

The following table shows the total number of each class of message, excluding Press, forwarded during 1923-24, as compared with the number forwarded during 1922-23.

	1923-24.		1922-23.	
	Forwarded.	Received.	Forwarded.	Received.
Full-rate international cable messages	79,824	76,454	80,481	76,622
Deferred international cable messages	16,149	17,010	17,868	16,220
Daily letter-telegrams	11,803	6,343
Week-end telegrams	25,216	15,568	22,434	13,369
Australian cable messages	121,727	115,937	113,567	107,723
Totals	254,719	231,312	234,350	213,934

WIRELESS TRAFFIC.

The number of forwarded and received radio messages shows an increase of 16.47 per cent. and 14.51 per cent. respectively. The amounts earned by New Zealand show an increase under both headings of 15.77 per cent. and 16.06 per cent. respectively. The number of words of forwarded radio Press telegrams decreased from 107,293 to 98,607.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE TOLL LINES.

POLES AND WIRE.

During the year 142 miles of pole-line and 2,151 miles of wire were erected for telegraph and telephone (toll) purposes, while 47 miles of pole-line and 144 miles of wire were dismantled, or, in localities where no longer required by the Department, sold to settlers for use as private telephone-lines.

The length of pole-line and wire in use for telegraph and telephone toll purposes on the 31st March, 1923, and 1924, respectively, was as follows:—

Pole-line and Wire.	Year ended 31st March, 1923.	Year ended 31st March, 1924.	Increase.
Miles of pole-line	12,859*	12,954	95
Miles of wire	50,903*	52,910	2,007

* Revised figures for 1923.

The telegraph and telephone wire in use—viz., 52,910 miles—is classified as under:—

Miles of wire used exclusively for telegraph traffic	12,124
Miles of wire used exclusively for telephone toll traffic	7,958
Miles of wire used conjointly for telegraph and telephone toll traffic	32,828

The total length of wire available for telephone toll traffic is therefore 40,786 miles; the total length available for the transmission of telegrams, 44,952 miles; the length of wire gained for telegraphic transmission by superimposing, 9,397 miles; and the length of telephone toll lines over which telegrams may be transmitted by telephone, 14,032 miles. Phantom circuits were increased by 594 miles, and superimposed circuits by 2,013 miles.

NEW WORKS.

The more important of the telegraph and telephone circuits completed during the year are as follow:—

Auckland-Waimauku.	Palmerston North - Shannon.	Amberley-Omihi.
Taipa-Parapara.	Shannon-Levin.	Christchurch-Ashburton.
Hamilton-Cambridge (2).	Levin-Otaki (2).	Christchurch-Prebbleton.
Hamilton-Ngaruawahia.	Otaki-Waikanae.	Sockburn-Dunsandel.
Taumarunui-Matiere.	Wellington - Palmerston N. (2)	Fairlie - Te Kapo.
Te Awamutu - Ohaupo.	Featherston - Cross Creek.	Dunedin-Lawrence.
Stratford-Whangamomona.	Christchurch-Greymouth.	Lawrence-Heriot.
Wanganui-Raetihi.	Kumara-Otira.	Balclutha-Clydevale.
Uruti-Urenui.	Kumara-Hokitika.	Dunedin-Seacliff.
Tahora-Tatu.	Ross-Harihari.	Tapanui-Kelso-Heriot.

In addition to the above, the rearrangement of circuits consequent upon the erection of new wires enabled additional or improved telegraph or telephone facilities to be provided between the following places:—

Tangiteroria-Tangowahine.	Hamilton-Rotorua.	Palmerston North - Napier.
Auckland - Te Kuiti.	Hamilton-Huntly.	Palmerston North - Masterton.
Te Kuiti - New Plymouth.	Ngaruawahia-Taupiri.	Wellington-Napier.
Hamilton - Te Awamutu.	Taupiri-Huntly.	Wellington-Taranaki.
Te Awamutu - Otorohanga.	Wanganui-Kakatahi.	Geraldine-Woodbury.
Otorohanga - Te Kuiti.	Wanganui-Pipiriki.	Leeston-Brookside.
Te Kuiti - Ongarue.	Wanganui - Waimarino County.	Waimate - Waihao Downs.
Ongarue-Taumarunui.		