Post and Telegraph Department.

79. The classified staff on the following dates was—

			Number.	Amount. £
1st April,	1913	 	 5,372	708,165
,,	1914	 	 5,633	761,365
,,	1915	 	 5,95 8	824,242
,,	1916	 	 6,441	885,927
,,	1917	 • • •	 6,956	970,641

80. The increase as at the 1st April, 1917, over the preceding year, £84,714, includes £34,094, the salaries of temporary employees made permanent and formerly paid out of other appropriations than salaries, leaving £50,620 additional to be provided for. The expansion of the business of the Department required an increase to the staff of 197 officers in addition to temporary employees made permanent.

81. The average salary for the year ending 31st March, 1918, for adult male officers is £173.02, for adult female officers £117.75, for all female officers £110.5; and for the whole staff, including 887 telegraph-messenger boys at £40 per

annum each, and excluding the Administrative Division, is £139.54.

82. The classification increments provided on the 1st April, 1917, repre-

sent £57,547, as against £54,480 for the preceding year.

83. It is estimated, as at 1st April, 1917, that classified salaries will be underspent by approximately £325,000 for all Departments, including the Post and Telegraph, owing to the absence of officers at the war; but it will be necessary to set against this an expenditure estimated at £220,000 for permanent and temporary assistance other than that supplied to the Defence Department for its special work.

All of which is humbly submitted for Your Excellency's consideration.

D. Robertson, Commissioner.

A. D. THOMSON, Assistant Commissioners.

Office of the Public Service Commissioner, Wellington, 30th June, 1917.

Note.—Owing to the need for conserving stocks of paper several tables are not printed.