

OCEAN CABLE SERVICES.

The number of cable messages, excluding Press, sent from New Zealand to international offices during the year shows an increase of 0·52 per cent. on the number sent during 1920–21, and the number sent to Australian offices shows a decrease of 9·13 per cent. Messages received from international offices decreased by 3·92 per cent., and messages from Australia by 12·85 per cent.

The proportion of cable messages sent "via Pacific" was less than that sent by the same route the previous year, the percentages being 68 and 70 respectively.

The following table shows the total number of cable messages forwarded by each route during each of the past five years, and also the percentage of such traffic falling to each:—

PACIFIC.			EASTERN.		
Year.	Messages.	Percentage of Total.	Year.	Messages.	Percentage of Total.
1917–18	114,046	63	1917–18	66,318	37
1918–19	103,347	59	1918–19	70,591	41
1919–20	139,772	67	1919–20	68,832	33
1920–21	159,896	70	1920–21	68,406	30
1921–22	147,781	68	1921–22	69,515	32

Press messages numbering 1,407 were sent via Pacific and 1,854 via Eastern, compared with 1,203 and 1,946 respectively during 1920–21. The number received via Pacific was 9,553 and via Eastern 2,432, compared with 7,196 and 2,726 respectively.

The number of cable messages forwarded at the deferred rate was 15,712, compared with 17,668, a decrease of 1,956, or 11·07 per cent.

The number of week-end messages despatched was 15,488, the number received being 7,906.

Resumption of Week-end Messages via Pacific.

After being suspended for over four years, owing to the congestion of the overseas cables, the Pacific Cable Board announced early in 1921 that week-end cable messages would again be accepted for transmission by the Pacific route. The service has become very popular, and is being largely availed of. The Eastern Extension Company is still unable to accept week-end messages.

"Christmas Greetings" Cable Messages.

Cable messages conveying Christmas or New Year greetings addressed to any place in the United Kingdom or Canada were accepted from the 20th to the 28th December for transmission via Pacific at 8d. per word, with a minimum of 6s. 8d., for messages to the United Kingdom, and 6d. per word, with a minimum of 5s., for messages to Canada. The number of messages sent to the United Kingdom was 1,377, and to Canada 43.

Increase in Charge on Cable Press Telegrams.

On the 15th May, 1921, the New Zealand terminal rate on Press telegrams exchanged with the Commonwealth of Australia, Fiji, and Norfolk Island was increased from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per 100 words or fraction thereof. The Australian terminal rate was also increased on the same date.

PROPOSED DUPLICATION OF THE PACIFIC CABLE.

For some time past the Pacific Cable Board has been considering the question of duplication of the Pacific cable, and during the year definite proposals were placed before the partner Governments, and some of them, including New Zealand, have approved of them. For some years the Pacific cable has been worked up to its full capacity, but has been greatly congested. The proposed increased facilities would not only reduce the delay on cable messages for America and Europe transmitted over the Pacific Cable Board's route, but also provide against interruptions.

NEW ZEALAND SUBMARINE-CABLE SERVICE.

The length of submarine cable in use in the Dominion is 416 knots. Only one defect developed in the submarine cables during the year, and this appeared in the Wanganui-Wakapuaka section, which was laid in 1880, this being only the fourth defect that has developed since this cable was laid.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

The number of forwarded radio messages shows an increase of 7·85 per cent., and the number of received messages a decrease of 3·23 per cent. The amounts earned by New Zealand, however, show a decrease under both headings of 7·4 and 10·96 per cent. respectively. The number of words of forwarded radio Press telegrams increased from 36,314 to 90,718.

On the score of economy, the hours at Radio-Awarua have been curtailed. That station is now in attendance only between the hours of 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., and its functions are confined to the reception of distress or other urgent signals from ships at sea and to the handling of short-range traffic relating particularly to navigation in local waters.

Certain changes are being made at Radio-Auckland by means of which it is expected that further economy in connection with radio telegraphic communication will be effected.