

The proportion of dead or unclaimed letters, letter-cards, and post-cards to the total number dealt with in the colony was 0·38 per cent., as against 0·35 per cent. in 1904.

43,485 book-packets and circulars were returned to foreign countries; 26,619 were returned to senders through the Dead-letter Office; 110,342 were returned by Chief Postmasters: a total of 180,446 book-packets and circulars, as compared with 145,676 in 1904.

1,706 letters were wrongly addressed; 25 letters were discovered to have been posted with previously used stamps; 3,257 unclaimed registered letters were dealt with.

2,395 newspapers and 1,603 books and other articles without addresses were received, many of which were subsequently applied for and delivered.

1,590 newspapers were returned to the publishers.

1,228 letters and 245 letter-cards were posted without addresses.

27 letters with libellous addresses were intercepted.

The undermentioned articles of value were found in letters opened in the Dead-letter Office, and returned to senders where practicable:—

	£	s.	d.
455 post-office orders	1,064	15	0
58 bank drafts	4,120	14	7
437 cheques	4,930	11	8
36 dividend warrants	50	7	6
12 promissory notes	241	5	5
Credit notes	45	8	4
Postal notes	249	5	6
Stamps	36	16	4½
Bank-notes	284	0	0
Gold	47	0	0
Silver and copper	14	1	3½
Representing a total of	£11,084	5	8

In addition, 7 gold watches, 10 silver watches, 3 metal watches, 3 Waterbury watches, 9 gold-mounted greenstone brooches, 5 gold brooches, 4 silver brooches, 1 silver-mounted greenstone brooch, 1 greenstone cross, 10 gold chains, 8 silver chains, 17 gold rings, 4 silver match-boxes, 1 silver sovereign-case and match-box, 2 pairs of gold sleeve-links, 2 nuggets of gold, 11 oz. of gold, 1 gold tusk, 1 gold lock for bangle, 11 greenstone hearts, 6 gold-mounted greenstone pendants, 1 gold medal, 1 gold necklace, 1 gold tooth-pick, 1 gold locket, 1 silver-mounted greenstone pendant, 5 gold tie-pins, 1 opal tie-pin, 1 greenstone bangle with gold and pearl setting, 1 small cut-glass jar with silver top, 1 silver-mounted brush and comb, 1 silver-mounted card-case, 2 jam-spoons with greenstone handles, 1 silver jam-spoon, 1 silver-plated button-hook and shoe-horn, 1 silver tooth-pick, 1 silver butter-knife, 1 silver bread-fork, 3 silver cigarette-cases, 2 silver cigarette mouth-pieces, 1 silver note-case, 1 spoon of Egyptian design, 1 bangle frame, 2 lady's purses, 1 pair of ear-rings, 1 set of false-teeth, 7 thimbles, 1 pocket-knife, 4 kauri-gum licenses, 13 pawn tickets, 37 Tattersall tickets, 10 share certificates, 2 trotting certificates, 1 fixed-deposit receipt, 4 sheets and 2 packets of foreign stamps, 1 saloon return ticket New Plymouth to Onehunga, 1 steerage ticket Wellington to Auckland, 1 steerage ticket Wellington to Lyttelton, 1 steerage ticket Lyttelton to Onehunga, 1 order for a steerage ticket Lyttelton to Auckland, and a railway workman's pass Hamilton to Te Aroha were dealt with.

The number of inland, intercolonial, and international articles received and disposed of during the years 1904 and 1905 was as under:—

	1904.					1905.				
	Letters.	Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Packets.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Packets.	Newspapers.
<i>Inland.</i>										
Returned, delivered, &c., through Dead-letter Office	101,908	2,557	53	17,369	1,800	106,160	2,684	417	24,439	1,590
Returned by Chief Postmasters direct ..	81,345	..	4,325	88,830	..	92,128	..	5,139	110,342	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	8,684	753	405	1,599	55,307	11,402	791	1,605	2,107	32,849
<i>Australian.</i>										
Originally addressed to other States:—										
Returned to writers ..	4,902	..	68	703	..	5,224	..	232	764	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	633	37	129	64	..	810	40	430	69	..
Returned to other States as unclaimed	12,900	..	615	5,749	..	11,901	..	669	7,784	..
<i>International.</i>										
Originally addressed to other countries:—										
Returned to writers ..	10,072	..	316	1,059	..	10,362	..	292	1,416	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	828	103	595	97	..	1,475	80	1,427	129	..
Returned to other countries as unclaimed	11,628	..	905	31,966	291	13,106	..	1,267	35,701	..
Totals	232,900	3,450	7,411	147,436	57,398	252,568	3,595	11,478	182,751	34,439