

In addition, 1 gold watch, 1 gold wrist watch, 16 silver watches, 2 metal keyless watches, 1 Waterbury watch, portions of 2 rolled-gold American Waltham watches, 1 gold chain, 3 silver chains, 1 steel chain, 23 gold-mounted greenstone brooches, 6 gold brooches, 7 silver brooches, 1 metal brooch, 15 gold rings, 2 gold-mounted greenstone pendants, 4 silver-mounted greenstone pendants, 7 greenstone pendants, 2 greenstone bracelets, 3 gold bangles, 3 pairs of gold sleeve-links, 1 gold locket with three small rubies, 1 pair of gold-rimmed spectacles, 1 gold-mounted greenstone bean, 1 greenstone cross, 3 silver sovereign cases, 4 greenstone hearts, 1 greenstone ornament, 2 military ornaments, 2 rubies, 11 pieces of greenstone, 1 gold charm, 8 gold pins, 3 servietterings, 4 silver butter-knives, 6 purses, 1 small silver tray, 1 piece of kauri-gum, 2 studs, 3 small pieces of gold, 1 bread-fork, 1 necklace, 2 trinkets, 17 packets and 39 sheets of foreign stamps, 1 silver coin (foreign), 22 thimbles, 6 pawn tickets, 32 share certificates, 19 Tattersall tickets, 1 half-adult return saloon ticket Wellington to London, 1 half-adult steerage ticket Wellington to Bluff, 1 order for steerage passage Capetown to Wellington, 1 second-class railway ticket Dunedin to Christchurch, half a bank-note, 2 horse-registration certificates, 1 second-class engineer's certificate, and 8 lottery tickets were dealt with.

The number of inland, intercolonial, and international articles received and disposed of during the years 1903 and 1904 was as under :—

	1903.					1904.				
	Letters.	Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Packets.	News-papers.	Letters.	Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Packets.	News-papers.
<i>Inland.</i>										
Returned, delivered, &c., through Dead-letter Office	88,463	2,000	452	17,698	1,650	101,908	2,557	53	17,369	1,800
Returned by Chief Postmasters direct ..	88,132	..	5,788	86,277	..	81,345	..	4,325	88,830	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	8,333	166	183	1,229	50,787	8,684	753	405	1,599	55,307
<i>Australian.</i>										
Originally addressed to other States :—										
Returned to writers ..	5,366	..	144	515	..	4,902	..	68	703	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	218	25	56	33	..	633	37	129	64	..
Returned to other States as unclaimed	8,387	..	400	4,831	..	12,900	..	615	5,749	..
<i>International.</i>										
Originally addressed to other countries :—										
Returned to writers ..	10,679	..	370	966	..	10,072	..	316	1,059	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	386	63	149	60	..	828	103	595	97	..
Returned to other countries as unclaimed	8,890	..	499	29,455	350	11,628	..	905	31,966	291
Totals	218,854	2,254	8,041	141,064	52,787	232,900	3,450	7,411	147,436	57,398

MISSING LETTERS.

2,007 inquiries for letters and 1,579 for other articles alleged to have been posted and not delivered were made during 1904. In 1,050 of the inquiries for letters and 833 for other articles—over one-half the total number—the investigations by the Department resulted in the missing articles being traced or accounted for. These may be summarised as follows :—

Number of Traced Cases.		Found to have been
Letters.	Other Articles.	
92	57	... Missent, misdelivered, or otherwise delayed through fault of Post Office.
87	60	... Delayed in delivery through fault of addressees.
66	48	... Not posted.
37	55	... Posted later than advised; forwarded by slower routes than letters of advice, &c.
142	131	... Defectively or wrongly addressed.
82	46	... Mislaid or lost after delivery.
72	21	... Returned through Dead-letter Office as unclaimed, &c.
472	415	... Delivered. Reason for inquiry not given, but probably in most cases omission by addressees to acknowledge receipt.
1,050	833	

MONEY-ORDERS.

Twenty money-order offices were opened during the year—namely, Ballance, Castlecliff, Cheltenham, Greenmeadows, Grey Lynn, Gumtown, Hinakura, Hukerenui, Kilbirnie, Koeke, Mataroa, Mornington, Muritai, Ohura, Oio, Pihama, Pirinoa, Turangarere, Waimamaku, and Whitford.

Four offices were closed—namely, Opitonui, Piriaka, Riverhead, and Tokatea.

The number of offices open at the end of the year was 526, as against 510 twelve months previously.

407,783 money-orders were issued for £1,476,887 8s. 5d., as compared with 396,312 for £1,416,224 12s. 4d. in 1903—an increase of 11,471 in number and £60,662 16s. 1d. in amount.

313,267 money-orders amounting to £1,267,351 0s. 11d. were paid, as against 304,106 for £1,224,842 12s. 4d. during 1903—an increase of 9,161 orders and £42,508 8s. 7d.