

GROSS RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.

The gross amount received by the Department during 1909 was £27,739,021 3s. 3d., of which £24,753,861 16s. 5d. was departmental and £2,985,159 6s. 10d. on account of other Departments.

The gross amount paid out was £27,735,413 18s. 8½d., made up of £24,711,063 2s. 8½d. departmental, and, on behalf of other Departments, to individuals £2,230,153 7s. 2d., and to accounts £794,197 8s. 10d.

The total gross receipts and payments were therefore £55,474,435 ls. 11½d.

TELEGRAPHS.

The total value of the telegraph and telephone business for the year ended the 31st March, 1910, including miscellaneous telegraph receipts and Government telegrams, was £399,361 2s., as compared with £374,174 7s. 10d. for the previous year—an increase of £25,186 14s. 2d., or 6·73 per cent.

The following is a comparison of the traffic in paid telegrams during the last five years:—

| | Number. | | Revenue. | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| | | | £ | |
| 1905-6 ... | 5,351,084 | Increase, 9·19 per cent. | 180,474 | Increase, 7·69 per cent. |
| 1906-7 ... | 6,160,080 | " 15·12 " | 202,301 | " 12·09 " |
| 1907-8 ... | 6,958,279 | " 12·96 " | 222,926 | " 10·2 " |
| 1908-9 ... | 7,338,017 | " 5·46 " | 233,517 | " 4·75 " |
| 1909-10 ... | 7,757,128 | " 5·71 " | 244,906 | " 4·88 " |

The number of telegrams forwarded and the revenue derived therefrom during the four quarters of the financial years 1908-9 and 1909-10 respectively are as follows:—

| Quarter. | Number of Telegrams forwarded. | | | Revenue. | | | Increase per Cent. |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Year ended 31st March, 1909. | Year ended 31st March, 1910. | Increase per Cent. | Year ended 31st March, 1909. | Year ended 31st March, 1910. | Increase per Cent. | |
| | | | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | | |
| June quarter ... | 1,736,159 | 1,849,664 | 6·54 | 55,211 2 11½ | 58,185 17 0½ | 5·39 | |
| September quarter ... | 1,702,311 | 1,783,950 | 4·80 | 54,129 13 5 | 56,747 19 9½ | 4·84 | |
| December quarter ... | 1,940,911 | 2,028,706 | 4·52 | 61,533 3 7½ | 63,903 3 6 | 3·85 | |
| March quarter ... | 1,958,636 | 2,094,808 | 6·96 | 62,642 10 4 | 66,068 9 9 | 5·47 | |
| | 7,338,017 | 7,757,128 | 5·71 | 233,516 10 4 | 244,905 10 1 | 4·88 | |

The telegraph receipts for the financial year, including telephone-exchange subscriptions, private-wire rents, &c., amounted to £394,510 4s. 10d., compared with £369,352 17s. in 1908-9—an increase of £25,157 7s. 10d., or 6·81 per cent.

The expenditure was £411,296 17s. 2d., as against £394,649 19s. 6d. for the previous year—an increase of £16,646 17s. 8d., or 4·22 per cent.

There were 10,901 miles of line and 34,788 miles of wire at the close of the year—an increase of 497 and 2,134 miles respectively.

The net expenditure out of Public Works Fund for telegraph-extension was £123,421 17s. 1d., as compared with £163,032 14s. 2d. in 1908-9.

The number of private wires and subsidised lines was 516, compared with 430 in 1908-9.

The amount received for rent and maintenance, &c., of such lines was £2,602 4s. 1d., as against £2,110 in 1908-9.

The total number of telegraph and telephone offices open at the close of the year was 1,871. Of these, 291 were telegraph-offices and 1,580 were telephone-offices.

The number of telegrams of all codes forwarded during the last financial year was 7,846,890—an increase of 421,197, or 5·67 per cent. over 1908-9.

The proportion of paid telegrams per head of population was 7·53, and 7·36 the previous year.

The number of ordinary telegrams forwarded was 5,303,000, of the value of £165,438 12s. 4½d., compared with 5,237,207 of the value of £165,596 3s. 8½d. in 1908-9, an increase of 65,793 in number, and a decrease of £157 11s. 4d. in amount.

The urgent telegrams numbered 277,317, to the value of £16,979 2s. 3d.—an increase of 34,329 in number, and £2,273 11s. in amount.

The average value of each ordinary telegram was 7·49d., and of each urgent telegram 1s. 2·69d.

418,942 Press telegrams, of the value of £19,734 8s. 6½d., were forwarded in 1909-10, as compared with 434,729, valued at £21,102 9s. 7½d., forwarded in 1908-9—a decrease in number of 15,787, or 3·63 per cent., and a decrease of £1,368 1s. 1d., or 6·48 per cent., in value.

The value of each Press telegram averaged 11·30d., as against 11·65d. in 1908-9.

The bureau messages numbered 1,757,869, of the value of £42,753 6s. 11d., as compared with 1,423,093, of the value of £32,112 5s. 9d., in 1908-9—an increase of 334,776 in number and £10,641 1s. 2d. in amount.