

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1924-25.

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1925.

NEW ZEALAND.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

(REPORT OF THE) FOR THE YEAR 1924-25.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Charles Fergusson, Baronet; General on the Retired List and in the Reserve of Officers of His Majesty's Army; Doctor of Laws; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath; Companion of the Distinguished Service Order; Member of the Royal Victorian Order.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

I have the honour to submit to Your Excellency the report of the Post and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st March, 1925.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.

The business of the Department continues to be satisfactory. The excess of receipts over expenditure was £473,193. The amount of income from postages is less than that which obtained during the previous year. The reduction was expected, as during the whole of the year the reduced rates of postage were operating, as against only six months for the previous year. However, as work increases, it is confidently expected that the increased volume of business will result in the revenue from postages soon reaching the amount obtained in the previous year.

TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The expansion of the telephone-exchange system is one of the most distinctive features of the year's operations. Altogether, twenty-one new exchanges were opened during the year, and to these and other exchanges throughout the Dominion 13,304 new connections were made. This is the greatest number of new stations connected during any year since the inception of the telephone-exchange system, and is more than three times the number of applicants who were awaiting telephone connection at the beginning of the year. The number on the waiting-list at the beginning of the year was 4,086. Notwithstanding the large number of new connections made during the year, there are still 3,622 persons on the waiting-list. Telephone-exchange service, which up to recent years was regarded as more of a luxury than a necessity, has fast become one of the greatest public utilities, and with all classes of the community there exists an insistent demand for telephones. The development of the country exchanges has undoubtedly been greatly stimulated by the present rating system, various attractive features of which, from the viewpoint of the country subscribers, are the liberal

hours of attendance, the elimination of the provision whereby subscribers were required to contribute towards the capital cost of their lines, the rating of party- and rural-line subscribers on their individual distances from exchanges, and the rural-line system which permits of as many as ten subscribers' stations being connected with one circuit at a comparatively low rate of rental.

AUTOMATIC-TELEPHONE-EXCHANGE INSTALLATION.

The conversion during the year of eight thousand lines of the Auckland telephone-exchange systems from manual to automatic working in one operation terminated an undertaking of considerable magnitude, and may be classed as the most complex and one of the largest electrical engineering works yet undertaken in the Southern Hemisphere. The system, as installed, is capable of ready extension, and makes provision for very considerable expansion of the Auckland telephone service.

BUILDINGS.

The rapid expansion of the Department's business continually demands the provision of increased or improved accommodation for the conduct of such business. The maintenance of a progressive building policy is therefore necessary. The requirements are many and varied, but each case is dealt with strictly in its order of urgency.

As an indication of the rapid growth of the Department's business, I quote the case of Ngatea, situated on the Hauraki Plains, most of which was a swamp some years ago. In 1912, when a post-office was first established at Ngatea, the business was conducted in a small building situated on the property of one of the settlers who acted as Postmaster. In 1919 a permanent Postmaster was appointed, and in 1922 a small departmental building costing £325 was erected. The increase in the volume of business was so marked that within a comparatively short period the accommodation provided was found to be inadequate, and during the latter end of 1924 the erection was put in hand of an up-to-date country post-office building, with accommodation for a telephone exchange and residential quarters for the Postmaster, together with storage and garage accommodation, at a total cost of £2,750.

A building which is destined to become the central telephone exchange has been erected in Wellington. In addition to accommodating the switching-apparatus required for the ultimate conversion to automatic working of the whole of the public telephone service in Wellington, offices are provided in the new building for the District Telegraph Engineer and his staff.

INLAND MAIL-SERVICES.

Towards the end of 1924 tenders were invited for all inland mail-service contracts, the annual payment for which exceeded £40. In the North Island contracts were entered into for a period of three years, and in the South Island for a period of four years. In both the North and South Islands the term for future contracts will be three years. In future, contracts let in the South Island will fall due in the year following those let in the North Island. This will eliminate the congestion formerly in evidence at reletting periods.

In many instances there was keen competition for the contracts, with beneficial results to the Department, and although the cost of the services let from the 1st January, 1925, showed a reduction of £9,000 on those in operation in 1924, it is considered the contract prices are capable of a still further reduction when the services are again let to tender.

It is to be remembered that the recently expired contracts were entered into towards the end of 1921 when the price of motor-vehicles, petrol, tires, tubes, &c., was extraordinarily high.

In a few cases, however, the Department, owing to the lack of competition, is paying unreasonable subsidies for the carriage of its mails. It may be necessary in future to take steps which will enable the Department to economically perform its own services in such cases.

RURAL DELIVERIES.

A feature of the year has been the extension of the rural-delivery system, a graph in reference to which appears on page 15. The growth of the system is particularly noticeable in the Canterbury District, where fifty-one post-offices have been closed and 843 miles of rural deliveries established. The position to-day is that the majority of the settlers in the Canterbury District are now provided with a daily delivery, which, generally speaking, reaches them before 1 p.m.

The change-over to rural delivery is much appreciated by settlers, who formerly were required to visit the nearest post-office to collect and post their mail-matter.

The rural-delivery scheme generally is spreading steadily. The Department has now a cheap and efficient rural box which is available to settlers at cost price. Owing to the poor class of home-made boxes that the settlers were in many cases erecting, the Department found it necessary to compel all new subscribers to purchase standard boxes.

CINEMATOGRAPH-FILMS.

In view of their highly inflammable nature, it was decided both by my Department and by the Railway Department to accept cinematograph-films for transmission by post or by rail only when the films are properly packed in special fireproof containers. Particulars in regard to the matter are contained in the statement which follows.

COMPULSORY ENROLMENT OF ELECTORS.

The Department again placed its organization at the disposal of the Electoral Department in the matter of distributing claims-for-enrolment cards in connection with the new obligations cast upon electors. Altogether, over 700,000 cards were distributed, and, as 95 per cent. of them have been completed and returned to Registrars of Electors, it will be seen that the work was efficiently performed.

TUITION OF SCHOOL-CHILDREN BY CORRESPONDENCE.

During the period of the infantile-paralysis epidemic arrangements were made by the Education Department for the publication in the Press of lessons for school-children. Scholars were required to post their lessons to the headmaster of their school and to prepay the postage thereon. Teachers, however, were permitted to return the corrected lessons to the pupils without prepayment of postage, the total amount of postage being subsequently collected from the Education Boards concerned.

MOTOR REGISTRATION.

The Motor-vehicles Act, 1924, prescribes that each and every motor-vehicle in the Dominion shall be registered and licensed. The work of registering and licensing motor-vehicles, issuing registration-plates, and keeping the necessary records has been undertaken by the Post Office. The undertaking of these duties has placed on the shoulders of the Department a considerable amount of additional work and responsibility. Throughout the year the work requires the full time of several officers. The system of operation drawn up by the Department has worked well. In view of the fact that nothing in the nature of a Dominion Register of Motor-vehicles had previously been attempted, the promptitude and precision with which the Department was able to set up and operate machinery for the efficient conduct of the scheme is a matter deserving of commendation.

POSTAL CONGRESS.

Mr. A. T. Markman, Secretary of the Department, represented the Dominion at the Postal Union Congress held last year at Stockholm. Among the more important changes made by Congress, mention may be made of the reduction in postage-rates, reduction in land and sea transit rates, and the granting to New Zealand of the right to vote as an independent postal administration

POSTMARKING-MACHINES.

Mr. Markman was instructed to make inquiries during his tour abroad regarding the type of postmarking-machines in use in the various countries through which he passed. Mr. Markman was impressed with a power stamping-machine manufactured by the Universal Stamping-machine Company, Stamford, Connecticut, and accordingly purchased two machines for the purpose of trial. One machine has been installed in the Chief Post-office, Auckland, and the other in the Chief Post-office, Wellington, and they are giving every satisfaction. The type is very legible and the cancelling mechanism good. In addition to cancelling correspondence, the machine automatically tallies by means of a special device the number of letters that pass through the machine. This will prove very beneficial for the purpose of counting letters when the periodical counts of correspondence are in progress.

POST PARCELS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

During the war it was found necessary to conserve shipping-space, and to this end the postal authorities of Great Britain limited the size of post parcels for New Zealand forwarded via Panama to 4 ft. length and girth combined. Prior to this reduction the size-limit was 6 ft. length and girth combined. Despite repeated requests made during recent years, the shipping companies could not be induced to revert to the carrying of the larger-sized parcels; but as the result of personal representations made in London by the Secretary after his visit to the Postal Congress in Stockholm, the shipping companies have now agreed to accept parcels measuring up to 6 ft. length and girth combined for despatch via Panama. The agreement will mean some increased payment for the carriage of the larger-sized parcels, and in this connection the British Post Office will no doubt raise the postage-rates. The raising of the size-limit is much appreciated by New Zealand importers.

OCEAN MAILS: PROPOSAL TO FORWARD VIA SUEZ.

During the Secretary's stay in London he raised, with the Secretary, General Post Office, London, the question of using the Vancouver and San Francisco routes for the despatch of mails to New Zealand in preference to the Suez route. The London office agreed to utilize the Vancouver and San Francisco routes for all correspondence, except that specially addressed via Suez and that which would reach New Zealand sooner by being despatched by way of Panama.

In February, 1925, however, the London office wrote explaining that owing to a rearrangement of the services via Suez, enabling a regular fortnightly despatch to be made, the number of occasions on which there would be delay on mails would be few, that such delays would be slight, and that in the circumstances the Suez route would be used for other than specially addressed correspondence. In addition it was pointed out that the extra expense involved in diverting mails for New Zealand via North America was not warranted, as the British Post Office had entered into a contract for the carriage of all mails fortnightly via Suez.

INSPECTION OF POST-OFFICES.

During 1924, 1,672 visits of inspection were made, an audit of the accounts being carried out each time an office was visited. On no single occasion was any serious discrepancy in the official cash disclosed.

Besides carrying out a complete audit, an inspecting officer is required to promote the general efficiency of the service, to detect irregularities in office management, to co-ordinate the Department's methods in order that an officer transferred from one office to another may readily take up duty in his new position, and to allocate the numerical strength of staff required at each office. It is also the duty of an Inspector to satisfy himself by personal inquiry that the facilities given to the public at each office visited by him are in full accordance with the requirements, and that in each section of the office prompt attention is given to the public.

A scrutiny of the reports furnished throughout the year by Inspectors shows that not only has the general efficiency been maintained, but that an advance in that respect has been effected.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS-BANKS IN NEW ZEALAND'S DEPENDENCIES AND IN THE MANDATED TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAMOA.

Possibly it is not generally known that the beneficent influence of the Post Office Savings-bank is in full operation both in Samoa and in the Cook Islands. In each case the New Zealand Government lends its organization, even to the extent of sharing with the Island Administration some gilt-edged investments for the surplus funds. The actual work, however, is conducted by officers under the control of the respective Administrations. In order to provide the maximum of benefit to the clients of the bank, a measure of decentralization was introduced in the case of Samoa about five years ago, when a savings-bank ledger office was established at Apia. This enabled depositors to obtain repayment of their deposits without reference to the central office in New Zealand. The innovation proved a great success, and accordingly a similar arrangement was made last year in the case of the lower Cook Group, with effect from the 5th May, 1924. Depositors at Rarotonga are now able to withdraw on demand, and those on the adjacent islands can obtain repayment upon warrants issued at Rarotonga.

The facilities provided are much appreciated, and already habits of thrift are being inculcated and fostered, to the ultimate benefit of the Natives.

MOTOR TRANSPORT.

During the past five years the Department's fleet of motor-vehicles has increased very considerably. The three main reasons for this growth are, firstly, the endeavour to cope with the ever-increasing demand for telegraph and telephone extension, coupled with the necessity of maintaining existing telegraph and telephone systems in an efficient state, and converting earth-working lines to metallic on account of the hydro-electric works in progress throughout the Dominion; secondly, the Government's direction to the Department to assume control of Government motor-vehicles in the four centres; and, finally, the undertaking by the Department in the larger centres of all services in connection with the transport of mails, delivery of parcels, and clearance of letter-receiving boxes.

The number of vehicles in use on the 31st March, 1925, was 461, while sixty vehicles ordered had not been delivered by the suppliers.

Even the above fleet is insufficient for present needs, and it will be necessary during the ensuing year to add to the fleet of light trucks and lorries in order to meet the requirements of the telegraph and telephone works in progress.

RAILWAY STRIKE.

During the period of the railway strike, from the 22nd to the 29th April, 1924, and until the resumption of the normal railway service, it was necessary for the Department to make other arrangements for the transport of mails usually carried by the Railway Department. Through the very complete arrangements made by the Department little inconvenience was occasioned the public so far as the receipt and despatch of mails were concerned.

By co-operating with newspaper companies and motor-proprietors, expeditious transport of mails was arranged at a minimum cost. In many instances, however, the Department found that it was more economical to use its own motor-vehicles for this purpose. The principal services performed by the Department were: Auckland-Helensville, Auckland-Mercer, Christchurch-Dunedin, Dunedin-Milton, Greymouth-Nelson, Invercargill-Clinton, Napier-Woodville, Wellington-Napier, and Wellington-New Plymouth.

The total additional expenditure incurred by the Department for the carriage of mails until normal train services were resumed was approximately £3,200.

INTERCOLONIAL NIGHT LETTER-TELEGRAM.

The night-letter-telegram service, which was introduced between the Dominion and Australia on the 1st May, 1924, and which has proved so popular, was extended to Fiji on the 1st December.

The number of night letter-telegrams exchanged with the Commonwealth at present is approximately six thousand per annum, involving a transmission of about a million and a half words.

RADIO BROADCASTING.

With a view to establishing a first-class radio broadcasting service throughout the Dominion, provision was made in the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1924, for the Minister of Telegraphs to enter into an agreement for any period not exceeding five years with any person or company who, in consideration of certain payments, agrees to undertake and maintain a broadcasting service to the satisfaction of the Minister. Under the scheme a broadcasting licensee is required to erect a 500-watt broadcasting station in each of the four radio districts—Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington. A broadcasting station may be used only for matter of educative, informative, or entertaining character, and a service of a minimum duration of twelve hours weekly (excluding Sunday transmission) is required to be maintained by each station.

A broadcasting company is at present in the process of formation, and it is hoped that in a few months' time "listeners-in" will be enabled to enjoy programmes much in advance of anything that has hitherto been available. Until the new company materializes, arrangements have been made for the existing stations at the four centres to continue broadcasting on payment to each of these stations by the Department of a subsidy of £15 per week.

AMATEUR WIRELESS LICENSES.

In view of the operation of the broadcasting regulations from the 1st of April, 1925, it was necessary to terminate all licenses on the 31st March. From the 1st April, 1925, the annual fee for a radio receiving-station license is raised from 5s. to £1 10s. This is rendered necessary by the fact that payment has now to be made to the broadcasting companies for services rendered. Radio receiving licenses, which hitherto have been issued only from the General Post Office, Wellington, may now be obtained at any money-order office in the Dominion.

WIRELESS PRESS NEWS TO SHIPS AT SEA.

During the latter part of 1924 arrangements were made to forward daily to ships at sea a wireless message containing Press news. The service commenced on the 12th January, 1925. The message, which is prepared in the General Post Office, contains from one hundred to two hundred words of New Zealand news, and is broadcasted from Radio-Awanui on a wave-length of 2,000 metres. The service is free of all charges, and is available to all ships and coast stations within range. Information has been received that the message is accepted and posted up for public information on the majority of ships in the Pacific trading with New Zealand, and the news contained therein is much appreciated by passengers.

REDUCED CABLE RATES.

During the year a considerable reduction was made in the rate for cable messages exchanged with Canada and Europe. The ordinary rate to Great Britain and Ireland was reduced by 5d. per word. The rates to Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, and Switzerland were reduced by 6d. per word by both the Pacific and the Eastern routes, and to other places in Europe the reduction per word was 5d. via Pacific and 6d. via Eastern. The charge on full-rate messages to Canada was lowered by 3d. per word. In all cases a proportionate reduction was made on British Government and deferred messages. The concessions represent a reduction of between 16 and 18 per cent., and should have the effect of appreciably stimulating cable traffic. The rates for daily letter and week-end messages were not, however, altered in any way.

INLAND NIGHT LETTER-TELEGRAMS.

The inland night letter-telegram may be regarded as one of the most popular innovations ever introduced by my Department. It is evident that these telegrams are greatly favoured for social purposes, and that the business man also is using the system extensively. The number of night letter-telegrams forwarded last year was 215,473, which produced a revenue of £10,535; these figures represent an increase of 103 per cent. in the number of this class of telegram forwarded last year, and an increase in revenue of 99 per cent.

WORK PERFORMED FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

The various Departments of the Government Service continue to make the fullest use of the Post Office for the collection of revenue and the disbursement of sums due.

The cost of work for other Departments when performed by my Department is trifling compared with what it would be if the work at the many agencies throughout the Dominion were undertaken by the Departments chiefly responsible for it—a step unnecessary at present, as in the working of the agencies the Post Office renders efficient service, and in the performance of this work it long ago won the confidence of the public. Were the Post Office to be relieved of the work it now performs in the behalf of other Departments, it requires little imagination to appreciate what the increased cost of administration would be to the Departments concerned.

The ease with which the Post Office can handle Dominion-wide undertakings such as the registration and licensing of motor-vehicles is largely due to the flexibility of its accounting system, which is framed to admit of practically unlimited extension without the machinery becoming strained. The treatment necessary to the different classes of transactions which call for special knowledge to comply with the requirements of the various Departments is little less varied than the amounts, which range from one shilling to thousands of pounds; while the duties of a Postmaster range from the paying of a voucher to the performance of the marriage ceremony.

MONEY-ORDERS.

Money-order business for the year shows a marked increase, the money-orders issued exceeding those of last year by approximately fifty thousand in number and by £300,000 in value. On the 1st April, 1924, a substantial reduction was made in the rate of commission, but so great has been the expansion of business that the total commission earned during the year exceeds that earned during the previous year by £184.

The system of trade-charge money-orders introduced some few years ago for the purpose of providing for payment on delivery of the value of parcels despatched to or from the United Kingdom is growing in popularity. The number of orders issued on the United Kingdom for the year was 3,545, and the amount remitted £12,106 6s. 5d. When it becomes more widely known that a person in New Zealand may order goods from England and pay for them at this end on arrival the system will be used more largely.

SAVINGS-BANKS.

In the earlier part of the financial year the opportunities for safe investment of funds in securities yielding a larger rate of interest than the Post Office Savings-bank can afford to give tempted a larger number than usual of the banks' clients to transfer some of their deposits, with the result that the withdrawals exceeded the deposits. This condition of affairs, however, was only transitory. The returns for each of the first three months of 1925 disclosed an excess of deposits over withdrawals amounting in all to no less a sum than £405,577, as against £302,662 for the same period in 1924.

The fact that the Postmaster-General may now pay up to £200 to the legal representative of a deceased depositor without requiring him to take out letters of administration or prove any will which may have been left, together with the provision whereby a depositor may nominate one or more persons to receive a portion or the whole of the amount at credit of the account after his death, serves to enable the widow or other members of the family of a deceased depositor to get possession of often much-needed funds without cost and without delay.

One of the most striking facts in connection with the Post Office Savings-bank is its great popularity. The present estimated population of the Dominion is 1,324,966, and of these people no less than 735,148 are depositors in the bank. The number is 55·48 per cent., which must easily be a record for any bank in the world.

SAFE-DEPOSIT SYSTEM.

Sealed packets containing securities, insurance policies, deeds, wills, or other paper or parchment documents are accepted for custody at all money-order offices, in charge of permanent officers. The service, for which only a nominal charge is

made, is exactly suited to the host of people whose circumstances do not justify the employment of other means to safeguard their valuable papers against loss by fire or burglary. Notwithstanding the facilities provided by the Department, there is ample evidence that people still resort to all sorts of unsuitable methods of protecting their valuables. It is by no means uncommon to have submitted the charred remains of documents which have been stored in tins or cash-boxes, or again, pulped paper, the remains of documents that have been buried in a back garden for safety.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL: RELINQUISHING OF OFFICE.

My colleague, the Hon. J. G. Coates, who assumed charge of the Department on the 4th September, 1919, did not relinquish control until the 31st ultimo; consequently the report herein is a record of the transactions undertaken during his tenure of office.

DETAILS OF REVENUE, ETC.

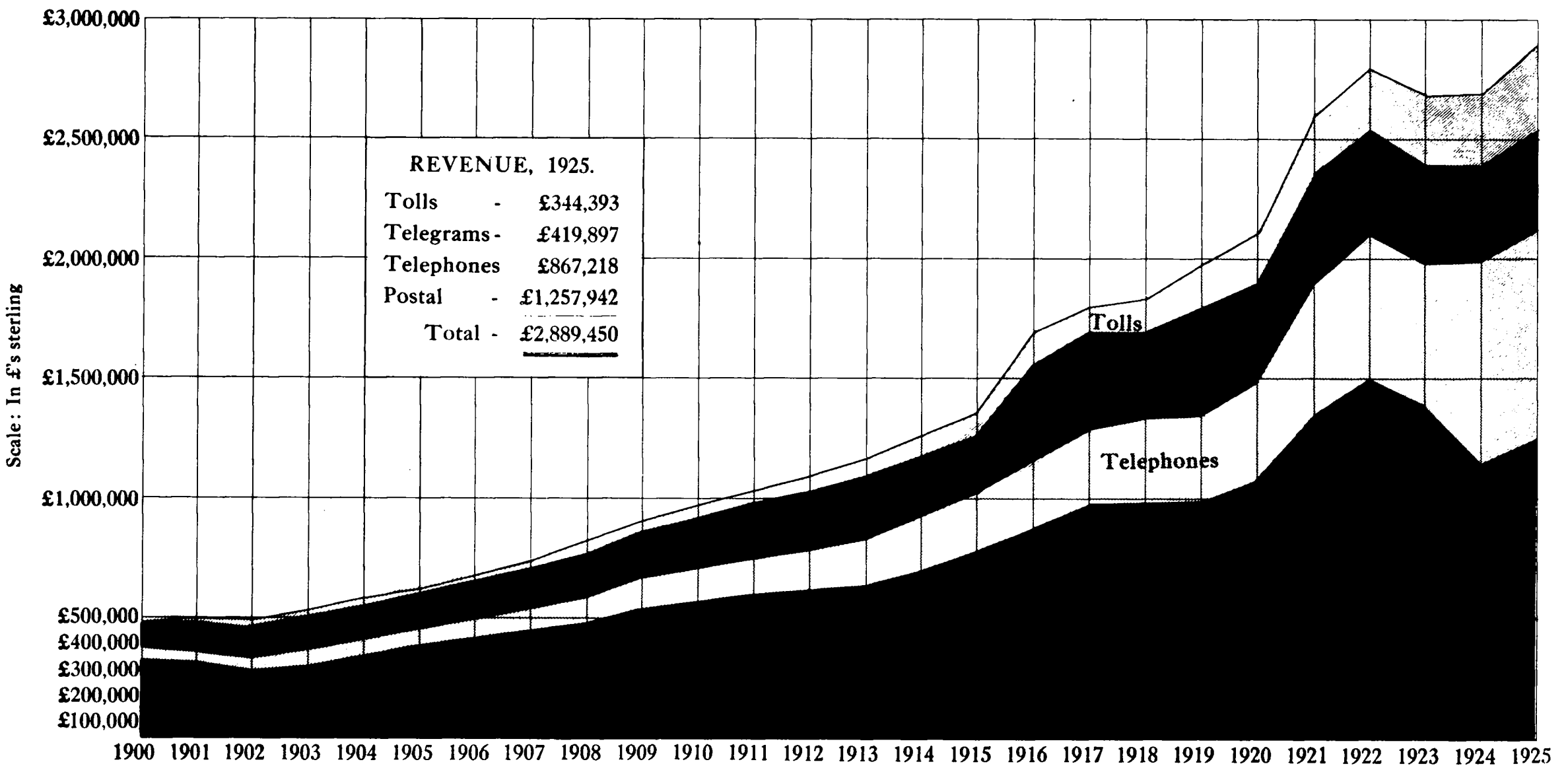
Matters of detail with reference to the financial operations and business of the Department will be found at length in the statement and tables which follow.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

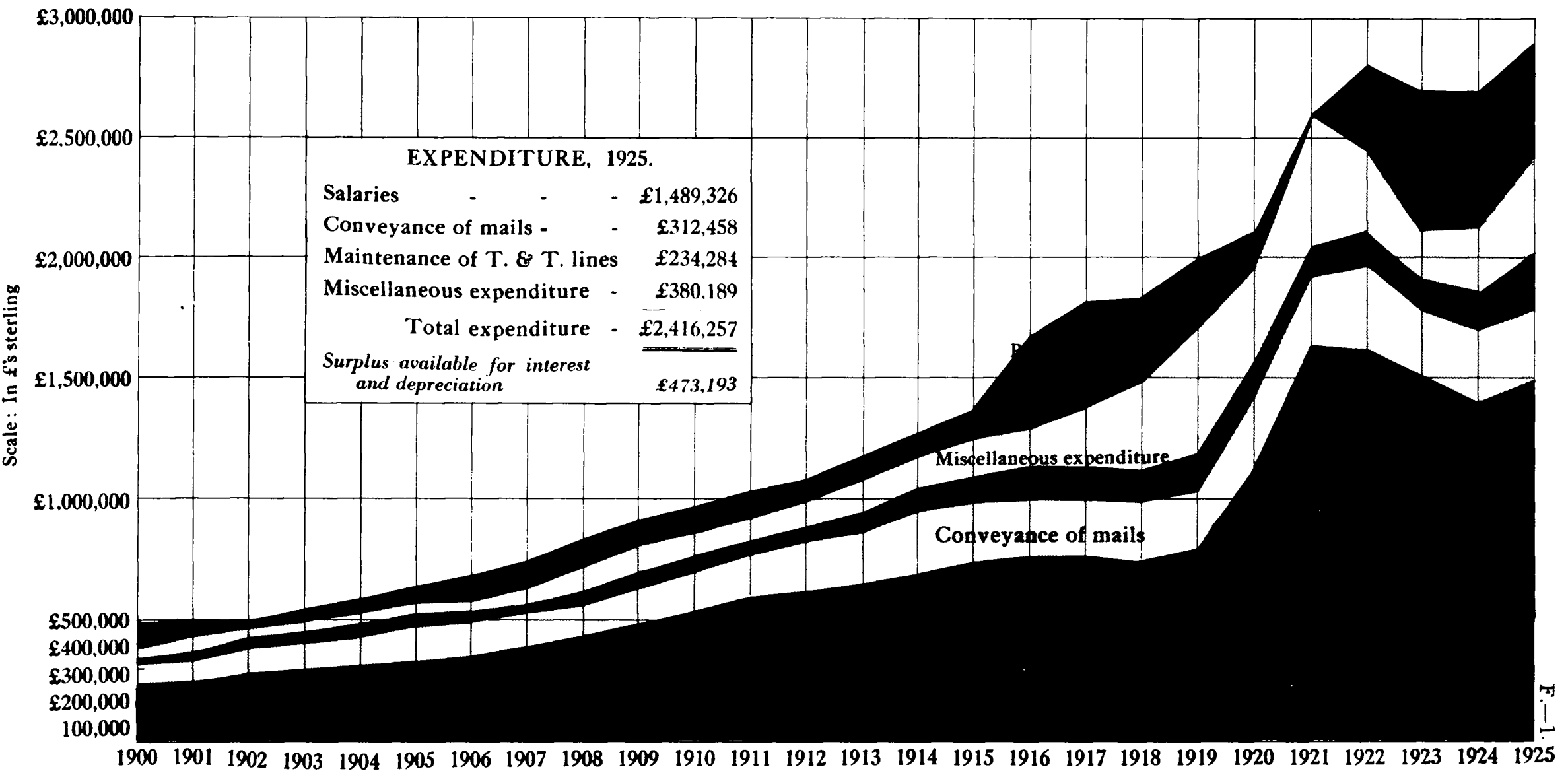
C. J. PARR,
Postmaster-General.

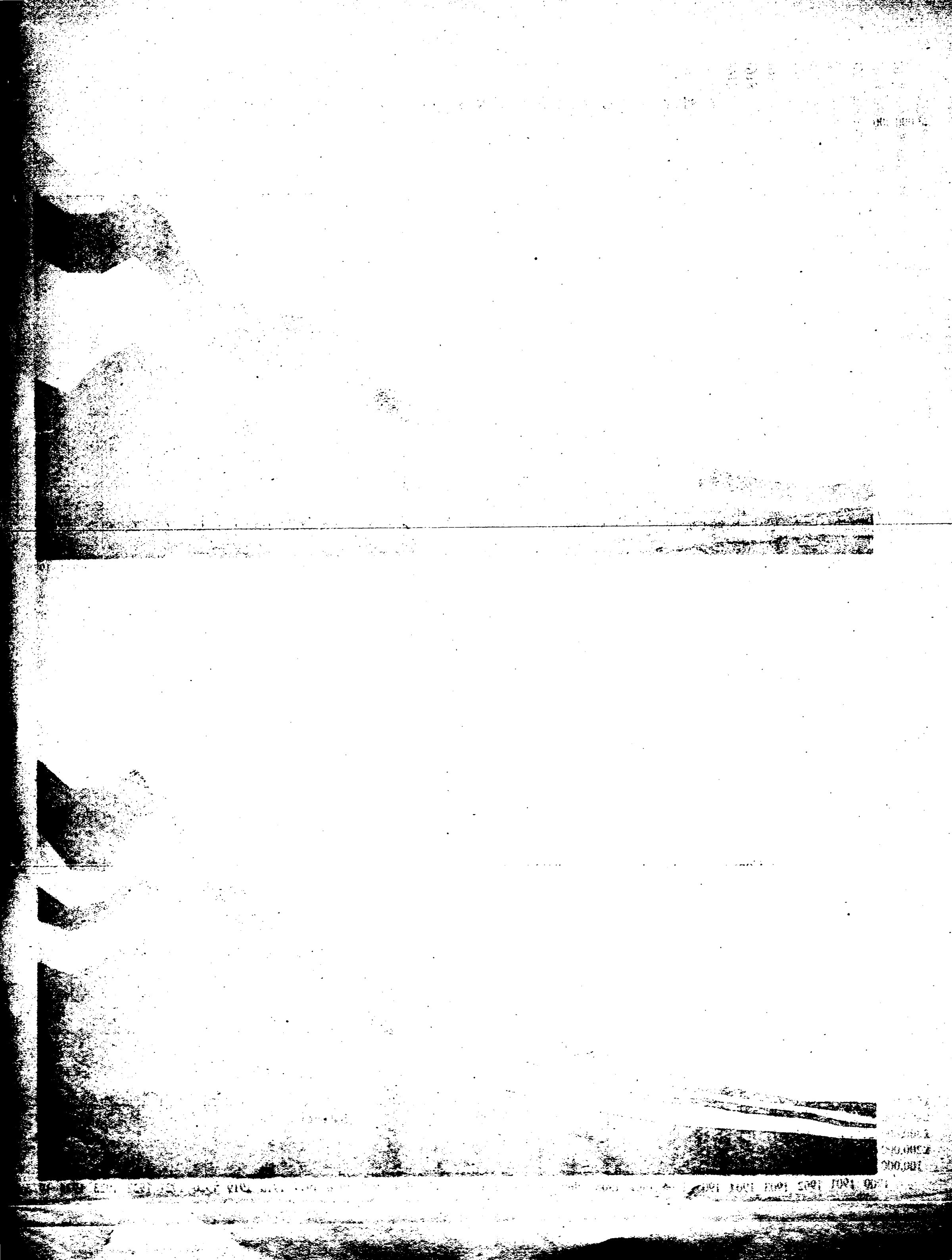
General Post Office, Wellington, 6th July, 1925.

POST AND TELEGRAPH REVENUE for Years 1900 to 1925 in Graphic Form



POST AND TELEGRAPH EXPENDITURE for Years 1900 to 1925 in Graphic Form





ANNUAL REVENUE.

Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Branches.

For twelve years ended 31st March, 1925.

F.—1.

Year ended 31st March.	150	300	450	600	750	900	1,050	1,200	1,350	1,500	1,650 thousands
Postal	1914	£ 695,136 Letter rate 1d.									
	1915	£ 698,898									
	1916	£ 858,583 From 23rd September, 1915, letter rate 1½d.									
	1917	£ 964,793									
	1918	£ 976,027									
	1919	£ 983,585									
	1920	£ 1,068,489									
	1921	£ 1,352,677 From 1st August, 1920, letter rate 2d.									
	1922	£ 1,499,304									
	1923	£ 1,378,421 From 1st Feb. 1923 rate 1½d									
	1924	£ 1,146,589 From 1st October, 1923, letter rate 1d.									
	1925	£ 1,257,942									
Telegraph	1914	£ 347,625 Telegraph rate 6d.									
	1915	£ 362,082									
	1916	£ 558,712 From 23rd September, 1915, telegraph rate 8d.									
	1917	£ 538,023									
	1918	£ 523,814									
	1919	£ 620,822									
	1920	£ 625,018									
	1921	£ 711,264 From 1st August, 1920, telegraph rate, 1s.									
	1922	£ 706,322									
	1923	£ 723,107 From 1st February, 1923, telegraph rate 9d.									
	1924	£ 711,896									
	1925	£ 764,290									
Telephone	1914	£ 232,190									
	1915	£ 303,856									
	1916	£ 287,547									
	1917	£ 317,275									
	1918	£ 344,368									
	1919	£ 373,169									
	1920	£ 419,318									
	1921	£ 533,535 Rates increased									
	1922	£ 614,367									
	1923	£ 595,967									
	1924	£ 830,470* Rates increased									
	1925	£ 867,218									

* Telephone rental received for a period of approximately fourteen months.

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[Faint, illegible text in the left column, possibly a list or index.]

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS OF THE
DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1925.**

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.

The receipts and payments of the Department for the financial year 1924-25 are shown in the following table:—

Item.	Postal.		Telegraph.		Total.	
<i>Receipts.</i>						
Postages	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Money-order and postal-note commission	988,386	15 11½	..	..	988,386	15 11½
Money-order commission received from foreign offices	50,703	18 11	..	..	50,703	18 11
Private box and bag rents and rural delivery fees	938	15 11	..	..	938	15 11
Miscellaneous receipts	49,856	4 2	..	..	49,856	4 2
Paid telegrams	168,056	1 5	15,189	4 8½	183,245	6 1½
Paid tolls .. .. .	..	..	404,707	6 0	404,707	6 0
Telephone exchange rentals and miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	344,393	4 1½	344,393	4 1½
Totals	1,257,941	16 4½	1,631,508	1 1	2,889,449	17 5½
<i>Payments.</i>						
Salaries	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Conveyance of ocean mails	602,832	0 1	886,494	1 1	1,489,326	1 2
Conveyance of inland mails	76,424	13 2	..	..	76,424	13 2
Conveyance of mails by rail	134,010	10 0	..	..	134,010	10 0
Money-order commission credited to foreign offices	102,023	3 3	..	..	102,023	3 3
Maintenance of telegraph and telephone lines	2,821	8 10	..	..	2,821	8 10
Motor services and workshops .. .. .	..	..	234,284	1 7	234,284	1 7
Miscellaneous	37,144	6 6	33,968	11 6	71,112	18 0
Balance of receipts over payments	151,273	11 2	154,980	16 6	306,254	7 8
Totals	1,106,529	13 0	1,309,727	10 8	2,416,257	3 8
	151,412	3 4½	321,780	10 5	473,192	13 9½
Totals	1,257,941	16 4½	1,631,508	1 1	2,889,449	17 5½

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEARS 1881-82, 1891-92, 1901-2, 1911-12, AND FOLLOWING YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Payments.	Balance of Receipts over Payments.	Excess of Payments over Receipts.
1881-1882	£ 234,529	£ 233,291	£ 1,238	£ ..
1891-1892	320,058	268,343	51,715	..
1901-1902	488,573	465,756	22,817	..
1911-1912	1,087,710	988,911	98,799	..
1912-1913	1,167,826	1,069,272	98,554	..
1913-1914	1,269,921	1,173,314	96,607	..
1914-1915	1,359,059	1,246,850	112,209	..
1915-1916	1,695,757	1,296,522	399,235	..
1916-1917	1,809,317	1,370,810	438,507	..
1917-1918	1,837,260	1,489,446	347,814	..
1918-1919	1,972,539	1,702,048	270,491	..
1919-1920	2,106,995	1,944,161	162,834	..
1920-1921	2,590,441	2,591,786	..	1,345
1921-1922	2,811,535	2,451,571	359,964	..
1922-1923	2,687,768	2,114,994	572,774	..
1923-1924	2,688,954	2,120,584	568,370	..
1924-1925	2,889,450	2,416,257	473,193	..

STAFF.

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT ON THE 1ST APRIL, 1924 AND 1925.

The total number of persons employed on the 1st April, 1924 and 1925, was as under :—

	1st April, 1924.	1st April, 1925.
Permanent staff—		
Administrative Division	4	4
Clerical and Engineering Divisions	3,218	3,321
General Division	4,495	4,559
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,717	7,884
Temporary staff	243	306
Casual staff	970	2,194
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	8,930	10,384
Non-permanent staff—		
Country Postmasters and Telephonists	2,074	2,031
Postmasters who are Railway officers	102	99
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	11,106	12,514

HEALTH OF PERMANENT STAFF.

The following table gives the average absence of officers on sick-leave :—

	Number on Staff.	Average Absence per Sick Officer.	Average Absence for each Officer employed.
Men	6,919	10·2	4·2
Women	961	13·8	8·2

Twenty officers died during the year.

CASUAL STAFF.

Owing to the large number of new works being undertaken by the Engineering Branch it has been found necessary to double the casual staff of workmen.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Markman returned from the Stockholm Conference on the 22nd December, and resumed his secretarial duties immediately.

A regrettable incident occurred on the 17th December last, when Mr. J. J. France, Postmaster, Eketahuna, lost his life whilst making inquiries in respect of the views of the settlers concerning the Eketahuna-Pahiatua rural delivery. The motor-car conveying the officer referred to was precipitated into a gully off the Kaitawa-Hinemoa Road, and Mr. France died as a result of the injuries which he sustained. Apart from slight injuries and shock, the other occupants of the car escaped unhurt.

APPEAL BOARD.

The Post and Telegraph Board of Appeal, under the chairmanship of E. C. Cutten, Esq., S.M., sat on three occasions during the year. 486 appeals were dealt with, of which one was allowed by the Board and four were conceded by the Department.

Only seventy-eight appeals against the reclassification of officers as from the 1st April, 1924, were lodged, not one of which was allowed.

DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE CLASSES.

The departmental correspondence classes, which are still being continued, were extended during the year so that tuition in matters pertaining to machine-printing telegraphy could be provided for officers. The first instructional term for this subject is now in session. Keen interest is being displayed in this new branch of the Department's activities.

Tuition is now provided for nine departmental examinations, and during the year 761 students were enrolled for tuition. Of the total number who were examined, 80 per cent. gained passes—a sufficient indication of the high standard of instruction.

EXAMINATIONS.

During the year 1924–25 the number of officers who sat for efficiency examinations was 2,267, of which number 1,247 were either wholly or partially successful.

“HOUSEHOLDER” CIRCULARS.

The revenue from this class of matter for the period 1st April, 1924, to 31st March, 1925, was £4,847, as against £4,845 for the preceding twelve months. A concession rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for each packet up to 2 oz. is payable when circulars to the number of 250,000 are posted by one sender at one time. It is expected that the concession will result in increased business.

POST AND TELEGRAPH AMENDMENT ACT, 1924.

The Post and Telegraph Act was amended in 1924.

It is made an offence for any person to defraud the revenue by means of improper use of telephones.

Paragraph (e), subsection (1), of section 87 of the principal Act, which provides that every person is liable to a fine not exceeding £50 who is concerned in any fraudulent act, contrivance, or device, whatsoever, for which no specific penalty is provided, with intent to defraud His Majesty of any of the rates or duties under the Act, is made to apply to the telegraph side as well as the postal side of the service.

The powers conferred upon the Governor-General by section 133 of the principal Act to make regulations are widened to include the power to make regulations regarding the inspection of telegrams by authorized persons.

Provision is made for the licensing of dealers in wireless apparatus, and for a portion of the license fees received to be applied in assistance of broadcasting agencies. Provision is made also for persons or companies authorized to maintain broadcasting service to be deemed, for the purposes of the law relating to patents, agents of the Post and Telegraph Department.

The amount at credit of a deceased depositor in the Post Office Savings-bank which the Postmaster-General may pay without requiring probate or letters of administration is increased from £100 to £200.

POSTAL UNION CONGRESS AT STOCKHOLM, 1924.

The Eighth Postal Union Congress assembled at Stockholm on the 4th July, 1924. The Stockholm Congress marked the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the Postal Union.

With the exception of Austria and five small Latin-American States, all countries of the Union were represented. The Congress was attended by 180 delegates and attaches, New Zealand being represented by the Secretary of the Department, Mr. A. T. Markman.

The Congress, which was held in the Parliament Buildings, Stockholm, was formally opened by Their Majesties the King and Queen of Sweden.

The deliberations of the Congress extended over nearly two months, the final sitting, at which the authorized conventions and arrangements were signed by the delegates of the Union countries, being held on the 28th August. Notwithstanding the fact that only four years had elapsed since the Madrid Congress, the agenda paper was a very lengthy one. During the period that Congress sat there were held twenty-five sittings of the First Committee (Principal Convention), thirteen sittings of the Second Committee (Postal Parcels and Insured Articles), seven sittings of the Third Committee (Money-orders, Collection Orders, Newspaper Subscriptions, and Postal Cheque System), and ten sittings of the Fourth Committee (Committee for the Revision and Preparation of Texts adopted by other Committees). In addition, two sub-committees dealt respectively with the cash-on-delivery system and with the standardization of forms, and revision of the regulations so far as they concerned the make-up and exchange of mails.

Attempts had been made at each Congress to deprive the British Dominions of the right to vote individually, or to restrict their voting-power. It was claimed in some quarters that the Dominions voted always with Great Britain, and that to accord them the right to vote would simply increase the voting-power of Great Britain. For many years the right of Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, and South Africa to vote was given by a special clause in the Convention, but this clause was always subject to attack. The Dominions considered that they, as Sovereign States, parties to the Convention and absolutely independent Postal Administrations, were entitled in this connection to be placed beyond attack. A proposal to treat British India and the Dominions of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa as metropolitan countries as regards their status in the Union was carried without objection. Congress also granted without opposition a separate vote to the Irish Free State; but the request of the Soviet's delegates that the Union of Soviet Republics be granted four votes instead of one vote was rejected.

The Madrid (1920) Congress decided that the basis of the settlement of transit accounts would be theoretical gold francs. The Stockholm Congress defined the gold franc as weighing $\frac{1}{31}$ of a gramme of gold with a fineness of .9.

Certain countries desired to see postage-rates reduced while others pressed for an increase. It was eventually decided to adopt as a minimum a reduction of 20 per cent. on the rates which existed under the Rome (1906) Convention, and as a maximum an increase of 60 per cent. on those rates. The rates agreed upon at Rome were: Letters, 25 centimes (2½d.) for the first 20 grammes or 1 oz., 15 centimes (1½d.) for each succeeding 20 grammes or 1 oz.; post-cards, 15 centimes (1½d.); printed papers, commercial papers, and samples, 5 centimes (½d.) per 50 grammes (2 oz.), with a minimum of 25 centimes (2½d.) for commercial papers and 10 centimes (1d.) for samples.

The minimum surcharge to be collected on unpaid and insufficiently prepaid correspondence was reduced from 30 centimes (3d.) to 10 centimes (1d.). The maximum registration fee and the fee for an advice of delivery of a registered article were fixed at 40 centimes (4d.); but countries which are unable to fix the registration fee as low as 40 centimes (4d.) are permitted to adopt a fee not exceeding 50 centimes (5d.).

It is now laid down that a letter must not contain any indication, note, or document addressed to a person other than the addressee of the letter.

In the international service, letters and post-cards unpaid or insufficiently prepaid will, as heretofore, be accepted, but the postage on reply post-cards, printed papers, commercial papers, samples, and literature for the blind must be fully prepaid.

The maximum size of post-cards and the maximum length of samples were increased.

It was decided to admit letters containing dutiable articles subject to the country of destination agreeing to admit letters containing such articles. In order to facilitate handling through the Customs, the letters must bear a special green label. Provision was also made for the country of destination to charge on letters containing dutiable articles a Customs clearance fee not exceeding 50 centimes (5d.).

Under the Madrid Convention the use in the international service of panel envelopes—*i.e.*, envelopes with transparent panels through which the name and address of the addressee can be read was prohibited unless the panels formed an integral part of the envelope. In so far as unregistered correspondence is concerned, this provision has been relaxed to permit of the use in the international service of a “two-piece” panel envelope.

It is now forbidden to forward by post samples forwarded in numbers with a view to avoidance of Customs duty, money, bank-notes, jewellery or precious stones, sent in unregistered packets, and any articles used in wrapping which is likely to injure postal officers.

In order to conform with the revised postage-rate the minimum selling-price of the Reply Coupon has been reduced from 50 gold centimes to 40 gold centimes. The accounting in connection with reply coupons has been simplified. Congress rejected a proposal to substitute in place of the Reply Coupon a Reply stamp.

Many Administrations make a practice of charging “late fee” on correspondence posted after the usual hour of collection. The right so to do was recognized by Congress.

A proposal to introduce into the letter-post a new class of postal packet called “small packets,” intended to contain small quantities of merchandise and to be transmissible at a reduced rate, was strongly opposed by the delegates of the British Post Office. It was ultimately decided not to admit the new class of packet, but to permit of the inclusion of dutiable articles in packets prepaid at the letter rate provided the country of destination agrees to admit packets containing such articles.

It is forbidden to affix to the address side of correspondence non-postal stamps, charity stamps, &c., liable to be mistaken for postage-stamps, and impressions of stamps liable to be confused with impressions of franking-machines.

The regulations regarding the method of packing of samples, and the regulations regarding manuscript additions to printed papers and commercial papers, were subject to minor modifications. It is now permissible to add in manuscript to illustrated cards, good wishes, congratulations, thanks, condolences, and other formulæ of courtesies expressed in five words at most or by means of five conventional initials.

Letters intended for registration must not bear any indication of having been opened and reclosed before posting.

Administrations are now required to make provision for punishing individuals found guilty of counterfeiting international reply coupons and identity cards, or for the fraudulent use of such.

The Congress authorizes countries to stop correspondence originating in its own territory from being sent abroad to be posted in a foreign country.

The Madrid Congress decided to dispense with the date-stamping of correspondence on receipt at the office of destination. The office of destination must now date-stamp, on the front, redirected letters and redirected and undelivered post-cards, and on the back, undelivered letters.

The question of transit rates (*i.e.*, charges made by one country for conveying over its territory mail-matter from a second country for a third country) has always been one of the most contentious and difficult matters requiring the attention of Congress. At Stockholm, representatives of countries that deal with only limited quantities of transit mail-matter made very strenuous efforts to secure the abolition of transit charges. The adoption of such a proposal would have been unfair to many countries. After a long discussion reduced rates were agreed to.

The statistics for calculating the payment due for the transit of correspondence are to be taken every five years instead of every three years. The result of the statistics taken in October–November of 1924 will be applied to the years 1924–28 inclusive, and the statistics of May, 1929, to the years 1929–33 inclusive. Provision is made for the transit rates payable under the Madrid Convention being applied up to 1st October, 1925, the date on which the Stockholm Convention comes into operation.

The Madrid Convention provided for a charge of 50 centimes (5d.) per bag for the warehousing of mails belonging to another Administration. This charge has been applied to mails transferred from one mail-ship to another where the country concerned does not receive a land or sea transit rate for the mails.

The failure on the part of an Administration to return empty mail-bags to the country of origin will in future render the Administration concerned responsible for the value of the bags not returned.

Congress decided that, as far as possible, the various forms used in the international postal service were to be of a given uniform size and shape. One of the principal forms concerned was the letter-bill. This form was specially modelled, and now shows in a convenient manner the various details concerning the mail to which it relates.

In future documents relating to the international postal service are to be retained for a minimum period of two years before being destroyed.

At the present time the insured-letter service is restricted to letters containing bank-notes, coupons, unobliterated postage-stamps, securities, and other documents of the kind. From the 1st October documents of value such as deeds, plans, contracts, autographs, rare manuscripts, &c., may also be sent by insured-letter post with the proviso that where documents have a value by reason of the cost of their preparation the insured value may not exceed the cost of replacing them in case of loss. Accounting in connection with insured-letter post has been suspended since 1915. It was decided at Stockholm to abolish accounting for insured letters. Congress also decided to adopt a flat scale of insurance fees. The insurance fee was fixed at 50 centimes (5d.) for every 300 francs (£12) of insured

value, in addition to the fixed registration fee. Redirection charges on insured letters redirected from one country to another have been abolished. This was made possible as a result of the decision to abolish accounting for insured letters.

Congress dealt with many other matters, but the foregoing may be regarded as the principal results. The changes instituted by the Congress come into force on the 1st October, 1925.

Arrangements for the holding of the Congress were admirably carried out. The Swedish House of Parliament at Stockholm was at the entire disposal of the delegates, who were hospitably treated by the Government and the people as a whole. Before Congress disbanded a special committee composed of representatives of several Administrations was set up to study ways and means of shortening the sittings of future Congresses. The next Congress will meet in London in 1929.

MOTOR REGISTRATION.

Under the Motor-vehicles Act, 1924, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1925, the work of registering and of licensing motor-vehicles, and supplying registration-plates, is entrusted to the Post and Telegraph Department. The scheme has involved the Department in a considerable amount of additional work. This was especially heavy in the months of January and February. Throughout the year the work requires the full time of several officers in the General Post Office and chief post-offices, and the part time of many officers at sub-offices. The amount of work involved will more readily be appreciated when it is pointed out that up to the end of March approximately 100,000 motor-vehicles of all descriptions had been registered and licensed. In addition, many notifications of change of ownership, notifications of change in situation of garage, and applications for dealers' registration-plates had been dealt with.

The Department has catered well for motorists in the direction of affording them every reasonable facility for registering their vehicles without undue delay or inconvenience. Most permanent Postmasters have been appointed Deputy Registrars of Motor-vehicles, and are thus enabled to accept applications for and issue registration certificates, licenses, and registration-plates. In addition, each Postmaster who has not been appointed a Deputy Registrar, but is in charge of a money-order office, and each Postmistress in charge of a money-order office, has been authorized to accept applications for registration and license, and to collect the prescribed fees. The applications accepted by such officers are dealt with by the nearest Deputy Registrar, who forwards the required documents and registration-plates to the Postmaster or Postmistress concerned for delivery to the vehicle-owner. Motor-vehicles may be registered and licensed at almost every village in the Dominion. It can safely be said that no other Department of State could have made such complete arrangements.

The system of operation drawn up by the Department has worked smoothly from the commencement. In view of the fact that the Register of Motor-vehicles is the first of its kind in the Dominion, the successful and smooth working of the system is a matter for satisfaction.

For its work in connection with motor registration the Department receives in respect of each annual license issued the sum of 1s. 6d. This sum is deducted from the amount of the license fee.

Fuller information regarding motor-registration is given in the annual report to Parliament of the Hon. the Minister of Internal Affairs.

CINEMATOGRAPH-FILMS.

Owing to their highly inflammable nature, cinematograph-films have long been looked upon as dangerous goods for carriage by post. In England and other countries cinematograph-films are accepted for transmission by post only under very stringent conditions as to packing. It was felt that the New Zealand Post Office regulations regarding the transmission of cinematograph-films required to be altered considerably to provide adequate safeguards. As the result of a conference between officers of the Railway and Post and Telegraph Departments, which was also attended by the Chief Inspector of Explosives and representatives of film houses, it was decided to accept films for transmission by post within the Dominion only when the films are packed in special fireproof containers. The same class of container is used irrespective of whether the films are forwarded by post or by rail. Whether it is intended that a container should be forwarded by post or by rail is indicated by a coloured label attached to the container. As the container, in effect, takes the place of a Post Office parcel receptacle, when forwarded by post it is carried free of charge, postage being charged only on the weight of the films enclosed.

The new system came into operation on the 1st November, and it is satisfactory to be able to report, after four months' working, that no complaints concerning it have been received.

As regards films posted in the Dominion for transmission to places beyond the Dominion, it is sufficient if such films are enclosed in tin boxes, which must in turn be enclosed in strong outer wooden boxes, or wrapped in a stout material which is not a good conductor of heat.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS: POSTAGE-RATES.

There are for Government publications and books for lightkeepers posted in bulk special postage-rates, known as "bulk rates," which vary from 2d. to 3d. per pound of separate packages weighed together. The system was introduced in 1907 to meet the convenience of a Government Department which desired to post under the system packets each weighing 2 lb. With the growth of the system, publications of very light weight, as well as those weighing 2 lb. or more, were posted at bulk rates.

With the posting at bulk rates of packages of light weight the Post Office lost a considerable amount of revenue. For instance, sixty-four separately addressed packages, each weighing $\frac{1}{4}$ oz., if posted at the bulk rate of 3d. per pound brought in by way of postage only 3d., while the same sixty-four packages if posted singly at ordinary printed-paper rates brought in by way of postage 2s. 8d.

In order to reduce the loss of revenue it was decided during the year to limit the application of bulk rates to separately addressed packages weighing not less than 4 oz. While this restriction does not entirely eliminate loss to the Post Office, it goes a long way towards that desirable end. With a minimum weight of 4 oz., four packages each weighing 4 oz., if posted at the bulk rate of 3d. per pound, yield in postage 3d. The same four packages if posted singly at printed-paper rates yield in postage only 4d. It will be seen, therefore, that bulk rates still offer to senders a postage concession. The concession amounts to approximately a 25-per-cent. reduction on ordinary postage-rates.

EXPLOSION AT MOTUEKA.

In July an explosion occurred at the Motueka Post-office, in a small detached building used as an engine-shed; and, unfortunately, it resulted in the death of an exchange clerk through burns and shock. It is believed, although there is no evidence to support the theory, that fumes given off from benzine stored in the shed exploded through coming in contact with a naked light carried by the deceased on his visiting the shed for the purpose of filling a kerosene-lamp. The Coroner's finding was that no blame could be attributed to any one.

GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE AGENCIES.

Owing to the growth of Post and Telegraph work at certain offices it was found that the work entailed by Government Insurance business seriously interfered with the legitimate duties of the controlling officers, and the Government Insurance Department was requested to make other arrangements for the conduct of its business. After some delay satisfactory arrangements were completed. The offices relieved of Government insurance work are Blenheim, Oamaru, Thames, Westport, Palmerston North, Hastings, Dannevirke, Hawera, Whangarei, Ashburton, and Gore.

TRANSFER OF OFFICES.

On the 1st July, 1924, the Opotiki office and a number of small offices in the vicinity were transferred from the Thames Postal District to the Gisborne Postal District. On the same date four offices on the Coromandel Peninsula were transferred from the Auckland Postal District to the Thames Postal District. In each case the change was made with a view to meeting better the requirements of the district.

CUSTODY OF DUPLICATE KEY OF SAFE OR STRONG-ROOM.

The safe-deposit system was extended during the year to allow of Government Departments depositing with the Post Office for safe custody packets containing duplicate keys of safes or strong-rooms.

OVERSEAS MAILS.

Correspondence for Great Britain, Ireland, and the Continent of Europe continues to be forwarded by contract steamers via Vancouver and via San Francisco, except when a vessel sailing via Panama offers a quicker despatch than the next contract steamer, or when correspondence is specially addressed for despatch by a particular vessel or route. Mails from Great Britain and Ireland are still received via Vancouver, via San Francisco, via Panama, and via Suez.

During 1924 the average time occupied in transit of mails from New Zealand to London was in the case of despatches via Vancouver thirty-one days, and in the case of despatches via San Francisco, thirty days. From London to New Zealand the average time occupied in transmission by both routes was thirty-three days. Since the 1st April, 1924, the date of the coming into operation of the new contracts, the average time occupied on the inward voyage by both routes has been reduced to thirty-two days.

Early in 1924 alternative tenders were called in New Zealand and abroad for services between Auckland and Vancouver, Wellington and San Francisco, and Wellington and London, via Panama, and, although wide publicity of the Department's requirements was given through the Press, no tender was received. Negotiations were thereupon entered into with the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand (Limited)—the former contractors—for the carriage of mails between Auckland and Vancouver and between Wellington and San Francisco. Contracts were subsequently arranged for a period of five years from the 1st April, 1924, the subsidies payable being the same as under the former contracts—*i.e.*, £20,000 per annum for the Vancouver service, and £25,000 per annum for the San Francisco service. Included in the contract, however, is a proviso that the contractors may, at any time after the completion of the second year of the contract, give the Postmaster-General in writing one year's notice of the intention of the contractors to terminate the contract. Fairly satisfactory terms were also made regarding freight charges. The contracts for both the Vancouver and San Francisco services provide for despatches at four-weekly intervals from Auckland and Wellington respectively, and the time-tables are so arranged that the two services alternate, giving a regular fortnightly service to and from America.

The contract time of the voyages between Auckland and Vancouver and *vice versa*, and between Wellington and San Francisco and *vice versa*, is eighteen days, which is a speeding-up on the old contract time of one day in respect of the Vancouver service and of three days in respect of the San Francisco service.

In the early part of the year 1925 the Union Steamship Company added to its fleet the "Aorangi." This vessel, which is a motor-ship, and has a speed of 18 knots, was brought into commission on the 6th February, 1925, on which date she left Vancouver for Auckland. The "Aorangi" is a vessel of 18,000 tons, and has accommodation for nine hundred passengers. The vessel generally, including the accommodation, is much in advance of anything previously provided for the service. The vessel was placed on the Vancouver service, taking the place of the R.M.S. "Makura," which

vessel replaced the R.M.S. "Maunganui" on the San Francisco service. A satisfactory service was maintained over both the Vancouver and San Francisco routes during the year. The R.M.S. "Niagara" and the R.M.M.S. "Aorangi" are now employed on the Vancouver service, and the R.M.S. "Tahiti" and R.M.S. "Makura" on the San Francisco service.

On occasions when the time for transferring mails between the Pacific and Atlantic coasts was limited there was a danger of the mails from New Zealand missing connection with the fast Atlantic liners sailing from New York on Wednesdays. The Secretary, on his way to the Postal Union Congress at Stockholm, investigated the method of handling New Zealand mails in transit through the United States of America. As a result, this Administration's mails are enabled to make the connection at New York, notwithstanding that the time available is so short. This Dominion is indebted to the United States postal and railway officials for their valued co-operation.

INTERCOLONIAL MAIL-SERVICES.

The mail-service between New Zealand and Australia and *vice versa* was well maintained during the year.

INLAND MAIL-SERVICES.

As a result of torrential rain on the 3rd and 4th April, 1924, a heavy flood occurred in the North Auckland district, between Helensville and Paparoa, disorganizing communication by rail and road. It became necessary to hire a launch to convey between Helensville and Port Albert and Batley mails for a number of offices inland. The northern Taranaki district also suffered similarly, the Waitara-Awakino and Stratford-Tahora routes being completely blocked for some days. The Main Trunk express, which ran into a landslide near Te Kuiti, narrowly escaped disaster.

On the 19th May, 1924, the river-boat "Wai-iti," which was conveying mails on the Wanganui River, was wrecked about two miles from Taumarunui through the breaking-down of the steering-gear. A small quantity of mail-matter was lost.

On the 12th May, 1924, the s.s. "Ngahere" was wrecked at the entrance to Greymouth Harbour. One bag of mail, Hokitika for Wellington, was lost.

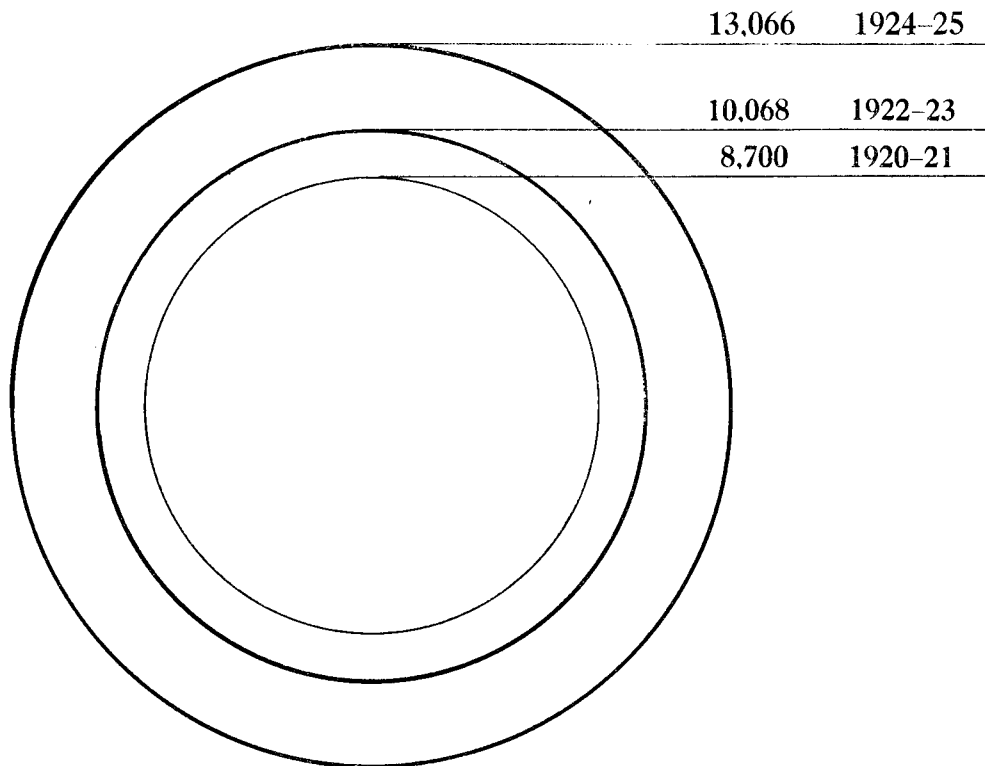
On the 26th May, 1924, mails from Port Levy to Lyttelton were lost by the capsizing of the launch "Toitoti" at the Lyttelton Heads.

In May, 1924, owing to heavy rain, the Takaka township became flooded, and mail-services in the Takaka and Collingwood districts suffered interruption. Similarly, in the same month, serious floods between Te Aroha, Waihi, and Thames disorganized railway and road communication. Low-lying areas were inundated, and difficulty was experienced in transporting mails.

Towards the end of May, 1924, a heavy storm on the east coast of the North Island, which lasted nearly a week, prevented all mail communication with offices north of Tokomaru Bay.

RURAL-MAILS.

There are now 13,066 rural boxes in use, an increase of 2,454 over the number in use last year. The number of rural routes in operation at present is 273, as against 235 last year.



THE EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE.—EXTENSION OF RURAL-DELIVERY SERVICE.

STORES BRANCH.

The following figures indicate the values of supplies purchased, issued, and remaining in stock for the year ended 31st March, 1925, while those for the previous year are shown for the purposes of comparison :—

	1924-25.	1923-24.
	£	£
Balance, 1st April	289,758	330,577
Purchases	1,018,107	912,923
Issues	1,064,275	953,742
Balance, 31st March	243,590	289,758

The number and value of indents placed for materials and particulars of shipments received during the year, together with the preceding year's figures, are as follow :—

	1924-25.	1923-24.
Number of indents	482	611
Value	£627,345	£686,765
Average value of indent	£1,301 10s.	£1,124
Shipments received	2,266	1,766
Packages received	266,212	182,060
Average number of packages per shipment	117	103

During the year greater purchases than heretofore have been made of New-Zealand-manufactured materials; lead seals and twine are two items, principal supplies of which in previous years had almost entirely been imported.

A system of distribution of lead seals, twine, paper, and rural-mail boxes direct from the manufacturers' works to the principal offices throughout the Dominion, has been inaugurated, thus eliminating the double handling and freight charges which would be incurred by consigning the materials to the Department's main stores in Wellington.

The rapid extension of the use of motor transport by Government Departments is indicated by the purchase of 245 motor-vehicles of various kinds, against 161 for the previous year.

All motor-vehicles for Government use are purchased through the Stores Branch, which, in conjunction with the Stores Control Board, also arranges contracts for motor-lubricants and petrol. The contracts arranged effect considerable savings by fixing prices throughout the Dominion for oils and spirit of standard quality.

A contract for the supply of 2,500 30 in. by 3½ in. tires and 1,200 tubes to match has recently been arranged, under which all Government Departments requiring supplies may purchase them at an estimated saving of 25 per cent. on the former method of buying. Approximately 60 per cent. of the tires and tubes used by Government Departments are of the size stated.

Auction sales of second-hand motor-vehicles and miscellaneous material are held periodically at the four centres. At these sales vehicles belonging to other Departments as well as to this Department are offered for sale.

The position in regard to supplies of hardwood poles has improved considerably, increased quantities having been received from Australia. The policy of using New Zealand silver-pine poles in certain districts has also assisted in making the position easier.

During the year the arrangement by which supplies of material from oversea sources are delivered direct to the port nearest the place at which such material is required was considerably extended. The system is found to be advantageous and economical.

Advantage has been taken of the facilities possessed by the High Commissioner for obtaining special rates of freight on goods shipped from the United Kingdom. Where circumstances permit, contracts are arranged f.o.b. United Kingdom port instead of c.i.f. & e. New Zealand ports.

AUDIT OF ENGINEERS' STOCK.

Early in the year arrangements were completed by which the Chief Inspector was made responsible for the auditing of the large amount of material held at various points for use by officers of the Engineering Division, and two additional officers were placed on the Chief Inspector's staff for this purpose. That the appointments were desirable is evidenced by the increased efficiency that has been disclosed on the occasion of a second visit by these officers to some of the places at which stock is held.

WORKSHOPS.

The volume of work performed by this branch is steadily growing, as is indicated by the following figures :—

	1924-25.	1923-24.
Value of work performed for Post and Telegraph Department	£49,404	£41,741
Value of work performed for other Government Departments	£4,245	£4,027
Totals	<u>£53,649</u>	<u>£45,768</u>

During the year a large number of motor-truck bodies has been manufactured for the Post and Telegraph service and for other Government Departments. The maintenance of the fleet of Government motor-vehicles has also been satisfactorily carried out.

The repair of telegraph and telephone instruments has been continued, whilst the manufacture of new apparatus has been considerably extended during the year, the principal new manufactures being telegraph machine-printing apparatus and automatic slot telephones. Considerable quantities of telegraph arms and arm-combiners have also been produced.

The organization of the branch has been extended to include a staff of basketmakers for the manufacture and repair of parcel-post receptacles. One of the basket-makers is a returned soldier who is blind.

MOTOR-VEHICLES.

At the 31st March, 1925, the following vehicles were in use: Motor-cars, 100; motor-cycles, 136; motor-lorries, vans, &c., 225: total, 461.

The Department has adopted the policy of replacing vehicles as soon as their economical life is finished. The old vehicles are disposed of by auction sale.

Bodies for new vehicles (except motor-cars) are mostly built in the departmental workshops at Wellington. As a general rule, a body lasts the lifetime of two chassis.

The additions to the fleet during the year were arranged principally by calling for tenders, this policy being adopted with very satisfactory results in buying cars, 10 cwt. chassis for parcel and clearance vans and "utility" trucks, ton-truck chassis, and heavy-truck chassis.

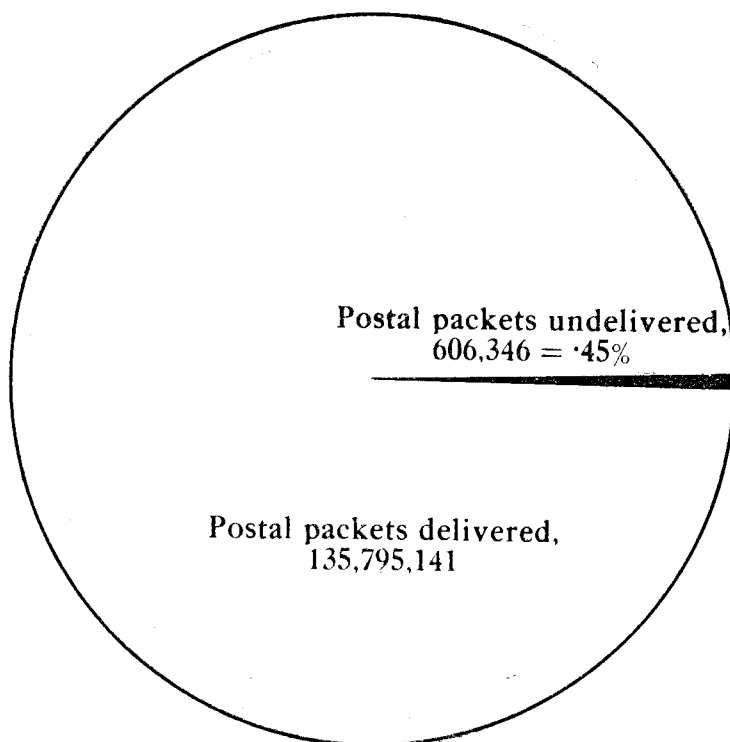
Wherever possible the Department does its own repairs. At Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington, Napier, Palmerston North, and Wanganui all kinds of repairs are undertaken. At Hamilton, Invercargill, Blenheim, Gisborne, Masterton, and Nelson repairs of a general nature are undertaken, while at most other stations at which vehicles are stationed running repairs are effected by the chauffeurs. Repairs to vehicles owned by other Government Departments also are undertaken.

Accurate records are kept in a form which readily facilitates the checking of petrol and oil consumption, number of tires used, cost of repairs, cost per mile, &c., and the preparation of statistics in connection with any or all of the vehicles in use.

MISSING POSTAL PACKETS.

During 1924 the Department investigated 5,156 inquiries for postal packets alleged to have been posted and not delivered. In 3,325 cases, or considerably more than half the total number, the investigations made by the Post Office resulted in the missing articles being traced or accounted for. These cases may be summarized as follows: Sender responsible for delay, 1,038; addressee responsible for delay, 1,042; Post Office responsible for delay, 424; no delay, or responsibility not fixed, 821; leaving the disposal of 1,831 postal packets undetermined. On comparing this number with the total number of articles handled, the losses are found to work out at .00001 per cent. The losses include packets inadvertently mislaid before posting or lost after delivery, and packets misappropriated both inside and outside the service.

POSTAL PACKETS, 1924.—RATIO OF UNDELIVERABLE TO DELIVERED.



The neglect by members of the public to register packets containing readily negotiable articles is a problem which exists in every postal administration in the world. The problem has become so acute that in some countries legislation has been passed making it a criminal offence to post in unregistered covers articles of value. While it should be made clear that at no time has the question of providing similar legislation been considered in the Dominion, the desirability of greater use being made of the registration facilities provided by the Department cannot be stressed too strongly. In the event of an unregistered packet containing valuable articles being reported missing, suspicion inevitably falls upon each person through whose hands the packet would pass, commencing with the person by whom it would be posted and ending with the person to whom it would be delivered. In the event of a registered packet being reported missing—a very rare occurrence—the Department's system permits of the point of loss being determined definitely. In addition, some further degree of security is offered by this system inasmuch as compensation is paid by the Post Office for any registered packet lost in the post. That the people of the Dominion are not making full use of the registration system is evidenced by the number of unregistered packets containing value reported missing each year, and also by the number of packets handled in the Dead Letter Office which, when opened, are found to contain bank-notes and other readily negotiable value.

POST OFFICE.

ARTICLES DELIVERED.

The number of articles delivered in the Dominion, including those received from places beyond New Zealand, during the year 1924, compared with the number in 1923, was as under:—

	1924.	1923.	Increase Per. Cent.
Letters	135,795,141	129,463,663	4·89
Post-cards	3,909,557	3,653,179	7·02
Parcels	3,644,506	3,544,650	2·82
All other articles	71,362,283	59,201,429	20·54
	<u>214,711,487</u>	<u>195,862,921</u>	

AVERAGE NUMBER OF LETTERS POSTED PER UNIT OF POPULATION.

1924, 103·7. 1923, 96·2.

NUMBER OF POST-OFFICES IN DOMINION.

Offices opened during year, 16; offices closed during year, 75; offices remaining open on 31st December, 1924, 2,071.

UNDELIVERABLE POSTAL PACKETS.

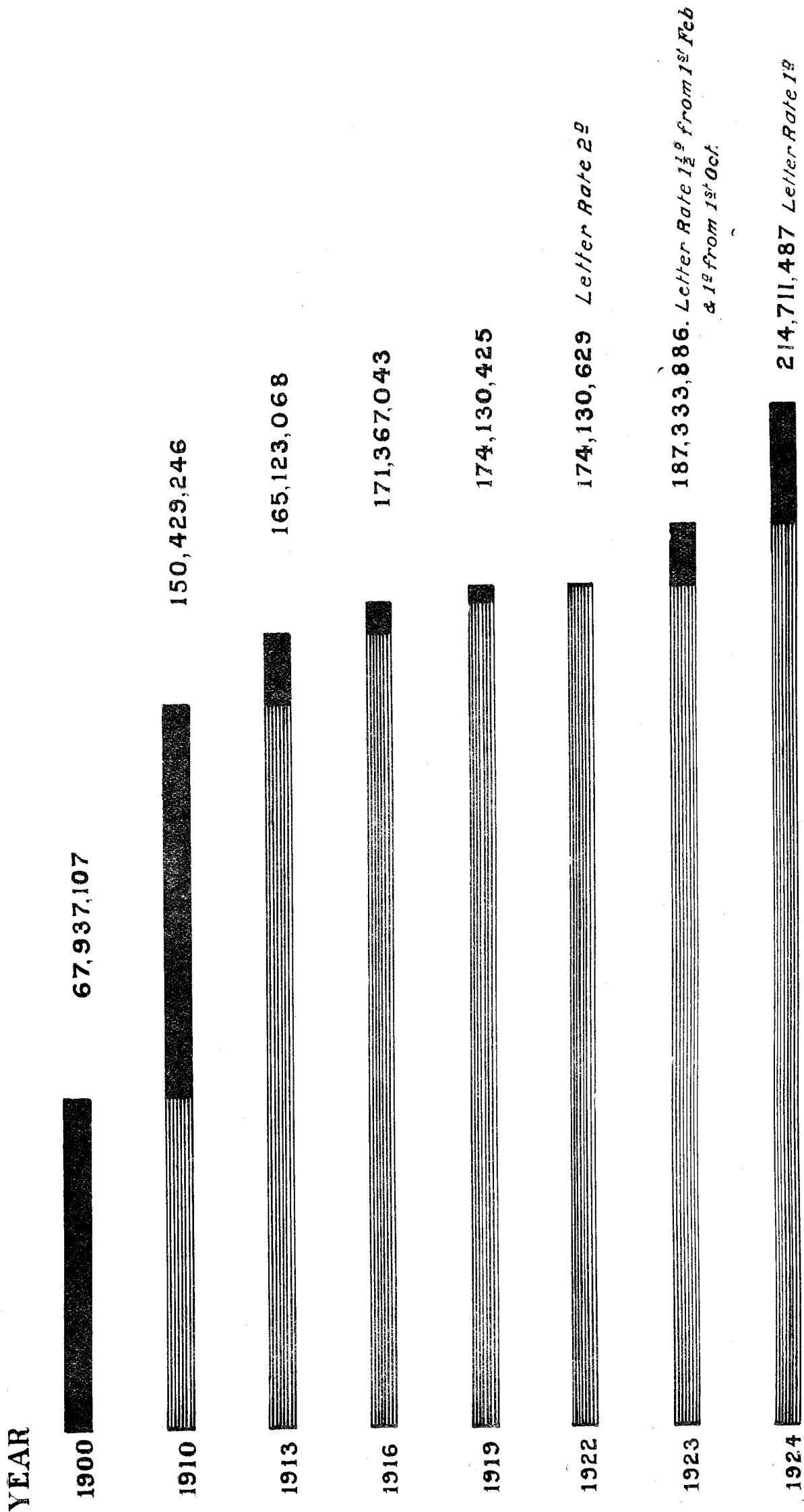
The following is a comparison of letters and other articles dealt with as undeliverable during the year, compared with those dealt with during 1923:—

Year.	Returned direct to Senders through Chief Offices.	Returned direct to Senders through Dead Letter Office.	Returned to other Administrations through Chief Offices.	Returned to other Administrations through Dead Letter Office.	Destroyed (Senders unknown and Contents of no Value).	Total.
<i>Letters.</i>						
1924 ..	235,015	272,653	44,854	35,564	14,688	602,774
1923 ..	239,807	225,439	50,184	36,857	16,810	569,097
<i>Other Articles.</i>						
1924 ..	130,363	6,013	72,926	19,481	..	228,783
1923 ..	127,907	4,193	40,653	19,725	..	192,478

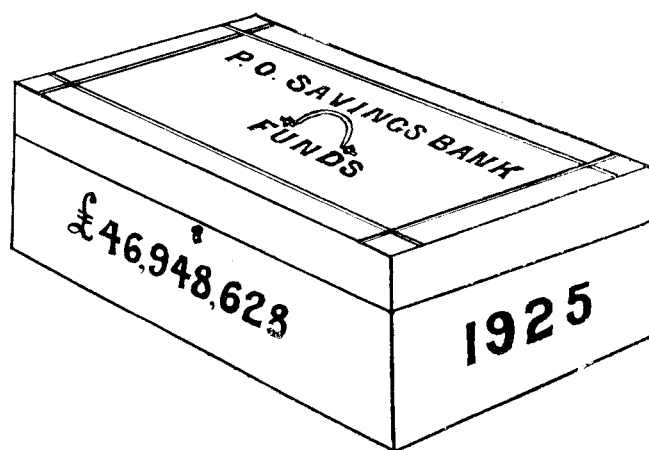
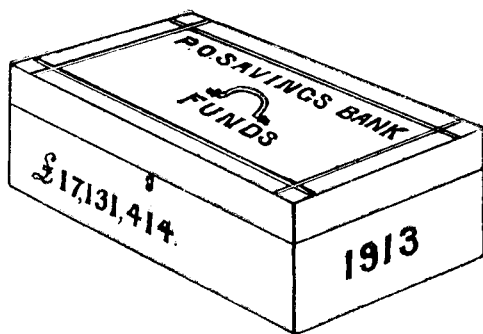
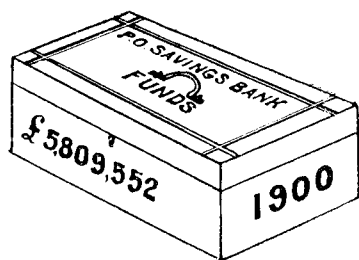
The proportion of undeliverable letters to the total number of letters delivered was 0·45 per cent., as against 0·43 per cent. in 1923.

MISCELLANEOUS.

	1924.	1923.
Letters and letter-cards posted without addresses	17,352	16,173
Letters imperfectly and insufficiently addressed	20,335	20,823
Letters bearing libellous addresses intercepted	42	56
Registered letters unclaimed	8,762	9,047
Newspapers received without addresses	4,540	3,893
Other articles received without addresses	3,937	3,635
Newspapers returned to publishers as undeliverable	28,881	27,780
Articles bearing previously used stamps	77	104



NUMBER OF POSTAL PACKETS POSTED IN THE DOMINION.



THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS-BANK.

The Peoples' Bank: See how the Funds grow.

There were 3,930 packets (other than parcels) dealt with in the Dead Letter Office during 1924. In these cases, by means of tracing-notice, special effort was made to find the senders or addressees. 246 letters from overseas bearing insufficient or wrong addresses were specially dealt with, and a large proportion was delivered.

During the year an auction sale of unclaimed packets and parcels was held, at which 148 bundles of miscellaneous articles and 133 packets of jewellery were sold.

The number of "special request" letters returned unopened to senders shows a decrease. If business people realized that a special request for return in the event of non-delivery, printed on an envelope, meant a quicker return of a letter, more would avail themselves of the system.

PROHIBITED POSTAL PACKETS.

During the year 2,214 letters addressed to persons or firms the transmission of correspondence for whom is prohibited under section 28 of the Post and Telegraph Act, 1908, were intercepted and forwarded to the Dead Letter Office.

REGISTER OF NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES.

Forty-three newspapers were registered for transmission by post, and sixteen were removed from the register. Three magazines were registered, and twelve were removed from the register.

The number of registered newspapers on the 31st March was 296, and the number of registered magazines 336.

POSTAGE-STAMPS.

Up to the 31st December, 1924, New Zealand postage-stamps overprinted for use in Aitutaki, Niue, Penryhn Island, Rarotonga, and Western Samoa had been on sale concurrently with the special pictorial series of stamps issued exclusively for use in the various Islands and Samoa. On the date mentioned, however, all Island and Samoan stamps were withdrawn from sale, except the several special pictorial series, the New Zealand 2½d. stamp overprinted for use in Aitutaki, Niue, and Penryhn, the 2½d. and 4d. stamps overprinted for use in Rarotonga, and overprinted stamps of denominations higher than 1s. This means that of each denomination of stamps now on sale in respect of the islands named there is only one series. It is proposed to bring the Island stamps further into line by adding a 2½d. denomination to each series of the Island pictorial stamps and a 4d. denomination, in addition, to the Rarotongan series; the corresponding New Zealand overprinted stamps to be withdrawn when the new stamps are issued. When these changes are effected each Island and Western Samoa will have only its own particular series of stamps of denominations ranging from ½d. to 1s., inclusive.

The stamps of the Island pictorial series issued up to December, 1924, were of the original stocks printed in England. In that month, however, the stock of the 1d. Rarotongan stamp became exhausted, and it was necessary to issue supplies of that stamp from a stock printed in New Zealand. As other denominations of Island pictorial stamps become exhausted they also will be reprinted in New Zealand.

To meet more effectively the requirements of present postage and telegraph rates, "Official" stamps of the denominations of 2d. and 8d. were withdrawn at the 31st March, 1925, and the denominations of 4d. and 9d. substituted.

In July, 1924, a new post-card bearing the ½d. stamp of the King George series was issued; and the stocks of certain issues of post-cards and letter-cards which had been rendered obsolete by reductions in postage-rates were reissued impressed with a lower rate of postage, as follows: The post-card bearing the 1½d. King George stamp overprinted "1d." was reissued with the original stamp and overprint cancelled and the ½d. King George stamp printed alongside the cancelled stamp; and the letter-card bearing the 2d. King George stamp overprinted "1½d." was reissued with the original stamp and overprint cancelled and the 1d. "map" stamp of the Dominion printed alongside the cancelled stamp.

In connection with the forthcoming Dunedin and South Seas Exhibition it has been decided to issue a commemorative series, the denominations to be ½d., 1d., and 4d.

PARCEL-POST.

INSURED-PARCEL POST TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

The Department was successful in its negotiations with the Post Office of the Commonwealth of Australia for the introduction into the New Zealand - Australia parcel-post service of a system of insurance for parcels. Under the system, which was introduced on the 1st March, 1925, the maximum amount for which any one parcel may be insured is £50.

CUSTOMS PARCELS.

The following table shows the declared value of goods received by parcel-post from abroad and the Customs duty thereon; also the declared value of goods despatched by parcel-post. The figures for the years 1924 and 1923 are shown in each case:—

	1924.			1923.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Declared value of received parcels ..	1,333,745	0	0	1,343,726	0	0
Customs duty	277,467	16	7	307,022	6	3
Declared value of forwarded parcels ..	75,572	0	0	73,793	0	0

HAWERA : ASSESSMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON OVERSEAS PARCELS.

In order to prevent delay in delivery of parcels for Hawera on which Customs duty is payable, the Department was asked to constitute Hawera a clearing-office for Customs parcels and thus obviate the necessity for such parcels being cleared at New Plymouth. The matter was referred to the Customs Department, which considered that the expense involved would not be warranted; but, as as a compromise, it was arranged for Customs parcels for Hawera to be dealt with at Patea. The change, which is by way of trial, came into operation on the 1st November.

BUILDINGS.

During the year the Public Works Department arranged for the erection of post-office buildings at each of the following places : Hyde, Middlemarch, Mokauti, Motu, Ngatea, Ngongotaha, Ohingaiti, Orari, Pokeno, Pongaroa, Pukemiro, St. Andrew's, St. Heliers, Silverdale, Tarras, Te Uku, Waikino, Wellington (automatic telephone exchange).

Additions were made to the post-office buildings at Horopito, Kaikohe, and Te Aroha. At Whakatane additional accommodation for the post-office was obtained by taking that portion of the post-office building previously in occupation by the Postmaster as residential quarters.

Additions were made to the railway-station buildings at Kohuratahi and Tahora to provide accommodation for the post-office.

At Greymouth and Napeir combined workshop and garage buildings were erected during the year. Motor-garages were provided at Cambridge and Gore.

At Sheffield arrangements were made to lease a building and to adapt it for use as a post-office.

The Department's business at Albury, which had previously been conducted at the railway-station, was transferred during the year to another building. The new premises, which are the property of the Department, were secured some years ago in anticipation of the Department's requirements.

At Ashburton the Department secured the freehold of a property previously leased for the purpose of a garage and store.

Mention was made in last year's report regarding a probable addition to the chief-post-office building at Gisborne. The work is now in progress.

Plans are now in course of preparation for buildings at the following places—Marton, Napier, and Taumarunui; and for additions to existing buildings at Palmerston North, Hastings, and Wanganui.

In connection with street-improvement work in the City of Auckland, Government recently entered into an arrangement with the Auckland City Council for the exchange of certain real estate. The transaction resulted in the transfer of the Auckland East post-office building and site in Shortland Street to the Auckland City Council. The building, which is to be demolished, was a very old structure, and until 1912 it housed the Chief Post-office at Auckland. If the post and telephone office at present conducted in the building is to be continued, new accommodation will require to be found for the office. The manual telephone exchange previously in use at Auckland has been replaced by an automatic telephone exchange, which is housed in a building erected in Wellesley Street. Portion of the Shortland Street building has been used as a store for telegraph and telephone material and as a workshop. It was necessary, therefore, to secure other accommodation for these purposes. This is being provided by means of an addition to the workshop and garage building in Stanley Street.

In places at which the Department has in commission petrol-driven vehicles, and where the circumstances warrant it, suitable arrangements require to be made for the storage and delivery of motor-spirit. Storage of spirit is provided by means of steel tanks placed underground, and delivery is made by means of a pump. The capacity of petrol tanks varies from 200 to 1,000 gallons, and the pumps are of two types, the measuring type and the non-measuring type.

POSTAL NOTES.

The popularity of the method of remitting small sums to places within the Dominion by means of postal notes is ever increasing. Postal-note business again shows a decided increase, the sales for the year ended 31st March, 1925, being 2,846,333, of a total value of £860,000, an increase in sales over the previous year of 193,556 in numbers and £55,685 in value.

The commission derived from this source during the past year totalled £19,470 15s. 11d., being an increase of £1,274 4s. on that earned in the year 1923-24.

BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS.

The sale of British postal orders also shows a very marked increase: 132,348 orders were sold, of a value of £75,553 12s. 7d., as against 115,498 orders, amounting to £66,937, for the previous year. The number of orders paid for the year was 27,168, of a value of £16,135, as against 25,051, for £14,943, the previous year.

TELEGRAPHS.**RESULTS OF "ALL BLACK" FOOTBALL MATCHES.**

During the tour of the "All Black" football team in England, Ireland, and France, arrangements were made by the Department to transmit the results of matches to all telegraph and telephone offices free of charge. Transmission was effected with as little delay as possible, and the results were exhibited at every office throughout the Dominion. Results received in the Dominion on Sunday mornings were promptly communicated to all telephone exchanges then open and were given to subscribers on request. This service was greatly appreciated.

PRESS RATES.

From the 1st April, 1924, the aggregate number of words of Press news permitted to be received by evening newspapers on the day of publication at schedule rate of 1s. 6d. per 100 words or fraction thereof was increased from 1,500 to 2,000.

TELEGRAPH AND TOLL TRAFFIC.

The figures which follow show the position in regard to telegraph and telephone traffic, fuller information is contained in Table 11.

TOTAL OF ALL CLASSES OF MESSAGE AND VALUE THEREOF.

	1924-25.	1923-24.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase per Cent.	Decrease per Cent.
Number	15,471,950	14,476,866	995,084	..	6.873	..
Value	£753,520	£705,259	£48,261	..	6.843	..

SCHEDULE OF PAID TELEGRAMS, CABLE MESSAGES, AND TOLL COMMUNICATIONS.

	Number.	Value. £
Ordinary	5,827,745	493,288
Urgent	292,885	30,145
Press	461,875	63,601
Night-letter	215,473	10,535
Toll communications	8,612,412	344,393
	15,410,390	941,962
Less net amount paid to other Administrations on cable and radio messages .. ..	..	192,862
Net total for paid messages of all codes, 1924-25	15,410,390	749,100
Net total for paid messages of all codes, 1923-24	14,407,269	700,329

TABLE SHOWING USE BY THE PUBLIC OF TELEGRAPH AND TOLL SERVICES.

	1924-25.	1923-24.
Number of ordinary telegrams sent per unit of population	4.43	4.38
Number of toll communications per unit of population	6.54	5.81
Number of paid messages, telegrams, or toll communications per unit of population	11.71	10.38
Number of paid telegrams for every 100 letters posted	5.05	5.08

TELEGRAPH AND TOLL-LINE SYSTEMS.

EXTENSIONS.

The machine-printing telegraph system having increased the traffic-carrying capacity of the circuits over which it is operated, and thus obviated the necessity for additional telegraph circuits that would otherwise have been necessary, has enabled the Department to concentrate on the extension of the toll-line system, and much has been done in this direction during the year by rearranging existing circuits and erecting new lines. These improvements, together with the works now authorized, will, it is hoped, relieve to a great extent much of the present congestion on the trunk toll lines.

With a view to providing additional toll circuits between Auckland and Kaitaia, and generally improving the telephone facilities in the North Auckland district, a comprehensive scheme of reconstruction and rearrangement of circuits was undertaken during the year, and the work has been advanced to such a stage that within a few months Kaitaia and Kaikohe will be in direct communication with Auckland. New circuits will also be available between Auckland and Whangarei, and between Whangarei and Dargaville.

EFFECT OF EXTENSION OF HIGH-TENSION LINES.

The extension of high-tension circuits of power-lines throughout the Dominion has had a far-reaching effect on the telegraph and telephone lines, and as a consequence has necessitated during the year the conversion to metallic circuit working of a number of earth-working exchange systems and toll lines. In addition to this, sections of many pole lines have been removed, and a great deal of other protective work has been done.

MACHINE-PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

The multiplex system of telegraphy was advanced a further stage during the year by the installation, on the 12th June, of machine-printing instruments at Dunedin for working terminal with Christchurch. Retransmitters were later installed at Wellington and Christchurch to enable Dunedin to work direct with Auckland and Wellington respectively, and also to provide for full intercommunication between the four chief cities by means of the machine-printing system.

The scheme for the linking-up of the more important provincial towns by means of the multiplex machine-printing system has now been fully developed, and installation work in connection therewith will shortly be commenced at Napier, Hamilton, and Wanganui.

UNIVERSAL-BATTERY SYSTEM.

The use of primary batteries for telegraph purposes was discontinued at the Chief Telegraph-office, Wellington, in December, from which time the more economical universal-battery system has been in operation. Preparations are now being made for the installation of universal batteries at the Auckland and Dunedin offices. Consideration is also being given to the question of installing these batteries at other large telegraph-offices. In addition to providing a more efficient source of battery power, due to uniformity in the voltage of the electrical energy supplied, the use of universal batteries effects a comparatively large saving in maintenance charges.

MAINTENANCE OF LINES.

The maintenance of the telegraph and toll-line systems has been satisfactorily carried out during the year, and, partly on account of weather conditions having been favourable, no interruptions of service of any magnitude or over an extended period have occurred.

MISCELLANEOUS (TELEGRAPHS).

Particulars of the offices opened, &c., during the year are as follows: Offices opened, 25; offices closed, 56; offices remaining open on 31st March, 1925, 2,264. Of this number, 344 are operated by Morse and 1,920 by telephone, 15 having been converted from telephone to Morse-working and 5 from Morse to telephone. The excess of offices closed over the number opened is due to the extension of the telephone-exchange system to rural and backblock districts by means of party and rural lines.

The following table shows the class and number of instruments and batteries in use at telegraph-offices for the year ended 31st March, 1925:—

District.	Telegraph Instruments in use.								Number of Cells.					Universal-battery System.	
	Constant Current.	Intermittent Current.	Single-current Duplex.	Double-current Duplex.	Direct Sounders.	Quadruplex.	Quadruplex Transmitters.	Quadruple Duplex Multiplex Sets.	Leclanche.	Gordon.	Daniell.	Bichromate.	Storage.		Dry.
Auckland ..	48	78	11	8	13	21	13	2	1,465	..	..	..	161	57	..
Canterbury ..	61	66	9	8	2	7	5	3	5,503	164	40	2	174	392	1
Otago ..	52	68	1	2	..	5	3	1	5,484	..	105	..	45	..	..
Wellington ..	109	119	11	19	22	23	24	4	17,057	1,504	545	166	220	505	1
Totals ..	270	331	32	37	37	56	45	10	29,509	1,668	690	168	600	954	2

NEW TOLL CIRCUITS.

The more important of the new toll circuits completed during the year are as follows:—

Glennmurray—Rangiriri—Huntly.	Waharoa—Matamata.
Whakatane—Opotiki.	Auckland—Warkworth.
Tepuke—Rotorua.	Nelson—Richmond.
Blenheim—Renwicktown.	Kaponga—Opunake—Stratford—Dawson Falls.
Napier—Wairoa.	Renwicktown—Okaramio.
Palmerston North—Manawatu Gorge.	Woodville—Dannevirke.
Dannevirke—Ormondville.	Ormondville—Takapau.
Waipawa—Otane.	Patea—Whenuakura.
Ruatiti—Mangaparua.	Wellington—Eastbourne.
Greymouth—Arthur's Pass.	Ashburton—Springburn.
Ashburton—Methven.	Oamaru—Waitaki.
Dunedin—Palmerston—Oamaru.	Invercargill—Riverton—Thornbury—Otautau.
Invercargill—Winton—Dipton.	Hyde—Middlemarch.
Lawrence—Roxburgh.	

POLES AND WIRE.

During the year 133 miles of pole-line and 2,500 miles of wire were erected for telegraph and telephone (toll) purposes, while 109 miles of pole-line and 415 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, 1924 and 1925 respectively, was as follows:—

Pole-line and Wire.	Year ended		Increase.
	31st March, 1924.	31st March, 1925.	
Miles of pole-line	12,914*	12,938	24
Miles of wire	54,330*	56,415	2,085

* Revised figures.

The telegraph and telephone wire in use on the 31st March, 1925—viz., 56,415 miles—is classified as under:—

	Miles.
Used exclusively for telephone toll traffic	4,542
Used exclusively for telegraph traffic	10,803
Used simultaneously and (or) conjointly for telegraph and telephone toll traffic	41,049
Unclassified	21

The total length of wire that may be used for telephone toll traffic is therefore 45,591 miles; the total length that may be used for the transmission of telegrams, 51,852 miles; and the length of telephone toll-lines over which telegrams may be transmitted by telephone, 22,244 miles. The total length of Morse circuit derived from the superimposing of telephone circuits is 11,028 miles, and the total length of telephone toll circuit obtained by forming "phantoms" over physical telephone circuits, 3,874 miles.

NEW ZEALAND SUBMARINE CABLES.

Submarine cable operations during the year included the laying of one mile of cable across the Ohiwa Harbour to form part of the toll-line between Whakatane and Opotiki, and also the laying of half a mile of cable between Turua and Matatoki.

During the year two of the Cook Strait cables (Nos. 2 and 3) and the Wanganui-Wakapuaka (Nelson) cable, developed faults. The fault in each cable was duly located, but, with the exception of No. 2 Cook Strait cable, in which the fault was found to be close inshore, repairs are being deferred until there is sufficient other cable-work in the vicinity to warrant the chartering of a cable-repairing steamer. Other cables which developed faults and which were subsequently repaired during the year are the following: Stewart Island - Bluff (two faults), Ponsonby-Northcote, Tatarariki-Tokatoka, Waiheke-Motuhi, and the Opuia cable.

CABLE TRAFFIC.

The number of cable messages, excluding Press, sent from New Zealand to International offices during the year shows an increase of 13.26 per cent. on the number sent during 1923-24, and the number sent to Australian offices shows an increase of 9.76 per cent. Messages received from International offices increased by 8.89 per cent., and messages from Australia increased by 8.93 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 65.3 and 65.9 respectively.

The following table shows the total number of cable messages, excluding Press, 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.
1920-21	159,896	70	1920-21	68,406	30
1921-22	147,781	68	1921-22	69,515	32
1922-23	157,895	67.4	1922-23	76,455	32.6
1923-24	167,922	65.9	1923-24	86,797	34.1
1924-25	185,680	65.3	1924-25	98,571	34.7

Press messages numbering 2,534 were sent via Pacific and 4,369 via Eastern, compared with 2,674 and 4,177 respectively during 1923-24. The number received via Pacific was 6,628 and via Eastern 4,176, compared with 6,817 and 3,483 respectively.

The following table shows the total number of each class of message, excluding Press, forwarded during 1924-25, as compared with the number forwarded during 1923-24:—

	1924-25.		1923-24.	
	Forwarded.	Received.	Forwarded.	Received.
Full-rate international cable messages	80,381	76,611	79,824	76,454
Deferred international cable messages	17,295	18,196	16,149	17,010
Daily letter-telegrams	27,408	15,579	11,803	6,343
Week-end telegrams	25,549	15,253	25,216	15,568
Australian cable messages	103,147	102,464	121,727	115,937
Australian night-letter telegrams	30,471	23,833	..	..
Totals	284,251	251,936	254,719	231,312

OCEAN CABLE SERVICES.

The overseas cable services were maintained throughout the year without serious interruption. For some years the Pacific cable has been fully loaded, and tenders are being called for the duplication of the two northern sections—*i.e.*, Vancouver to Fanning Island, and Fanning Island to Fiji. The sections from Fiji southward were duplicated in 1923. When the additional outlet is available the traffic will be disposed of promptly. Tenders for the work have closed, and it is expected that the duplication will be completed in September, 1926.

At the present time the Pacific cable carries a load of approximately twelve million paying words of traffic annually, and is worked to its fullest capacity. During the year 1905 the number of words sent from New Zealand over the Pacific cable system was 891,414, whereas for the year 1924-25 the number was 3,281,262. This fact illustrates the great use which is made of the cable; and the partner Governments—*viz.*, Great Britain, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand—are to be congratulated on the success of this State venture.

DAILY LETTER CABLE MESSAGES.

The daily letter-telegram service, when introduced in September, 1923, was restricted to messages exchanged with Canada and the United Kingdom. On the 1st September, 1924, the system was extended via the Eastern Extension Company's route to the United States. Three months later the same company notified that daily letter-telegrams would henceforth be accepted for most British possessions, including India, Ceylon, British Central, East, and West Africa, and the Union of South Africa. The principal omissions are the Commonwealth of Australia and Fiji; but to those places the night letter-telegram service is available. Daily letter-telegrams may be sent at any time throughout the week, and are delivered by messenger after the expiry of forty-eight hours from the time of lodgment. In most cases the rate is one-quarter of the ordinary rate, with a minimum charge as for twenty words. The daily letter-telegram service marks the inauguration of a cheap and reasonably prompt cable service practically throughout the Empire. By making use of this service cable-users in the Dominion will save a large sum annually.

WEEK-END CABLE MESSAGES.

The week-end cable service to Canada and Great Britain and Ireland was maintained by the Pacific Cable Board throughout the year. At several periods these messages were subject to heavy delay owing to the congestion of all classes of traffic. Notwithstanding the introduction in September, 1923, of the daily letter service, the number of week-end messages sent to the United Kingdom (25,549) was slightly in excess of the number despatched during the previous year.

WAR-TAX ON CABLE MESSAGES.

The tax of 2d., known as a war-tax, and imposed since 1915, on each cable message forwarded from the Dominion was abolished as from the 1st April, 1924.

EXTENDED USE OF "PACIFIC AND MARCONI ROUTE."

The use of the route "via Pacific and Marconi," which has been open for some time for full-rate messages, was made available on the 6th August, 1924, for deferred daily letter and week-end traffic.

REDUCTION IN RATES.

From the 1st April, 1925, the rates via Eastern for full-rate and deferred cable messages to any part of the United States of America are being reduced to equal those chargeable for messages sent via Pacific.

INTERCOLONIAL NIGHT LETTER-TELEGRAM SYSTEM.

Although the night letter-telegram service to Australia has been in operation less than a year, its popularity is indicated by the fact that during March, 1925, 3,797 such messages were despatched to and 2,838 received from the Commonwealth.

The rate for this class of message is 3s. for twenty words or less, and 2d. for each word in excess of twenty words. This is less than half the rate for ordinary messages, which is 4½d. per word.

The rate fixed for a minimum of twenty words in a night letter-telegram to Fiji varies according to the locality—from 5s. 10d. in the case of Suva to 8s. 1d. in the case of Labassa, Taviuni, and Savusavu.

Intercolonial night letter-telegrams are transmitted on the day of lodgment, and are posted at the office of destination for delivery by first post on the following morning.

WIRELESS.

WIRELESS TRAFFIC.

The number of forwarded and received radio messages shows an increase of 16·91 per cent. and 13·70 per cent. respectively. The amounts earned by New Zealand show an increase under both headings of 15·60 per cent. and 8·54 per cent. respectively. The number of words of paid forwarded radio Press telegrams increased from 98,607 to 123,018; 8,497 words of Press news were broadcasted free of charge to all ships and coast stations within range of Awanui.

WIRELESS EQUIPMENT, EXTENSION, ETC.

The efficiency of all New Zealand coast stations has been well maintained during the year, and, as a result of a vigilant and effective watch having been kept for signals of distress from ship stations, good service was rendered on the 3rd September in connection with the stranding of the s.s. "Mesna" on Hakofis Reef.

Radio-Wellington has been equipped with a continuous wave-valve transmitter which permits of the use of different types of transmitters, and reduces to a minimum the interference with adjacent radio-telephone broadcasting transmissions.

The transmitting equipment at Radio-Awarua has been supplemented by a 1½-kilowatt transmitting set which provides a more effective means of communicating in daylight with ships on the southern steamship routes. Consideration is now being given to an extension of the hours of attendance and the duration of the watch at this station.

The proposed modernization of the radio station at Awanui (New Zealand) and Apia (Samoa) by the installation of continuous wave transmitters in place of the present spark equipment is still in abeyance pending possible developments in connection with the erection in New Zealand of a high-power station, which would probably incorporate the specific services at present performed by Radio-Awanui.

A radio-telegraph station was established at Kawau Island on the 8th April, 1924, for the handling of traffic between the island and the Auckland radio-station. The charge for telegrams is 2½d. per word, with a minimum charge of 1s. 3d. for each message. Since its inception the station has been operated economically and has maintained an uninterrupted service. The establishment of this station has proved a great convenience to settlers, visitors, and shipping interests, and as the existence of the station becomes more widely known the service will probably be availed of to a greater extent.

Radio-telegraph stations were erected during the year on the islands of Aitutaki, Mangaia, and Niue, and were opened for traffic respectively on the 10th June, 6th August, and 2nd October. The stations at Aitutaki and Mangaia are equipped with ½-kilowatt spark sets, and communicate with Rarotonga, while the Niue station is equipped with radio-telephone equipment for communication with Apia, Samoa. The stations are manned by Native operators. The charges for telegrams per word are as follows: Mangaia and Aitutaki, 1s. 9d.; Niue, 1s. 6d. The Aitutaki station was temporarily closed from the 29th December to the 23rd January on account of apparatus troubles. Further trouble in this respect necessitated the closing of the station temporarily on the 3rd February, pending receipt from New Zealand of a new magneto. The station was still closed for traffic on the 31st March. The Mangaia station was temporarily closed from the 27th November to the 30th December owing to the operator being indisposed. The Niue station has maintained an uninterrupted service since its inception.

RADIO BROADCASTING.

The Post and Telegraph Amendment Act provides that after the 1st April, 1925, it shall not be lawful for any person to sell, offer for sale, or have in his possession for sale in the way of his business, any apparatus designed or intended for use in connection with radio-telegraphy unless he is the holder of a license issued to him by the Minister of Telegraphs. Further, every licensed dealer must keep a true record of all sales made by him of apparatus for radio-telegraphy. The record must set out in respect of each sale the date thereof, and the name, occupation, and address of the purchaser, and particulars of the articles purchased.

Regulations for radio broadcasting stations and the sale of radio apparatus were gazetted on the 12th March, and became operative on the 1st April, 1925. Under the new scheme the proportion of the fees to be paid to the broadcasting licensee is fixed at £1 5s. out of the annual fee received from every licensee of a radio station, and 90 per centum of the fee for each radio-dealer's license.

Radio-dealers' licenses are divided into three classes: Class 1, licenses of dealers carrying on business in Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, or Wellington; Class 2, licenses of dealers carrying on business in centres of population other than the aforementioned four main centres, having a population of more than five thousand; Class 3, licenses of dealers carrying on business in centres of population having a population of five thousand or less.

The annual fees for licenses of Class 1, 2, and 3 are £10, £5, and £2 respectively.

It is forbidden by regulation for a broadcasting station to be used for the dissemination of propaganda of a controversial nature, while the use of mechanically operated musical instruments will be permitted only provided their use is strictly limited to a comparatively small part of the programme.

A penalty of a fine not exceeding £50 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months is provided for acts in contravention of or failure to comply with particular regulations, and a fine not exceeding £10 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month for an offence against any other of the regulations.

As soon as the broadcasting of good programmes commences it is anticipated that the number of applications for licenses will be very large, and until this takes place and the new company is formed the companies at present operating stations in the four centres have agreed to co-operate with the Department, and have promised to carry out an improved service in order that "listeners in" may not be under any disadvantage until the new stations are erected.

AMATEUR WIRELESS LICENSES.

New regulations for radio receiving, amateur transmitting and receiving, and experimental stations were gazetted on the 5th March, 1925. The annual fee for a radio-receiving-station license, which was raised from 5s. to £1 10s., might at first appear excessive, but it must not be overlooked that provision is made in the Broadcasting Regulations for £1 5s. out of every license fee to be paid to the person or company by whom or by which broadcasting is undertaken under those regulations. A first-class broadcasting service is required to be given from four stations, and when the expense of establishing and maintaining such a service is considered it will be agreed that the license fee is not high. A similar amount is payable to the broadcasting licensee out of every license fee of £2 2s. now charged for a license for an amateur transmitting or an experimental station.

District Telegraph Engineers are now empowered to issue amateur operator's certificates, and licenses for amateur transmitting and receiving and experimental stations.

FEE FOR SHIP OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATE.

During the year the fee for examining a candidate for a ship operator's certificate was increased from 5s. to 15s. However, the fee of 5s. for examining in telegraphy only, for a first-class certificate, a candidate who already holds a second-class certificate was not altered.

PRESS RATE ON TELEGRAMS EXCHANGED WITH ISLAND STATIONS.

The rates for Press telegrams to or from Chatham and Rarotonga (Cook Islands) were fixed by Order in Council dated the 16th June, 1924. The rate for such messages exchanged between the mainland of New Zealand and Chatham Islands is 5s. per 100 words or fraction thereof, and between New Zealand and Rarotonga 4½d. per word, with a minimum of 7s. 6d. for such message.

TELEPHONE-EXCHANGE SERVICE.

DEVELOPMENT.

During the year extensive construction work was carried out at many exchanges to make provision for immediate and future requirements, and in some instances, chiefly in suburban areas, what was regarded as adequate accommodation was fully utilized immediately it became available.

The present rating system has undoubtedly popularized the telephone in country districts, and brought it within the reach of many backblock settlers to whom telephone service, in the event of sickness, is invaluable. It has also promoted the amalgamation of exchanges situated at no appreciable distance apart. During the year Petone, Heretaunga, and Kahutara exchanges have been amalgamated respectively with Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, and Featherston. Under much the same conditions the Ngakawau and Millerton exchanges (two miles and a half apart) were closed by the establishment of a central exchange at Granity. With each amalgamation the subscribers have reaped the advantage of being able to communicate with a greater number of subscribers without the payment of toll fees, while in some cases extended hours of attendance have also been obtained without any corresponding increase of rental.

From a point of view of development the position is extremely satisfactory, and fully justifies the claim made in 1923 that the comprehensive revision of the rating system then being undertaken would stimulate and promote telephone development in all areas, and would be in the interests of subscribers as well as the Department.

The growth of the telephone-exchange system is exemplified in the following table, which shows quinquennially since 1905 the number of exchanges, the total wire-mileage, the revenue, and the total number of telephone stations, together with the number of telephones for each 1,000 population in New Zealand :—

Quinquennial Year.	Number of Exchanges.	Miles of Wire.	Revenue.	Number of Telephone Stations.	
				Total.	Per 1,000 Population.
1905	85	11,028	79,061	13,423	14.78
1910	153	35,233	144,298	29,681	28.67
1915	250	113,479	303,856	54,261	47.18
1920	291	177,509	419,318	80,723	65.27
1925	340	331,453	867,218	120,097*	87.26

* Includes approximately 4,000 non-exchange stations.

ATTENDANCE AT TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

In the Telephone Regulations of September, 1923, provision was made for the observance of a more extended attendance at exchanges with from fifty to two hundred subscribers than was available hitherto.

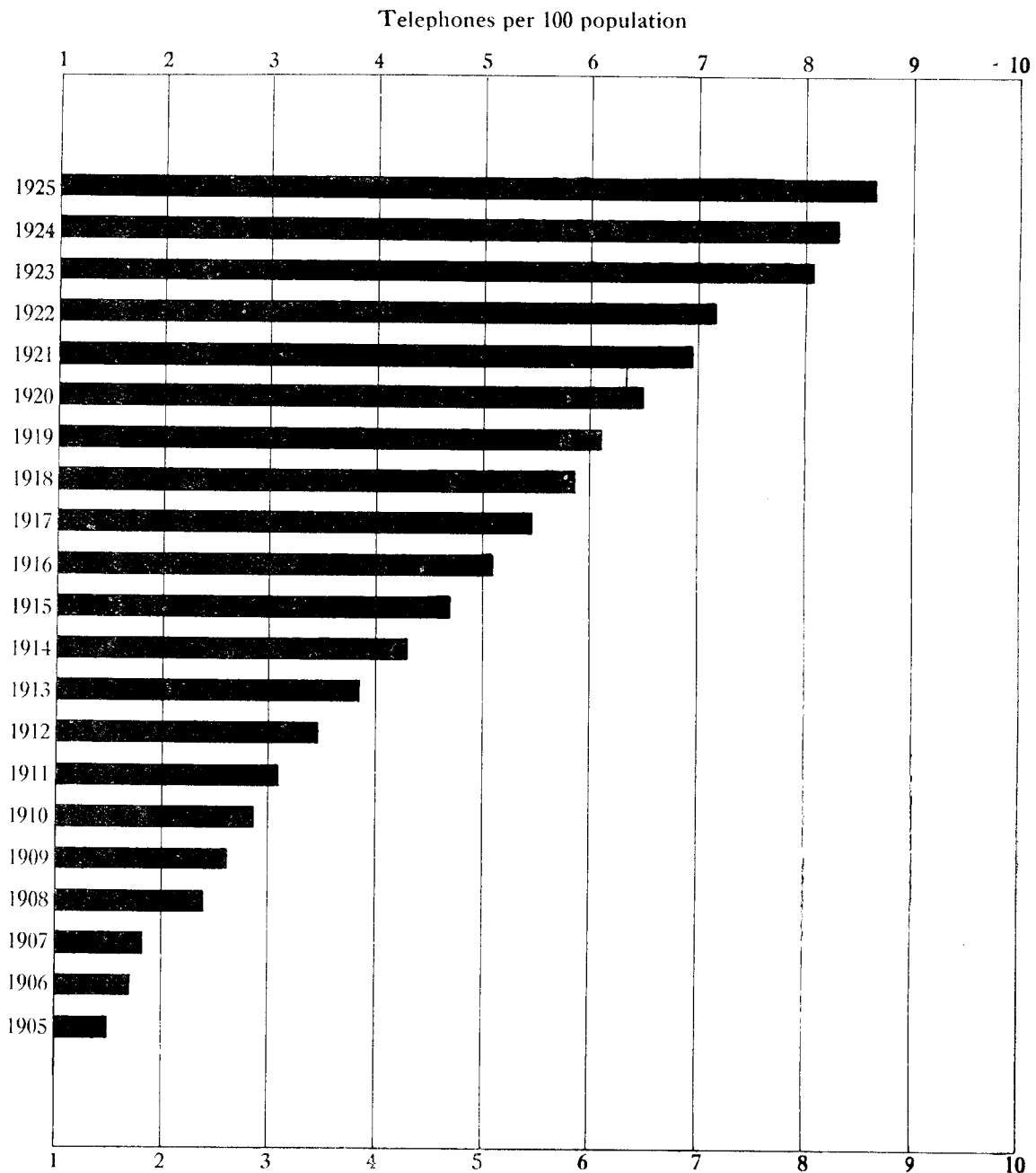
At exchanges of between fifty and one hundred subscribers the attendance now given is from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., while exchanges at which the number of subscribers is between one hundred and two hundred are open from 6 a.m. to midnight. This extension of the hours of service is much appreciated by subscribers, and the hours fixed have proved very suitable.

NEW EXCHANGES, EXTENSIONS, ETC.

Inquiries continue to be made respecting the establishment of new exchanges, but, wherever practicable, intending subscribers are being urged to join with the nearest existing exchange, the advantages regarding hours of attendance and the extended range of subscribers with which communication may be obtained without the payment of toll fees being impressed upon them.

TELEPHONE DEVELOPMENT IN NEW ZEALAND, 1905-25.

Graph showing the Number of Telephones in New Zealand per 100 Population each Year since 1905.



The number of telephones per 100 population in the English-speaking countries on 1st January, 1923, was as follows: United States of America, 13.1; Canada, 10.4; New Zealand, 8.1; Australia, 4.6; Great Britain, 2.3; South Africa, 0.8.

Among other operations, the year's work included—

The opening of new manual exchanges at Albany, Brightwater, Dipton West, Granity, Hampden, Herekino, Hikutaia, Hyde, Maungakaramea, Onewhero, Pokeno, Rangiwahia, Ruawai, Sheffield, Silverdale, Springburn, Tarras, Te Uku, Waharoa, Waitahuna, Whakapara;

The conversion to automatic working of the Auckland exchange system (comprising Wellesley Street, Ponsonby, Mount Eden, Remuera, and Onchunga exchanges);

The extension of the switching equipment at thirty-five manual and five automatic exchanges;

The installation of underground and aerial cables at a number of the smaller exchanges, and the extension of the existing cable systems at other places ;

The conversion to metallic circuit working of a number of the few remaining earthworking exchange systems ;

The reconstruction of the aerial-wire system at a number of exchanges ; and

The maintenance of 115,549 telephone stations at a comparatively high state of efficiency.

A feature of the operations during the coming year will be the installation in subscribers' premises in automatic areas of a new type of intercommunicating apparatus to replace the existing magneto private-branch-exchange equipment, which is incapable of operating into the automatic system without considerable modification. The present magneto private-branch-exchange system requires the constant attention of an operator in the main office to switch the incoming, outgoing, and local calls. Under the new system, however, the services of an operator may be dispensed with except for incoming calls ; the switching for the outgoing and local calls being effected by the pressing of a button by the caller.

PRIVATE TELEPHONE-LINES.

Although applications are still being made for licenses to erect private telephone-lines to connect with departmental exchange circuits at various distances from exchanges, development in this direction is virtually confined to remote localities that do not possess any potentialities for telephone-extension. With the reticulation of high-power lines throughout the country districts, necessitating the erection of telephone circuits on the metallic-circuit principle, settlers are finding it more profitable and much more satisfactory to require the Department to undertake the erection and maintenance of their telephone circuits. This is becoming increasingly evident by the number of private-telephone-line owners applying to have their private lines replaced by departmental circuits.

PUBLIC CALL OFFICES.

Public call offices (coin-in-the-slot telephones) continue to prove remunerative in business and densely populated residential areas, and it is proposed to instal additional ones where such facilities are necessary. During the year 9 new public call offices were established, bringing the total number in use up to 380. A new type of public-call-office telephone, for use in areas where the telephone system is wholly automatic, has recently been introduced. The initial supply of these telephones has been installed at Auckland. The new telephones, which are fitted with dials, are so arranged that the person making the call is not required to insert the penny until the called subscriber answers. Difficulties were at first experienced in satisfactorily adjusting the mechanism, but the telephones are now giving good service.

The revenue from public call offices during the year amounted to £24,647, being an increase of £959 over the previous year.

PRIVATE-LINE CIRCUITS BETWEEN PLACES OF BUSINESS.

The receipts for the year in respect of rental and maintenance fees for private-line circuits between places of business, &c., amounted to £6,765.

TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

The manner in which the exchanges are classified, the number of exchanges in each class, and the number of stations connected therewith on the 31st March last, are shown in the following table :—

	Class I. Exchanges or Networks observing Continuous Attendance and having more than 3,500 Paying Subscribers' Main Stations connected therewith.	Class II. Exchanges or Networks observing Continuous Attendance and having 1,001 to 3,500 Paying Subscribers' Main Stations connected therewith.	Class III. Exchanges or Networks observing Continuous Attendance and having 201 to 1,000 Paying Subscribers' Main Stations connected therewith.	Class IV. Exchanges or Networks where the Attendance is restricted.	Dominion Totals.
Subscribers' main stations ..	31,090	19,344	19,089	24,848	94,371
Toll and service stations ..	553	419	723	2,187	3,882
Public call offices	286	58	34	2	380
Extension stations—					
P.B.X.	4,288	940	308	77	5,613
Ordinary	6,345	2,659	1,424	875	11,303
Telephone stations : Class totals ..	42,562	23,420	21,578	27,989	115,549
Number of exchanges in each class	4	11	42	283	340
Percentage of new connections made with each class of exchange during the year	25%	17%	20%	38%	..

In addition to the above there were 4,229 stations connected by private telephone-lines with departmental toll stations, and 319 stations connected with non-departmental rural exchanges, making a grand total of 120,097 telephone stations on the 31st March, 1925.

Of the new connections made during the year 3,328 were with Class I exchanges, 2,212 with Class II exchanges, 2,663 with Class III exchanges, and 5,101 with Class IV (country) exchanges. The waiting-list at these exchanges now stands at 1,664, 367, 364, and 1,227 respectively: total, 3,622—a reduction of 464 on the figures for the year ended 31st March, 1924. Although the waiting-list has not been reduced to any marked extent numerically, a number equivalent to those now waiting has been provided with telephone connections every three months, so that, except at comparatively few exchanges where conditions are abnormal, applicants have not been waiting for telephone service more than three months. The waiting-list includes 282 applicants for connections at telephone exchanges authorized but not yet opened; the figures for the previous year under this heading were 700.

The following table shows the number of telephone stations in each Engineer's district in the Dominion on the 31st March, 1924 and 1925 respectively, and the percentage of increase in each case:—

Engineer's District.	Number of Stations on 31st March,						Per-centage of Increase.
	1924.			1925.			
	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	
Auckland	25,618	3,974	29,592	28,528	4,262	32,790	10.8
Wellington	39,267	6,791	46,058	41,941	7,236	49,177	6.8
Canterbury	13,994	2,952	16,946	15,148	3,151	18,299	8.0
Otago	12,003	2,165	14,168	13,016	2,267	15,283	7.9
Totals	90,882	15,882	106,764	98,633	16,916	115,549	8.2

The number of subscribers' stations (main and extension) connected with each of the twelve principal exchanges on the 31st March, 1925, was—Wellington, 13,547; Auckland, 12,581; Christchurch, 9,425; Dunedin, 6,571; Wanganui, 2,958; Hamilton, 2,472; Gisborne, 2,415; Palmerston North, 2,378; Napier, 2,330; Invercargill, 2,316; Hastings, 2,239; Masterton, 1,696.

The number of party and rural lines on the 31st March, 1925, was 8,387, to which were connected 31,187 main stations—an increase of 752 and 3,720 respectively on the figures for the previous year.

The following table shows, for each class of exchange, the respective percentages of business and residential stations, also the respective percentages of individual and party-line stations on the 31st March, 1925.

Percentage of		Class I Exchanges.	Class II Exchanges.	Class III. Exchanges.	Class IV Exchanges.	Dominion Percentages.
Business stations .. ..	.. ..	46	36	32	26	36
Residential stations .. ..	.. ..	54	64	68	74	64
		100	100	100	100	100
Individual-line stations .. ..	.. ..	87	75	60	43	67
Party- and rural-line stations .. ..	.. ..	13	25	40	57	33
		100	100	100	100	100

The length in miles of the various items of telephone-exchange plant in existence on the 31st March 1924 and 1925 respectively, was as follows:—

	Pole-line.	Cable.		Wire.			Under all Headings.
		Under-ground.	Aerial.	In Under-ground Cable.	In Aerial Cable.	Open Aerial.	
In existence on 31st March, 1924	7,605	406	589	140,965	69,342	59,114*	269,421
Erected during year ..	1,947	154	80	48,506	8,492	11,995	68,993
Dismantled during year ..	53	3	28	1,369	3,302	2,290	6,961
In existence on 31st March, 1925	9,499	557	641	188,102	74,532	68,819	331,453

* Revised figures.

The percentages of the total wire-mileage in underground and aerial cables, and open aerial wire respectively, for the year ended 31st March, 1925, are as under :—

Telephone-exchange wire in underground cables	56.75
Telephone-exchange wire in aerial cables	22.49
Telephone-exchange wire in open aerial wires	20.76

In the telephone statistics of the world (compiled on the 1st January, 1923) the United States leads as regards density, with 13.1 telephones per 100 of population; Canada is second, with 10.4 telephones; Denmark is third, with 8.3 telephones; while New Zealand takes fourth place, with 8.1 telephones. Australia and Great Britain occupy seventh and twelfth places respectively, with 4.6 and 2.3 telephones per 100 of population. The number of telephones per 100 of population of the world is 1.3.

AUTOMATIC-TELEPHONE-EXCHANGE INSTALLATIONS.

AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN EXCHANGE AREA.

The installation of five of the seven automatic exchanges in the Auckland telephone-exchange area was completed during the year, and on the 14th March these exchanges, comprising Wellesley Street (4,731 main stations), Remuera (949 main stations), Mount Eden (1,066 main stations), Ponsonby (881 main stations), and Onehunga (267 main stations), were brought into operation. The cut-over to automatic was satisfactorily effected, and a greatly improved service has resulted. The Devonport and Takapuna Exchanges are now being proceeded with, and when completed the whole of the Auckland Metropolitan Exchange area will comprise a homogeneous full-automatic telephone system. The initial capacity of the five exchanges mentioned is as follows:—Wellesley Street, 10,000 lines; Remuera, 2,000 lines; Mount Eden, 2,000 lines; Ponsonby, 2,000 lines; Onehunga, 400 lines; while the ultimate capacity of the equipment is 200,000 lines. Already arrangements are being made to extend the buildings at Mount Eden and Remuera, and to increase the equipment in the different exchanges to meet the growth of the service.

The new automatic-exchange building at Stout Street, Wellington, has been completed, and excellent progress is being made with the installation of the automatic equipment. It is expected that the new exchange will be ready for operation before the end of this year, when the remainder of the manual subscribers' stations in Wellington—some 4,600 in number—will be converted to automatic working. The automatic exchanges at present working in the city have given satisfactory service throughout the year, and continue to be extended to meet the growing demands for telephone service in the districts in which they are situated.

The greater part of the equipment for the new automatic exchange at Christchurch is now to hand, and the installation work will be commenced at an early date. An extension of the present manual switchboard will shortly be made in order to relieve some of the present overload, and also to make provision for about five hundred new connections.

The auxiliary automatic apparatus installed at Christchurch has worked satisfactorily during the year and has been well maintained. In service, however, it suffers by comparison with other automatic exchanges because of the complication of providing intercommunication with a manually operated exchange. For this reason the subscribers' opinion of the service is not always complimentary, but the installation demonstrates that the automatic exchange, under normal conditions, is capable of giving the very best service.

A commencement was made during the year with the installation of automatic equipment in the new central exchange in Dowling Street, Dunedin, and also at the suburban exchanges, Roslyn and South Dunedin. The greater part of the equipment is on hand, and the work is being proceeded with as energetically as the numerical strength of the installing staff will allow. An extension of the present manual switchboard is now being made to provide accommodation for applicants at present awaiting telephone connections, and also to meet the Exhibition requirements.

Tenders have recently been accepted for the installation of new automatic exchanges at Hawera, Stratford, and Dannevirke, and installation work will commence at these places as soon as sufficient supplies of equipment come to hand.

Hereunder is a return showing automatic-exchange equipment installed and in use in the Dominion on the 31st March, 1925:—

Exchange.	Number of Individual Lines installed.	Number of Party Lines installed.		Number of Individual Line Stations.	Number of Party-line Stations.	Total Number of Main Stations.	Number of Extension Stations.	Total Number of Automatic Telephone Stations.
		Two-party.	Four-party.					
Auckland Exchange Area—								
Wellesley Street	7,300	..	..	5,033	..	5,033	1,682	6,715
Remuera	1,600	..	100	990	..	990	101	1,091
Mount Eden	1,600	..	100	1,280	..	1,280	68	1,348
Ponsonby	1,200	..	100	888	..	888	73	961
Onehunga	400	..	..	259	..	259	18	277
Christchurch Exchange Area—								
Hereford Street*	1,500	..	..	1,497	..	1,497	146	1,643
St. Albans*	500	..	..	500	..	500	54	554
Sydenham*	300	..	..	300	..	300	33	333
Wellington Exchange Area—								
Courtenay Place	3,400	100	100	3,310	156	3,466	831	4,297
Wellington South	1,400	100	100	1,134	406	1,540	97	1,637
Kelburn	1,200	..	..	871	..	871	57	928
Khandallah .. ..	..	100	100	76†	240	316	7	323
Single-office exchanges—								
Blenheim.. ..	700	..	100	660	119	779	86	865
Hamilton.. ..	1,400	..	100	1,395	309	1,704	261	1,965
Masterton	1,000	..	100	900	200	1,100	173	1,273
Oamaru	700	..	100	641	80	721	91	812
Palmerston North	1,800	..	100	1,680	199	1,879	214	2,093
Wanganui	2,000	..	100	1,915	279	2,194	441	2,635
Totals	28,000	300	1,200	23,329	1,988	25,317	4,433	29,750

* Auxiliary apparatus.

† 76 lines used for individual stations.

APPENDIX.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICES CHANGED.

Postal District.	Changed from	Changed to
Napier	Petane, H.B.	Bay View.
Auckland	Kawau	Kawau Island.
Gisborne	East Cape	Matarehua.
Benheim	Flat Creek	Rai Valley.
Blenheim	Te Aruhe	Yncyca Bay.

CABLE BUSINESS.

The Dominion's outward International and Australian cable business, excluding Press, for the years 1924-25 and 1923-24 was as follows:—

INTERNATIONAL.

	Number of Messages.	Value. £
1924-25	150,633	185,468
1923-24	132,992	175,788
	Increase 17,641 = 13·26 per cent.	Increase £9,680 = 5·50 per cent.

AUSTRALIAN.

	Number of Messages.	Value. £
1924-25	133,618	27,409
1923-24	121,727	26,555
	Increase 11,891 = 9·76 per cent.	Increase £854 = 3·21 per cent.

There was a total increase of 29,532 messages, and an increase in value of £10,534. Of the total revenue received on forwarded cable messages—viz., £212,877—£201,230 was paid to other Administrations and £11,647 retained by New Zealand.

RECEIVED CABLE MESSAGES.

The number of cable messages received in New Zealand during the years 1924-25 and 1923-24, exclusive of Press, was as follows:—

	International.	Australian.
1924-25	125,639	126,297
1923-24	115,375	115,937
	Increase 10,264 = 8·89 per cent.	Increase 10,360 = 8·93 per cent.

The total revenue earned by New Zealand on received cable messages during the year 1924-25 was £9,318 as compared with £8,441 for 1923-24.

RADIO-TELEGRAMS.

The radio business transacted by the New Zealand coast stations during the years 1924-25 and 1923-24 was as follows:—

Year.	Forwarded.				Received.		
	Number of		Amount earned by New Zealand.	Total Value.	Number of		Amount earned by New Zealand.
	Messages.	Words.			Messages.	Words.	
1924-25	16,259	293,189	£ 3,555	£ 7,331	25,669	270,814	£ 4,777
1923-24	13,907	244,955	3,075	6,414	22,576	242,390	4,401
Increase	2,352	48,234	480	917	3,093	28,424	376

Table No. 1.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF MONEY-ORDERS ISSUED AND OF MONEY-ORDERS PAYABLE IN NEW ZEALAND SINCE THE YEAR 1863.

Issued in the Dominion.

Year.	Commission received.	Where payable.								Total.	
		In the Dominion.		United Kingdom.*		Australia and other British Possessions.		Foreign Countries.†			
		No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
1863	£ 1,057	2,201	£ 9,614	4,740	£ 21,944	4,645	£ 24,145	..	£ ..	11,586	£ 55,703
1873	3,562	34,288	142,642	11,913	48,548	6,150	28,068	..	..	52,351	219,258
1883	9,023	132,232	402,559	26,211	91,634	14,113	46,940	..	..	172,556	541,133
1893	10,249	146,133	576,359	29,616	86,545	35,208	88,025	..	..	210,957	750,929
1903	15,882	273,535	1,108,067	63,309	157,790	59,468	150,368	..	..	396,312	1,416,225
1913	16,872	516,536	2,821,624	100,634	336,992	73,575	199,158	..	..	690,745	3,357,774
1914	16,336	536,674	2,933,911	87,774	299,155	67,070	194,439	..	..	691,518	3,427,505
1915	15,819	511,487	2,986,021	81,483	263,371	71,890	222,426	..	..	664,860	3,471,818
1916	15,966	520,476	3,108,197	60,876	214,254	70,817	221,700	17,186	62,936	669,355	3,607,087
1917	16,077	508,209	2,977,997	54,852	216,835	63,662	212,144	15,960	69,669	642,683	3,476,645
1918	17,487	508,813	3,120,183	48,133	198,452	61,899	217,512	19,655	113,224	638,500	3,649,371
1919	19,329	558,344	3,994,055	48,592	224,667	58,974	240,437	24,381	144,900	690,291	4,604,059
1920	31,302	572,432	4,691,717	49,184	235,295	66,027	310,409	12,031	39,355	699,674	5,276,776
1921	31,268	535,897	4,276,158	52,021	254,342	67,893	292,036	13,572	28,284	669,383	4,850,820
1922	27,431	526,906	3,776,896	53,079	221,447	64,523	249,454	15,435	30,732	659,943	4,278,529
1923	28,357	545,605	3,849,423	54,461	223,143	68,044	284,778	16,869	32,815	684,979	4,390,159
1924	28,542	580,569	4,113,813	57,175	232,436	75,743	312,624	18,024	34,056	731,511	4,692,929

Drawn on the Dominion.

Year.	Where issued.								Total.	
	In the Dominion.		United Kingdom.*		Australia and other British Possessions.		Foreign Countries.†			
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
1863	2,067	£ 9,169	415	£ 1,824	558	£ 3,078	..	£ ..	3,040	£ 14,071
1873	34,288	142,642	1,482	6,626	1,668	7,689	..	..	37,438	156,957
1883	132,232	402,559	3,725	15,553	5,697	23,300	..	..	141,654	441,411
1893	146,133	576,359	8,746	32,617	10,679	40,929	..	..	165,558	649,905
1903	273,535	1,108,067	13,035	49,181	17,777	68,340	..	..	304,347	1,225,589
1913	516,536	2,821,624	12,693	70,084	31,450	110,487	..	..	560,679	3,002,194
1914	536,674	2,933,911	11,439	60,324	30,974	110,032	..	..	579,087	3,104,268
1915	511,487	2,986,021	12,409	58,189	30,356	107,510	..	..	554,252	3,151,720
1916	520,476	3,108,197	8,337	39,908	35,800	128,370	2,445	10,587	567,058	3,287,162
1917	508,209	2,977,997	6,872	34,973	36,978	123,390	2,311	10,348	554,370	3,146,708
1918	508,813	3,120,183	6,802	40,365	33,868	114,652	2,281	12,055	551,764	3,287,255
1919	558,344	3,994,055	8,498	65,526	25,697	104,093	2,410	12,353	594,949	4,176,027
1920	572,432	4,691,717	8,806	67,552	22,946	111,325	1,416	4,420	605,600	4,875,014
1921	535,897	4,276,158	8,696	65,818	24,197	122,938	1,366	6,104	570,156	4,471,018
1922	526,906	3,776,896	8,788	65,516	25,095	121,331	1,587	6,124	562,376	3,969,867
1923	545,605	3,849,423	11,042	63,313	26,042	123,703	1,813	8,669	584,502	4,045,108
1924	580,569	4,113,813	8,310	60,862	28,543	127,350	2,348	10,309	619,770	4,312,334

* Includes foreign offices to year 1915.

† In previous years included in United Kingdom and foreign offices.

Table No. 2.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES SOLD FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1886—THE DATE UPON WHICH THEY WERE FIRST ISSUED—TO 31ST MARCH, 1925.

Year.	Number of Postal Notes sold.													Total.	
	At 1s.	At 1s. 6d.	At 2s.	At 2s. 6d.	At 3s.	At 5s.	At 7s. 6d.	At 10s.	At 12s. 6d.	At 15s.	At 17s. 6d.	At £1.	At £5.*	Number.	Value.
Quarter ended Mar. 31, 1886															
1886-87	3,019	2,046	..	1,012	..	2,039	969	2,379	695	992	425	2,866	..	16,442	6,910
1887-88	16,605	12,283	..	6,647	..	11,566	5,729	13,103	4,090	5,187	2,375	14,961	..	92,546	37,659
1888-89	22,467	17,167	..	9,162	..	15,553	7,671	17,487	5,278	6,940	2,952	17,578	..	122,255	47,729
1889-90	27,428	21,900	..	11,912	..	19,741	9,477	21,149	6,618	8,243	3,653	19,778	..	149,879	56,842
1890-91	32,754	25,387	..	14,478	..	23,550	10,894	24,011	7,809	9,386	4,158	22,596	..	175,023	65,484
1891-92	35,915	28,559	..	16,092	..	25,204	12,229	25,906	7,969	10,172	4,366	23,503	..	189,915	69,722
1892-93	42,416	33,722	..	19,383	..	29,550	14,019	30,132	9,908	11,611	4,953	25,839	..	220,683	79,326
1893-94	48,612	38,849	..	22,038	..	33,012	16,072	32,747	9,904	12,330	5,369	28,969	..	247,902	87,837
1894-95	56,761	44,706	..	25,461	..	37,771	18,096	37,687	11,016	13,800	6,156	33,935	..	285,389	101,002
1895-96	62,306	49,846	..	28,975	..	43,829	20,423	43,167	11,864	15,567	6,790	36,601	..	319,368	112,308
1896-97	68,454	56,185	..	32,801	..	49,204	22,802	47,787	13,601	17,191	7,020	33,390	..	349,627	123,368
1897-98	74,534	62,056	..	35,322	..	54,219	24,871	51,963	14,365	18,102	7,406	32,808	..	376,796	129,012
1898-99	81,958	69,981	..	38,617	..	60,843	26,968	55,748	15,463	19,477	7,904	32,179	..	409,866	134,378
1899-1900	86,529	72,710	..	41,991	..	64,386	28,448	59,631	16,202	19,990	8,193	32,696	..	431,449	139,957
1900-1901	93,762	77,431	..	44,384	..	70,416	30,680	63,787	16,957	21,393	8,539	33,491	..	461,447	147,686
1901-1902	85,478	68,068	..	52,691	14,702	80,630	30,630	71,001	13,304	23,875	6,799	35,067	1,192	560	154,436
1902-1903	49,529	30,255	..	70,683	65,467	109,663	..	92,708	..	32,128	..	43,042	..	556	173,317
1903-1904	54,268	33,409	..	76,613	75,700	119,593	..	102,641	..	34,508	..	48,852	..	616,264	191,905
1904-1905	61,379	37,514	..	85,909	89,276	134,270	..	114,755	..	38,030	..	58,629	..	707,044	220,070
1905-1906	65,484	40,263	..	96,228	99,739	154,281	..	130,430	..	42,317	..	69,206	..	785,347	250,123
1906-1907	74,389	45,358	..	108,493	114,411	167,430	..	143,216	..	46,228	..	76,508	..	875,324	276,279
1907-1908	82,417	54,375	..	120,321	128,384	187,083	..	159,045	..	51,559	..	91,193	..	981,642	314,053
1908-1909	89,906	58,202	..	136,392	143,854	205,500	..	171,951	..	57,637	..	104,714	..	1,092,631	347,300
1909-1910	97,285	59,484	..	162,588	166,486	227,471	..	188,677	..	62,916	..	123,786	..	1,222,280	389,143
1910-1911	113,825	67,406	..	181,791	166,486	261,045	..	214,453	..	70,967	..	143,611	..	1,414,752	447,619
1911-1912	130,645	79,792	..	211,298	201,569	301,707	..	242,854	..	82,253	..	171,900	..	1,666,959	524,943
1912-1913	141,504	85,130	..	236,665	215,984	337,338	..	261,600	..	88,693	..	190,823	..	1,821,566	574,980
1913-1914	164,201	92,342	..	264,844	220,109	367,942	..	283,206	..	95,535	..	213,153	..	1,970,643	636,473
1914-1915	172,400	103,753	..	298,669	256,231	418,712	..	312,870	..	106,560	..	245,230	..	2,238,842	721,743
1915-1916	182,793	107,483	..	307,934	263,522	444,427	..	325,071	..	107,506	..	229,640	..	2,314,327	725,118
1916-1917	186,873	114,570	..	364,086	360,956	461,137	..	334,277	..	111,095	..	211,543	..	2,370,079	723,314
1917-1918	184,873	112,639	..	322,946	260,956	440,215	..	301,825	..	108,978	..	211,000	..	2,286,463	695,819
1918-1919	187,005	115,699	..	316,266	258,421	401,696	..	252,396	..	103,348	..	194,180	..	2,166,597	638,246
1919-1920	181,824	114,553	..	326,398	253,728	381,202	..	238,337	..	102,467	..	192,751	..	2,091,051	619,605
1920-1921	186,327	121,037	..	339,341	268,032	396,994	..	246,688	..	110,819	..	208,177	..	2,197,520	656,910
1921-1922	217,553	120,888	..	342,040	266,119	410,584	..	254,868	..	123,917	..	234,601	..	2,280,219	705,027
1922-1923	239,187	120,780	..	352,681	259,372	445,995	..	269,863	..	137,192	..	238,517	..	2,377,622	739,783
1923-1924	262,172	130,275	..	331,376	236,877	475,947	..	276,650	..	138,621	..	233,809	..	2,434,506	747,025
1924-1925	285,065	145,277	..	366,241	247,915	528,178	..	299,987	..	151,288	..	243,519	..	2,652,777	804,343
	297,019	154,406	..	397,666	253,311	577,873	..	316,947	..	162,281	..	258,123	..	2,846,333	860,029

* Issued only from 17th June, 1895, to 31st October, 1907.

Table No. 3.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF TRANSACTIONS AT THE MONEY-ORDER OFFICES DURING THE YEAR 1924, AND SAVINGS-BANK OFFICES OF NEW ZEALAND DURING THE YEAR 1924-25.

Postal District.	Money-orders.						Savings-banks.						
	Issued.		Paid.		Number of New Accounts opened.	Number of Accounts closed.	Deposits.		Withdrawals.		Number of Accounts closed.	Number.	Amount.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			
Auckland	133,198	£ 5,818	803,309	£ 1,040,909	17,910	13,714	246,951	£ 5,469,178	225,072	13,714	225,072	£ 5,612,300	
Blenheim	9,061	329	52,751	32,546	915	757	13,985	317,810	11,810	757	11,810	304,988	
Christchurch	65,918	2,863	428,136	553,065	10,308	7,085	207,435	4,597,190	180,607	7,085	180,607	4,797,923	
Dunedin	60,062	2,272	356,222	408,880	6,552	5,286	116,961	2,406,685	92,232	5,286	92,232	2,621,457	
Gisborne	17,228	688	115,480	76,129	3,059	1,609	31,721	668,572	23,755	1,609	23,755	611,747	
Greymouth	21,794	781	126,230	67,620	1,428	1,181	16,944	369,697	11,956	1,181	11,956	407,817	
Hamilton	72,629	2,472	440,536	244,268	7,450	4,801	73,352	1,437,459	53,093	4,801	53,093	1,402,611	
Invercargill	30,637	1,067	176,887	130,460	2,855	2,177	38,463	859,958	29,259	2,177	29,259	891,920	
Napier	37,496	1,440	252,366	203,492	6,206	4,674	69,666	1,698,633	52,763	4,674	52,763	1,653,767	
Nelson	16,225	606	96,683	84,851	1,593	1,205	23,236	505,405	19,490	1,205	19,490	532,867	
New Plymouth	30,792	1,121	195,791	160,121	4,483	3,444	50,540	1,210,230	38,273	3,444	38,273	1,245,334	
Oamaru	9,519	299	93,649	28,968	992	807	13,776	345,812	11,813	807	11,813	402,219	
Thames	29,257	1,043	181,137	87,646	2,908	3,122	28,331	602,882	19,060	3,122	19,060	666,050	
Timaru	19,038	657	201,665	69,653	2,339	1,860	33,312	867,827	28,676	1,860	28,676	979,476	
Wanganui	39,675	1,282	259,472	140,985	4,401	3,292	60,627	1,284,302	48,268	3,292	48,268	1,274,344	
Wellington	123,710	5,164	821,389	937,198	20,864	14,943	335,235	6,736,579	256,092	14,943	256,092	6,814,416	
Westport	12,914	488	68,975	28,927	723	538	8,340	152,023	4,921	538	4,921	159,988	
Western Samoa	1,621	104	12,409	1,145	256	82	1,392	29,043	742	82	742	26,479	
Rarotonga	737	48	9,842	12,977	353	27	742	23,612	409	27	409	7,906	
Grand totals	731,511	28,542	4,692,929	4,309,840	95,595	70,604	1,371,009	29,582,897	1,108,291	70,604	1,108,291	30,413,609	

Table No. 4.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS-BANKS.—GENERAL STATEMENT.

TABLE SHOWING THE BUSINESS OF THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS-BANKS IN THE VARIOUS POSTAL DISTRICTS IN NEW ZEALAND DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1925.

Postal Districts.	Number of Post Office Savings-banks Open at the Close of the Period.	Number of Deposits received during the Period.	Total Amount of Deposits received during the Period.	Average Amount of each Deposit received during the Period.	Number of Withdrawals during the Period.	Total Amount of Withdrawals during the Period.	Average Amount of each Withdrawal during the Period.	Excess of Deposits over Withdrawals during the Period.	Excess of Withdrawals over Deposits during the Period.	Cost of Management during the Period.	Average Cost of each Transaction, Deposit or Withdrawal.	Interest for the Period.	Number of Accounts opened during the Period.	Number of Accounts remaining Open at Close of the Period.	Total Amount standing to the Credit of all Open Accounts, inclusive of Interest to the Close of the Period.	Average Amount standing to the Credit of each Open Account at Close of the Period.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland ..	177	246,951	5,469,177 16 1	22 2 11	225,072	5,612,300 0 6	24 18 8	143,122 4 5	..	..	..	269,923 14 3	17,910	129,302	7,558,927 8 7	58 9 2
Blenheim ..	14	13,985	317,810 9 1	22 14 6	11,810	304,988 1 2	25 16 6	..	..	..	..	22,139 16 10	915	9,900	634,333 12 0	64 1 6
Christchurch ..	74	207,435	4,597,189 17 6	22 3 3	180,607	4,797,922 13 10	26 11 4	200,732 16 4	..	..	..	266,484 11 5	10,308	109,763	7,413,572 2 9	67 10 10
Dunedin ..	72	116,961	2,406,685 0 4	20 11 6	92,232	2,621,457 7 1	28 8 5	214,772 6 9	..	..	..	173,016 1 0	6,552	70,776	4,679,111 0 6	66 2 3
Gisborne ..	28	31,721	668,572 1 5	21 1 6	23,755	611,747 4 4	25 15 0	..	..	..	..	36,724 7 5	3,059	18,482	1,051,584 12 1	56 17 11
Greymouth ..	24	16,944	369,697 2 8	21 16 5	11,956	407,816 11 9	34 2 2	38,119 9 1	..	..	..	29,423 5 9	1,428	12,613	788,749 11 9	62 10 8
Hamilton ..	84	73,352	1,437,459 9 7	19 11 11	53,093	1,402,610 15 0	26 8 4	..	..	..	..	73,836 5 3	7,450	31,732	2,112,300 13 7	66 11 4
Invercargill ..	37	38,463	859,958 7 11	22 7 2	29,259	891,919 17 8	30 9 8	31,961 9 9	..	..	..	69,997 4 5	2,855	28,315	1,921,021 7 6	67 16 11
Napier ..	45	69,666	1,698,632 18 9	24 7 8	52,763	1,653,767 2 5	31 6 11	..	..	..	..	84,815 0 6	6,206	37,843	2,438,874 4 6	64 8 11
Nelson ..	31	23,236	505,405 1 1	21 15 0	19,490	532,867 2 11	27 6 10	27,462 1 10	..	..	..	35,342 4 1	1,593	15,978	963,644 1 7	60 6 3
New Plymouth ..	37	50,540	1,210,229 12 8	23 18 11	38,273	1,245,334 18 8	32 10 9	35,105 6 0	..	..	..	66,005 2 4	4,483	27,720	1,864,779 9 0	67 5 5
Oamaru ..	11	13,776	345,811 9 8	25 2 0	11,813	402,218 10 0	34 1 0	56,407 0 4	..	..	..	25,140 18 0	992	8,895	668,575 5 3	75 3 3
Thames ..	37	28,331	602,881 10 8	21 5 7	19,060	666,049 14 0	34 18 11	63,168 3 4	..	..	..	38,379 7 4	2,908	20,245	1,072,190 18 9	52 19 2
Timaru ..	18	33,312	867,827 8 9	26 1 0	28,676	979,476 7 2	34 3 1	111,648 18 5	..	..	..	59,661 19 4	2,339	21,267	1,601,631 19 9	75 6 2
Wanganui ..	43	60,627	1,284,301 17 1	21 3 8	48,268	1,274,343 13 5	26 8 0	..	..	..	..	69,740 1 1	4,401	33,662	1,987,462 1 0	59 0 10
Wellington ..	95	335,235	6,736,578 14 10	20 1 11	256,092	6,814,415 19 6	26 12 2	77,837 4 8	..	..	..	345,954 0 8	20,864	14,943	9,792,897 16 11	64 9 2
Westport ..	19	8,340	152,023 4 5	18 4 7	4,921	159,988 7 1	32 10 3	7,965 2 8	..	..	..	12,566 9 0	723	538	41,789 14 10	58 13 11
Western Samoa ..	3	1,392	29,042 16 1	20 17 3	742	26,479 1 0	35 13 8	..	..	..	..	1,344 4 5	256	82	41,050 15 2	70 13 1
Rarotonga ..	6	742	23,612 4 2	31 16 5	409	7,905 16 5	19 6 6	..	..	..	..	424 17 9	353	27	16,131 5 6	49 9 8
Totals for year ended 31st March, 1925	855	1,371,009	29,582,897 2 9	21 11 6	1,108,201	30,413,609 3 11	27 8 10	830,712 1 2	95,000	9-19d.	1,680,919 10 10	95,595	70,604	735,148	46,948,628 1 0	63 17 3

Table No. 5.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS-BANKS.—GENERAL STATEMENT.

TABLE SHOWING THE BUSINESS OF THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS-BANKS IN NEW ZEALAND, BY TEN-YEAR PERIODS, FROM THE DATE THEY WERE ESTABLISHED IN FEBRUARY, 1867, TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1918, AND YEARLY PERIODS THEREAFTER TO THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1925.

Year.	Number of Post Office Savings-banks Open at the Close of the Year.	Total Amount of Deposits received during the Year.	Average Amount of each Deposit received during the Year.			Number of Withdrawals during the Year.	Total Amount of Withdrawals during the Year.			Average Amount of each Withdrawal during the Year.	Excess of Deposits over Withdrawals during the Year.	Excess of Withdrawals over Deposits during the Year.	Cost of Management during the Year.	Average Cost of each Transaction, Profit or Drawal.			Interest for the Year.	Number of Accounts opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts remaining Open at Close of the Year.	Total Amount standing to the Credit of all Open Accounts, inclusive of Interest to the Close of the Year.	Average Amount standing to the Credit of each Open Account at the Close of the Year.								
			£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.						£	s.	d.					
Year ended 31st Mar., 1925	855	1,371,009 29,582,897	29	11	7	1,108,291	30,413,609	3	11	27	8	10	95,000	0	9	19	1,680,919	10	10	735,148	46,948,628	1	0	63	17	3			
Year ended 31st Mar., 1924	846	1,261,141 29,598,372	4	8	23	1,075,037	29,510,320	19	6	27	9	0	90,000	0	9	24	1,649,976	4	8	710,157	46,098,420	11	4	64	18	3			
Year ended 31st Mar., 1923	840	1,175,104 26,682,426	11	4	22	1,081,300	27,769,262	16	3	25	13	8	70,650	0	7	51	1,605,525	1	10	690,790	44,360,393	1	6	64	4	4			
Year ended 31st Mar., 1922	831	1,227,591 29,125,997	10	0	23	1,119,662	30,236,231	6	5	27	0	0	60,000	0	6	13	1,599,907	2	0	89,859	75,748	7	4	64	11	6			
*Fifteen months ended 31st March, 1921	819	1,664,206 44,302,852	5	4	26	1,458,008	41,162,486	9	10	28	4	6	80,000	0	6	14	1,818,534	5	2	152,930	118,894	6	4	65	4	2			
Totals for 1919	794	1,289,161 29,758,448	9	7	23	1,894,247	25,962,378	2	6	26	2	1	52,000	0	5	46	1,178,935	6	6	118,109	77,531	7	4	60	17	4			
" 1918	786	1,213,353 18,101,104	18	1	14	1,729,729	14,938,841	10	0	20	10	7	32,000	0	3	96	1,059,471	17	8	76,869	53,015	5	4	56	12	5			
" 1908	593	706,101 9,674,075	4	0	13	484,672	9,417,820	10	3	19	8	8	27,000	0	5	44	379,808	6	7	80,133	57,829	3	42,077	12,159,293	18	1	35	10	11
" 1898	409	281,749 3,279,611	7	5	11	196,764	3,194,893	16	7	16	4	9	8,500	0	4	26	128,128	16	6	37,265	26,628	6	169,968	4,957,771	5	5	29	3	5
" 1888	290	145,355 1,544,747	7	11	10	96,204	1,387,471	1	10	14	8	5	4,000	0	3	97	78,080	6	0	21,307	16,543	0	84,488	2,048,441	10	9	24	4	10
" 1878	147	69,908 762,084	12	0	10	42,746	742,053	14	3	17	7	2	2,500	0	5	33	31,664	12	9	13,005	9,634	9	32,132	819,071	8	2	25	9	9
" 1868	55	13,014 194,535	11	6	14	6,365	107,094	17	3	16	16	6	789	0	9	77	4,880	7	3	3,282	1,186	3	4,252	163,518	15	7	38	9	1
Totals from 1st Feb. to 31st Dec., 1867	46	6,977 96,372	7	10	13	1,919	26,415	18	9	13	15	3	822	1	10	18	1,241	5	0	2,520	364	0	2,156	71,197	14	1	33	0	5

* Termination of Savings-bank year altered from 31st December to 31st March, with effect from 31st March, 1921.

Table No. 6.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS-BANK.

Receipts and Payments for the Twelve Months ended 31st March, 1925.

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Cr.</i>	£	s.	d.
Balance at credit of depositors on 1st April, 1924	46,098,420	11	4	Withdrawals, 1st April, 1924, to 31st March, 1925	30,413,609	3	11
Deposits, 1st April, 1924, to 31st March, 1925	29,582,897	2	9	Balance at credit of depositors, 31st March, 1925	46,948,628	1	0
Interest credited to depositors, 1st April, 1924, to 31st March, 1925	1,680,919	10	10				
	<u>£77,362,237</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>£77,362,237</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>

Reserve Fund Account.

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Cr.</i>	£	s.	d.
Balance at credit on 1st April, 1924..	1,000,000	0	0	Amount at credit of Reserve Fund Account on 31st March, 1925 ..	1,000,000	0	0
	<u>£1,000,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£1,000,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Liabilities and Assets.

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Cr.</i>	£	s.	d.
Balance at credit of Post Office Savings-bank depositors on 31st March, 1925	46,948,628	1	0	Securities (Post Office Savings-bank)	47,261,511	16	9
Balance on transfer	16,748	15	0	Balance uninvested	918,826	9	6
Balance at credit of Reserve Fund Account	1,000,000	0	0				
Balance of assets over liabilities	214,961	10	3				
	<u>£48,180,338</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>£48,180,338</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>

Profit and Loss Account.

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Cr.</i>	£	s.	d.
Interest credited to depositors during the year ended 31st March, 1925 ..	1,680,919	10	10	Balance forward	160,179	7	6
Savings-bank profits carried to Postal Revenue	160,000	0	0	Interest received during the year	1,967,450	3	8
Paid Public Account for cost of Savings-bank management	95,000	0	0	Accrued interest, 31st March, 1925	571,644	10	4
Balance forward to next account	214,961	10	3		<u>2,539,094</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>£2,150,881</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Less accrued interest on 31st March, 1924	552,921	11	11
					<u>1,986,173</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				Sundry receipts	4,528	11	6
					<u>£2,150,881</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Table No. 7.
SAVINGS-BANK ACCOUNTS REMAINING OPEN ON 31ST MARCH, 1925, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO BALANCE AT CREDIT OF EACH ACCOUNT.

District.	Not exceeding £20.	Exceeding £20 and up to £50.	Exceeding £50 and up to £100.	Exceeding £100 and up to £200.	Exceeding £200 and up to £300.	Exceeding £300 and up to £400.	Exceeding £400 and up to £500.	Exceeding £500 and up to £600.	Exceeding £600 and up to £700.	Exceeding £700 and up to £800.	Exceeding £800 and up to £900.	Exceeding £900 and up to £1,000.	Exceeding £1,000 and up to £2,000.	Exceeding £2,000 and up to £3,000.	Exceeding £3,000 and up to £4,000.	Exceeding £4,000 and up to £5,000.	Exceeding £5,000.	Total Number of Accounts open.
Auckland	92,051	10,584	7,346	6,947	3,371	1,924	1,411	1,045	617	427	306	200	693	72	24	15	16	127,049
Blenheim	6,839	903	644	586	299	206	133	99	47	30	32	17	56	6	3	..	..	9,900
Christchurch	73,803	10,868	7,676	6,976	3,529	2,138	1,491	978	656	407	241	222	674	78	15	7	4	109,763
Dunedin	47,009	6,865	4,924	4,772	2,556	1,586	1,024	698	445	257	160	121	322	27	4	3	3	70,776
Feilding	838	311	221	198	99	58	34	41	17	7	5	10	19	2	2	..	1	1,863
Gisborne	13,146	1,757	1,152	958	486	261	211	161	93	64	43	45	86	12	5	1	1	18,482
Greymouth	7,238	883	618	643	323	214	155	97	69	40	34	19	65	5	1	..	..	10,404
Hamilton	20,576	3,576	2,515	2,217	951	548	396	302	180	121	77	76	171	22	2	2	..	31,732
Hastings	2,159	734	606	490	248	149	100	67	33	39	22	11	38	8	1	2	..	4,707
Hawera	1,658	385	290	245	147	76	71	25	26	14	7	19	25	5	..	..	..	2,984
Hokitika	1,630	164	107	116	57	46	26	16	17	5	3	6	6	..	..	..	..	2,209
Invercargill	18,366	2,850	2,124	2,083	1,004	600	426	319	177	98	60	65	117	19	5	1	1	28,315
Masterton	1,664	577	411	390	188	120	69	59	29	28	16	8	45	7	1	1	..	3,613
Napier	23,423	3,103	2,100	1,825	913	500	366	275	153	106	71	73	180	15	7	4	2	33,136
Nelson	10,685	1,658	1,169	1,054	533	326	199	93	81	44	32	23	63	6	..	1	1	15,978
New Plymouth	17,723	2,180	1,525	1,337	635	426	267	221	111	76	59	50	108	11	4	2	1	24,736
Oamaru	5,496	993	722	686	376	188	155	92	57	39	30	22	35	3	..	..	1	8,895
Palmerston North	8,265	1,483	982	952	486	281	175	139	93	64	33	19	82	15	3	1	..	13,073
Thames	14,637	1,795	1,197	1,114	529	294	197	169	98	52	36	31	77	12	4	1	2	20,245
Timaru	13,249	2,409	1,700	1,597	767	500	310	232	118	87	73	47	157	14	4	1	2	21,267
Wanganui	22,613	3,291	2,736	1,843	1,125	637	479	301	145	135	107	38	184	23	2	3	..	33,662
Wellington	91,817	12,097	9,467	8,483	3,710	2,287	1,649	1,126	721	517	342	255	761	91	29	15	9	133,376
Westport	4,272	438	312	361	167	120	67	43	29	16	18	7	29	2	..	..	1	5,823
Western Samoa	83	83	47	55	16	3	6	3	3	1	3	..	5	2	..	..	..	581
Whangarei	1,225	336	249	198	162	47	29	23	14	9	6	..	12	..	..	..	..	2,253
Rarotonga	206	42	35	22	4	9	3	2	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	326
Totals 31st March, 1925	500,951	70,365	50,875	46,088	22,621	13,544	9,479	6,626	4,029	2,685	1,816	1,378	4,011	457	116	62	45	735,148
Totals 31st March, 1924	481,861	69,640	48,842	43,521	22,557	13,324	9,328	6,656	3,948	2,706	1,962	1,520	3,656	415	112	55	54	710,157

Table No. 8.
TABLE SHOWING THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LETTERS AND LETTER-CARDS, POST-CARDS, BOOK-PACKETS, NEWSPAPERS, AND PARCELS POSTED AND DELIVERED IN THE SEVERAL POSTAL DISTRICTS OF NEW ZEALAND DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1924.

Postal District (1924).	Posted in the Dominion.						Delivered in the Dominion.						Total posted and delivered.					
	Letters and Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Books, &c.	Newspapers.	Parcels.	Letters and Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Books, &c.	Newspapers.	Parcels.	Letters and Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Books, &c.	News-papers.	Parcels.			
Auckland	33,816,415	924,755	13,513,601	5,088,243	929,123	27,445,795	725,179	9,699,209	4,036,240	642,915	61,262,210	1,649,934	23,212,810	9,124,483	1,572,038			
Blenheim	1,579,215	22,334	389,528	190,658	21,684	1,547,793	36,738	450,684	413,725	65,364	3,127,008	59,072	840,212	604,383	87,048			
Christchurch	17,738,937	507,845	6,148,108	1,828,934	439,387	18,870,878	820,430	6,709,638	2,500,394	351,689	36,609,815	1,328,275	12,857,746	4,329,328	791,076			
Dunedin	11,600,606	443,820	5,034,225	1,669,576	305,929	10,369,879	407,381	4,191,122	1,847,612	303,160	21,970,485	851,201	9,225,347	3,517,188	609,089			
Gisborne	2,561,375	23,504	605,583	528,598	49,647	2,982,551	52,442	1,062,646	1,080,716	108,901	5,543,926	75,946	1,668,229	1,609,314	158,548			
Greymouth	1,621,184	35,698	347,680	271,193	42,302	1,991,002	38,207	441,415	490,828	92,625	3,612,186	73,905	789,095	762,021	134,927			
Hamilton	8,018,511	200,174	1,667,902	895,372	109,018	8,499,361	247,949	2,771,652	1,568,580	298,441	16,517,872	448,123	4,439,554	2,463,952	407,459			
Invercargill	6,406,805	148,850	2,145,089	754,638	87,542	6,972,251	184,327	2,199,275	1,136,811	162,331	13,379,056	333,177	4,344,364	1,891,449	249,873			
Napier	6,582,880	106,639	2,161,139	802,242	96,135	7,661,459	156,650	3,144,505	1,615,666	225,368	14,244,339	263,289	5,305,644	2,417,908	321,503			
Nelson	2,194,438	48,919	626,672	210,806	49,049	2,345,850	58,981	825,201	539,695	108,706	4,540,288	107,900	1,451,873	750,501	157,755			
New Plymouth	4,484,293	119,925	1,416,327	485,634	68,900	5,017,519	150,637	1,893,736	895,193	169,351	9,501,812	270,582	3,310,063	1,380,827	238,251			
Oamaru	1,353,126	53,261	392,820	139,269	22,776	1,431,833	84,383	696,943	304,980	41,093	2,784,959	137,644	1,089,763	444,249	63,869			
Thames	2,731,664	54,275	736,642	286,847	44,512	3,446,222	98,215	1,181,453	617,357	140,218	6,177,886	152,490	1,918,095	904,204	184,730			
Timaru	2,969,431	70,369	850,033	234,664	46,830	3,282,513	141,258	1,106,852	533,026	99,723	6,251,944	211,627	1,956,385	767,690	146,653			
Wanganui	5,259,430	98,592	1,701,939	816,880	92,339	5,178,797	119,938	2,078,583	1,031,212	211,003	10,438,227	218,530	3,780,522	1,848,092	303,342			
Wellington	26,751,606	492,981	12,691,086	3,999,505	980,711	27,578,492	552,876	9,429,592	4,210,385	574,167	54,330,098	1,045,857	22,120,678	8,209,890	1,534,878			
Westport	777,400	11,206	147,375	138,931	17,459	1,088,802	33,826	228,644	312,039	46,397	1,866,202	45,032	376,019	450,970	63,856			
Western Samoa	69,468	1,098	2,508	10,878	552	84,144	120	2,004	115,170	3,054	153,612	1,218	4,512	126,048	3,606			
Totals	136,516,784	3,364,245	50,578,257	18,352,868	3,383,995	135,795,141	3,909,557	48,112,654	23,249,629	3,644,506	272,311,925	7,273,802	98,690,911	41,602,497	7,028,501			
Previous year	122,558,296	2,950,114	41,452,818	17,030,450	3,342,208	129,463,663	3,653,179	38,083,182	21,108,247	3,544,650	252,021,959	6,603,263	79,546,000	38,138,697	6,886,858			

Table No. 9.

REGISTERED ARTICLES.

The number of registered articles dealt with in 1924, compared with the number in 1890, 1900, 1910, and 1923, is as follows:—

	1890.	1900.	1910.	1923.	1924.
From places beyond the Dominion	26,374	52,343	132,493	177,332	198,792
Registered in the Dominion	169,321	464,036	993,675	1,825,874	2,046,831
Totals	195,695	516,379	1,126,168	2,003,206	2,245,623

Table No. 10.

PARCEL-POST.

The following shows the number and weight of parcels posted during the years 1890, 1900, 1910, 1923, and 1924:—

—	1890.	1900.	1910.	1923.	1924.
Number	121,292	199,413	1,190,711	3,342,208	3,383,995
Weight	336,643 lb. 12 oz.	682,104 lb. 7 oz.	3,953,284 lb. 15 oz.	16,821,332 lb.	17,031,048 lb.

The following table shows the number and weight of parcels exchanged with the United Kingdom and the undermentioned places during the years 1923 and 1924:—

Places.	Received.				Despatched.			
	1923.		1924.		1923.		1924.	
	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.
United Kingdom and foreign countries (via London)	174,859	1,128,219 lb.	176,284	1,112,534 lb.	18,546	73,883 lb.	19,340	82,024 lb.
United States of America	59,424	396,686	62,486	412,116	3,795	15,341	3,939	16,983
Canada	9,338	67,384	9,806	61,123	1,323	4,776	1,323	3,962
Victoria	21,365	91,708	16,963	72,827	4,033	13,287	4,330	15,814
New South Wales	26,746	104,601	27,474	98,490	8,159	26,545	8,524	28,758
South Australia	924	2,393	844	2,259	586	1,908	654	2,484
Queensland	1,179	2,929	1,112	3,105	977	2,947	1,078	3,333
Tasmania	505	994	449	939	566	1,278	580	1,427
Western Australia	651	1,446	483	1,025	487	1,338	495	1,554
Fiji	552	1,386	666	1,412	1,507	5,155	1,739	6,476
Ceylon	538	3,098	453	2,112	131	524	132	824
Cape of Good Hope	1,006	3,979	1,163	4,234	116	428	95	399
Natal	..	..	..	..	305	966	334	1,168
India	3,843	29,509	2,571	16,949	709	3,767	707	3,755
Tonga	74	250	49	158	943	3,954	1,115	5,245
Tahiti	57	289	39	235	435	2,613	1,006	6,192
Hong Kong	1,412	9,784	1,561	11,078	398	1,919	451	2,041
Straits Settlements	258	805	323	1,050	233	983	230	966
Solomon Islands	2	2	..	..	4	21	5	9
New Hebrides	3	6	2	11	2	7	2	5
Uruguay	..	..	..	..	57	245	60	249
Pitcairn Island	279*	606*	293*	636*	117	530	98	452
Norfolk Island	1	3	..	..	1	3	5	8
Ellice Island	6	11	..	..	..	..	..	..
Aden	19	119	30	160	..	..	..	..
Fanning Island	..	..	41	203	80	374	101	394
Egypt	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	83
Totals	303,041	1,846,207	303,092	1,802,656	43,510	162,792	46,360	184,605

* Estimated.

Table No. II.

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE TELEGRAPH, TOLL, AND TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICES DURING THE TEN-YEAR PERIODS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1866 AND 1876, THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1886, THE 31ST MARCH, 1896, 1906, 1916; AND THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Telegraph and Toll.		Number of Telegrams and Toll Messages forwarded during the Year.						Revenue in respect of Telegraph, Toll, and Telephone Exchange Services.									
	Number of Miles of Pole-line.	Number of Offices of Wire opened.	Telegrams.			Total Number of Messages.	Telegraph.		Toll Revenue.	Telephone Exchange Revenue.	Total Telegraph and Telephone Exchange Revenue.	Telegraph.						
			Ordinary.	Urgent.	Press.		Night Letter-telegrams.	Government.				Miscellaneous.	Total Telegraph Revenue.	Government.	Night Letter-telegrams.	Press.	Total Telegraph Revenue.	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
30th June, 1866	699	1,390																
" 1876	3,154	7,247	*24,761															
" Dec., 1886	4,546	11,178	*890,382															
31st Mar., 1896	6,245	15,764	*1,533,717															
" 1906	8,355	25,116	†1,553,232	59,038	198,108	89,254												
" 1916	13,684	48,052	3,995,998	211,571	379,185	764,330												
" 1921	13,724	51,643	6,062,131	299,823	383,155	892,801												
" 1922	13,767	52,176	6,324,982	394,569	372,688	6,786,707												
" 1923	11,912	48,616	5,341,479	238,024	364,535	6,819,789												
" 1924	12,954	52,910	5,285,175	228,904	389,607	7,406,257												
" 1925	12,938	56,415	5,581,185	265,772	432,120	8,021,973												
			5,827,745	292,885	461,875	8,612,412												

* Includes private, press, and Provincial Government messages.

† Includes "delayed" telegrams.

‡ Includes miscellaneous telegraph revenue.

NOTE.—Inland Telegram Tariff: Prior to the 1st September, 1869, inland telegrams were charged for on a mileage basis. From that date a uniform rate was fixed of 2s. 6d. for ten words, and 6d. for each additional five words. From the 1st April, 1870, the minimum charge was reduced to 1s. From the 1st November, 1873, the rate was further reduced to 1s. for ten words, and 1d. for each additional word, address and signature, hitherto charged for, being free up to ten words. From the 1st July, 1877, there was introduced the "urgent" code, at double the ordinary rate. From the 1st July, 1878, a "delayed" system was introduced, the rate being fixed at 6d. for ten words, exclusive of address and signature up to ten words, and 4d. for each additional word. From the 1st February, 1892, the number of words allowed for the minimum charge in each case was increased to twelve, with free address and signature up to six words. From the 15th August, 1892, the ordinary rate was fixed at 1s. for eighteen words, including address and signature. From the 1st June, 1896, the rate was fixed at 6d. for twelve words, including address and signature, and 1d. for each additional word; and "delayed" telegrams were abolished. From the 1st November, 1906, the charge for additional words was reduced to 4d. each. From the 23rd September, 1915, the ordinary rate was increased from 6d. to 8d. for twelve words ("urgent" 1s. 2d.); and on the 1st August, 1920, it was further increased to 1s. for twelve words, and 1d. for each additional word; ("urgent" 2s., and 2d. for each additional word); Sundays and holidays, double rates. From the 1st November, 1920, there was introduced a system of night letter-telegrams, to be delivered by post on the morning following the day of presentation. The rate (since altered) was 1s. 6d. for thirty-six words and 4d. for each additional word. From the 1st February, 1923, the rate for ordinary telegrams was reduced to 9d. for twelve words, the charge for each additional word remaining at 1d. ("urgent" 1s. 6d., and 2d. for each additional word). From the same date the night letter-telegram rate was reduced to 9d. for twenty-seven words and 1d. for each additional three words.

Table No. 12.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER FORWARDED AND THE REVENUE DERIVED FROM TOLL CALLS AND PAID TELEGRAMS OF ALL CODES AND THE VALUE OF FRANKED GOVERNMENT TELEGRAMS AT THE UNDERMENTIONED POSTAL DISTRICTS DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1925.

Postal District.	Revenue derived from Paid Telegrams of all Codes and Toll Calls.	Value of franked Government Telegrams.	Total Value of Telegrams of all Codes and Toll Calls.	Number of Paid Telegrams and Toll Calls.	Number of franked Government Telegrams.	Total Number of Telegrams of all Codes and Toll Calls.
	£	£	£			
Auckland	118,775	626	119,401	2,591,265	8,502	2,599,767
Blenheim	11,761	111	11,872	267,632	1,571	269,203
Christchurch	80,930	517	81,447	1,553,098	7,484	1,560,582
Dunedin	57,889	256	58,145	1,133,174	3,263	1,136,437
Gisborne	24,712	220	24,932	419,306	2,646	421,952
Greymouth	15,071	214	15,285	278,177	4,169	282,346
Hamilton	56,248	20	56,268	1,308,183	1,402	1,309,585
Invercargill	35,000	60	35,060	769,604	925	770,529
Napier	50,071	149	50,220	1,081,471	2,012	1,083,483
Nelson	13,883	167	14,050	317,103	4,054	321,157
New Plymouth	33,017	49	33,066	755,263	951	756,214
Oamaru	9,723	35	9,758	163,512	492	164,004
Thames	20,707	25	20,732	490,126	490	490,616
Timaru	23,572	94	23,666	465,919	1,284	467,203
Wanganui	37,851	83	37,934	756,535	1,585	758,120
Wellington	154,058	1,667	155,726	2,939,097	18,942	2,958,039
Westport	5,832	127	5,959	120,925	1,788	122,713
Totals, 1924-25	749,100	4,420	753,521	15,410,390	61,560	15,471,950
Totals, 1923-24	700,329	4,930	705,259	14,407,269	69,597	14,476,866

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given printing (1,075 copies, including graphs and illustrations), £107 10s..

By Authority : W. A. G. SKINNER, Government Printer, Wellington.—1925.

Price 2s]

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER FORWARDED AND THE REVENUE DERIVED FROM TOLL CALLS AND PAID TELEGRAMS OF ALL CODES AND THE VALUE OF TRANSMITTED GOVERNMENT TELEGRAMS AT THE UNDEVELOPED LOCAL DISTRICTS DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1933

Local District	Revenue derived from paid telegrams and toll calls	Value of transmitted telegrams	Total value of telegrams and toll calls	Number of paid telegrams and toll calls	Number of telegrams	Total number of telegrams and toll calls
Western	118,775	526	119,301	2,261,267	8,702	2,269,977
Weston	11,701	111	11,812	207,629	1,071	208,600
Weston	20,290	917	21,207	693,708	7,484	700,192
Weston	27,828	250	28,078	1,123,171	3,282	1,126,453
Weston	24,712	220	24,932	119,208	2,840	122,048
Weston	17,071	214	17,285	272,177	4,160	416,337
Weston	20,248	20	20,268	1,306,482	1,402	1,307,884
Weston	22,000	00	22,000	780,604	655	781,259
Weston	20,071	100	20,171	1,081,471	2,012	1,083,483
Weston	12,282	007	12,289	417,100	4,024	4,211,124
Weston	20,707	10	20,717	70,200	001	70,201
Weston	22,572	04	22,616	485,019	1,284	486,303
Weston	22,581	04	22,625	756,236	1,282	757,518
Weston	12,282	00	12,282	2,269,097	18,242	2,287,339
Weston	12,282	1,001	13,283	120,622	1,268	121,890
Total, 1932-33	70,110	1,000	71,110	12,476,266	14,476,266	14,490,736
Total, 1933-34	70,110	1,000	71,110	12,476,266	14,476,266	14,490,736

Approximate cost of paper, printing, not given. Printing (1,075 copies, including maps and illustrations) £107 10s.

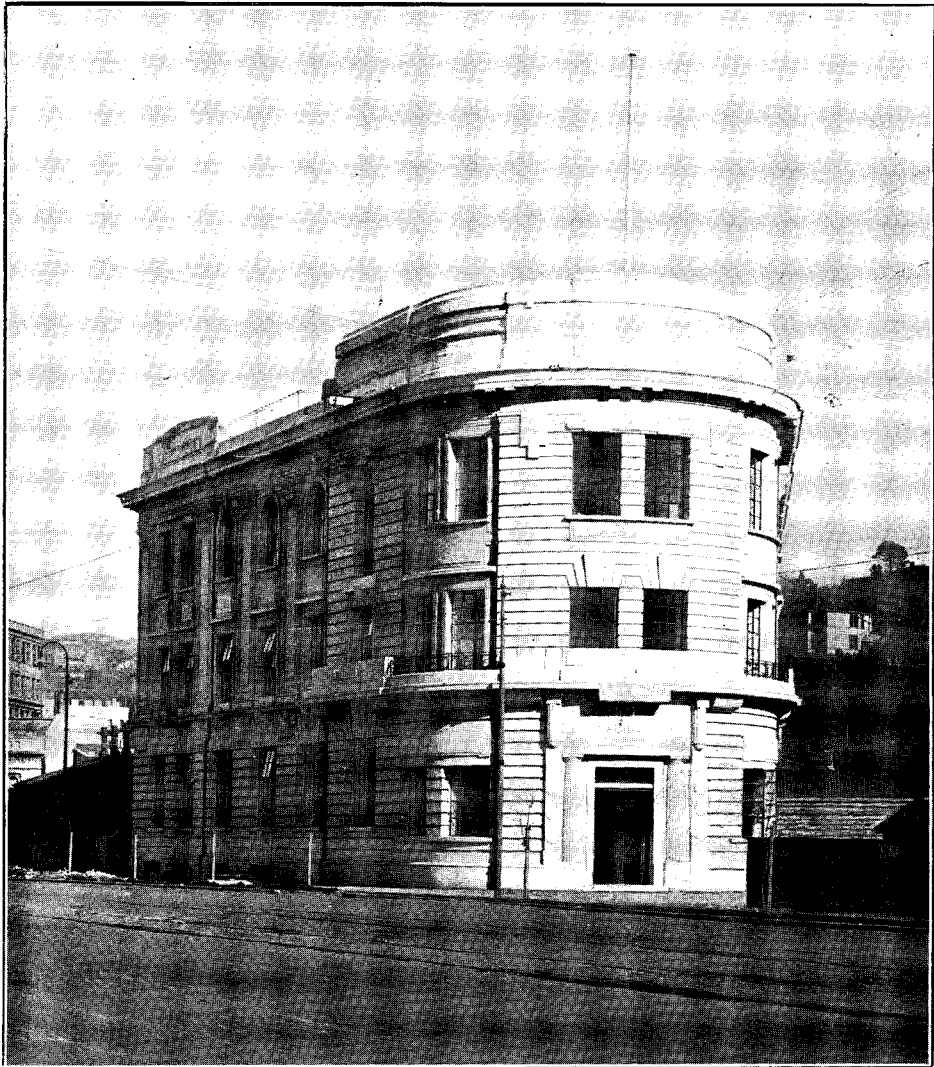


NEW POST-OFFICE, ST. HELIERS.

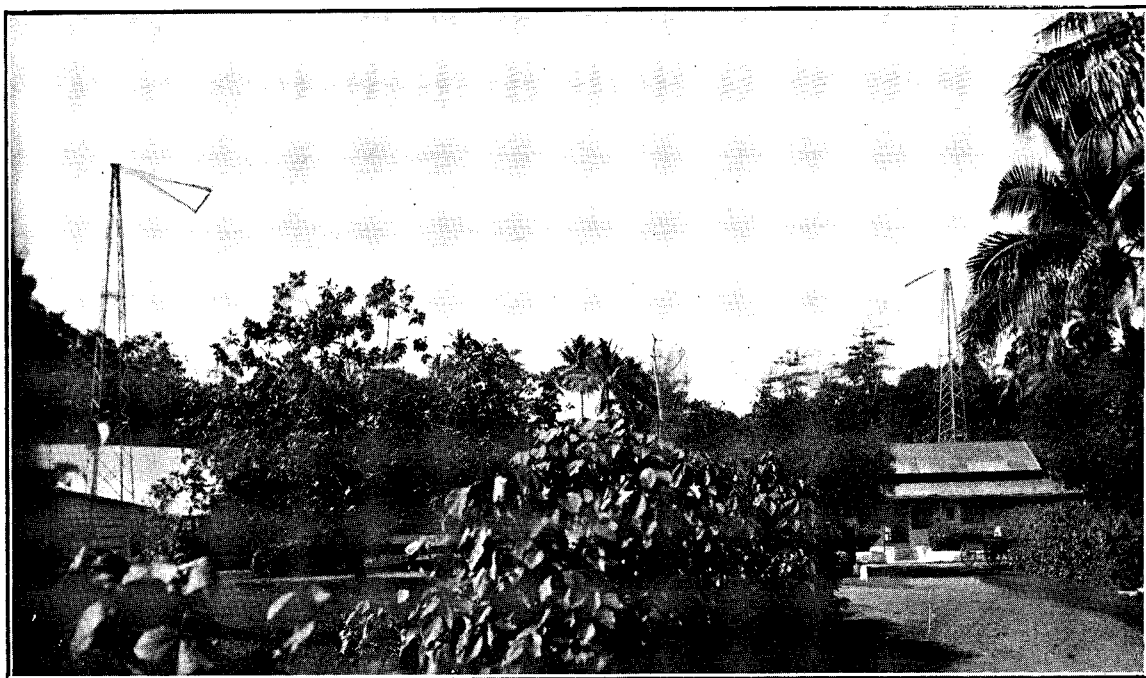


LAYING DUCTS FOR UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE-CABLES, HEREFORD STREET, CHRISTCHURCH.

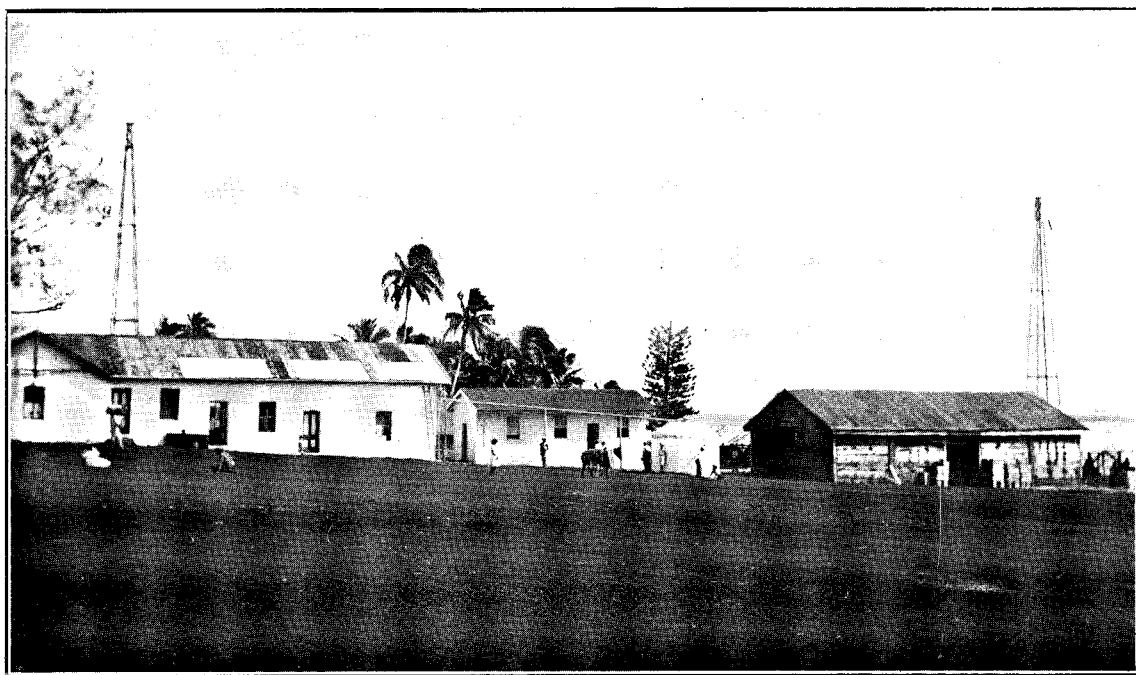
F.—1.



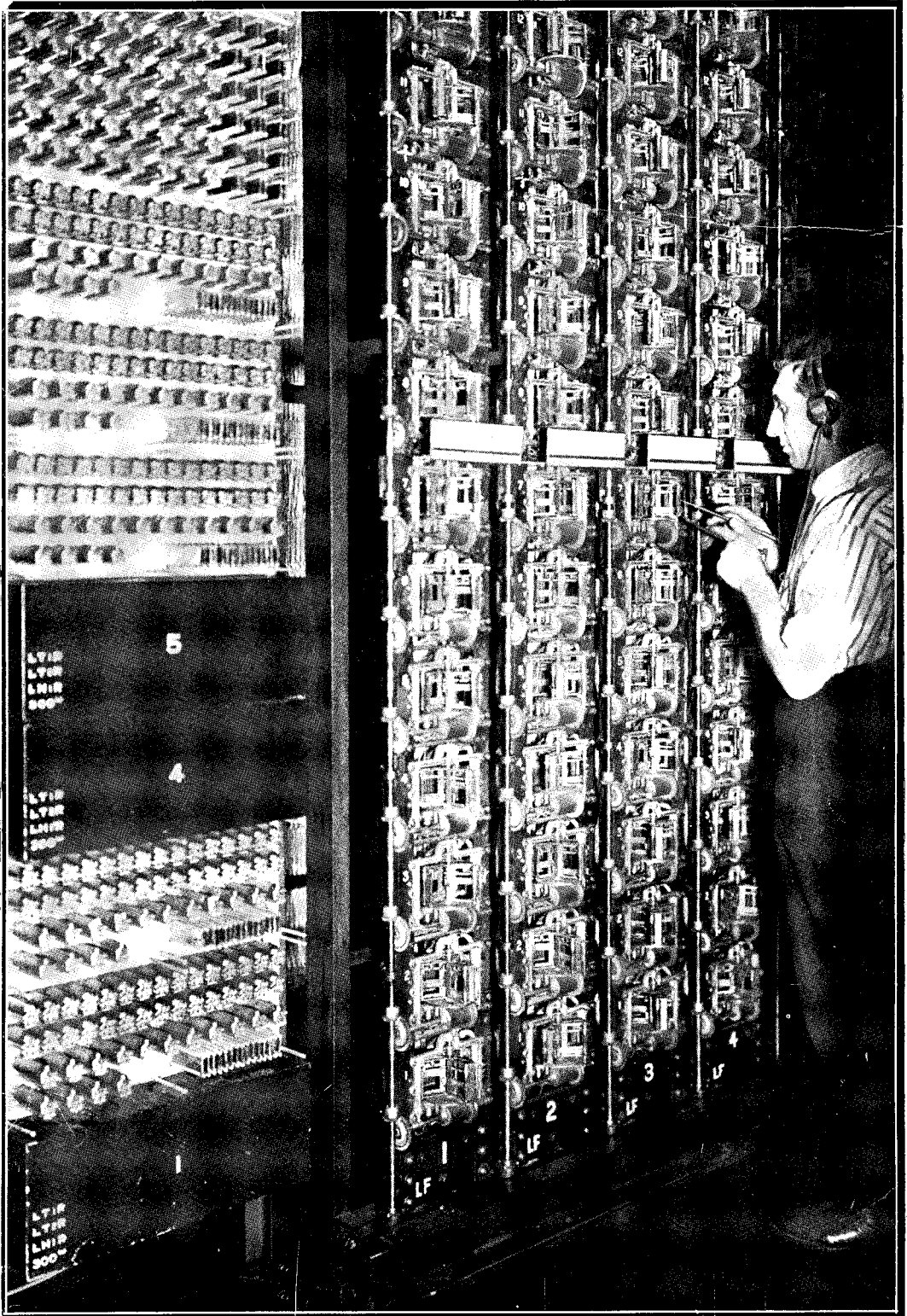
TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, STOUT STREET, WELLINGTON.



WIRELESS STATION, AITUTAKI: OPENED 10TH JUNE, 1924.



WIRELESS STATION, MANGAIA: OPENED 6TH AUGUST, 1924.



AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, WELLESLEY STREET, AUCKLAND.
Small section of relays and selecting switches undergoing final adjustment.