

TELEGRAPHS.

The total value of the telegraph and telephone business for the year ended the 31st March last, including miscellaneous telegraph receipts and Government telegrams, was £270,660 13s. 1½d., as compared with £261,941 6s. 6½d. for the previous year—an increase of £8,719 6s. 7d., or 3·33 per cent.

The following is a comparison of the traffic in paid telegrams during the last ten years:—

	Number.		Value.	
1895-96 ...	1,899,632		£92,289	
1896-97 ...	2,285,001	Increase, 20·29 per cent. ...	97,453	Increase, 5·60 per cent
1897-98 ...	2,469,415	" 8·07	96,537	Decrease, 0·94
1898-99 ...	2,717,548	" 10·05	101,104	Increase, 4·73
1899-00 ...	3,159,093	" 16·25	114,383	" 13·13
1900-1 ...	3,534,444	" 11·88	126,382	" 10·49
1901-2 ...	3,850,391	" 8·94	141,531	" 12·03
1902-3 ...	4,271,218	" 10·93	153,338	" 8·30
1903-4 ...	4,671,904	" 9·38	162,498	" 5·97
1904-5 ...	4,900,495	" 4·89	167,531	" 3·12

TELEGRAPH BUSINESS.

Table showing the number of telegrams forwarded, and the revenue derived therefrom, during the four quarters of the financial years 1903-4 and 1904-5 respectively:—

Quarter.	Number of Telegrams forwarded.		Increase per Cent.	Revenue.		Increase per Cent.
	Year ended 31st March, 1904.	Year ended 31st March, 1905.		1903-4.	1904-5.	
June quarter ...	1,086,890	1,142,677	5·13	£ 38,072 6 0	£ 39,262 19 11	3·12
September quarter ...	1,069,311	1,134,318	6·07	37,350 18 7	38,760 4 3	3·77
December quarter ...	1,215,959	1,280,432	5·30	42,233 3 6	43,777 7 10	3·65
March quarter ...	1,299,744	1,343,068	3·33	44,841 5 6½	45,781 1 7½	2·09
	4,671,904	4,900,495	4·89	162,497 13 7½	167,581 13 7½	3·12

The telegraph receipts for the financial year, including telephone-exchange subscriptions, private-wire rents, &c., amounted to £250,063 1s. 3½d., compared with £237,564 4s. 11½d. in 1903-4—an increase of £12,498 16s. 4d., or 5·26 per cent.

The expenditure was £258,977 10s. 9d., as against £255,863 1s. 2d. for the previous year—an increase of £3,114 9s. 7d., or 1·22 per cent.

There were 7,943¾ miles of line and 23,704 miles of wire at the close of the year—an increase of 165 and 773 miles respectively.

The net expenditure out of Public Works Fund for telegraph extension was £79,297 15s. 1d., as compared with £47,226 19s. 7d. in 1903-4.

The number of private wires and subsidised lines was 350, compared with 364 in 1903-4. The amount received for rent, maintenance, &c., was £1,973 19s. 5d., as against £2,018 7s. in 1903-4.

The total number of telegraph and telephone offices open at the close of the year was 1,200. Of these, 262 were telegraph-offices, and 938 telephone-offices.

The number of telegrams of all codes forwarded during last financial year was 5,159,745—an increase of 194,548, or 3·91 per cent., over 1903-4.

The proportion of paid telegrams per head of population was 5·75, and 5·65 the previous year.

The number of ordinary telegrams forwarded was 3,720,114, of the value of £126,578 7s. 10½d., compared with 3,603,674, for £123,782 6s. 8½d., in 1903-4—an increase of 116,440 and £2,796 1s. 2d.

The urgent telegrams numbered 187,027, of the value of £11,894 8s. 3d.—an increase of 10,251 in number, and £443 17s. 9d. in amount.

The average value of each ordinary telegram was 8·16d., and of each urgent telegram 1s. 3·26d. 367,066 Press telegrams, of the value of £15,274 19s. 0½d., were forwarded in 1904-5, as compared with 364,860, valued at £15,115 19s. 8d., forwarded in 1903-4—an increase of 2,206, or 0·6 per cent., in number, and an increase of 1·05 per cent. in value.

The value of each Press telegram averaged 9·98d., as against 9·94d. in 1903-4.

The bureau messages numbered 626,288, of the value of £13,833 18s. 5½d., as compared with 526,594, of the value of £12,148 16s. 9d.—an increase of 99,694 in number, and £1,685 1s. 8½d. in amount.

The average value of each bureau message was 5·3d., as against 5·54d. in 1903-4.

The following figures show the growth of the traffic in bureau messages as compared with ordinary telegrams:—

	1904-5.	1903-4.	Average Value.
The total number of ordinary telegrams increased by	116,440, or 3·23 %		8·16d.
The total number of bureau communications increased by	99,694, or 18·93 %		5·3d.
	and relative receipts by		
	£2,796, or 2·26 %		8·24d.
	£1,685, or 13·87 %		5·54d.