993 6 10	...	73 3 0
Gratuities for carriage of mails ...	...	...	1,982 7 2	1,979 10 5	...	159 0 5½
Miscellaneous expenses ...	7 12 6	...	920 2 1	923 9 7	...	62 19 2
Suspense ...	2,747 11 3	...	88,951 2 4	34,715 18 2	6,982 15 5	...
Profit and loss ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	895,744 6 1½	895,744 6 1½	4,227,983 7 7	4,227,983 7 7	867,041 18 4½	867,041 18 4½

Table No. 6.

STATEMENT of the Profit and Loss of the Post Office Account (Savings Banks) for the Year ended 31st December, 1879. Also List of Securities, &c., held by the Postmaster-General on account of the Post Office Savings Bank Fund.

PROFIT and Loss Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1879.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance forward, being the profit for the year, 1878	2,747	11	3	Paid for expenses of management	3,000	0	0
Interest received from investments, &c.	30,842	5	0	Credited to depositors for interest to 31st December	31,715	18	2
Interest accrued, but not received at end of year	8,108	17	4	Balance—			
				Profit for 1878	£2,747	11	3
				„ for 1879	4,235	4	2
					6,982	15	5
Total	41,698	13	7	Total	41,698	13	7

SECURITIES, &c., standing in the Name of the Postmaster-General on Account of the Post Office Savings Bank Fund.

Description of Securities, &c.	Nominal Value.		Value at Cost Price.		Interest and Dividends accrued, but not received, at end of the Year.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Consolidated Loan, 4 per cents.	13,000	0 0	12,480	0 0	109	13 11
Westland 5 per cents.	50,000	0 0	50,800	0 0	527	7 11
Immigration and Public Works, 1870, 4 per cents.	173,200	0 0	166,272	0 0	1,461	10 4
„ „ 4½ per cents	14,900	0 0	14,527	10 0	141	8 11
Waimakariri River Bonds, 6 per cents.	4,500	0 0	4,500	0 0	44	7 8
General Purposes Loan, 5 per cents.	142,600	0 0	142,600	0 0	898	11 5
„ „ 4 per cents.	5,200	0 0	4,342	0 0	43	17 7
Defence Loan, 4 per cents.	75,000	0 0	72,000	0 0	632	17 6
„ „ 4½ per cents.	5,000	0 0	5,000	0 0	...	
Oamaru Harbour Mortgages, 5½ per cents.	35,000	0 0	35,000	0 0	806	18 3
Patea Mortgages, 6 per cents.	510	10 2	510	10 2	23	1 0
North Otago 5 per cents.	23,200	0 0	23,200	0 0	241	10 1
Treasury Bills, 3¼d. per cent. per diem	65,500	0 0	65,500	0 0	561	17 4
„ „	45,000	0 0	45,000	0 0	386	0 4
North Rakaia River Bonds, 6 per cents.	6,000	0 0	6,000	0 0	15	15 7
„ „	2,000	0 0	2,000	0 0	29	18 5
New Zealand 10-40 Loan, 5 per cents.	44,000	0 0	44,689	15 4	729	6 4
Patea Harbour Debentures, 7 per cents.	5,000	0 0	5,000	0 0	50	16 4
Oamaru Town Corporation Debenture, 7 per cent.	5,000	0 0	5,000	0 0	132	6 6
Fixed Deposit in Bank, 5½ per cent.	30,000	0 0	30,000	0 0	818	4 3
„ „ 5 per cent.	30,000	0 0	30,000	0 0	238	7 1
Post Office Account	...		...		215	0 7
Totals	774,610	10 2	764,421	15 6	8,108	17 4

Table No. 7.
STATEMENT showing the Number of Days occupied in the Delivery of Mails between London and the under-mentioned Places by the San Francisco Mail Service.

SAN FRANCISCO MAIL SERVICE.

OUTWARD VIA SAN FRANCISCO.														
AUCKLAND.			WELLINGTON.			DUNEDIN.			SYDNEY.			MELBOURNE.		
Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Auckland.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Wellington.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Dunedin.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Sydney.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Melbourne.	No. of Days.
1879. April 24	1879. June 4	41	1879. April 24	1879. June 6	43	1879. April 24	1879. June 7	44	1879. April 24	1879. June 9	46	1879. April 24	1879. June 11	48
May 22	July 2	41	May 22	July 4	43	May 22	July 6	45	May 22	July 8	47	May 22	July 10	50
June 19	July 29	40	June 19	July 31	42	June 19	August 2	44	June 19	August 3	45	June 19	August 5	47
July 17	August 26	40	July 17	August 29	42	July 17	August 30	44	July 17	August 31	45	July 17	September 3	48
August 14	September 23	40	August 14	September 26	43	August 14	September 28	45	August 14	September 30	47	August 14	October 2	49
September 11	October 21	40	September 11	October 24	43	September 11	October 25	44	September 11	October 26	45	September 11	October 29	48
October 9	November 18	40	October 9	November 21	43	October 9	November 23	45	October 9	November 23	45	October 9	November 28	50
November 6	December 16	40	November 6	December 19	43	November 6	December 20	44	November 6	December 22	46	November 6	December 25	49
December 4	January 11	38	December 4	January 14	41	December 4	January 15	42	December 4	January 16	43	December 4	January 20	47
1880. January 1	February 10	40	1880. January 1	February 13	43	1880. January 1	February 14	44	1880. January 1	February 15	45	1880. January 1	February 18	48
January 29	March 10	41	January 29	March 15	46	January 29	March 16	47	January 29	March 16	47	January 29	March 18	49
February 26	April 9	43	February 26	April 13	47	February 26	April 15	49	February 26	April 14	48	February 26	April 16	50
Maximum	...	43	...	...	47	...	...	49	...	...	48	...	...	50
Minimum	...	38	...	...	41	...	...	42	...	...	43	...	...	47
Average	...	40.33	...	...	43.33	...	...	44.75	...	...	45.83	...	...	48.58

HOMEWARD VIA SAN FRANCISCO.														
MELBOURNE.			SYDNEY.			DUNEDIN.			WELLINGTON.			AUCKLAND.		
Date of Despatch from Melbourne.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from Sydney.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from Dunedin.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from Wellington.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from Auckland.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.
1879. February 25	1879. April 13	48	1879. February 27	1879. April 13	46	1879. February 28	1879. April 13	45	1879. March 2	1879. April 13	42	1879. March 4	1879. April 13	40
March 25	May 11	47	March 27	May 11	45	March 28	May 11	44	March 30	May 11	42	April 1	May 11	40
April 22	June 7	46	April 24	June 7	44	April 25	June 7	43	April 27	June 7	41	April 29	June 7	39
May 20	July 5	46	May 22	July 5	44	May 23	July 5	43	May 25	July 5	41	May 27	July 5	39
June 17	August 2	46	June 19	August 2	44	June 20	August 2	43	June 22	August 2	41	June 24	August 2	39
July 15	August 30	45	July 17	August 30	44	July 18	August 30	43	July 20	August 30	41	July 22	August 30	39
August 12	September 28	47	August 14	September 28	45	August 15	September 28	44	August 17	September 28	42	August 19	September 28	40
September 9	October 28	49	September 11	October 28	47	September 12	October 28	46	September 14	October 28	44	September 16	October 28	42
October 7	November 23	47	October 9	November 23	45	October 11	November 23	43	October 12	November 23	42	October 14	November 23	40
November 4	December 22	48	November 6	December 22	46	November 8	December 22	44	November 9	December 22	43	November 11	December 22	41
December 2	January 18	47	December 4	January 18	45	December 6	January 18	43	December 7	January 18	42	December 9	January 18	40
1880. December 30	February 18	50	1880. January 1	February 18	48	1880. January 3	February 18	46	1880. January 4	February 18	45	1880. January 6	February 18	43
Maximum	...	50	...	...	48	...	...	46	...	...	45	...	...	43
Minimum	...	46	...	...	44	...	...	43	...	...	41	...	...	39
Average	...	47.25	...	...	45.25	...	...	43.92	...	...	42.17	...	...	40.17

STATEMENT showing the Number of Days occupied in the Delivery of Mails between London and the under-mentioned Places by the Mail Service *via* Galle and Suez—
Brindisi Route.

GALLE AND SUEZ MAIL SERVICE.

OUTWARD *VIA* SUEZ AND GALLE—BRINDISI ROUTE.

MELBOURNE.			SYDNEY.			BLUFF.			DUNEDIN.			WELLINGTON.			AUCKLAND.		
Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Melbourne.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Sydney.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival at Bluff.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Dunedin.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Wellington.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Auckland.	No. of Days.
1879. April 11	1879. May 22	41	1879. April 11	1879. May 24	43	1879. April 11	1879. May 27	46	1879. April 11	1879. May 27	46	1879. April 11	1879. May 30	49	1879. April 11	1879. June 2	52
May 9	June 17	39	May 9	June 19	41	May 9	June 23	45	May 9	June 23	45	May 9	June 26	48	May 9	June 30	52
June 6	July 14	38	June 6	July 17	41	June 6	July 21	45	June 6	July 21	45	June 6	July 24	48	June 6	July 28	52
July 4	August 14	41	July 4	August 18	45	July 4	August 19	46	July 4	August 20	47	July 4	August 22	49	July 4	August 25	52
August 29	Sept. 11	41	August 13	Sept. 13	43	August 1	Sept. 16	46	August 1	Sept. 16	46	August 1	Sept. 18	48	August 1	Sept. 22	52
Sept. 26	Oct. 7	39	October 9	October 9	41	August 29	October 12	44	August 29	October 13	45	August 29	October 14	46	August 29	Oct. 19	51
Oct. 31	Dec. 9	39	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	41	Sept. 26	Nov. 10	45	Sept. 26	Nov. 10	45	Sept. 26	Nov. 12	47	Sept. 26	Nov. 17	52
Nov. 21	Dec. 30	39	1880. Jan. 1	1880. Dec. 11	41	Oct. 31	Dec. 16	46	Oct. 31	Dec. 16	46	Oct. 31	Dec. 18	48	Oct. 31	Dec. 20	50
Dec. 5	1880. Jan. 17	43	1880. Jan. 1	1880. Jan. 1	41	Nov. 21	Jan. 5	45	Nov. 21	Jan. 5	45	Nov. 21	Jan. 7	47	Nov. 21	Jan. 11	51
Dec. 19	Jan. 28	40	Jan. 31	Jan. 31	43	Dec. 5	Jan. 26	52	Dec. 5	Jan. 27	53	Dec. 5	Jan. 28	54	Dec. 5	Jan. 31	57
1880. Jan. 2	Feb. 12	41	Feb. 16	Feb. 16	45	Dec. 19	Feb. 3	46	Dec. 19	Feb. 3	46	Dec. 19	Feb. 6	49	Dec. 19	Feb. 9	52
Jan. 16	Feb. 25	40	Feb. 27	Feb. 27	42	1880. Jan. 2	Feb. 23	52	1880. Jan. 2	Feb. 24	53	1880. Jan. 2	Feb. 25	54	1880. Jan. 2	Feb. 28	57
Jan. 30	March 12	42	March 15	March 15	45	Jan. 16	March 1	45	Jan. 16	March 1	45	Jan. 16	March 3	47	Jan. 16	March 8	52
Feb. 13	March 23	39	March 25	March 25	41	Jan. 30	March 24	54	Jan. 30	March 25	55	Jan. 30	March 27	57	Jan. 30	March 30	60
Feb. 27	April 12	45	April 15	April 15	48	Feb. 13	March 29	45	Feb. 13	March 30	46	Feb. 13	March 31	47	Feb. 13	April 5	52
Maximum	...	45	...	...	48	Feb. 27	April 19	52	Feb. 27	April 19	52	Feb. 27	April 23	56	Feb. 27	April 27	60
Minimum	...	38	...	...	41	...	...	44	...	...	44	...	...	46	...	...	50
Average	...	40.44	...	...	43	...	...	47.12	...	...	47.5	...	...	49.62	...	...	53.37
Average <i>via</i> Southampton	...	48.44	...	...	51	...	...	55.12	...	...	55.5	...	...	57.62	...	...	61.37

HOMEWARD *VIA* GALLE AND SUEZ—BRINDISI ROUTE.

AUCKLAND.			WELLINGTON.			DUNEDIN.			BLUFF.			SYDNEY.			MELBOURNE.		
Date of Despatch from Auckland.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from Wellington.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from Dunedin.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from Bluff.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from Sydney.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.	Date of Despatch from Melbourne.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.
1879. March 13	1879. May 3	51	1879. March 11	1879. May 3	53	1879. March 14	1879. May 3	50	1879. March 15	1879. May 3	49	1879. March 19	1879. May 3	45	1879. March 22	1879. May 3	42
April 9	May 31	52	April 6	May 31	55	April 10	May 31	51	April 10	May 31	51	April 14	May 31	47	April 17	May 31	44
May 1	June 27	57	May 5	June 27	53	May 8	June 27	50	May 8	June 27	50	May 12	June 27	46	May 15	June 27	43
June 2	July 27	55	June 2	July 27	55	June 5	July 27	52	June 5	July 27	52	June 9	July 27	48	June 12	July 27	45
July 3	August 26	54	June 2	August 26	57	June 5	August 26	54	June 5	August 26	54	June 7	August 26	50	June 10	August 26	47
July 29	Sept. 19	52	July 28	Sept. 19	53	July 5	Sept. 19	51	July 31	Sept. 19	50	July 4	Sept. 19	45	July 7	Sept. 19	43
August 27	Oct. 18	52	August 25	Oct. 18	54	July 28	Oct. 18	51	August 28	Oct. 18	51	August 4	Oct. 18	47	August 7	Oct. 18	44
Sept. 24	Nov. 15	52	Sept. 24	Nov. 15	52	Sept. 27	Nov. 15	49	Sept. 27	Nov. 15	49	Sept. 1	Nov. 15	45	Sept. 4	Nov. 15	42
Oct. 21	Dec. 13	53	Oct. 21	Dec. 13	53	Oct. 25	Dec. 13	49	Oct. 25	Dec. 13	49	Oct. 29	Dec. 13	45	Oct. 31	Dec. 13	42
Nov. 18	1880. Jan. 12	55	Nov. 18	1880. Jan. 12	55	Nov. 22	1880. Jan. 12	51	Nov. 22	1880. Jan. 12	51	Nov. 26	1880. Jan. 12	47	Nov. 29	1880. Jan. 12	44
Dec. 17	Feb. 5	50	Dec. 17	Feb. 5	50	Dec. 19	Feb. 5	48	Dec. 19	Feb. 5	48	Dec. 23	Feb. 5	44	Dec. 26	Feb. 5	41
Jan. 11	March 4	53	Jan. 12	March 4	52	Jan. 16	March 4	48	Jan. 16	March 4	48	Jan. 20	March 4	44	Jan. 23	March 4	41
Maximum	...	57	...	...	57	...	...	55	...	...	54	...	...	50	...	...	47
Minimum	...	50	...	...	50	...	...	48	...	...	48	...	...	44	...	...	41
Average	...	53	...	...	53.5	...	...	50.33	...	...	50.17	...	...	46.17	...	...	43.17
Average <i>via</i> Southampton	...	60	...	...	60.5	...	...	57.83	...	...	57.17	...	...	53.17	...	...	50.17

Table No. 9.

NUMBER and Value of Postage Stamps Printed during the Years 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, and 1879.

Denomination.	1875.		1876.			1877.		1878.			1879.			
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	s. d.	Number.	Value.	s. d.	Number.	Value.	s. d.	Number.	Value.	s. d.
At five shillings	...	£	...	£	s. d.	...	£	s. d.	47,520	11,880	0 0	...	...	...
At two shillings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46,800	4,680	0 0	...	...	...
At one shilling	323,520	16,176	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	323,040	16,152	0 0
At sixpence	299,520	7,488	1,368,000	34,200	0 0	61,200	1,530	0 0	...	...	...	1,031,040	25,776	0 0
At fourpence	...	...	317,520	5,292	0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	386,160	6,436	0 0
At threepence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
At twopence	4,155,840	34,632	4,737,360	39,478	0 0	7,529,040	62,742	0 0	6,416,880	53,474	0 0	6,895,440	57,462	0 0
At one penny	2,421,360	10,089	3,949,440	16,456	0 0	4,583,280	19,097	0 0	1,835,040	7,646	0 0	7,887,120	32,863	0 0
At one halfpenny	1,224,000	2,550	2,099,760	4,374	10 0	2,037,120	4,244	0 0	1,077,120	2,244	0 0	3,722,880	7,756	0 0
Post cards	...	...	1,002,500	4,177	1 8	4,250	17	14 2	...	...	...	121,550	506	9 2
Newspaper wrappers at one halfpenny	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	509,238	*1,060	18 3	99,990	†208	6 3
Totals	8,424,240	70,935	13,474,580	103,977	11 8	14,214,890	87,630	14 2	29,932,598	80,984	18 3	320,267,220	147,159	15 5

* Exclusive of £117 17s. 7d., cost of paper and working expenses. † Exclusive of £23 2s. 11d., cost of paper and working expenses.

Table No. 10.

RETURN of Intercolonial and Interprovincial Mail Steam Services, 1879.

Service.	Annual Subsidy.	Duration of Service.		Number of Voyages per Annum.	Mileage for Complete Voyage.	Cost per Mile.
		When Established.	When Terminated, or when Terminable.			
Melbourne and New Zealand	£ 5,000	Sept., 1876	Feb., 1880	13	3,440	£ 0 2 2½
Auckland and Warkworth	337½	Aug., 1878	July, 1881	{ 104	150	0 0 3½
Auckland and Matakana	...	...	...	{ 52	...	...
Helensville and Dargaville	...	...	...	{ 104	...	...
Helensville and Matakoho	500	Aug., 1878	July, 1881	{ 52	300	0 0 2
Helensville and Port Albert	...	...	...	{ 52	...	...
Tauranga and Opotiki	350	July, 1877	On month's notice	52	120	0 1 1½
Wellington, Kaikoura, and Lyttelton	360	July, 1877	On month's notice	26	380	0 0 8½
Nelson and Hokitika	1,300	July, 1877	On month's notice	13	480	0 4 2
Westport and Karamea	200	Nov., 1877	Oct., 1879	12	102	0 3 3½
Middle Island Service	4,000	July, 1877	On month's notice	12	1,213	0 5 6
Port Chalmers and Manukau	...	...	...	...	...	...
Manukau and Port Chalmers	5,000	May, 1877	1883	13	1,742	0 4 5

Table No. 11.

TABLE showing the Number of Officers employed in the several Chief Post Offices and Second-class Post Offices in the Colony during the Years 1878 and 1879.

Post Offices.	1879.							1878.								
	Chief Postmaster.	Postmasters.	Clerks.	Letter-carriers.	Messengers.	Mail-cart Drivers.	Shipping Officers.	Totals.	Chief Postmaster.	Postmasters.	Clerks.	Letter-carriers.	Messengers.	Mail-cart Drivers.	Shipping Officers.	Totals.
Auckland	1	...	21	8	2	...	...	32	1	...	18	5	2	...	...	26
Thames	1	...	2	2	1	...	...	6	1	...	2	2	1	...	...	6
Onehunga	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
Tauranga	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gisborne	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	3	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	3
New Plymouth	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	5	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	4
Napier	1	...	5	3	...	...	...	9	1	...	3	2	...	...	...	6
Port Ahuriri	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wellington	1	...	17	5	1	...	...	24	1	...	13	4	1	...	...	91
Wanganui	1	...	3	2	...	...	...	6	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	5
Nelson	1	...	3	2	1	...	...	7	1	...	3	2	1	...	...	7
The Port	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Westport	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	3
Blenheim	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	4
Pieton	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
Kaikoura	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Christchurch	1	...	18	9	1	...	...	29	1	...	16	6	1	1	...	25
Lyttelton	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	3	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	3
Timaru	1	...	4	2	1	...	...	8	...	1	3	2	...	...	...	6
Akaroa	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2
Dunedin	1	...	21	11	2	1	...	36	1	...	19	6	2	1	...	29
Port Chalmers	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	3	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	3
Oamaru	1	...	4	2	1	...	...	8	...	1	2	2	1	...	...	6
Invercargill	1	...	7	2	1	...	...	11	1	...	5	2	1	...	...	9
Campbelltown	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hokitika	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	5	1	...	2	1	...	...	1	5
Greymouth	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	5	1	...	2	1	...	...	1	5
Chatham Islands	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Totals	16	11	122	55	13	1	2	220	14	14	101	42	12	2	2	187

Table No. 12.

COMPARATIVE TABLE showing the Postal Revenue, and Number of Letters, Books, Newspapers, and Post Cards received and posted, within the several Postal Districts, during the Years 1870, 1875, 1878, and 1879.

Postal Districts.	Revenue.	Letters.		Books.		Newspapers.		Post Cards.		
		Received.	Posted.	Received.	Posted.	Received.	Posted.	Received.	Posted.	
Auckland—	1870	£ 10,264 15 3	653,700	619,466	...	...	436,809	262,471	...	...
	1875	13,133 11 0	782,329	779,617	...	...	647,325	326,248	...	...
	1878	18,157 10 6	1,119,872	1,018,879	86,599	39,608	901,614	386,885	16,927	12,791
	1879	20,492 1 1	1,427,636	1,570,311	99,736	108,342	881,127	800,020	31,681	12,723
Thames—	1875	1,664 0 6	119,418	109,954	...	...	52,323	52,886	...	...
	1878	1,671 13 11	120,052	88,532	5,986	1,377	67,777	49,646	3,688	946
	1879	1,582 15 1	136,209	107,805	8,632	1,699	81,471	57,709	2,782	1,933
New Plymouth	1870	593 6 4	30,767	28,320	...	...	27,315	15,308	...	...
	1875	1,815 9 5	97,040	89,469	...	...	72,462	49,632	...	...
	1878	2,862 4 7	153,553	124,111	9,576	2,035	105,982	60,358	1,883	1,679
	1879	2,333 9 8	163,115	137,968	8,385	5,477	89,765	78,693	3,289	7,245
Napier—	1870	1,476 14 2	72,744	76,553	...	...	61,963	54,157	...	...
	1875	4,076 19 8	186,993	230,973	...	...	128,480	150,750	...	...
	1878	5,916 13 9½	381,696	367,180	22,872	25,812	235,713	292,449	4,981	4,860
	1879	6,554 10 3	459,289	462,852	27,924	15,505	336,856	206,527	6,487	7,748
Wanganui—	1879	6,456 12 8	480,638	440,154	39,390	22,785	247,729	120,155	10,556	10,010
Wellington—	1870	12,674 5 3	354,815	336,375	...	...	262,631	216,621	...	...
	1875	51,050 5 8	802,950	922,177	...	...	596,768	470,650	...	...
	1878	56,755 5 1	1,389,349	1,290,735	87,256	107,612	749,726	763,997	16,076	18,077
	1879*	57,293 3 10	1,688,180	1,691,768	158,717	194,480	1,129,973	702,945	12,168	21,493
Nelson—	1870	3,093 5 8	188,860	185,179	...	...	191,671	123,821	...	...
	1875	2,399 11 10	205,716	180,707	...	...	145,470	111,769	...	...
	1878	3,328 0 8	232,647	225,506	20,527	10,807	138,010	127,979	3,377	2,592
	1879	3,568 6 0	313,384	281,644	36,959	28,106	160,563	95,602	2,756	4,429
Westport	1875	1,053 6 2	73,527	57,447	...	...	95,237	51,258	...	...
	1878	895 13 4	73,656	73,879	4,740	3,873	73,978	64,846	603	1,148
	1879	896 1 1	68,965	59,263	5,915	1,196	82,628	33,973	8,684	6,084
Greymouth	1875	2,171 13 7	146,702	167,980	...	...	130,734	153,106	...	...
	1878	2,639 7 8	216,341	177,549	12,168	7,453	204,887	116,638	3,590	1,160
	1879	2,481 3 6	187,161	210,097	7,540	8,944	127,842	129,012	1,729	3,059
Hokitika—	1870	2,252 4 4	212,689	225,157	...	...	165,380	123,906	...	...
	1875	1,816 0 9	121,517	121,743	...	...	151,832	68,695	...	...
	1878	3,616 18 0	157,807	143,083	8,963	5,992	174,447	127,815	2,959	1,537
	1879	2,574 5 1	134,602	141,934	10,842	5,174	131,365	69,221	1,222	1,499
Blenheim—	1870	1,099 16 7	87,174	92,124	...	...	71,467	72,202	...	...
	1875	1,719 9 0	153,723	131,624	...	...	153,124	60,787	...	...
	1878	1,870 6 6	198,725	173,872	10,497	11,205	113,460	128,134	927	1,363
	1879	2,273 17 10	147,597	168,249	10,556	3,805	116,740	56,680	754	1,352
Christchurch—	1870	8,905 19 6	623,794	410,938	...	...	353,651	168,635	...	...
	1875	17,582 19 8	1,052,071	1,000,864	...	...	529,554	295,420	...	...
	1878	26,352 14 11	1,911,105	1,674,465	106,462	89,132	949,993	662,977	36,152	60,679
	1879†	24,373 9 0	1,872,468	2,038,002	106,873	92,179	578,942	437,571	63,596	82,247
Timaru—	1879	6,415 8 10	417,542	489,456	21,541	9,863	179,764	119,219	14,196	15,990
Oamaru—	1879	3,486 8 6	320,730	258,502	21,749	8,034	166,127	83,789	7,137	8,095
Dunedin—	1870	13,667 14 1	711,479	578,299	...	...	582,593	558,799	...	...
	1875	20,891 5 9	1,106,168	1,343,748	...	...	1,142,015	872,706	...	...
	1878	29,997 0 8	1,958,318	1,577,631	110,633	84,373	1,182,040	1,237,883	17,200	26,318
	1879‡	31,909 0 2	1,921,205	2,107,623	117,429	156,355	984,087	1,211,589	45,539	75,417
Invercargill—	1870	1,758 15 2	82,910	74,536	...	...	113,454	26,808	...	...
	1875	3,121 5 9	205,249	238,145	...	...	181,133	120,913	...	...
	1878	4,934 19 4½	322,941	353,277	19,015	24,576	200,280	292,852	8,311	4,359
	1879	6,340 2 8	512,849	540,620	29,289	22,195	327,600	205,660	15,210	12,367
Totals—	1870	55,780 18 3	3,018,932	2,626,947	...	...	2,266,934	1,622,728	...	...
	1875	122,495 18 9	5,053,403	5,374,448	...	...	4,026,457	2,784,820	...	...
	1878	158,998 9 0	8,236,062	7,288,699	505,294	413,855	5,097,907	4,312,459	116,674	137,509
	1879	179,030 15 3	10,251,570	10,706,248	711,477	684,139	5,649,579	4,408,365	227,786	271,691

* The Wanganui returns separated from those of Wellington.

† The Timaru returns separated from those of Christchurch.

‡ The Oamaru returns separated from those of Dunedin.

Table No. 13.

TABLE showing the Number of Letters, Post-cards, Books, &c., and Newspapers delivered by Letter-carriers from the Post Offices within the several Postal Districts during the Year ended 31st December, 1879.

Postal Districts.	Letters.	Post-cards.	Books, Circulars, and Parcels.	Newspapers.
Auckland	392,088	2,846	18,830	90,150
Thames	90,351	4,000	825	21,807
New Plymouth	51,762	1,980	2,650	22,205
Napier	57,237	3,580	1,735	24,777
Wanganui	87,420	1,891	4,896	33,780
Wellington	396,364	7,364	7,520	80,032
Nelson	73,288	4,371	4,513	23,336
Westport	18,711	169	2,115	12,395
Greymouth	42,273	611	2,653	25,487
Hokitika	46,344	1,446	1,999	16,216
Blenheim	24,444	420	1,616	19,000
Christchurch	722,410	41,861	33,563	143,211
Timaru	85,576	5,826	2,820	19,766
Oamaru	76,935	1,928	3,036	13,056
Dunedin	569,993	13,178	23,998	161,222
Invercargill	96,300	5,412	3,336	33,487
Totals	2,831,496	96,883	116,105	744,927

Table No. 14.

TABLE showing the Number of Letters, Book-packets, and Newspapers received from and despatched to places outside the Colony during the Year ended 31st December, 1879.

	Received.			Despatched.		
	Letters.	Book-packets.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Book-packets.	Newspapers.
United Kingdom—						
<i>Via</i> San Francisco	415,275	126,464	1,147,515	385,055	14,833	321,670
<i>Via</i> Suez	93,715	35,575	160,799	67,913	2,090	51,605
Australian Colonies	322,566	34,365	462,253	326,546	12,431	191,061
Other places	44,487	8,787	60,085	46,943	2,832	42,338
Totals	876,043	205,191	1,830,652	826,457	32,186	606,674

Table No. 15.

TABLE showing the estimated Number of Letters, Book Packets and Parcels, Newspapers, and Post Cards received and posted, within the several Postal Districts of New Zealand, during the Year ended 31st December, 1879.

Place.	Received for Delivery.				Posted.			
	Letters.	Books and Parcels.	Newspapers.	Post Cards.	Letters.	Books and Parcels.	Newspapers.	Post Cards.
Auckland	1,427,636	99,736	881,127	31,681	1,570,311	108,342	800,020	12,723
Thames	136,209	8,632	81,471	2,782	107,805	1,699	57,709	1,933
New Plymouth	163,115	8,385	89,765	3,289	137,968	5,477	78,693	7,245
Napier	459,289	27,924	336,856	6,487	462,852	15,505	206,527	7,748
Wanganui	480,638	39,390	274,729	10,556	440,154	22,785	120,155	10,010
Wellington	1,688,180	158,717	1,129,973	12,168	1,691,768	194,480	702,945	21,493
Nelson	313,384	36,959	160,563	2,756	281,644	23,106	95,602	4,429
Westport	68,965	5,915	82,628	8,684	59,263	1,196	33,973	6,084
Greymouth	187,161	7,540	127,842	1,729	210,097	8,944	129,012	3,059
Hokitika	134,602	10,842	131,365	1,222	141,934	5,174	69,221	1,499
Blenheim	147,597	10,556	116,740	754	168,249	3,805	56,680	1,352
Christchurch	1,872,468	106,873	578,942	63,596	2,038,002	92,179	437,571	82,247
Timaru	417,542	21,541	179,764	14,196	489,456	9,863	119,219	15,990
Oamaru	320,730	21,749	166,127	7,137	258,502	8,034	83,789	8,095
Dunedin	1,921,205	117,429	984,087	45,539	2,107,623	156,355	1,211,589	75,417
Invercargill	512,849	29,289	327,600	15,210	540,620	22,195	205,660	12,367
Totals	10,251,570	711,477	5,649,579	227,786	10,706,248	684,139	4,408,365	271,691

Table No. 16.

STATEMENT of Correspondence received from the United Kingdom *via* San Francisco and *via* Suez during the Year ended 31st December, 1879.

Date of Receipt.	<i>Via</i> San Francisco.			<i>Via</i> Suez and Melbourne.		
	Letters.	Books.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Books.	Newspapers.
January	31,303	8,431	83,886	7,958	1,892	11,478
February	26,871	8,435	82,978	7,162	2,860	12,356
March	32,049	9,716	92,610	7,729	2,226	11,891
" ... ..	...	...	...	8,153	2,366	12,838
April	30,778	9,460	89,388	6,962	3,182	12,361
May	31,157	10,177	89,201	7,017	2,621	12,384
June	28,412	9,448	91,186	6,491	2,755	12,232
July	31,195	10,992	90,108	6,586	2,520	11,842
"	32,210	10,030	86,690	...	...	...
August	36,701	10,278	83,471	6,529	2,604	13,009
September	31,031	11,648	90,252	7,160	3,055	12,217
October	33,556	9,944	92,488	6,969	3,439	12,547
November	35,529	7,009	80,444	6,997	2,917	12,243
December	34,483	10,896	94,813	8,002	3,138	13,401
Totals	415,275	126,464	1,147,515	93,715	35,575	160,799
Previous year	350,947	92,400	968,451	82,912	32,662	140,248

Table No. 17.

STATEMENT of Correspondence despatched to the United Kingdom *via* San Francisco and *via* Suez during the Year ended 31st December, 1879.

Date of Despatch.	<i>Via</i> San Francisco.			<i>Via</i> Melbourne and Suez.		
	Letters.	Books.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Books.	Newspapers.
January	24,551	1,012	21,107	5,758	156	6,783
February	32,311	1,690	26,396	5,340	136	5,124
March	32,884	911	24,105	5,640	181	5,258
April	33,146	1,285	25,119	5,147	127	5,100
"	32,887	1,119	25,116	...	...	...
May	32,538	962	26,025	4,749	119	4,523
June	32,156	1,243	26,387	6,128	133	5,557
July	32,460	1,169	30,981	9,926	302	5,904
August	34,710	1,701	27,523	4,267	259	2,204
September	31,814	923	28,466	4,855	144	3,099
October	32,233	1,273	30,676	5,235	153	3,052
November	33,365	1,545	29,769	5,229	234	2,652
December	32,307	1,201	28,685	5,639	146	2,349
Totals	417,362	16,034	350,355	67,913	2,090	51,605
Previous year	339,973	13,179	264,587	85,483	2,387	66,894

Table No. 18.
TABLE showing the Revenue, Expenditure, &c., of the Post Offices in the several Postal Districts of New Zealand for the Year 1879.

Postal Districts.	No. of Offices.	Total Estimated Correspondence Received and Posted.							Expenditure.				Revenue.			
		Letters.	Books and Parcels.	Newspapers.	Post Cards.	Cost of Conveyance of Mails.		Contingencies.	Total.	Cash.	Official Postage.	Total.	£	s.	d.	
						£	d.									£
Auckland	175	2,997,947	208,078	1,681,147	44,404	5,343	8	6,686	5	1,130	10	13,160	4	17,360	3,131	20,492
Thames	14	244,014	10,331	189,180	4,715	279	11	1,010	0	103	5	1,392	16	1,212	370	1,582
New Plymouth	15	301,083	18,862	168,458	10,534	868	9	712	4	61	18	1,642	11	1,449	883	2,333
Napier	53	922,141	43,429	543,383	14,235	3,065	2	2,061	13	295	18	5,422	14	6,098	456	6,554
Wanganui	22	920,792	62,175	394,884	20,566	540	6	1,373	6	112	4	2,025	17	5,443	1,013	6,456
Wellington	61	3,379,948	353,197	1,832,918	39,661	3,875	11	5,151	9	1,166	3	10,193	3	14,365	42,927	57,293
Totals for North Island	340	8,765,925	691,072	4,759,970	128,115	13,972	8	16,994	19	2,870	0	33,837	7	45,929	48,782	94,712
Nelson	28	596,028	65,065	256,165	7,185	841	16	1,624	15	195	10	2,662	2	3,014	554	3,568
Westport	17	128,228	7,111	116,601	14,768	769	9	688	16	53	1	1,511	7	717	178	896
Greyouth	25	397,258	16,484	256,854	4,788	826	16	1,380	4	135	14	2,342	15	2,081	399	2,481
Hokitika	30	276,536	16,016	200,586	2,721	1,403	8	1,177	2	117	18	2,698	10	1,830	744	2,574
Blenheim	17	315,846	14,361	173,420	2,106	814	19	900	10	74	13	1,790	3	1,856	417	2,273
Christchurch	131	3,910,470	199,052	1,016,513	145,843	4,774	1	6,944	9	1,150	9	12,868	19	21,469	2,903	24,373
Timaru	38	906,998	31,404	298,983	30,186	1,235	14	1,521	13	149	14	2,907	2	6,154	260	6,415
Oamaru	18	579,232	29,783	249,916	15,232	406	8	1,290	1	72	16	1,769	7	3,367	119	3,486
Dunedin	147	4,028,828	273,784	2,195,676	120,956	7,341	6	8,491	14	1,085	1	16,918	2	24,531	7,377	31,909
Invercargill	53	1,053,469	51,484	533,260	27,577	1,333	1	1,967	19	283	18	3,584	18	5,639	700	6,340
Totals for Middle Island	504	12,191,893	704,544	5,297,974	371,362	19,747	3	25,987	8	3,318	18	49,053	9	70,663	13,655	84,318
General Post Office	...	...	...	...	...	59,350	13	3,479	16	324	6	63,154	16	24,856	...	24,856
Totals for the Colony	844	20,957,818	1,395,616	10,057,944	499,477	93,070	4	46,462	4	6,513	5	146,045	13	141,448	62,437	208,886

