

1900.
NEW ZEALAND.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

(REPORT OF THE) FOR THE YEAR 1899.

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

MY LORD,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 21st July, 1900.

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the report—the sixth which, as Postmaster-General and Electric Telegraph Commissioner, I have had the privilege of presenting—of the Post and Telegraph Department for the year 1899, with the usual statement of revenue and expenditure to the 31st March last.

I have the honour to be

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

J. G. WARD,

Postmaster-General and Electric Telegraph Commissioner.

His Excellency the Governor of New Zealand.

REPORT.

THE year has been one of activity without parallel in the history of the department—the volume of business fully reflecting the general prosperity of the colony. Work on the postal side has increased very steadily in every branch. Letters show an addition of 7·61 per cent., while letter-cards and post-cards continue to show abnormal increases, and book-packets an upward movement. The telegraph business increased beyond the most sanguine estimate. The traffic, which for the two previous years showed an increase in the number of telegrams of 8·07 and 10·05 per cent. respectively, has still further increased by 16·25 per cent. There was a decrease in revenue of 0·94 in 1897, and an increase of 4·73 per cent. in 1898, which has been followed by an increase of 13·13 per cent. for 1899.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1900:—

Item.	Postal.		Telegraph.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
<i>Receipts.</i>						
Stamps used for postage (estimated)	277,851	13 10	..	..	277,851	13 10
Money-order and postal-note commission	18,999	13 6	..	..	18,999	13 6
Money-order commission received from foreign offices	596	16 9	..	..	596	16 9
Private box and bag fees	5,837	10 0	..	..	5,837	10 0
Miscellaneous receipts	22,015	7 10	5,258	9 6	27,273	17 4
Paid telegrams .. .. .	..	..	114,383	2 1	114,383	2 1
Telephone exchanges .. .. .	..	..	43,303	2 10	43,303	2 10
Balance of expenditure over revenue (Telegraph)	325,301	1 11	162,944	14 5	488,245	16 4
Totals	£325,301	1 11	£183,242	18 4	£488,245	16 4
<i>Expenditure.</i>						
Salaries	92,282	4 4	139,269	16 8	231,552	1 0
Conveyance of mails by sea	43,081	18 11	..	..	43,081	18 11
Conveyance of inland mails	37,563	9 1	..	..	37,563	9 1
Conveyance of mails by railway	13,424	16 11	..	..	13,424	16 11
Money-order commission credited to foreign offices	1,867	11 4	..	..	1,867	11 4
Maintenance of telegraph-lines .. .. .	..	..	18,865	2 11	18,865	2 11
Miscellaneous	18,985	2 8	23,499	11 8	42,484	14 4
Telegraph-cable subsidies .. .. .	..	..	1,608	7 1	1,608	7 1
Balance of revenue over expenditure (Postal)	207,205	3 3	183,242	18 4	390,448	1 7
" " (combined department)	118,095	18 8	..	..	97,797	14 9
Totals	£325,301	1 11	£183,242	18 4	£488,245	16 4