

DEPARTMENTAL RULES.

The Rules and Regulations for Non-permanent Postmasters were reissued during the year. The Money-order Regulations were also revised and reprinted.

MONEY-ORDER TELEGRAM: RATE FOR REMITTER'S PRIVATE MESSAGE.

From the 1st November, 1906, the rate for a private communication to the payee added by the remitter of a money-order telegram to the official telegram of advice was altered to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per word for ordinary, and 1d. per word for urgent, communications, with no minimum charge.

BUILDINGS.

The great expansion of business at Auckland has necessitated the renting of a building to accommodate the parcel-post branch. This is, however, only a temporary expedient.

At Christchurch arrangements are being made to resume portion of a Government building next to the post-office, on account of the congestion of the parcel-post branch.

Competitive designs are about to be invited for the extension of the General Post Office building at Wellington. In the meantime a fresh lease has been secured of the old bank building in Lambton Quay, and the top floor of Nathan's new building has been leased. To the latter will be transferred the telegraph section of the Accountant's Branch.

During the year brick buildings were erected at Bull's, Hutt, Johnsonville, Nelson, New Plymouth, Otautau, Tauranga, and Winton, and wooden buildings at Collingwood, Millerton, Rongotea, Tokomaru Bay, Tuparua, and Whakatane. At Roslyn a property was purchased for the purposes of a post-office building. A site for a building was bought at Kimbolton, and at Manakau land and a building were purchased. Buildings in brick are in course of erection at Cambridge, Greymouth, and Taihape. A wooden building has been erected at Makuri by the Public Works Department. Contracts have been let for residences at Arrowtown and Te Awamutu.

Public chiming clocks were erected in post-office buildings at Bull's, Carterton, Gore, Hutt, Nelson, and Palmerston North, and one was ordered for Greymouth; in each case the local authorities concerned contributed towards the cost. A subsidy was given by Government towards the cost of a clock for the Greytown office.

The following general repairs, additions, &c., were carried out during the year: Albury, additions at railway-station for postal purposes; Arrowtown, additions; Auckland, telegraph operating and telephone instrument rooms enlarged; Carterton, drainage; Christchurch, completion of the enlargement of building, and extensive alterations; Dunedin, renovations to telegraph-office; Dunedin North, improvements, &c.; Dannevirke, old Courthouse altered to suit requirements of post and telegraph office; Edendale, additions at railway-station for postal purposes; Feilding, alterations and drainage; Gisborne telephone exchange provided; Gore, additions; Inglewood, drainage, &c.; Invercargill, workshop and bicycle-shed erected; Mangonui, alterations and painting; Martinborough, additions; Masterton, alterations to telephone exchange; Morrinsville, additions at railway-station for postal purposes; New Brighton, improvements and alterations; Opotiki, renovations, &c.; Orepuki, additions at railway-station for postal purposes; Pahiatua, alterations and additions; Petone, renovations, &c.; Rangiora, additions; Rotorua, additions to office and residence; Taupo, fencing, repairs, &c.; Timaru, fire-appliances provided; Waimate, renovations, &c.; Waipukurau, additions, alterations, and painting; Wakapuaka, additional land taken for water-supply purposes, and fenced; Wakefield, additions at railway-station for postal purposes; Wellington, additional private letter-boxes provided, and telephone exchange extended; Westport, renovations, and strongroom erected.

REDIRECTED TELEGRAMS.

A telegram redirected to a corrected address is now liable to an additional charge of 6d. only, if delivery can be effected from the original receiving-office. If, however, the message requires to be re-telegraphed, a charge equal to the amount originally paid is levied, plus or minus the charge at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a word for any words by which the number of words in the original address is increased or diminished.

REGULATIONS UNDER "THE ELECTRIC LINES ACT, 1884."

The regulations under "The Electric Lines Act, 1884," have been altered to include provision for the payment of a fee for a receipt for a telegram, whether international, intercolonial, or inland, either at 1d. each or by the purchase of books of 100 forms, with receipt foils attached, at a cost of 2s. each; for modified fees for a message after hours relating to sickness, death, or other urgent matter; for the non-transmission of a "country newspaper" telegram on the day of publication; for the equalising of the individual rate and the Press Association rate for press telegrams when an office is reopened by special request; and for the option of the Electric Telegraph Commissioner to permit any premises of any fire brigade, or any hospital or benevolent or charitable institution, to be connected with a telephone exchange free of cost or charges.

WEATHER REPORTS.

It was arranged for telegraphic reports of weather forecasts to be regularly sent to certain coastal offices for exhibition for the information of the fishing community.

PRESS TELEGRAM REGULATIONS.

The regulations relating to Press Telegrams were amended in the direction of restricting to parliamentary or political news only the additional five hundred words a day which evening newspapers may receive at the rate of 6d. for each hundred words or fraction thereof during session of Parliament.