

Education. The first examination under the new rules (*Gazette*, 31st March, 1887) is to take place in January, 1888, at the same time as the examination for teachers' certificates.

The Post Office system of receiving deposits of postage-stamps at the savings banks does not appear to be gaining in favour. The number of accounts open at the end of 1886 was 3,172; in 1885 the number was 3,296; in 1884 it was 4,284; and in 1883 it was 5,586. The statistics for 1886, arranged according to postal districts, are as follows:—

Postal Districts.	New Accounts.	Accounts open in December.	At Credit of Accounts, December, 1886.
Auckland	48	119	£ s. d. 52 3 5
Blenheim	66	83	21 3 11
Christchurch	64	779	755 9 7
Dunedin	81	389	99 15 4
Gisborne.. .. .	14	14	8 16 11
Greymouth	12	12	5 11 0
Hokitika	3	5	1 12 0
Invercargill	23	27	7 4 0
Napier	24	92	31 2 8
Nelson	42	419	528 7 3
New Plymouth	74	93	15 11 0
Oamaru	27	110	86 13 3
Thames	36	187	92 0 8
Timaru	43	133	110 19 3
Wanganui	37	93	64 1 4
Wellington	295	571	98 8 11
Westport	47	46	21 11 8
Totals	936	3,172	2,000 7 2