

Closed.

Awahou, Auckland.
Big Bay, Invercargill.
Copper Creek, Hokitika.
Eastown, Wanganui.
Heatherlea, Wellington.

Horowhenua, Wellington.
Oaonui, New Plymouth.
Ohura, Auckland.
Onepoto, Napier.
Patoka, Napier.

Puhipuhi, Auckland.
Rewiti, Auckland.
Ru Point, Auckland.
Sandietown, Timaru.

The total number of post-offices open at the close of the year was 1,353.

The designations of offices were changed as follows Hellyer's Creek to Birkdale, Maunganui Bluff to Opanake, One to Oue, and Waikiekie to Ruarangi, all in the Auckland district.

A Government Insurance agency was established at the Cheviot Post-office.

Twenty newspapers were registered for transmission by post. Thirteen ceased publication during the year

Twenty-five receiving-boxes were established at Auckland, 2, Carterton, 1, Danevirke, 2; Dunedin, 1, Epsom (Auckland), 1 Feilding, 1, Greytown North, 1, Kaikoura, 1, Kaitangata, 1, Karori (Wellington), 1, Maraenui (between Omaio and Opotiki), 1, Marton, 1, Napier, 1, Newmarket (Auckland), 1 Pahiatua, 1, Palmerston North, 5 Parnell (Auckland), 1, Port Chalmers, 1, St. Alban's (Christchurch), 1.

Five receiving-boxes were closed at Auckland, 2, Napier, 1 Reefton, 1, Wellington, 1

There were 343 pillar wall, and lamp-post receivers at the end of the year.

9,628, 385 letters, 458,157 post-cards, 1,773,479 books, circulars, &c., and 2,563,892 newspapers were delivered by letter-carriers.

PARCEL-POST.

The following table shows the total number and the weight of inland, intercolonial, United Kingdom, and foreign parcels posted during the years 1890, 1892, 1893, and 1894:—

Postal Districts.	1890.		1892.		1893.		1894.	
	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.
		lb. oz.		lb. oz.		lb. oz.		lb. oz.
Auckland	21,882	57 912 10	31,699	86,125 10	31 733	92,885 11	30,900	87 497 1
Thames	1 491	3,661 8	1 769	4,385 11	1 879	4 614 4	1,849	4,917 6
New Plymouth	1 007	2,674 3	1 463	4,903 12	1 795	4,592 2	2,275	5,771 2
Gisborne	938	2,570 6	1 103	3,310 6	1 167	3,427 8	1,186	3 620 7½
Napier	6,265	17,075 14	6 675	20,779 2	7 739	22,442 7	7 916	23 708 6
Wanganui	4,035	9,563 8	4,892	13,352 15	5,074	14,271 11	4,913	13,836 10
Wellington	25 893	74,544 2	32,677	111 365 13	35,813	120,554 5	38,519	129 916 11
Nelson	4,723	13,370 7	4 574	14,282 5	4,628	14,120 1	5,061	15,846 10
Westport	1,077	2,332 4	1 276	3,086 13	1,286	3,488 15	1,482	3 694 8
Greymouth	2,509	6,243 13	2,634	6,710 10	2,472	6,563 3	2,310	6,331 12
Hokitika	1,413	3,924 5	1 705	4,593 12	1 773	5,369 0	1,500	4,901 10
Blenheim	1,846	4,357 11	2,108	5,151 1	2,083	5,534 4	1 978	5,291 0
Christchurch	19,383	58 708 4	23,804	76,804 0	23,976	76 976 5	23,755	79 495 9
Timaru	2,013	4 774 8	2,329	5,665 6	1 979	4 934 0	1 874	4,791 8½
Oamaru	859	2,123 3	872	2,239 0	971	2,252 4	862	2,134 0
Dunedin	22,500	65,329 13	24,813	76,774 3	25,073	84,204 9	25 356	81,667 6
Invercargill	3,458	7,477 5	3,656	9,356 8½	3 887	10,533 12	3 961	10,620 12½
Totals	121,292	336,643 12	148,049	448,886 15½	153,328	476,764 5	155,697	484,042 7½

The postage collected amounted to £8,907 13s. 2d., compared with £8,600 3s. 11d. collected in 1893.

The number of inland parcels posted was 149,150, compared with 148,059 in 1893.

The increase in the number of inland parcels posted against the number posted in 1893 was 1,091, or 0.74 per cent., compared with an increase of 4,546, or 3.17 per cent., in 1893 over 1892.

The parcel-post system has been extended to British Central Africa, British New Guinea, Dutch Guiana, Dutch West Indies, Norfolk Island, and Persia.

The postage on parcels to the following countries has been reduced Bechuanaland, Cape Colony, Congo Free State, Luxemburg, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Bulgaria, Egypt, German East Africa, Jeddah, Mauritius, Montenegro, Roumania, Servia, Togo, and Uruguay

Negotiations for the direct exchange of parcels with the following countries are now proceeding Ceylon and adjacent countries (this will shorten the routes to a large number of countries the parcels for which have now to be sent *via* London), France and French colonies (including New Caledonia and Tahiti), by French packets, Uruguay (parcels for South American offices will be conveyed by the direct steamers and landed at Monte Video *en route* to London), Canada and American countries with which Canada has parcel exchanges, Hongkong and Chinese offices having parcel exchanges with Hongkong, and Hawaiian Islands.

Another endeavour has been made to obtain parcel exchanges with the United States, but without success.

It is intended to reduce the parcel rates to the United Kingdom from 1s. 6d. for the first two pounds and 9d. for each succeeding pound to 1s. for the first pound and 6d. for each succeeding pound. The reduction will probably take effect on the 1st February next.