

The number of inland, intercolonial, and international articles received and disposed of during the years 1906 and 1907 was as under:—

	1906.					1907.				
	Lett.	Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Packets.	News-papers.	Letters.	Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Packets.	News-papers.
<i>Inland.</i>										
Returned, delivered, &c., through Dead-letter Office	115,347	3,035	1,040	24,407	1,675	140,494	1,183	1,588	22,955	..
Returned by Chief Postmasters direct ..	111,491	..	6,175	154,578	10,261	145,085	..	8,857	187,059	44,122
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	16,737	1,100	*4,579	7,680	96,478	13,336	550	†9,669	3,447	79,998
<i>Australian.</i>										
Originally addressed to other States:—										
Returned to writers ..	6,221	..	406	455	..	6,648	60	211	504	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	948	45	711	199	..	623	35	1,287	220	..
Returned to other States as unclaimed	14,034	..	1,876	8,437	771	16,210	..	2,765	10,264	3,085
<i>International.</i>										
Originally addressed to other countries:—										
Returned to writers ..	10,453	..	1,066	1,205	..	11,715	120	420	1,036	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	1,499	85	1,871	380	..	1,095	65	2,556	335	..
Returned to other countries as unclaimed	13,862	..	2,290	31,575	1,743	22,843	..	3,057	45,682	2,197
Totals .. .. .	290,592	4,265	20,014	228,916	110,928	358,049	2,013	30,410	271,502	129,402

\* Including 1,000 post-cards detained, bearing imitation postage stamps.  
post-cards detained.

† Including 4,000 tinselled

A sale of unclaimed articles from the Dead-letter Office for the period from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1905, was held by public auction on the 31st August, 1907. An upset price was fixed on lots containing dutiable articles.

#### MISSING LETTERS.

1,797 inquiries for letters and 1,434 for other articles alleged to have been posted and not delivered were made during 1907. In 926 of the inquiries for letters and 834 for other articles—over one-half the total number—the investigations by the Department resulted in the missing articles being traced or accounted for. These may be summarised as follows:—

Number of Traced Cases.		Found to have been
Letters.	Other Articles.	
76	95	... Missent, misdelivered, or otherwise delayed through fault of Post Office.
74	60	... Delayed in delivery through fault of addressees.
21	13	... Not posted.
26	37	... Posted later than stated; forwarded by slower routes than letters of advice, &c.
140	71	... Defectively or wrongly addressed.
56	39	... Misaid or lost after delivery.
73	37	... Returned through Dead-letter Office as unclaimed, &c.
460	482	... Delivered. Reason for inquiry not given, but probably in most cases omission by addressees to acknowledge receipt.
926	834	

As instancing the recklessness with which the Post-office is charged with shortcomings when expected letters are not delivered, it may be mentioned that the allegation was made to a Chief Postmaster that four letters containing valuable enclosures had gone astray in the Post Office. Inquiry showed that one letter had not been posted, the second had been misaid by the addressee, the third had been duly delivered, and the fourth had been misaddressed.

#### MONEY-ORDERS.

Twenty-one money-order offices were opened during the year—namely, Clareville, Government Buildings, Hastwell's, Hinuera, Kakahi, Makatote, Mokai, Motu, Okoroire, Opua, Orawia, Paekakariki, Puketapu, Tangiteroria, Tapawera, Te Kiri, Waharoa, Waiharara, West Lynn, Whareama, and Whatawhata. One office was closed—namely, Exhibition (Christchurch).

The number of offices open at the end of the year was 579, against 559 twelve months previously.

441,487 money-orders were issued, for £1,773,590 17s. 1d., as compared with 439,020, for £1,686,231 1s. 11d., in 1906, an increase of 2,467 in number and £87,359 15s. 2d. in amount.

337,791 money-orders, amounting to £1,523,907 17s. 4d., were paid, as against 332,560, for £1,434,038 6s. 5d., during 1906, an increase of 5,231 orders and £89,869 10s. 11d. in amount.

There were 73,763 telegraph money-orders issued, for £298,630 19s. 1d., as compared with 68,194 orders, for £261,488 3s. 11d., in 1906, an increase of 5,569 in number and £37,142 15s. 2d. in amount.

136,063 orders, for £383,790 12s. 9d., were issued on places beyond New Zealand, as against 137,370 orders, for £373,960 8s. 7d., during 1906.

32,012 orders, for £132,150 12s., were issued in places beyond New Zealand for payment in the Dominion, as compared with 30,776 orders, for £125,651 13s., during the previous year.

The commission received for money-orders amounted to £18,846 12s. 6d., as against £18,278 10s. 3d. received during 1906.

From the 1st July, 1907, a system of advice of payment of money-orders was introduced, whereby a remitter of a money-order issued in New Zealand on any money-order office within the Dominion,