

## COMPARATIVE RETURN of Officers of the Postal Department for the Years 1881 and 1882.

Officers.				Officers.			
	1882.	1881.		1882.	1881.		
Postmaster-General .. ..	1	1	Chief Postmasters .. ..	17	17		
Secretary .. ..	1	1	Postmasters .. ..	13	13		
Inspector of Post Offices .. ..	1	1	Clerks and Cadets .. ..	106	111		
Accountant, Money Order and Savings			Sub-Postmasters .. ..	870	838		
Bank Department .. ..	1	1	Letter-carriers .. ..	67	57		
Clerks in General Post Office .. ..	6	6	Messengers .. ..	12	11		
Clerks in Money Order and Savings			Shipping Officers .. ..	2	2		
Bank Department .. ..	7	5					
Mail Agents .. ..	2	3	Totals .. ..	1,106	1,067		

The sum paid for the carriage of interprovincial and intercolonial mails by unsubsidized vessels was £3,839 16s. 9d.

3,713 private boxes were let, which, together with the fees on 243 private bags, produced a revenue of £3,660 11s. 2d.

The total number of miles travelled in connection with the conveyance of the inland mails was 2,902,594. The total cost of the inland services was £24,808 18s. 6d., and the cost per mile 2·05d. In 1881 the expenditure on the inland mail services was £23,334 18s., and in 1880 £35,062 1s. 1d.

The net cost of the San Francisco and Brindisi services was £4,176 5s. 9d. and £4,715 3s. respectively.

The value of work performed for other Government Departments, and for which no payment was made, is shown by the following statement:—

## FREE OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Postal District.	Letters.	Books.	Value.	Postal District.	Letters.	Books.	Value.
	lb.	lb.	£ s. d.		lb.	lb.	£ s. d.
Auckland .. ..	15,512	14,701	4,702 12 1½	Hokitika .. ..	3,588	3,660	1,078 15 10
Thames .. ..	585	1,365	202 8 7	Blenheim .. ..	736	2,202½	270 19 10
New Plymouth .. ..	3,003	206	822 7 11	Christchurch .. ..	8,750	26,373	3,265 14 0
Gisborne .. ..	334	623	111 11 5	Timaru .. ..	2,871	2,353	845 17 10
Napier .. ..	1,443	2,710	475 0 8	Oamaru .. ..	1,250	1,000	366 13 4
Wanganui .. ..	4,008	3,210	1,177 18 8	Dunedin .. ..	13,450	7,971	4,031 16 8
Wellington .. ..	141,614	46,079½	42,551 17 6	Invercargill .. ..	1,763	1,742	529 13 1
Nelson .. ..	2,910	4,310	922 8 7				
Westport .. ..	1,163	881	339 9 2½	Totals .. ..	..	..	63,752 16 5
Greymouth .. ..	7,327	3,100	2,057 11 2				

The estimated value of this class of correspondence for 1881 was £58,584 13s. 8d.

## DEAD LETTERS.

The number of unclaimed letters received and disposed of in the Dead Letter Office during the under-mentioned years is shown in the following table:—

Manner of Disposal.	1865.	1870.	1875.	1880.	1881.	1882.
Opened and returned to the writers .. ..	22,750	17,516	39,051	60,977	52,038	53,507
Returned unopened to other countries .. ..	14,367	6,688	10,321	10,503	9,372	8,539
Reissued .. ..	55	63	78	240	159	54
Destroyed .. ..	9,000	2,960	6,081	5,135	3,969	6,189
Returned unopened by Chief Postmasters .. ..	..	..	..	11,160	12,810	14,378
Totals .. ..	46,172	27,227	55,531	88,015	78,348	82,667

The unclaimed letters dealt with show an increase of 5·51 per cent. compared with the number disposed of in the previous year.

There were also 1,556 book-packets and circulars returned to foreign countries, 5,905 returned to the senders through the Dead Letter Office, and 6,280 returned by Chief Postmasters; a total of 13,741 book-packets and circulars, against 8,223 in 1881.

The under-mentioned articles of value were found enclosed in letters opened in the Dead Letter Office, and returned to the senders where practicable:—

156 money orders .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	528 2 2
57 bank drafts .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	5,341 10 3
86 cheques .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	799 19 0
Promissory note .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	52 8 0
Postage stamps .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	7 3 8
Bank notes .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	148 0 0
Gold .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	13 10 0
Silver and copper .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	2 3 11

Representing a total of .. .. £6,892 17 0