

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue and expenditure of the Department for the financial year 1909-10 are shown in the following table:—

Item.	Postal.		Telegraph.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
<i>Receipts.</i>						
Stamps for postage	520,622	18 11	..	..	520,622	18 11
Money-order and postal-note commission	20,458	16 11	..	..	20,458	16 11
Money-order commission received from foreign offices	656	6 1	..	..	656	6 1
Private box and bag fees	10,977	3 0	..	..	10,977	3 0
Miscellaneous receipts	14,275	0 5½	5,306	12 0	19,581	12 5½
Paid telegrams .. .. .	..	..	244,905	10 1	244,905	10 1
Telephone exchanges .. .. .	..	..	144,298	2 9	144,298	2 9
	566,990	5 4½	394,510	4 10	961,500	10 2½
Balance of expenditure over revenue .. .. .	..	..	16,786	12 4	..	..
Totals	566,990	5 4½	411,296	17 2	961,500	10 2½
<i>Expenditure.</i>						
Salaries (classified officers)	183,873	15 7	292,729	7 7	476,603	3 2
Salaries (country Postmasters and telephonists, and contributions to Railway Department)	16,684	0 0	33,365	0 0	50,049	0 0
Conveyance of mails by sea	59,971	14 10	..	..	59,971	14 10
Conveyance of inland mails	64,758	4 0	..	..	64,758	4 0
Conveyance of mails by railway	61,912	4 0	..	..	61,912	4 0
Money-order commission credited to foreign offices	2,198	3 9	..	..	2,198	3 9
Maintenance of telegraph-lines .. .. .	..	..	33,962	3 11	33,962	3 11
Miscellaneous	57,864	15 9	51,240	5 8	108,605	1 5
	446,762	17 11	411,296	17 2	858,059	15 1
Balance of revenue over expenditure (Postal)	120,227	7 5½	..	..	..	..
" " (whole Department) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	108,440	15 1½
Totals	566,990	5 4½	411,296	17 2	961,500	10 2½

The total revenue exceeded that of 1908-9 by £47,505 13s., and the expenditure exceeded the expenditure of 1908-9 by £50,407 5s. 3d.

Postal matter delivered in New Zealand, including that received from abroad, during the year reached a total of 93,650,908 letters, 8,049,808 post-cards, 48,195,407 other articles, and 1,122,029 parcels. The number of parcels insured during the year was 2,252, valued at £73,782 12s. 10d., upon which premiums amounting to £110 15s. 1d. were received.

538,740 money-orders, for £2,307,592 18s. 1d. were issued, and 418,764, for £1,984,978 0s. 11d. paid. The increase in the number of orders issued as compared with last year was 50,656.

The postal-note business continues to increase. During the year 1,414,752 postal notes, of the value of £454,138 4s. 8d., were sold, being an increase of 15.75 per cent. in number and 16.7 in amount as compared with the preceding year.

The number of British postal orders sold increased from 44,877, for £24,178 5s. 6d., to 54,360, valued at £29,676 11s. 10d., and 18,326 orders, for £12,411 16s., were paid, as against 14,801, for £10,264 19s. 6d., paid during the previous year.

The Savings-bank deposits (£9,611,119 11s. 3d.) exceeded the withdrawals (£9,499,319 16s. 4d.) by £111,799 14s. 11d. There has been added £395,804 4s. 5d. as interest, making a total increase of £507,603 19s. 4d., and bringing the whole amount at credit up to £12,666,897 17s. 5d., a sum which equals £12 5s. 10d. per head of the population.

The number of old-age-pension payments was 177,839, as compared with 164,633 in the previous year, the respective amounts being £362,495 11s. and £336,813 1s.

The total number of telegrams forwarded was 7,846,890, an increase of 421,197, or 5.67 per cent., over the business of the previous year.

The number of bureau communications shows a marked increase, being 1,757,869, as against 1,423,093.

The amount expended on telegraph-extension was £123,422, with liabilities amounting to £39,310 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, 1910, there were 10,901 miles of telegraph-line and 34,788 miles of wire. The length of submarine cables within the Dominion was 368 knots.

The number of telephone-exchange connections still continues to increase rapidly. It has now reached 29,681.