

Adding the value of free official posted correspondence (£83,075 1s.) and official telegrams (£20,597 11s. 10d.), the net credit balance on the year's transactions amounts to £177,057 4s.

A considerable increase in the expenditure is due to the additional net payment to the Railway Department. For conveyance of mails by rail a total of £50,853 was paid, which, together with a contribution towards the salaries of officers of that Department acting as Postmasters, at the rate of £10,390 per annum, brings the total payment up to £61,243. Against this must be set recoveries amounting to £19,000 for services performed, leaving a balance in favour of the Railway Department of £42,243, compared with £23,631 the previous year. It should be explained that of the £50,853 paid for conveyance of mails the sum of £10,853 represented payment for work done in the previous year.

Salaries paid to officers of all classes absorbed 51 per cent. of the revenue, while the expenditure on all services, including salaries, amounts to 88 per cent. of the receipts. The net surplus of the combined departments was £73,385, or almost £20,000 more than that of the previous year.

The money-order business shows but slight advance, the orders issued numbering 407,783 and those paid 313,267, for £1,476,887 and £1,267,351 respectively. The comparatively small increase is accounted for by the greater use year by year of postal notes and the recent exchange of British postal orders inaugurated between this colony and the United Kingdom and certain other parts of the Empire. During the ten months ended the 31st March, 1905, 17,776 British postal orders were sold and 3,912 paid.

New Zealand postal notes numbering 785,347, for £250,123 7s. 6d., were sold.

Savings-Bank depositors have increased the amount standing to their credit by over £372,000, of which, however, £200,930 represents interest. Deposits totalled £5,836,540, and withdrawals £5,664,770. The balance at credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1904, was equal to £9 1s. per head of the population, amounting in all to £7,761,382.

There were 1,429 parcels, valued at £21,117, insured during the year, for which premiums amounting to £46 8s. 3d. were received.

The increase in telegrams handled is about 4 per cent., which, in view of the low rates and heavy increase in postal work, is somewhat disappointing. In all, 5,159,745 messages of all codes were forwarded, producing a revenue of £167,582.

The number of telephone-exchange subscribers again shows a considerable increase, having risen from 12,105 to 13,423, while the revenue reached £79,061, or some £8,000 more than the previous year.

There were 7,944 miles of telegraph-line, carrying 23,704 miles of wire.

The expenditure on telegraph extension was £79,298.

STATEMENT showing REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the POST and TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT for the Ten Years ended 31st March, 1905, and for the Years 1881-82 and 1891-92.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Balance of Revenue over Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1881-82	234,529	8	0	233,291	10	4	1,237	17	8
1891-92	320,058	1	3	268,343	1	1	51,715	0	2
1895-96	365,727	6	5	332,325	4	8	33,402	1	9
1896-97	392,117	1	0	353,699	14	5	38,417	6	7
1897-98	408,383	15	3	364,403	3	1	43,980	12	2
1898-99	445,770	7	1	390,197	8	6	55,572	18	7
1899-1900	488,245	16	4	390,448	1	7	97,797	14	9
1900-1901	503,835	19	5½	418,271	16	11	85,564	2	6½
1901-1902	488,573	1	11½	465,756	9	5	22,816	12	6½
1902-1903	525,098	17	3½	487,814	10	0	37,284	7	3½
1903-1904	580,771	4	5½	526,746	14	5	54,024	10	0½
1904-1905	633,305	12	7½	559,921	1	5	73,384	11	2½
Total for ten years	£542,244	17	5½

STAFF.

The total number of officers on the staff on the 31st March was as under:—

	31st March, 1904.
Postmaster-General	1
Classified staff:—	
First Division	3
Clerical Division	1,342
Non-clerical Division	834
Telegraph messengers	525
Total, classified staff	2,705
Employees not on permanent staff:—	
Country Postmasters and Postmistresses	1,760
Nightwatchmen	2
Mail-cart drivers	4
Postmasters and telegraphists or telephonists who are Railway officers	168
Total	4,639