

1,647,540 letters and post-cards, 786,065 books, and 1,549,800 newspapers were received from, and 1,811,708 letters and post-cards, 251,702 books, and 351,302 newspapers were despatched to, the United Kingdom *via* San Francisco.

The average time within which mails were delivered by the San Francisco service was—From Auckland to London, 30·39 days, as against 30·78 in 1904; and from London to Auckland, 31·06 days, as compared with 30·55 days in the previous year. The shortest delivery was made in 29 days.

*Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Lines (Federal Mail-service).*

DR.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payment to P. and O. and Orient lines	...	1,034	15	4			
Transit charges across Australia	...	162	14	0			
Transit charges across Europe	...	326	19	1			
Gratuities (to and from Australia)	...	2,023	13	10			
					3,548	2	3
CR.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postages collected in the colony	...	1,877	7	1			
Postages, &c., from London and foreign offices	...	1,531	16	4			
					3,409	3	5

Net cost to the colony ... .. £138 18 10

The number of letters and post-cards, books, and newspapers conveyed from and to the United Kingdom by the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient packets was: Received—1,191,058 letters and post-cards, 465,220 books, and 1,909,962 newspapers; despatched—177,257 letters and post-cards, 19,339 books, and 28,272 newspapers.

The maximum, minimum, and average number of days within which the mails were delivered at and from London and Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin, and Bluff during 1905 by the San Francisco service and by the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient lines was:—

	San Francisco Service.				P. and O. Line.				Orient Line.		
	Max.	Min.	Average.		Max.	Min.	Average.		Max.	Min.	Average.
London to Auckland	34	30	31·06	..	42	35	36·93	..	42	37	38·33
Auckland to London	34	29	30·39	..	40	35	38·93	..	44	38	41·00
London to Wellington	35	31	32·29	..	40	36	38·18	..	41	38	39·19
Wellington to London	35	30	31·39	..	43	38	41·08	..	46	40	43·52
London to Dunedin	36	32	33·35	..	43	36	39·18	..	43	39	39·32
Dunedin to London	36	31	32·39	..	41	39	40·08	..	45	42	42·33
London to Bluff	37	33	34·10	..	42	35	38·43	..	42	38	38·57
Bluff to London	37	32	33·14	..	40	38	39·33	..	44	41	41·58

The several subsidised sea mail-services, the subsidy-payments for the year 1905, the dates when established, and the date on which each terminates are shown below:—

Service.	Annual Subsidy or Payment.	Duration of Service.		Number of Voyages per Annum.	Mileage for Complete Voyage.	Cost per Mile.
		When established.	When terminated or terminable.			
Auckland and San Francisco	£ 20,508 s. 9 d. 5	Mar., 1870	Nov., 1906	17 <sup>(a)</sup>	5,925	s. 3 d. 10·15
Auckland and Fiji	1,690 0 0	June, 1880	..	13	2,334	1 1·37
Auckland and South Pacific islands	1,200 0 0	June, 1885	..	12	6,992	0 3·43
Auckland and Devonport	60 0 0	Aug., 1863	Dec., 1906	939	6	0 2·56
Auckland and Great Barrier	250 0 0	Oct., 1891	Dec., 1906	52	120	0 9·62
Dargaville and Tangiteroria	100 0 0	Nov., 1893	Dec., 1906	52	46	0 10·03
Helensville and Matakoho	150 0 0	Jan., 1881	Dec., 1906	52	118	0 5·87
Helensville and Dargaville	450 0 0	Jan., 1881	Dec., 1906	104	170	0 5·42
Horeke, Kohukohu, Rawene, Koutu, Rangi Point, and Opononi	147 0 0	Jan., 1889	Dec., 1906	52	48	1 2·13
Russell and Opua	102 0 0	Jan., 1889	Dec., 1906	156	16	0 9·81
Russell and Waitangi	10 0 0	Jan., 1904	Dec., 1906	52	14	0 3·30
Whangaroa (all boating in harbour)	44 0 0	..	Dec., 1906	(as required)	..	..
Wellington, Ketu Bay, Homewood, Maori Bay (and other offices), and Havelock	700 0 0	Dec., 1891	Dec., 1906	26	183	1 0·21
Wellington and Motueka	710 0 0 <sup>(b)</sup>	Nov., 1902	Dec., 1906	43	210	..
Havelock and Bulwer	137 10 0	Jan., 1904	Dec., 1906	26	64	1 7·83
Nelson, Totaranui, Takaka, and Collingwood	100 0 0	..	Dec., 1906	104	130	0 1·78
Nelson and Croixelles	60 0 0	Jan., 1904	Dec., 1906	52	44	0 6·29
Westport and Karamea	450 0 0 <sup>(c)</sup>	June, 1886	Dec., 1906	36	102	..
Westport and Little Wanganui	400 0 0	Jan., 1895	Dec., 1906	12	82	1 10·55
Hokitika, Okarito, Bruce Bay, Paringa, Haast, Okura, and Jackson's Bay	600 0 0	Jan., 1886	Dec., 1906	6	384	5 2·50
Lyttelton and Chatham Islands (including Pitt Island)	300 0 0	..	Mar., 1906	6	1,050	0 11·43
Lyttelton and Pigeon Bay	225 0 0	..	Dec., 1906	156	14	0 8·57
Bluff and Half-moon Bay	245 0 0	July, 1886	Dec., 1906	52	48	1 11·56
Bluff and Ruapuke Island <sup>(d)</sup>	45 0 0	Sept., 1903	Dec., 1906	26	26	1 3·95
Bluff and Te Oneroa <sup>(e)</sup>	234 0 0	April, 1893	May, 1906	12	208	1 5·63
Interprovincial service in connection with San Francisco line	175 0 0	Nov., 1886	Nov., 1906	17	..	..
	4,000 0 0					

(a) Payment for 18 voyages was actually made during the year.

(b) Subsidy increased by £10 a year from 16th February, 1906, and Whatanihi included in service.

(c) Subsidy reduced by £50 from 1st January, 1906.

(d) Service diminished in frequency from weekly on reletting of service on 25th January, 1906.

(e) Te Oneroa eliminated from and Cromarty included in service on 15th June, 1905. Subsidy reduced by £59 on reletting of service on 22nd May, 1905.