

## MILITARY TRAINING.

In cases where departmental requirements can conveniently be met, officers and non-commissioned officers of the Post and Telegraph Corps are now granted special leave of absence to enable them to attend annual training and refresher camps.

## GRAY MEMORIAL PRIZE.

The Gray Memorial Medals for 1912 and 1913 were awarded to Mr. R. D. Kelly, Assistant Postmaster, Wellington, and Mr. W. Chegwidden, Inspector of Stores, respectively.

## RATE OF POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO NEW ZEALAND.

During 1914 representations were made by the High Commissioner to the Colonial Office with the object of securing a reduced rate of postage on newspapers and periodicals sent from the United Kingdom to New Zealand. These representations were supported by the efforts of the British Empire League, but have so far proved ineffectual. The High Commissioner has, however, been informed that the question is still engaging the attention of His Majesty's Postmaster-General, though some time must necessarily elapse before the statistical material required for the further consideration of the matter can be collected.

## PARCEL-POST.

From the 1st December, 1914, further improvements referred to in the last report were made in the parcel-post-service, the benefit of which has been apparent. In the case of offices served by railway or steamer the maximum weight of parcels was raised to 28 lb., and the maximum length and breadth combined increased to 7 ft. The charge levied for each additional pound in excess of 13 lb. was fixed at 1d. An acknowledgment of posting is given free of charge to the sender for each parcel forwarded, and a receipt for each parcel delivered is taken from the addressee. In addition an "express transit" service was instituted, under which, by the payment of a fee of 6d., an assurance is obtained that the parcel will be given the same celerity of despatch as a letter.

On the 1st January, 1915, a direct exchange of parcels was established between New Zealand and the French establishments of Oceania.

## THE WAR AND THE DEPARTMENT.

Immediately on the outbreak of hostilities a strict telegraph censorship was instituted over inland telegrams, cable messages, and radio-telegrams. Censors of cable messages were appointed at Wakapuaka and Auckland, the termini of the two cables, and an effective censorship established at the wireless stations. At first the use of all code words and code addresses was prohibited, but subsequently authorized codes and code addresses were allowed to be used. The censorship has been carried on with the least possible inconvenience to the public compatible with the interests of the Empire. A censorship of foreign postal correspondence was also established.

On the arrival of the New Zealand Main Expeditionary Force in Egypt arrangements were made by the Department for the acceptance of soldiers' week-end messages to members of the Force at the reduced rate of 1½d. per word. It has further been arranged that week-end cable messages of a social character for soldiers, sailors, or nurses of New Zealand Expeditionary Forces in England, France, or Belgium shall be accepted at a charge of 8d. per word, with no prescribed minimum charge for any one message. The messages, if intended for delivery in France and Belgium, are posted from London. This system was subsequently extended to messages for soldiers at Malta or Gibraltar at the rate of 9d. per word, in all cases without any prescribed minimum charge.

Arrangements have been made for the transmission, free of charge, of telegrams of inquiry concerning members of the Main Expeditionary Force who are officially reported to be wounded, seriously wounded, dangerously wounded, or suffering from disease. Three such telegrams are allowed in each case. The telegrams are addressed to the Secretary of the Department. A message of inquiry is sent daily to the New Zealand Headquarters at Alexandria, and immediately the replies are received they are sent by telegram to the relatives inquiring.

Upon the British military occupation of German Samoa the rates of postage on all classes of mail matter, other than letters, for the Islands of Savaii and Upolu were made the same as those for inland transmission. The rate for letters was fixed at 1d. for each ounce or fraction thereof.

In February, 1915, soldiers' gift clubs were formed with the object of sending small gifts to members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in Egypt. The usefulness of the clubs was, however, restricted owing to the fact that the minimum charge for postage on each parcel, however small, amounted to 1s., and that the parcel-post regulations prohibited the enclosing under one cover of packets addressed to several persons. Under these circumstances representations were made to the London and Egyptian Post Offices to have the regulation relaxed, and on their consent being obtained it was arranged to accept, superscribed "Soldiers' Gift Club" and addressed to the officer commanding a regiment, parcels containing separate packages addressed to individual members of the Forces. The privilege is also allowed in the case of parcels despatched by the soldiers' gift clubs to the Expeditionary Force in Samoa.

Unpaid or insufficiently prepaid letters and postcards received from soldiers on active service belonging to any part of the Empire are delivered free of charges.

War news received by cable from the High Commissioner is at once telegraphed to each telegraph-office in the Dominion, and a copy exhibited for public information. Lists of casualties