

STAFF.

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT ON THE 1ST APRIL, 1925 AND 1926.

The total number of persons employed on the 1st April, 1925 and 1926, was as under :—

	1st April, 1925.	1st April, 1926.
Permanent staff—		
Administrative Division	4	4
Clerical and Engineering Divisions	3,321	3,426
General Division	4,559	4,752
	7,884	8,182
Temporary staff	306	199
Casual staff	2,194	1,025
	10,384	9,406
Non-permanent staff—		
Country Postmasters and Telephonists	2,031	1,988
Postmasters who are Railway officers	99	102
	12,514	11,496

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	7,293	9.1	3.5
Women	889	11.9	7.5

Twenty officers died during the year.

PERSONAL.

Mr. E. A. Shrimpton, M.I.E.E., Chief Telegraph Engineer, retired on the 31st March, 1926, after completing over forty-three years' service. He was succeeded by Mr. A. Gibbs, M.I.E.E., Deputy Chief Telegraph Engineer.

Mr. R. D. Kelly, Chief Inspector, retired on the 6th November, 1925, after completing over forty-two years' service. He was succeeded by Mr. M. B. Esson, Senior Inspector.

Mr. F. T. R. Johnson, Controller of Savings-banks and Accounts, retired on the 22nd October, 1925, after completing over forty years' service. He was succeeded by Mr. H. D. Edwards, Assistant Controller of Savings-banks and Accounts.

APPEAL BOARD.

The Post and Telegraph Appeal Board, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. C. Cutten, S.M., sat on two occasions during the year. One hundred and six appeals were dealt with, of which one was allowed by the Board.

REPRINT OF STAFF REGULATIONS.

During the year the Post and Telegraph Staff Regulations were revised and reprinted, and copies were distributed to all officers, with the exception of message-boys and message-girls.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

From the 1st July, 1925, responsibility for the audit of accounts at chief post-offices, ledger offices, and offices of District Telegraph Engineers and Telegraph Engineers reverted to the Controller of Accounts, and the auditing will in future be carried out by officers under his control.

Owing to the introduction of commercial accounts, the system of auditing was extended to include the branch accounts kept in connection with the several Engineers' districts, Stores Branches, garages, and workshops throughout the Dominion. This audit is undertaken by qualified accountants assisted by juniors who are students in accountancy.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW POSTAL DISTRICT.

On the 1st July, 1925, a new postal district was established with Palmerston North as the chief post-office. By the change the Department is placed in a more advantageous position in regard to the control of the post and telegraph offices in the new district, and it is also enabled to afford a more efficient and expeditious service to the users of those offices.

At the commencement the Palmerston North District embraced 100 offices. The district comprises a portion of the Napier Postal District, a small portion of the Wanganui Postal District,