

Briefly, the Department has undertaken a vastly increased business, at greatly reduced rates, and yet succeeds in keeping the expenditure at practically the same ratio to the income as was the case when each article handled or telegram sent produced from 50 to 100 per cent. more revenue.

I have the honour to be,  
My Lord,

Your most obedient servant,  
J. G. WARD,

His Excellency the Governor, Wellington.

Postmaster-General.

## REVIEW.

### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue and expenditure of the Department for the financial year 1907-8 are shown in the following table:—

Item.	Postal.		Telegraph.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
<i>Receipts.</i>						
Stamps for postage .. .. .	441,776	3 6½	..	..	441,776	3 6½
Money-order and postal-note commission .. .. .	24,439	15 0	..	..	24,439	15 0
Money-order commission received from foreign offices .. .. .	639	12 0	..	..	639	12 0
Private box and bag fees .. .. .	10,494	11 3	..	..	10,494	11 3
Miscellaneous receipts .. .. .	1,038	6 6	4,472	8 3	5,510	14 9
Paid telegrams .. .. .	..	..	222,925	18 5	222,925	18 5
Telephone exchanges .. .. .	..	..	116,852	13 10	116,852	13 10
Balance of expenditure over revenue (Telegraph) .. .. .	478,388	8 3½	344,251	0 6	822,639	8 9½
Totals .. .. .	478,388	8 3½	357,581	1 3	822,639	8 9½
<i>Expenditure.</i>						
Salaries (classified officers) .. .. .	134,453	0 0	236,419	4 8	370,872	4 8
Salaries (country Postmasters and telephonists, and contributions to Railway officers) .. .. .	19,800	0 0	28,071	0 0	47,871	0 0
Conveyance of mails by sea .. .. .	40,512	11 8	..	..	40,512	11 8
Conveyance of inland mails .. .. .	62,364	12 5	..	..	62,364	12 5
Conveyance of mails by railway .. .. .	45,658	19 2	..	..	45,658	19 2
Money-order commission credited to foreign offices .. .. .	1,888	14 4	..	..	1,888	14 4
Maintenance of telegraph-lines .. .. .	..	..	45,866	10 5	45,866	10 5
Miscellaneous .. .. .	46,765	17 4	47,224	6 2	93,990	3 6
Balance of revenue over expenditure (Postal) .. .. .	351,443	14 11	357,581	1 3	709,024	16 2
" " (whole Department) .. .. .	126,944	13 4½	..	..	113,614	12 7½
Totals .. .. .	478,388	8 3½	357,581	1 3	822,639	8 9½

The total revenue exceeded that of 1906-7 by £76,389, and the expenditure by £89,903.

The money-order business still shows a relatively small rate of increase. The issues numbered 441,487 for £1,773,590 17s. 1d., and 337,791 for £1,523,907 17s. 4d. were paid. The increase in the number of orders issued as compared with last year was 2,467, entirely due to orders issued for payment within the Dominion.

New Zealand postal-note business continues to increase. During the past year 1,092,631 postal notes for £347,300 were sold, being an increase of 8.84 per cent. in number and 10.45 in amount as compared with the preceding year.

The number of British postal orders sold increased from 31,698 for £16,229 15s. 6d. to 36,600 valued at £19,564 12s., and 12,238 orders for £8,533 19s. were paid, as against 9,461 for £6,426 4s. paid during the previous year.

The number of parcels insured during the year was 1,689, valued at £19,960 19s. 11d., upon which premiums amounting to £56 8s. 2d. were received.

The increase in the amount standing to the credit of Savings-Bank depositors has been considerable. The deposits (£9,351,663 19s. 7d.) exceeded the withdrawals (£8,125,123) by £1,226,540 19s. 7d. To this there has been added £343,424 7s. 2d. as interest, making a total increase of £1,569,965 6s. 9d., and bringing the whole amount of savings up to £11,523,230 17s. 9d., an amount which equals £11 12s. 11d. per head of the population.

The number of old-age pension payments was 158,782, as compared with 152,502 in the previous year, an increase of 6,280, or 4.12 per cent. The total amount of the payments was £325,220 13s. 2d., as against £314,204 15s. 9d. paid out in the preceding year, an increase of £11,015 17s. 5d.

The total number of telegrams forwarded was 7,042,923, an increase of 646,591, or 10.11 per cent., as compared with the business of the previous year.

The amount expended on telegraph extension was £155,491, but there are liabilities amounting to £103,550 on account of works for which the authority of Parliament was granted too late for the necessary expenditure to be brought within the financial year.

On the 31st March, 1908, there were 9,656 miles of telegraph-line and 29,344 miles of wire. The length of submarine cables within the Dominion was 352 knots.

The number of telephone-exchange connections still continues to increase rapidly. It has now reached 23,981, with a revenue of £116,852 13s. 10d.