

the remittances in notes and gold had been appropriated, but that money orders and bank drafts had not been disturbed. This circumstance is mentioned merely for the purpose of showing the additional security afforded those who send remittances through the post by means of money orders, bank drafts, or cheques.

The extent to which bogus companies have been established in the United States, and advertised for purposes of fraud, is well known. The evil had assumed such proportions that the United States Post Office determined, in the public interest, to interfere, and to intercept letters addressed to persons or companies known to have been established and advertised for fraudulent purposes. One of these, the Rodanow Watch-manufacturing Company of Boston, recently advertised very extensively in this colony, and numbers of persons, eager to secure a first-class watch at a moderate price, sent remittances to the so-called company. How many remittance letters from New Zealand may have reached the company it is impossible to state, but by recent mails from New York 64 letters addressed to the Rodanow Watch-manufacturing Company, Boston, originating in this colony, and covering bank notes, drafts, money orders on London, and postage stamps, to the value of £163, were returned to this office, which would otherwise have been lost to the senders but for the vigilance of the Post Office officials. It has been estimated that no less than 207 persons or firms were, at the commencement of this year, conducting throughout the United States fraudulent lotteries and other schemes to defraud the public. It therefore behoves the public to be satisfied of the *bona fides* of advertisers. It is not always possible to detect fraudulent companies in their initial stages.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered letters dealt with shows the large and satisfactory increase of 16,867, or 18'48 per cent. over the number registered in 1879. The increase in 1879 over 1878 was 19,560. The following table gives the number of registered letters received from places beyond the colony, and the number of letters posted for registration in the several postal districts year by year from 1877:—

Postal Districts.	1877.			1878.			1879.			1880.		
	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 ...	1,818	8,405	10,223	2,055	10,374	12,429	2,735	12,569	15,304	3,195	15,625	18,820
Thames ...	123	1,051	1,174	145	919	1,064	154	922	1,076	123	911	1,034
New Plymouth ...	186	951	1,137	179	992	1,189	290	1,429	1,719	334	1,939	2,273
Napier ...	483	2,862	3,345	591	3,095	3,686	627	3,828	4,455	751	4,485	5,236
Wanganui ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	309	4,004	4,313	376	4,354	4,730
Wellington ...	1,791	10,358	12,149	2,121	12,510	14,631	2,743	12,167	14,910	2,803	12,894	15,697
Nelson ...	381	1,273	1,654	362	1,407	1,769	487	1,894	2,381	473	2,020	2,493
Westport ...	52	485	537	84	697	781	82	862	944	108	1,104	1,212
Greymouth ...	181	1,685	1,866	230	1,420	1,650	182	1,205	1,387	196	1,776	1,972
Hokitika ...	257	1,495	1,752	214	1,636	1,850	219	1,343	1,562	180	1,882	2,062
Blenheim ...	88	767	855	127	740	867	132	988	1,120	188	1,263	1,451
Christchurch ...	1,542	8,242	9,784	2,281	10,786	13,067	2,856	12,640	15,496	3,831	15,873	19,704
Timaru ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	373	2,532	2,905	418	3,757	4,175
Oamaru ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	176	1,454	1,630	232	1,615	1,847
Dunedin ...	2,591	11,086	13,677	2,819	9,613	12,432	3,584	11,889	15,473	3,442	13,136	16,578
Invercargill ...	234	2,200	2,434	444	3,119	3,563	482	3,381	3,863	1,126	4,495	5,621
Totals ...	9,727	50,860	60,587	11,670	57,308	68,978	15,431	73,107	88,538	17,776	87,129	104,905

BUILDINGS.

The new offices at Timaru were completed and occupied on the 10th September last. The post office accommodation is most convenient and commodious, and the building, which has been faithfully constructed, is an ornament to the town. The four-dial clock, which is being manufactured in the colony, is expected to be in position and in working order by the end of August.

The new offices at Westport were finished on the 16th August last.

An office has been erected in Sydenham, a suburb of Christchurch. It was opened for public business on the 17th December last.

Buildings at Dargaville, Te Kopuru, Kamo, Ahaura, Takaka, and Greatford have also been completed since the date of the last report.

The office at Wanganui has been enlarged, and the accommodation improved.

The alterations to the Auckland office have been completed. The department has succeeded in securing increased office space, and improving the accommodation for the public.

The offices at the Lower Hutt, Cambridge, and Akaroa have been altered and enlarged.

The building erected in January, 1880, at Waitahuna, for the joint accommodation of the post office and telegraph, not being required, was removed in sections and re-erected at Balclutha, on a convenient and central site recently secured by the Government, in preference to erecting an entirely new building, which had been promised. A decided economy was effected by this arrangement.

Additions for postal and telegraph purposes have been made to the railway stations at Feilding, Palmerston North, Springfield, Kirwee, St. Andrew, Upper Hutt, Amberley, Hampden, Herbert, Outram, Clinton, Southbridge, Kaitoke, Oxford, Elbow, Normanby, and Helensville.

The want of new offices at Wellington continues to be seriously felt. A new building has again been promised. A sum of money is to be placed on this year's estimates, and it is intended that the work shall be put in hand during the current year.

It is also proposed to erect new offices at Otatau, Alexandra, Collingwood, Picton, Castlepoint, and Kihikihi, and to enlarge the office at Hokianga.