

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered articles dealt with in 1906, compared with the numbers in 1890, 1900, and 1905, is shown below:—

Postal Districts.	1890.			1900.			1905.			1906.		
	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.
Auckland ..	7,119	34,398	41,517	18,108	101,533	119,641	22,103	158,466	180,569	26,929	178,876	205,805
Thames ..	180	4,781	4,911	267	19,912	20,179	294	20,346	20,640	324	23,128	23,452
New Plymouth ..	341	3,372	3,713	1,310	16,903	18,213	2,995	19,202	22,197	2,839	22,317	25,156
Gisborne ..	118	2,120	2,238	421	7,193	7,614	476	7,874	8,350	626	9,736	10,362
Napier ..	999	10,911	11,910	1,659	26,685	28,344	1,813	26,297	28,110	3,378	50,883	54,261
Wanganui ..	211	6,060	6,271	2,151	24,980	27,131	2,620	35,239	37,859	3,035	39,931	42,966
Wellington ..	6,129	30,369	36,498	9,513	85,915	95,428	20,935	157,517	178,452	22,731	171,662	194,393
Blenheim ..	92	3,193	3,285	116	6,371	6,487	171	9,854	10,025	786	12,395	13,181
Nelson ..	322	3,430	3,752	644	14,726	15,370	1,837	19,514	21,351	1,895	21,817	23,712
Westport ..	112	3,254	3,366	354	6,974	7,328	936	7,481	8,417	589	9,283	9,872
Greymouth ..	102	8,879	8,981	680	11,606	12,286	719	11,412	12,131	633	13,181	13,814
Hokitika ..	95	2,579	2,674	94	4,344	4,438	550	10,535	11,085	555	13,312	13,867
Christchurch ..	3,659	20,404	24,063	5,404	49,049	54,453	10,293	73,304	83,597	12,919	96,843	109,762
Timaru ..	312	3,551	3,863	1,196	9,973	11,169	1,410	10,548	11,958	1,226	15,265	16,491
Oamaru ..	278	2,505	2,783	120	8,880	9,000	147	6,967	7,114	147	8,094	8,241
Dunedin ..	4,615	19,696	24,311	6,954	44,003	50,957	8,160	59,473	67,638	10,643	58,654	69,302
Invercargill ..	1,740	9,819	11,559	3,352	24,989	28,341	6,495	32,252	38,747	6,588	32,593	39,181
Totals ..	26,374	169,321	195,695	52,343	464,036	516,379	81,954	666,281	748,235	95,848	777,970	873,818

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The estimated volume and value of official and other free correspondence posted during 1906 is given in the statement below:—

District.	Letters.	Packets.	Registered Articles.	Newspapers.
Auckland ..	1,008,371	14,096	49,477	74,116
Thames ..	93,587	2,791	3,458	46,201
New Plymouth ..	144,924	14,850	6,471	62,835
Gisborne ..	76,921	2,991	3,004	20,496
Napier ..	321,724	20,022	5,572	142,631
Wanganui ..	325,000	9,164	8,688	124,347
Wellington ..	2,045,537	502,137	46,506	545,893
Blenheim ..	67,054	2,184	3,888	31,300
Nelson ..	152,100	7,416	8,043	53,268
Westport ..	37,674	2,608	2,460	22,048
Greymouth ..	47,151	2,285	5,040	56,638
Hokitika ..	50,219	1,182	8,121	49,530
Christchurch ..	519,792	56,152	35,326	131,660
Timaru ..	127,829	6,100	4,290	28,080
Oamaru ..	54,964	2,000	1,909	28,928
Dunedin ..	544,024	91,859	16,945	239,959
Invercargill ..	353,743	20,800	9,880	73,961
Totals ..	5,970,614	758,637	219,078	1,731,891

The estimated postage value of official correspondence was £36,496 1s. 9d.

DEAD LETTERS.

The following comparative table shows the number of unclaimed letters, letter-cards, and post-cards dealt with in the Dead-letter Office and by Chief Postmasters during the undermentioned years:—

Manner of Disposal.	1884.	1885.	1890.	1896.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Opened and returned to the writers	68,942	66,592	60,540	63,112	68,872	74,132	76,692	100,036	107,476	107,271	119,642	125,106	137,210
Returned unopened to other countries	9,134	8,115	7,779	7,546	8,899	9,706	9,707	12,251	14,401	18,176	26,048	26,943	32,062
Reissued ..	107	185	141	148	219	178	265	*5,112	+13,373	203	234	265	358
Destroyed ..	3,986	2,872	2,660	4,069	3,368	4,536	4,900	5,705	6,249	9,579	12,167	18,060	27,575
Returned unopened by Chief Postmasters	17,593	19,187	21,931	26,414	33,273	22,915	40,282	44,523	54,285	93,920	85,670	97,267	117,666
Totals ..	99,762	96,951	93,051	101,289	114,631	111,467	131,846	167,627	195,784	229,149	243,761	267,641	314,871

* Including 4,911 troopers' letters. † Including 13,180 troopers' letters. ‡ Including 6,161 post-cards, and 1,000 post-cards bearing imitation postage-stamps which were detained as being posted contrary to the regulations.