

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1925-26.

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1926.

NEW ZEALAND.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

(REPORT OF THE) FOR THE YEAR 1925-26.

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, 1926.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.

The business of the Department has reached the highest point on record. The excess of receipts over expenditure was £690,840. The income from postages exceeded that of the previous year by £89,214, while the telephone receipts show an increase of £113,065. The abnormal increase in telephone revenue is due to two causes: firstly, to a change in the method of collection of telephone subscriptions; and, secondly, to the creation of the new postal district of Palmerston North. Had the new district not been created, the telephone subscriptions in the Palmerston North district would not have been collected until April. With the creation of the new district the telephone subscriptions became due on the 1st January. The expenditure has been very closely watched during the year, and, where possible, economies have been effected. The result is decidedly satisfactory, the expenditure for the year being £6,701 less than that for the previous year. That there has been a decrease in expenditure despite the marked increase in business indicates the extent to which business methods are applied in one of the largest organizations in the Government service.

TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The remarkable expansion of the telephone-exchange system, which was referred to in last year's report, continues in evidence. To provide for the 13,368 new subscribers joined up during the year extensive construction work was necessary. Last year mention was made of the fact that the 13,304 new connections made during the year ended the 31st March, 1925, constituted a record. It will be seen that the figures for the year just past constitute a fresh record. Perhaps the most popular feature of the present rating-system is its operation in suburban and rural areas, where the reasonable charges for residential telephone connections encourage

residents to avail themselves of the increasingly popular public utility. Although forcible argument may be adduced by the business community against a rating-system designed to promote development in suburban and rural areas, it cannot be denied that, in a country such as New Zealand where town and country interests are so closely related, the widespread use of the telephone in country districts considerably enhances the value of the telephone to the commercial community and thus promotes development generally. It may be mentioned here that the number of exchanges in existence in the Dominion is 341, and the number of miles of wire in use is 402,433. There are now in New Zealand 94.40 telephones per thousand of population. A very full statement of the operation and development of the telephone system is given at pages 31-38.

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE-EXCHANGE INSTALLATIONS.

On the 31st March, 1926, the automatic telephone exchanges in operation throughout the Dominion provided service for 32,583 subscribers, or over 30 per cent. of the total. The new automatic-exchange system introduced at Auckland and mentioned in last year's report is giving satisfaction to telephone-users, and public appreciation is freely expressed. Notwithstanding that the total number of subscribers in the Auckland area has very largely increased, complaints received during the year in respect of faulty service show a marked decrease compared with those received in previous years. The Wellington Central Automatic Exchange was cut into service in September, 1925, when the remainder of the manually operated subscribers' stations (some 4,600) and a number of waiting subscribers were given automatic telephone service. The automatic system is now in full operation in the Wellington metropolitan exchange area. The telephone system in Christchurch is at present a mixed one, being partly automatic and partly manual. The Christchurch Exchange will ultimately operate on full automatic principles. Satisfactory progress is being made with the work of completing the automatic installation in Dunedin. The Dunedin Exchange will shortly operate on full automatic principles. A detailed statement regarding the automatic telephone exchange appears at pages 34-37.

COOK STRAIT TELEPHONE CABLE.

The completion on the 26th March, 1926, of the laying of the Cook Strait telephone cable marked another milestone in the progress of telephonic communication in New Zealand. The cable is destined to become an important factor in fostering the development of long-distance telephony in the Dominion, and in promoting a closer relationship, both commercial and social, between the North and South Islands. At present inter-island service is limited to communication between Wellington on the one hand and Nelson, Picton, Seddon, and Blenheim on the other. Ultimately, however, the range of communication will be very largely extended. An account of the laying of the cable, which is of interest, appears at pages 27-28.

BUILDINGS.

The ever-present need for increased accommodation for the conduct of the Department's business at different places throughout the country serves to reveal in a most unmistakable manner the healthy and steady growth of the Dominion. The difficulties which are at times encountered in providing additional accommodation in existing buildings show all too clearly how little the designers of the original buildings anticipated the growth that would take place in the business of the Department. The rapidity of growth could not possibly have been foreseen. Needless to say, it is the present policy when preparing plans for new buildings to make provision for future additions which, when necessary, will be able to be made with much less trouble than is now the case.

The Christchurch post-office building may be cited as one which, owing to the expansion of the city, required extensive alterations, especially in that portion of the building in which the public transacts its business. With the additional accommodation now provided the Christchurch post-office building should meet requirements for a number of years.

A list of new buildings and of alterations to existing buildings which it is considered to be required in the next decade has been carefully compiled, and the work will be carried out strictly in order of urgency. It is expected this year to commence extensive alterations to the chief-post-office building at Palmerston North; and it is hoped also to begin work on a new building at Auckland for the accommodation of stores and workshops.

Towards the end of the financial year 1926-27 it is hoped to commence operations on the erection of a new post and telegraph office at Dunedin, in which building provision will be made for the housing of other Government Departments.

An endeavour is being made also to build a new post and telegraph office at Napier; and preliminary action is being taken in anticipation of funds becoming available.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW POSTAL DISTRICT.

On the 1st July, 1925, a new postal district was established with Palmerston North as the chief post-office. The new district embraces portions of the former Wellington, Wanganui, and Napier Postal Districts.

MARINE POST-OFFICE.

The system of sorting mails on the mail-steamers ("Aorangi," "Niagara," "Makura," and "Tahiti") travelling between New Zealand and Vancouver and between New Zealand and San Francisco, which was reintroduced in 1923, is being maintained. The expenditure involved is fully justified by the saving in time (twelve to twenty-four hours) that is effected in the delivery of correspondence from the Home-land and foreign parts. Not only is the delivery of inward correspondence expedited, but the time is extended up to which outward correspondence may be posted to connect with a steamer. Correspondence posted too late to be included in the closed mails for abroad made up by New Zealand territorial offices of exchange is forwarded unsorted to the Mail Agent, who while the voyage is in progress makes up closed mails for the places concerned in the same way as is done by a territorial office of exchange. The Mail Agents and assistants have continued worthily to represent the Department abroad.

OVERSEAS MAILS.

Owing to the severe winter conditions and to the restricted passenger traffic the fast transatlantic steamers of the Cunard line were withdrawn from service from December, 1925. The non-running of the Cunard steamers resulted in an extension of about three days in the time of transmission of mails from New Zealand to Great Britain. Ordinarily, mails from New Zealand despatched via San Francisco make a close connection at New York with steamers of the Cunard line due to sail on Wednesdays. The usual Wednesday sailings of the Cunard steamers were reverted to in April, 1926.

INLAND MAIL-SERVICES.

The various services continue to be performed satisfactorily, but keen competition is affecting detrimentally the passenger traffic of certain contractors. With the advent on a number of main routes of the passenger-service car the travelling public has ceased to use the mail-service car to the extent that was formerly the case. This is readily understood when the mail-service car's journey with its numerous stops is compared with the non-stop journey of the passenger-service car. The public demands rapid transport, and the passenger-service car is able to supply this better than the mail-service car. Roads in some districts are in a shocking condition, so much so that in a few instances it has been necessary to assist contractors financially to enable them to carry on. It is hoped, however, that with the extension of the "permanent" roading-system such assistance will not be required; in fact, owing to reduced running-costs the Department hopes to benefit by the receipt of lower tenders.

AUCKLAND-WELLINGTON "DAYLIGHT LIMITED" EXPRESS.

The inauguration in November, 1925, of the "Daylight Limited" express train between Wellington and Auckland enabled the despatch of letter-mails between the two centres and between other important post-offices in the North Island to be expedited.

RURAL DELIVERIES.

Applications for the extension of rural delivery facilities continue to be received. Many areas formerly served by small post-offices are now served by rural deliveries.

For the purpose of meeting a demand for a larger-sized rural box which will give adequate protection both to bulky post parcels and to other goods the Department has introduced a rural box measuring 24 in. by 15 in. by 12 in. Nowadays the rural contractor frequently carries the settlers' bread, meat, groceries, &c., and a box of these dimensions will serve the dual purpose of affording protection to private parcels as well as to postal packets.

PARCEL-POST.

In October, 1925, a system of exchange of insured parcels was inaugurated between New Zealand and Canada.

During the year arrangements were concluded for the inauguration of an insured-parcel service between New Zealand and Fiji. The new service will operate from the 1st July, 1926.

The Department has agreed also to the introduction of a cash-on-delivery system for parcels exchanged between New Zealand and Fiji.

“INSURED BOX” SERVICE.

From the 1st December, 1925, an “insured box” service was inaugurated between New Zealand and Great Britain. Fuller particulars of the service will be found at page 21.

CHEAP POSTAGE-RATE FOR LIBRARY BOOKS.

A cheap postage-rate for library books was introduced on the 1st January, 1926. Books exchanged between libraries, between libraries and their subscribers, between recognized book clubs, or between recognized book clubs and their subscribers, may now be sent within New Zealand at the rate of 2d. for the first pound and 1d. for each additional pound or fraction of a pound up to 5 lb. This cheap rate should prove a boon to the country reader.

POSTMARKING-MACHINES.

In view of the very satisfactory results obtained from the two “Universal” postmarking-machines installed in 1924 at Auckland and Wellington, four additional machines of the same make and type were obtained and installed at Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington. The machines give very distinct and neat impressions, and they are more economical to operate than the other types of machine in use in the service.

Use continues to be made of postmarking-machines for advertising purposes. During the year the postmarkers at the four centres and at Te Aroha carried slogans advertising departmental facilities, New Zealand's value as a tourist resort, and the importance of buying New-Zealand-made goods. The machines at other offices are available for use as required in connection with advertisements of a national or semi-national character.

INSPECTION OF POST-OFFICES.

In 1925, 1,361 visits of inspection were made to post-offices, an audit of the accounts being carried out at each inspection. On no occasion was any serious deficiency in the official cash disclosed.

A conference of Inspectors was held at Wellington in November, 1925, and in order that there might be uniformity in procedure the opportunity was taken to instruct Inspectors fully in their duties.

MONEY-ORDERS.

Money-order business continues to show a steady increase. The orders issued last year exceeded those of the previous year in number by approximately 25,000, and in value by approximately £285,000. There has been a marked increase also in the number and amount of money-orders issued on Great Britain and Ireland. This is due, no doubt, to the substantial reduction in the rate of commission which was made from the 1st April, 1924.

On the 1st April, 1925, arrangements were made for a direct exchange for money-orders between New Zealand and the Irish Free State.

SAVINGS-BANK.

The withdrawals for the year exceeded the deposits by £768,885. A comparison with business done during the year 1924-25 indicates that there has been a slight improvement. The amount at credit of depositors at the 31st March last was £47,911,322, an increase for the year of £962,694. The fact that the total amount standing at the credit of all open accounts has increased by such a large amount affords a clear indication of continued confidence in the people's bank.

On the 1st December, 1925, a system of savings-bank letters of credit was inaugurated. Under this scheme it is possible for a depositor to obtain a letter of credit for an amount up to £50 and to withdraw the amount as required at any savings-bank office in the Dominion. There is no doubt that this facility will, as it becomes better known to the travelling public, be availed of to a large extent. The popularity of the system may be judged from the fact that up to the 31st March, 1926, no less than 1,895 letters of credit, of a total value of £48,287, had been issued.

INLAND LETTER-TELEGRAMS.

Inland letter-telegrams have now become an important part of the Department's business. Not only do they afford a cheap public facility, but they enable telegraph circuits to be employed at times when they would otherwise be idle.

REDUCED CABLE RATES.

The year marked certain reductions in cable rates by both the Pacific and Eastern routes. The rates via Eastern for full rate and deferred cable messages to any part of the United States of America were reduced to the level of those chargeable for messages sent via Pacific. Reductions were made also in Press rates between New Zealand and Great Britain, and between New Zealand and Canada.

INTERCOLONIAL NIGHT LETTER-TELEGRAMS.

The popularity of the intercolonial night letter-telegram is indeed remarkable. The service was introduced in 1924. In March, 1925, 6,635 night letter-telegrams were exchanged with the Commonwealth of Australia, while in March, 1926, 10,275 such messages were exchanged.

RADIO TELEPHONE BROADCASTING.

The company referred to in last year's report as being in the process of formation has been registered as the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand (Limited). It has undertaken to provide radio broadcasting service under the conditions laid down in the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1924, and in the Broadcasting Regulations, 1925. Under the agreement the company is required to maintain during a period of five years an efficient broadcasting service. It is expected that the company will be in a position to operate the new 500-watt broadcasting stations at Auckland and Christchurch very shortly. There is no doubt that when the new stations at the four centres are in operation the New Zealand broadcasting service will be distinctly improved. In the meantime a very good service is being maintained from the existing stations.

INTERNATIONAL RADIO-TELEGRAPH CONFERENCE.

It is proposed to hold a Radio-telegraph Conference next year at Washington, D.C., U.S.A. As the last Conference was held in 1912, and since then wireless telegraphy has progressed by leaps and bounds, the Conference will afford a valuable opportunity for some very interesting discussions. It is intended that the Dominion shall be represented at the Conference.

ESTABLISHMENT OF STORES BRANCH AT AUCKLAND.

Owing partly to lack of accommodation at other centres the greater part of the Department's stores is housed in Wellington; but, as the accommodation available in Wellington is limited and the principle of distributing stores direct to the port nearest the point of use could with advantage be developed, the establishment of branch stores is highly desirable. During the year a branch of the Post and Telegraph Stores was opened at Auckland. The new branch controls the issue of stores in the Auckland, Hamilton, and Thames Postal Districts. Its establishment will facilitate the extensions of the system of direct shipment, and will reduce expenditure of both time and money. The system of distributing from Wellington is expensive on account of freight and handling charges, and when material is required urgently it frequently causes a waste of valuable time.

Apart altogether from the foregoing aspects of the question, however, it is necessary to consider the chaos which would arise in the Department and the loss of service to the public that would result if a serious fire occurred in the Wellington Stores. From this point of view alone it is highly desirable that the system of establishing branch stores be extended where possible.

MOTOR TRANSPORT.

The Department's fleet of motor-vehicles continued to grow during the year. At the four centres garage fleets were improved by the addition of sedans. In accordance with Government policy, vehicles of English manufacture were purchased for use on services on which they could be economically employed.

My Department continues to purchase motor-vehicles on behalf of other Government Departments.

MOTOR-REGISTRATION.

The manner in which the registration of motor-vehicles has been carried out has proved eminently satisfactory. It can safely be said that the Department with its widespread ramifications has enabled the owners of motor-vehicles to comply with the requirements of the Motor-vehicles Act, 1924, with the minimum of inconvenience. For handling this class of business the Post Office, unquestionably, possesses greater facilities than any other Government Department. Taking into consideration the volume of work involved in compiling and maintaining the register there have been remarkably few complaints.

WORK PERFORMED FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

The Post Office in New Zealand is probably unique in its ramifications. There are few, if any, Departments of State that do not at some time or other utilize my Department's organization for work quite apart from the handling of mail-matter and telegrams. The principal assistance rendered other Departments is in the collection of revenue and in the disbursement of amounts due to the public. My Department does not aim at making a profit out of the work. The charge for conducting the various transactions is fixed at a rate calculated merely to meet the cost of carrying out the service. The distribution of the population has rendered necessary the establishment of over two thousand post-offices, of which nearly nine hundred are money-order offices. The agencies of the Post Office are thus sufficiently numerous to permit of the efficient conduct of General Government business. In fact, in a young country such as New Zealand it is difficult to conceive a way of handling General Government business better than the way it is handled through the Post Office.

A glance at the Department's periodical internal accounts reveals what a variety of transactions is provided for. In making any addition to the already great variety of transactions simplicity of system is aimed at, so that officers are able, with facility, to pass from one class of transaction to another.

GENERAL ELECTION, 1925.

The general election, which was held on the 4th November, 1925, threw a good deal of additional work on the shoulders of the Department. Appreciative references to the work done by the Engineering, Telegraph, and Telephone Branches appeared in newspapers throughout the country. The Postal Branch also responded splendidly to the calls made upon it in connection with the extra volume of mail-matter posted, both before and immediately after the election. The Chief Electoral Officer expressed his appreciation of the excellent manner in which my Department carried out the duties which fell to its share.

OUTBREAKS OF FIRE.

The Department was somewhat unfortunate during the year in the number of fires that occurred in post-office buildings. Three fires occurred in non-permanent post-offices conducted in buildings owned by private persons, and one occurred in a building the property of the Department. The departmental building that was destroyed was the post-office building at Lyell, in the Westport Postal District. The building was very old, however, and was of little value.

On the 25th February, 1926, while on the way from Auckland to Wellington laden with mails, a railway "Z" wagon attached to a mixed train took fire. As the train was approaching Waiouru it was noticed that smoke was rising from a roof-ventilator of the wagon. An attempt to obtain water from the engine-tender was not successful. Speed was therefore accelerated to Waiouru (about half a mile distant), where the wagon was run alongside the railway-tanks and a large volume of water was poured into it through holes cut in one of the doors and in the roof. The water escaped from the wagon too quickly, however, and the flames gained rapidly. A door of the wagon was broken open, and a few bags of mail were salvaged before the men were driven off by the flames. The wagon quickly became a seething mass of flame and was pushed into the station-yard, where it and its contents were entirely destroyed. Eleven bags of mails (five intact and six charred), together with a quantity of "loose" letters, were saved. The mails lost comprised 172 bags of newspapers and 48 bags of parcels from Australian offices, and 76 bags of parcels from Great Britain, all for Wellington and southern offices. The subsequent inquiry was not successful in accounting for the outbreak. As the mail-matter destroyed was lost from a cause beyond control, liability for the loss was not assumed by the Department.

WELLINGTON-NAPIER TRAIN ACCIDENT.

On the 22nd September, 1925, the Wellington-Napier mail-train was derailed near Opapa, and after derailment it took fire. As the result of the accident several persons lost their lives, and many were injured. The mails were in the postal car at the rear of the train, and, with the help of Natives, the Mail Agent succeeded in running the car back some 50 yards out of the fire-danger zone. The accident occurred in a cutting, and the strewn wreckage and the intense heat of the burning carriages rendered it impossible to transfer the mails to the relief train. The mails were therefore taken on to Napier by motor-lorry. The Mail Agent was not injured.

VISIT OF UNITED STATES FLEET.

In connection with the visit of the United States Fleet in August, 1925, the Department established temporary post-offices in Harbour Board buildings on the Auckland and Wellington wharves. Owing partly to the fact that each ship had on board its own post-office, and, in the case of Auckland, owing also to the temporary office being close to the Auckland Chief Post-office, the temporary offices were not patronized to the extent that was anticipated. However, they proved a convenience to many of the visitors not only in the character of post-offices, but also in the guise

of information bureaux. Each post-office was furnished with a number of telephones, which were placed at the disposal of the officers and men of the Fleet, without charge.

In honour of the visit of the Fleet the chief post-office buildings at Auckland and Christchurch, and the old post-office building and a portion of the telegraph-office building at Dunedin, were suitably flagged and illuminated. The General Post Office building, Wellington, was suitably flagged.

The Government's action in placing at the disposal of officers of the Fleet departmental motor-cars at the four centres was much appreciated by the visitors.

NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH SEAS INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

At the New Zealand and South Seas International Exhibition, held at Dunedin from the 17th November, 1925, to the 1st May, 1926, the Department conducted a model post and telegraph office which was greatly patronized by visitors to the Exhibition. The post-office was so situated that the public, without entering, could view the methods of working. Thus, in addition to its practical functions, the office served as a postal exhibit. Posting-boxes and slot telephones were placed in various parts of the Exhibition grounds; and a delivery of correspondence to the various stallholders and exhibitors was made daily. A special series of postage-stamps (denominations $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., and 4d.) commemorative of the Exhibition was issued for sale at the Exhibition post-office. The Departmental Court, as distinct from the post and telegraph office, gave an interesting display of telegraph and telephone apparatus, both past and present. Further information regarding the Exhibition post-office will be found at pages 16-17.

DEATH OF RIGHT HON. W. F. MASSEY.

During the year the Department found itself under the regrettable necessity of attending to transport arrangements for the funeral of the late Prime Minister, the Right Hon. William Ferguson Massey. The Public Service garage fleet of motor-vehicles was fully utilized, and a great number of private cars also were hired in this connection. In addition, cars were placed at the disposal of the Government by certain business firms and private people, without charge.

Mr. Massey died on Sunday, the 10th May, 1925, and the funeral took place on the following Thursday. From the Monday to Wednesday, inclusive, following Mr. Massey's death, as many officers as could be spared were released from duty in the General Post Office, and the day of the funeral was observed as a day of mourning, the General Post Office and all post-offices throughout the Dominion being closed.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL: RELINQUISHING OF OFFICE.

The Hon. Sir James Parr, who assumed charge of the Department on the 1st June, 1925, relinquished control on the 22nd April, 1926, and in consequence the report herein is a record of the transactions undertaken principally during his tenure of office. From the 1st April, 1925, to the 31st May, 1925, the Department was in the charge of the Right Hon. J. G. Coates.

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.

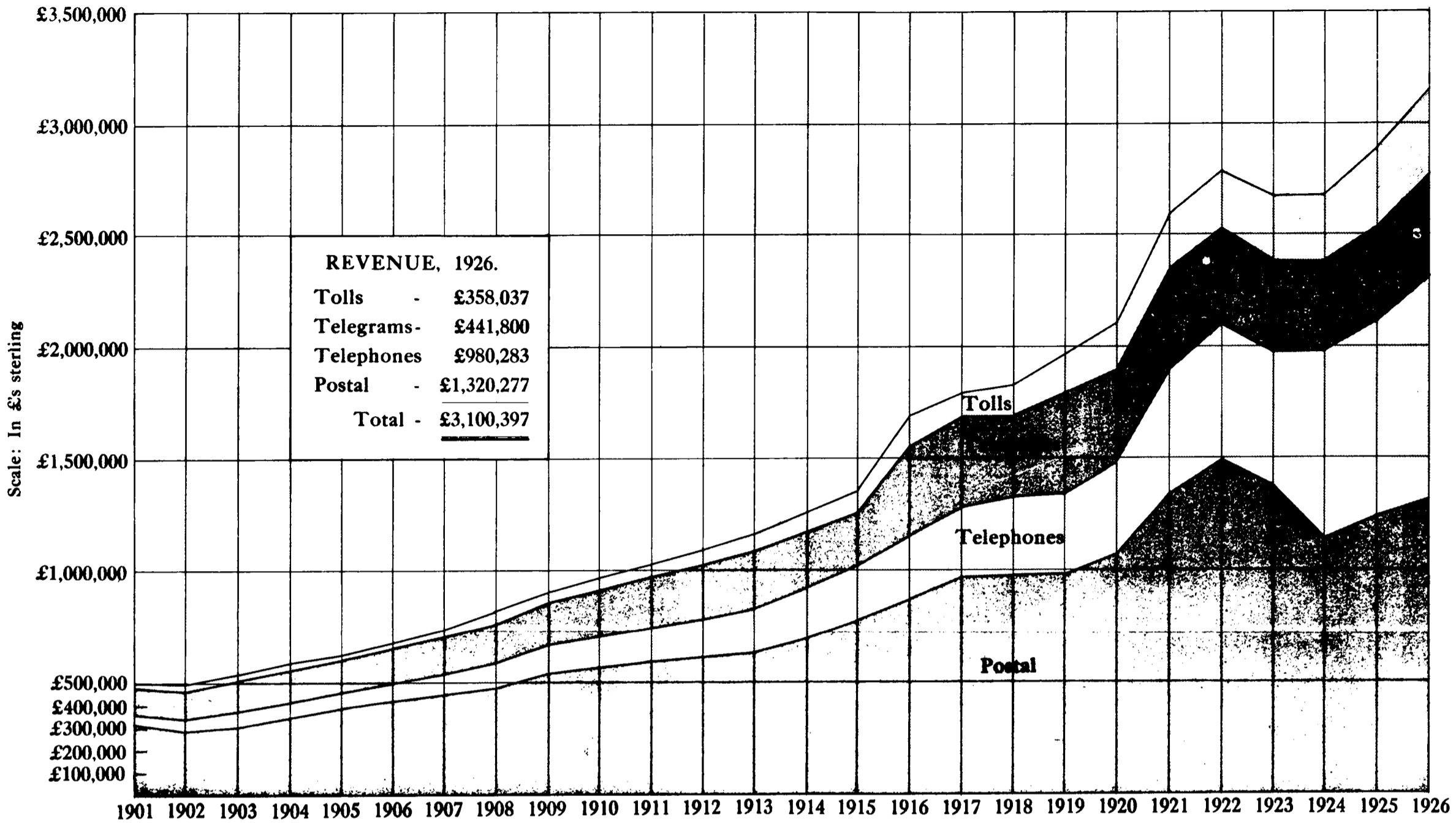
I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

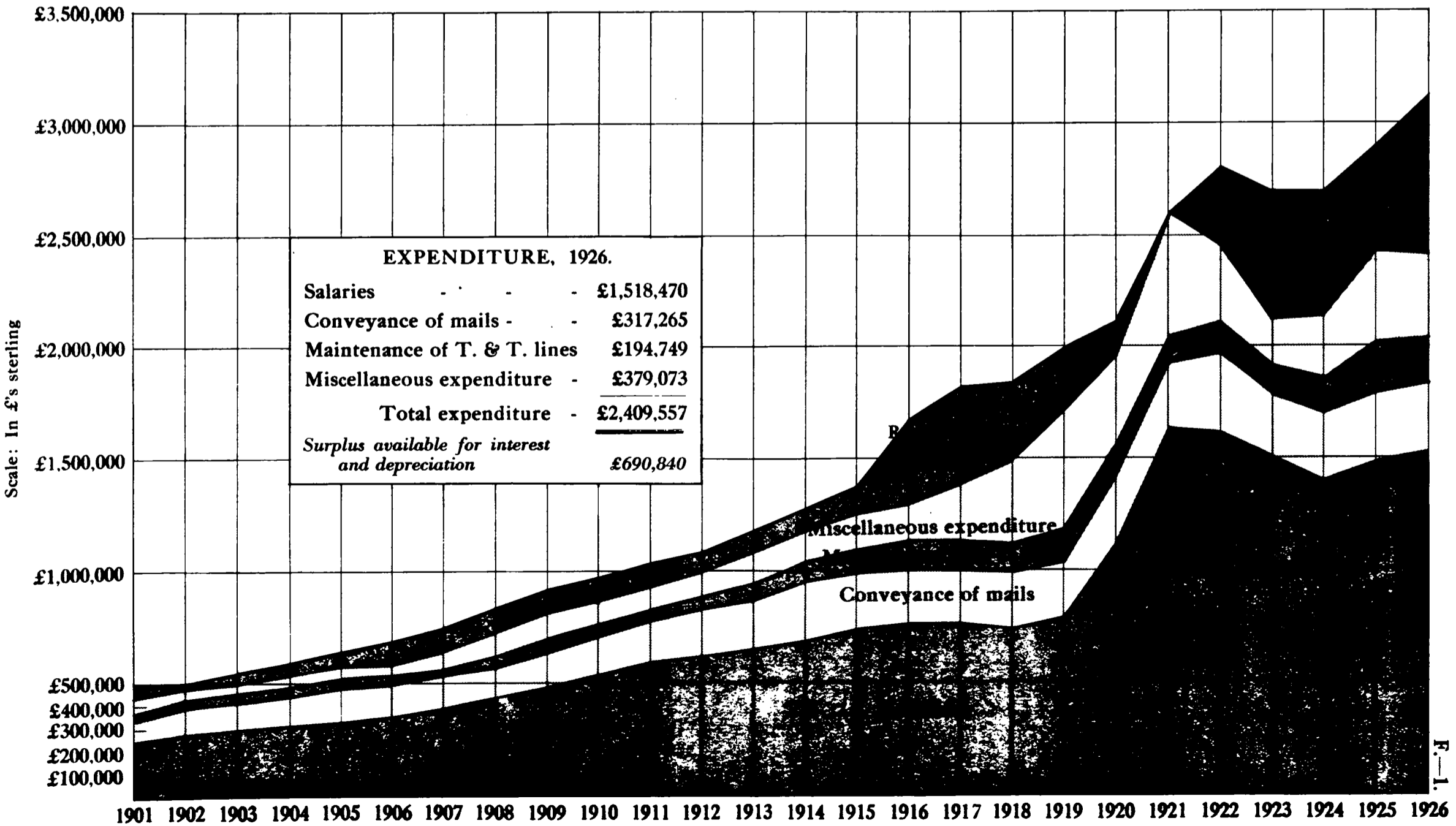
W. NOSWORTHY,
Postmaster-General.

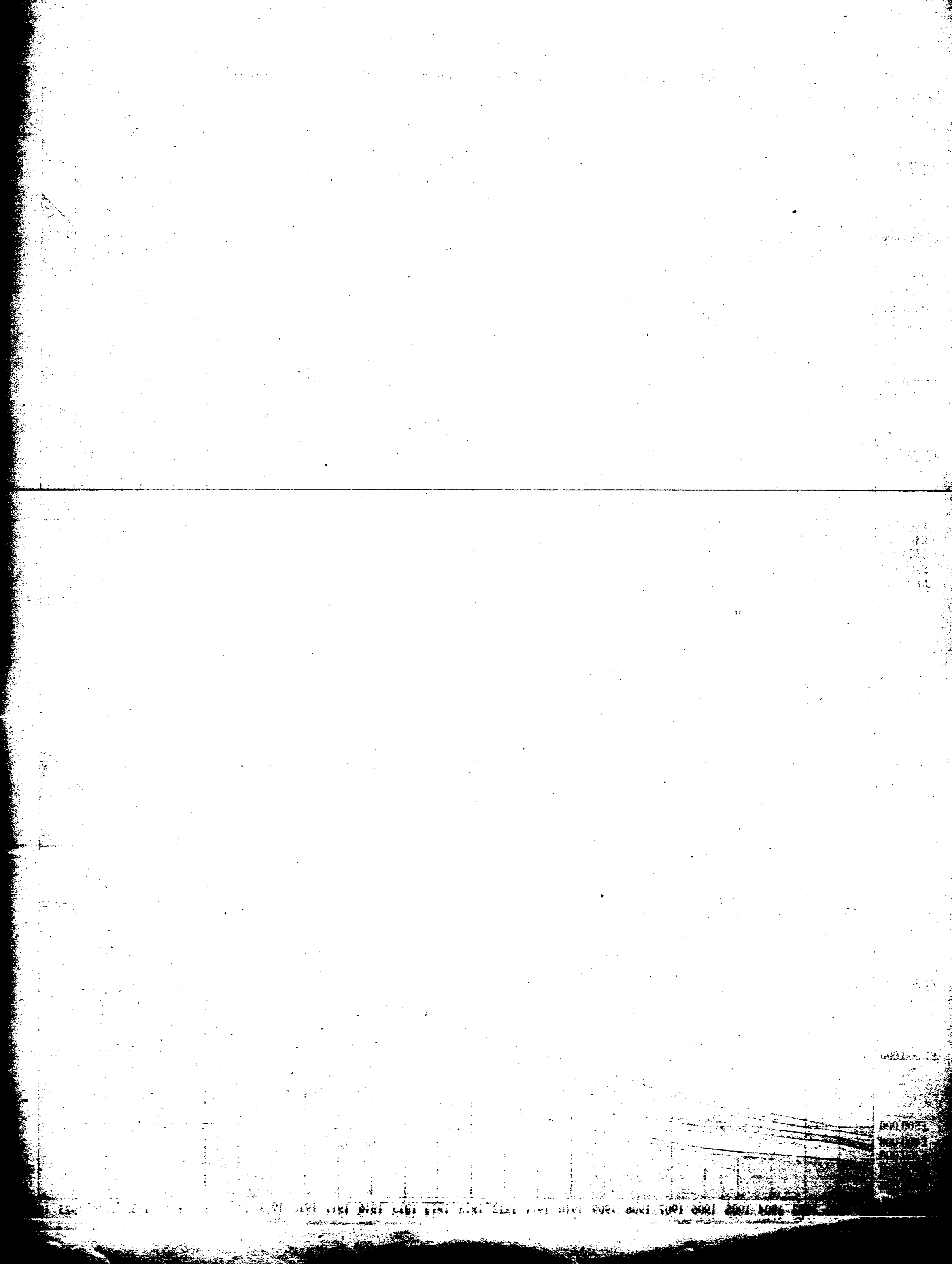
General Post Office, Wellington, 15th July, 1926.

POST AND TELEGRAPH REVENUE for Years 1901 to 1926 in Graphic Form



POST AND TELEGRAPH EXPENDITURE for Years 1901 to 1926 in Graphic Form





ANNUAL REVENUE.

Postal, Telegraph (including Tolls), and Telephone Branches.

For twelve years ended 31st March, 1926.

F.--1.

Year ended 31st March.	150	300	450	600	750	900	1,050	1,200	1,350	1,500	1,650 thousands
Postal											
1915	£698,898. Letter rate 1d.										
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										
1926	£1,320,277										
Telegraph and Tolls											
1915	£362,082. Telegraph rate 6d.										
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										
1926	£799,837										
Telephone											
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										
1926	£980,283										

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

Year ended
1971

1970
1969
1968

1971
1970
1969
1968
1967
1966
1965
1964
1963
1962
1961

1971
1970
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1966
1965
1964
1963
1962
1961

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS OF THE
DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1926.**

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.

The receipts and payments of the Department for the financial year 1925-26 are shown in the following table :—

Item.	Postal.		Telegraph.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
<i>Receipts.</i>						
Postages	1,077,600	15 2½	..	..	1,077,600	15 2½
Money-order and postal-note commission	48,447	4 8	..	..	48,447	4 8
Money-order commission received from foreign offices	933	7 7	..	..	933	7 7
Private box and bag rents and rural delivery fees	24,546	11 11	..	..	24,546	11 11
Miscellaneous receipts	168,748	15 10	17,158	3 10	185,906	19 8
Paid telegrams .. .. .	..	..	424,642	1 6½	424,642	1 6½
Paid tolls .. .. .	..	..	358,036	12 11½	358,036	12 11½
Telephone exchange rentals and miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	980,282	17 3½	980,282	17 3½
Totals	1,320,276	15 2½	1,780,119	15 7½	3,100,396	10 10
<i>Payments.</i>						
Salaries	614,628	8 1	903,841	4 8	1,518,469	12 9
Conveyance of ocean mails	69,237	1 11	..	..	69,237	1 11
Conveyance of inland mails	144,779	10 1	..	..	144,779	10 1
Conveyance of mails by rail	103,247	13 11	..	..	103,247	13 11
Money-order commission credited to foreign offices	2,765	8 4	..	..	2,765	8 4
Maintenance of telegraph and telephone lines .. .. .	..	..	194,748	12 10	194,748	12 10
Motor services and workshops	27,956	14 6	25,566	9 10	53,523	4 4
Miscellaneous	164,687	16 5	158,697	5 8	322,785	2 1
Totals	1,127,302	13 3	1,282,253	13 0	2,409,556	6 3
Balance of receipts over payments	192,974	1 11½	497,866	2 7½	690,840	4 7
Totals	1,320,276	15 2½	1,780,119	15 7½	3,100,396	10 10

**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	..
19 2-1913	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	..
1925-1926	3,100,396	2,409,556	690,840	..

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,

and a large portion of the Wellington Postal District. Its boundaries are—North: The former boundary between the Wellington and Wanganui Postal Districts (except that Greatford and Bull's are included in the new district), and from a point on the former boundary between the Wellington and Napier Postal Districts in a straight line to the coast, taking in Matamau and Herbertville. South: From a point north of Otaki Beach, taking in Manakau, Mangahao Hydro, and Mangamaire, thence in a straight line to a point south of Rakaunui, and from there to a point midway between Aohanga and Whakataki.

TRANSFER OF OFFICES.

On the 1st March, 1925, the Manihiki and Rakahanga post-offices were transferred from the Auckland Postal District to the Rarotonga Postal District.

DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE CLASSES.

Officers to the number of 792 enrolled for instruction in the departmental correspondence classes, and at the various examinations held during the year 86 per cent. of these students gained passes. Officers generally have profited by the facilities provided for study, and the value of the tuition given to students is reflected in almost every branch of the service by the display of increased efficiency.

EXAMINATIONS.

During the year 2,530 officers sat for departmental efficiency examinations, and of this number 1,415 were either wholly or partially successful.

With a view to placing departmental examinations on a more satisfactory footing, and to introducing into the examination system improvements which were considered desirable as a result of the experience gained since the inception of the present series of examinations in 1919, or which were rendered necessary in consequence of changes that have taken place during the last few years in some branches of the Department, a committee of officers was appointed in June last to inquire into and report on the working of the Department's examination system. As a result of the recommendations of the committee those examinations which were considered no longer necessary were either abolished or combined with other examinations; the scope of examinations was, in a few instances, altered; anomalies that existed in connection with some examinations were removed; and the frequency of a number of examinations was reduced.

BUILDINGS.

Extensive alterations were completed during the year in the Christchurch chief post-office building. The public portion of the office was greatly improved. With the additional accommodation now provided the Christchurch post-office building should meet requirements for a number of years.

Not only in the heart of Christchurch City was an improvement effected, but a fine post-office building was erected at New Brighton, the old building being altered to serve as a residence for the Postmaster.

The growing marine suburb of Eastbourne, Wellington, also was provided with a new edifice in keeping with the requirements of the district.

A new post-office building has been erected at Paeroa, and at Marton one is in course of erection.

The extensive alterations to the chief-post-office building, Gisborne, referred to in last year's report, are now completed.

The increase in business at Darfield and Hawarden necessitated the erection of departmental buildings at those places. Formerly the work was handled at the railway-stations.

It was found necessary to build garages at Cambridge, Gore, Kaikohe, Otautau, Taupo, and Waimate, and to increase the garage accommodation at Wanganui. At Kaikohe a workshop was erected in conjunction with the garage, while at Wanganui a blacksmith's shop was added to the building. Pending the erection of a suitable building at Auckland, a temporary workshop was built at Newmarket.

A list of new buildings and of alterations to existing buildings which it is considered will be required in the next decade has been carefully compiled, and the work will be carried out strictly in order of urgency.

While there is still much leeway to be made up in the provision of buildings the work is proceeding steadily. In addition to the buildings already mentioned, structures were erected at Ohau, Okaihau, Ruawai, Tuatapere, Waitahuna, Awakino (linesman's residence); and the Department contributed towards the cost of erecting and agreed to meet the cost of maintaining a new building at Maungatapere.

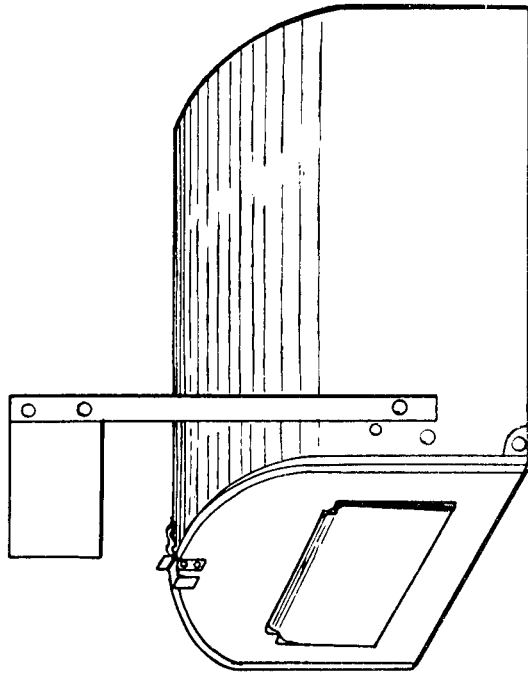
Additions were made to the post-office buildings at Albany, Hanmer Springs, Hikurangi, Matata, Moray Place, Newmarket, Patetonga, Queenstown, and Raetihi.

At Castlepoint a building belonging to the Marine Department and at one time used as a lookout station was removed to a suitable position, and was fitted up as a post-office.

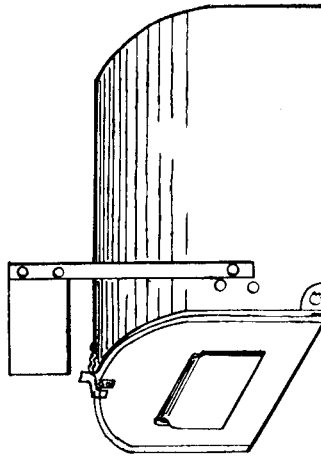
In order to provide for future expansion additional land was purchased at Wanganui and Pahiataua. For storage purposes land was acquired at Port Ahuriri.

While the buildings to be proceeded with during the coming year will be dependent upon the amount of money available, it is anticipated that the comparatively large undertaking of making

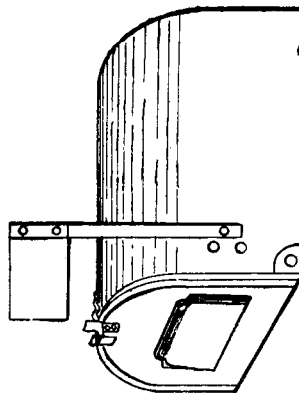
RURAL MAILS.
INCREASE IN NUMBER OF RURAL BOXHOLDERS.



1925-26: 14,547.



1922-23: 10,068.



1920-21: 8,700.

extensive alterations to the chief-post-office building, Palmerston North, will be commenced. It is hoped also to begin work on a new building at Auckland for the accommodation of stores and workshops. Alterations to the buildings at Hastings and Masterton are also contemplated to meet increased work, while provision will be made for several automatic-exchange buildings and for additions to existing automatic-exchange buildings.

Plans for a new post and telegraph office at Dunedin, in which provision will be made for housing other Government Departments, are now in course of preparation, and it is hoped to commence building towards the end of the financial year 1926-27. An endeavour is also being made to build a new post and telegraph office at Napier, and preliminary action is being taken in anticipation of funds becoming available.

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 other than a contract steamer. Mails from Great Britain are received via Suez, via Vancouver, via San Francisco, and via Panama. During 1925 the average time occupied in transmission 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 twenty-nine days. From London to New Zealand the average time occupied by both routes was thirty-one days.

INLAND MAIL-SERVICES.

During the winter of 1925, which was exceptionally wet, and also in December, 1925, floods were responsible for temporary interruption of mail-services in various parts of the Dominion. Where possible, arrangements were made to maintain mail communication until the normal services were restored.

In December the mail-service between Christchurch and Kaikoura was interrupted by floods, and some delay took place in transporting mails to places along the route.

At about the same time and for the same reason temporary arrangements had to be made to carry mails to and from Blackball by foot-track, via Stillwater, a distance of eight miles. In this instance difficulty was experienced in maintaining the service.

RURAL MAILS.

There are now in use 14,547 rural boxes, an increase of 1,481 on the number for last year.

The number of rural deliveries (including part rural deliveries) in operation at present is 365, as against 273 for 1924-25.

“HOUSEHOLDER” CIRCULARS.

The revenue from this class of matter for the period 1st April, 1925, to the 31st March, 1926, was £8,798, as against £4,847 for the preceding twelve months. In last year's report mention was made of a concession rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for each packet up to 2 oz. which is payable when circulars to the number of 250,000 are posted by one sender at one time, and it was stated that the concession rate was expected to result in increased business. This expectation has been fully realized, for of the increase of £3,951 in revenue £3,746 is accounted for by circulars posted at the $\frac{3}{4}$ d. rate.

MISSING POSTAL PACKETS.

During 1925, 5,670 inquiries for postal packets were lodged by members of the public. In 3,721 cases, or more than half of the total number, the packets inquired for were either traced or satisfactorily accounted for. In 1,020 cases the sender was responsible for the delay, in 1,185 cases the responsibility rested on the addressee, while in 427 cases it was found that the delay was due to failure on the part of the Post Office. In the remaining 1,089 cases inquiries disclosed either that there had been no delay or that there had been delay but that it was not possible to fix responsibility. In 1,949 inquiries no evidence of any kind could be obtained as to the disposal of the packets. This number includes packets mislaid either before posting or after delivery. It includes also misappropriations that may have taken place either inside or outside the Post Office. The actual losses amounted to .0013 per cent. of the total number of articles posted.

As has been stated in previous reports, despite warning notices on posting-boxes the public continues to post in unregistered packets articles of negotiable value. From the number of inquiries lodged in connection with this class of packet, and from the number of unregistered packets containing bank-notes and other value received in the Dead Letter Office, it is evident that the advantages of the registration system are not being availed of to the fullest extent. The registration system protects both the sender and the addressee, and, as particulars of the handling of registered packets from the time of posting until the time of delivery are recorded by the Department, it protects also Postal officers. Two recent cases of failure to register valuable packets are of sufficient interest to warrant special reference to them being made. In one case an amount of £350 in £50 bank-notes was forwarded as an unregistered packet, and in the other case a particularly flimsy envelope opened in the Dead Letter Office was found to contain a £10 bank-note. There was nothing in the envelope to indicate by whom the letter had been posted.

From time to time, as a result of Police Court proceedings, comment is made in the public Press regarding the number of cases of theft of moneys by public servants. In this connection it should be pointed out that on the discovery of a theft of any kind committed by a departmental officer Police Court proceedings follow automatically, but the same conditions do not obtain in the outside business community. A fair comparison would be possible only if Police Court proceedings followed automatically in the case of thefts by other than Government employees.

RELIEF DATE - STAMP.

In order to overcome the inconvenience occasioned when a post-office date-stamp has to be sent away to be repaired, a special relief date-stamp, suggested by an officer of the Department, has been brought into use. The stamp is fitted with movable type which can be arranged to imprint the name of any post-office.

CINEMATOGRAPH-FILMS.

The new regulations regarding the transmission of cinematograph-films by post, which were referred to in the last report, continue to operate satisfactorily. The regulations provide for the films to be enclosed in special fireproof containers, and the risk of carrying films by post is thus reduced to a minimum.

During the year permission was given, with the acquiescence of the Chief Inspector of Explosives, for "trailer" films to be posted in tins measuring 6½ in. by 2 in. "Trailer" films are, comparatively speaking, only a few feet in length, and are used to give picture audiences some idea of the principal incidents in the picture which is to form the main item of the programme for the following week. To insist on these small films being enclosed in the large fireproof containers would be somewhat of a hardship so far as the film people are concerned.

POST-OFFICE FIRES.

On the 24th February, 1926, a fire occurred in the Haumoana (Napier Postal District) non-permanent post-office, which is conducted in a store building. Fortunately, the conflagration was extinguished before any great damage was done. About forty letters and circulars were partly burnt. The contents of the post-office safe were undamaged.

The post-office building at Lyell (Westport Postal District) was destroyed by fire at 2 a.m. on the 16th February, 1926. The circumstances surrounding the fire were inquired into by the police, who were unable to determine the cause. The building, a structure erected in 1874, was of very little value.

The building in which the Pukekawa (Auckland Postal District) non-permanent post-office was conducted was completely destroyed by fire on the 9th April, 1925. The building was the property of the Postmaster. A small quantity of mail-matter was burnt.

The store in which the Te Pohue (Napier Postal District) non-permanent post-office was conducted was totally destroyed by fire at 10.30 p.m. on the 12th September, 1925. A few unregistered letters were destroyed.

POST-OFFICE BURGLARY.

During the night of the 13th April, 1925, the post-office, Pukeuri Junction, which is situated in the Pukeuri Junction Railway-station buildings, was broken into. The safe was opened, and the sum of £27 10s. 6d. belonging to the Department was stolen. The culprit was apprehended and sentenced to three years' reformatory treatment. The amount stolen was recovered. The entry to the office was made possible by the thief stealing the keys from a Railway officer who had custody of them.

POSTAL CONVENTION.

The Universal Postal Convention of Stockholm came into operation on the 1st October, 1925. The principal changes necessitated thereby were mentioned in the report for last year.

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR - VEHICLES.

The new system of registration has many advantages over those systems formerly in operation under the control of the various local authorities. Prior to the 1st January, 1925, there was no comprehensive register such as now exists. Registers were then compiled by individual local authorities for their own particular districts.

The officers of the Police Department who have to investigate the ever-increasing number of motor accidents, breaches of by-laws, thefts of motor-vehicles, &c., speak in eulogistic terms of the facilities which the new register affords for tracing motor-owners. It is now possible to obtain from the Registrar of Motor-vehicles, General Post Office, Wellington, particulars of any motor-vehicle registered in the Dominion.

For every motor-vehicle a separate file is kept. This file contains a record of the life-history of the vehicle from the time of registration until the time of destruction.

The number of inquiries received from the Police Department, local authorities, motor-dealers, and the general public is rapidly increasing, and a considerable amount of time is occupied in searching the register for the information required.

The following is a statement of motor-vehicles registered in the Dominion up to and including the 31st March, 1926 :—

NORTH ISLAND.					
Cars	..	..	..	..	54,054
Trucks, &c.	..	..	..	..	12,227
Cycles	..	..	..	..	15,276
					81,557
SOUTH ISLAND.					
Cars	..	..	..	..	33,951
Trucks, &c.	..	..	..	..	5,418
Cycles	..	..	..	..	11,885
					51,254
Total					132,811

These figures do not include the vehicles for which 3,102 demonstration-plates were issued to dealers.

In 1925-26 the number of registrations of new vehicles averaged 2,400 a month, while an average of 150 notifications of change of ownership and 30 notifications of change of garage were received daily.

The contract for the manufacture of motor-registration plates for the year 1926-27 was let to the Precision Engineering Company, of Wellington. Certain difficulties which, owing to the nature of the undertaking could not be foreseen, were the cause of some delay in fulfilling the contract. However, for a new venture the plates present a creditable appearance.

The volume of work in the Motor Registration Branch is rapidly increasing. Several economies have been effected without impairing the efficiency of the system. The requirements of the Motor-vehicles Act are gradually becoming better known to motor-owners, and it is hoped that failures to comply with the Act will shortly be reduced to a minimum.

At present the most common breach, and one which has been responsible for a number of prosecutions, is failure to notify promptly change in the ownership of a vehicle. Failure or delay in notifying change of ownership frequently necessitates a great deal of investigation, and is often responsible for inconvenience to the owner for the time being, who sometimes cannot make use of his vehicle until the various transactions have been verified.

DEPARTMENTAL MOTOR-VEHICLES.

At the 31st March, 1926, the following vehicles were in use : Motor-cars, 89 ; motor-cycles, 125 ; motor-lorries and vans, &c., 274 ; total, 488—an increase of 27 compared with the number of vehicles in use at the 31st March, 1925.

The number of new vehicles purchased during the year was 81. The policy of replacing vehicles as soon as they have outlived their period of usefulness is being maintained, and in consequence approximately 50 vehicles were withdrawn from service and disposed of by public auction.

The British Imperial Oil Company, the present contractor for the supply to Government of motor-spirit, provided for the Department at Auckland, Dunedin, Invercargill, New Plymouth, and Timaru tanks and pumps for handling motor-spirit in bulk, the Department being required to pay only an annual rental and a small contribution towards the cost of installing the plants. The question is now under consideration of installing suitable tanks and pumps at several other stations at which bulk supply of motor-spirit is available. As the cost of spirit supplied in bulk is less than that of spirit supplied in cases economy will result from the installing of tanks and pumps.

WORKSHOPS.

The maintenance of departmental equipment, which is the chief function of the workshops, was successfully continued. A special feature of the year's work was the renovation of a large number of manual telephones which had been replaced by telephones of the automatic type. The condition of the departmental motor-fleet was maintained at a satisfactory standard.

The principal manufacturing-work executed during the year was the making of equipment for telegraph-line construction and of apparatus for telephone-exchange construction. Further supplies of automatic slot telephones were made. The demand for motor-vehicle bodies for both the Postal and the Engineering Branches required constant production. The manufacture of parcel-post hampers was expedited, and it is anticipated that in the near future the Workshops will be in a position to supply fully the hamper requirements of the service. In addition to hampers, boxes of an improved type were made to meet the demands of parcel-post traffic.

A growing volume of work, both in the way of repairing and in the way of manufacturing, requires to be done for other Government Departments. The value of the services rendered in this connection during 1925-26 was £5,047, an increase of £802 on the figures for the previous year.

The value of all work undertaken during the year was £50,835.

STORES BRANCH.

The following figures indicate the value of stores purchased, issued, and remaining in stock for the year ended 31st March, 1926. For the purposes of comparison the figures for the previous year are shown also.

				1925-26.	1924-25.
				£	£
Balance, 1st April..	..	..	..	243,590	289,758
Purchases	..	..	..	701,301	1,018,107
Issues	..	..	..	737,391	1,064,275
Balance, 31st March	..	..	..	207,500	243,590

Compared with the figures for the preceding year, purchases of motor-vehicle and workshop stores and of stationery and office supplies show increases. Purchases of stores for telegraph and telephone purposes show a falling-off; but the previous year's figures include expenditure on purchases of automatic equipment for large exchanges and heavy items of line-construction material.

The number and value of purchases made for other Government Departments under the Stores Control Board system, as compared with the previous year, were—

Year ended	Requisitions.	Items.	Value of Items purchased.		Total.
			On Indent.	Locally.	
31st March, 1925 ..	1,842	6,488	£ 17,472	£ 40,120	£ 57,592
31st March, 1926 ..	1,548	5,946	£ 32,451	£ 74,154	£ 106,605

During the year the work in connection with obtaining quotations for the purchase of stores was undertaken by a separate division of the Stores Branch. The concentration of the work has proved to be satisfactory, and as the officers gain additional experience a further increase in efficiency may be expected. The new method has advantages over the old one, as the quotation work is now performed along uniform lines. Such was not the case when the work was attended to by officers on different sections.

In addition to the work undertaken in the Department's laboratory, extended use was made of the services of the Dominion Analyst in the first place for the purpose of analysing and examining samples and items submitted for purchase, and in the second place for the purpose of providing an efficient check against the quality of goods supplied. The reports obtained provide valuable data which will be of much practical benefit when making subsequent purchases.

Wherever practicable, and where the cost has been within the limits of the preference extended by Government to such purchases, the Department has continued the buying of goods manufactured within the Dominion. The number of items and the value of such purchases are increasing, and it is pleasing to note that on the whole the quality of supplies is of a high standard.

As the Department's Stores Branch has the necessary staff and facilities for packing, for transporting, and for performing other kindred operations, its services are being availed of by other Government Departments to an increasing extent. During the year work occupying 1,035 working hours was so undertaken. In addition, 2,909 working-hours were occupied in effecting removals of furniture and personal effects of departmental officers on transfer.

Owing, no doubt, to the method being both convenient and economical, other Departments are drawing to a greater extent on this Department's stocks of office supplies and motor accessories. The practice is sound, as this Department, unlike certain smaller Departments, is able to purchase cheaply in bulk.

During the year 222 motor-vehicles were purchased for other Government Departments, and approximately ninety old vehicles were disposed of at auction. The contract for supply to Government of motor fuel was extended for one year, and a fresh contract was let for motor-lubricating oils. Both contracts provide for deliveries to be made from a large number of depots. The system under which this Department undertakes the purchase and distribution to Government Departments of the more-commonly-used sizes of motor tires and tubes has proved satisfactory and economical.

The work undertaken on behalf of other Departments with respect to motor-transport requirements is extending, and the advantage of one office controlling purchases in this connection is already apparent.

A new system of recording, requisitioning for, and advising supplies of uniform clothing was introduced during the year. It is working satisfactorily, and has brought about a reduction in labour.

The systems of distributing supplies direct from the place of manufacture to the store nearest the point of use and of landing bulky stores at main ports have been further extended, and are now reaching the point of maximum benefit. Improved methods of local distribution and transport also are receiving attention.

From the 1st December, 1925, the control of stores in the Auckland, Thames, and Hamilton Postal Districts was removed from the District Telegraph Engineer, Auckland, to the Stores Branch of the General Post Office. The Auckland Stores Branch is under the immediate charge of a Stores officer whose headquarters are in Auckland. The establishing of branch stores is about to be undertaken in the southern portion of the North Island. It is anticipated that the transfer of direct control to officers with special stores training will produce beneficial results.

From the 1st July, 1925, provision has been made for all stores ordered to be insured under the Government Marine Insurance Fund. Formerly insurance was effected with outside insurance companies.

NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH SEAS INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

At the New Zealand and South Seas International Exhibition, held at Dunedin from the 17th November, 1925, to the 1st May, 1926, a model post and telegraph office and a departmental exhibit were provided, both being situated in the Government Pavilion.

The post and telegraph office, at which could be carried out all classes of business (except savings-bank), observed 10 a.m.—5 p.m. and 7—9 p.m. as the hours of attendance. The staff consisted of a Postmaster, three telegraphists, a messenger, and two message-boys. In addition to the facilities provided at the office itself several posting-boxes and slot telephones were erected in the Exhibition grounds. Mails between the Dunedin chief post-office and the Exhibition office were

despatched several times daily by tram-car and by departmental vehicle; and correspondence for the various courts and stallholders was delivered daily — within the buildings at 11 a.m. and in the Amusement Park at 3 p.m. A regular delivery of telegrams also was carried out. From places within the grounds temporary telephone connections with the Dunedin Exchange were provided at reduced rates.

As stated elsewhere in the report, a special series of postage-stamps (denominations $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., and 4d.) commemorative of the Exhibition was issued for sale at the Exhibition post-office.

The post and telegraph office was fitted with standard articles of departmental furniture, with an electrically-driven postmarking-machine, with stamp-vending machines, and with other machines and appliances showing up-to-date methods of working. The accommodation was so arranged that visitors, without entering, could view the entire office under actual working-conditions. Thus, in addition to its practical functions, the post-office served as the chief postal "exhibit."

A feature of postal work at the Exhibition was the use made by visitors of the letter-telegram service. Approximately 10,000 letter-telegrams were lodged at the Exhibition office.

The following indicates the volume of business transacted at the Exhibition post-office:—

		£	s.	d.
Telegrams forwarded (all codes)	.. .. .	30,167	1,802	10 10
Telegrams received (all codes)	.. .. .	5,138	..	..
Stamps sold (Exhibition commemorative issue)	.. .. .	..	4,536	5 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Money-orders issued	.. .. .	517	3,200	14 11
Money-orders paid	.. .. .	221	782	0 6
Postal notes issued	.. .. .	..	363	15 4
British postal orders issued	.. .. .	..	34	17 9
Parcels posted	.. .. .	2,983	..	..
Registered articles posted	.. .. .	2,147	..	..

The Departmental Court, as distinct from the post and telegraph office, displayed telegraph and telephone apparatus past and present, items of postal interest, and charts and models indicating the growth in the Department's business. The more important items were a model automatic telephone exchange; an automatic telephone intercommunication installation of twenty numbers, worked on automatic interphone principles, together with an interphone key-box installation for communication between different sections of an office; old and new manual telephone-exchange switchboards; old and new telephones and apparatus; a machine-printing telegraph system, also obsolete telegraph instruments; samples of submarine and other cables; a ship's low-power transmitting and receiving station by which wireless reception and broadcasting of time-signals from the Wellington Observatory were carried out daily; a set of clocks (working) showing at a glance at any hour the times at different places throughout the world; photographs of old and present-day post-office buildings, mail-conveyances, &c.; and sets of current and obsolete postage-stamps. Demonstrations of the working of the model automatic exchange, the machine-printing telegraph system, and other apparatus were given throughout the course of the Exhibition by a technical officer.

In addition to providing post and telegraph facilities, and setting up a Court of Exhibits, the Post Office undertook at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin the work of transporting Government exhibits, both before and at the close of the Exhibition.

The Department's efforts earned the appreciation of the Exhibition Directors.

WORK FOR ELECTORAL DEPARTMENT.

In assistance of giving effect to the Legislature Amendment Act, 1924, which requires an elector to notify the Registrar of Electors of any change, either temporary or permanent, in the address of the elector, arrangements were made to print at the bottom of the Post Office redirection order form a form of notice to the Registrar giving the elector's new address. After completion by the elector the form of notice is detached by the Postal officer to whom the redirection order is handed and is by him posted to the Registrar concerned. It is estimated that 70,000 such notifications are dealt with annually.

POST OFFICE.

ARTICLES DELIVERED.

The number of articles delivered in the Dominion, including those received from places beyond New Zealand, during the year 1925, compared with the number in 1924, was as under:—

	1925.	1924.	Increase Per Cent.
Letters	148,160,011	135,795,141	9.11
Post-cards	4,677,034	3,909,557	19.63
Parcels	3,345,057	3,644,506	0.015
All other articles	80,134,655	71,362,283	12.29
	<u>236,616,757</u>	<u>214,711,487</u>	

AVERAGE NUMBER OF LETTERS POSTED PER UNIT OF POPULATION.

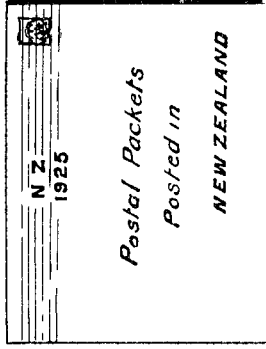
1925, 110.14. 1924, 103.7.

NUMBER OF POST-OFFICES IN DOMINION.

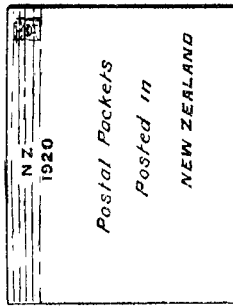
Offices opened during year, 27; offices closed during year, 78; offices remaining open on 31st December, 1925, 2,020.

MAIL BRANCH.

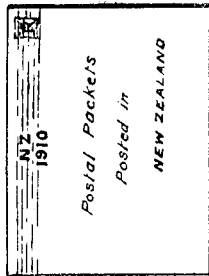
POSTAL PACKETS POSTED IN THE DOMINION DURING THE YEARS 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, AND 1925.



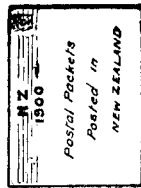
234,887,000,
1925.



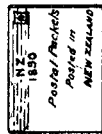
178,087,510,
1920.



150,429,246,
1910.



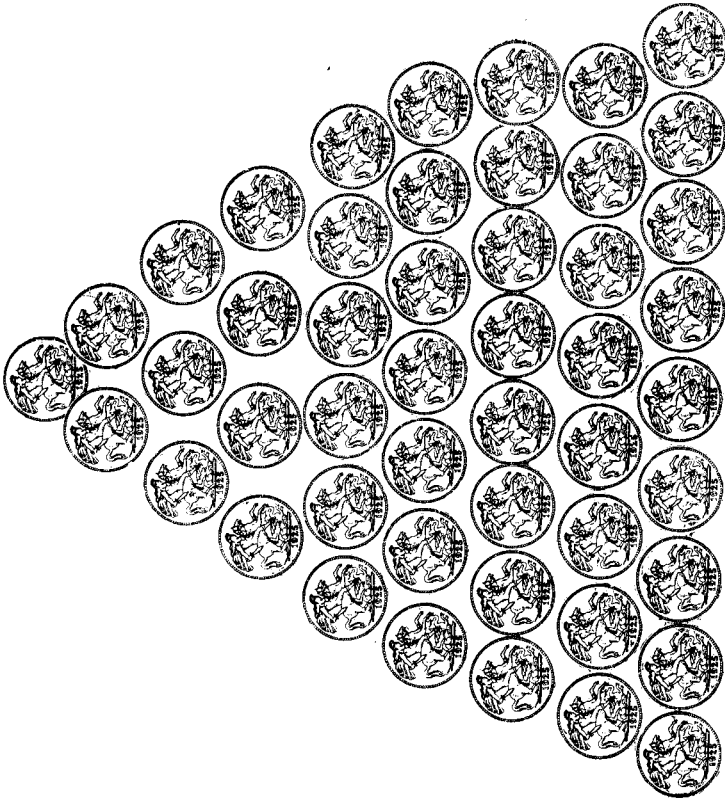
67,937,107,
1900.



34,626,617,
1890.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS - BANK.

BALANCES AT CREDIT OF POST OFFICE SAVINGS - BANK DEPOSITORS FOR YEARS 1867, 1886, 1906, AND 1926.



YEAR	1867	1886	1906	1926
	£ 71,198	£ 1,615,979	£ 9,953,266	£ 47,911,322

UNDELIVERABLE POSTAL PACKETS.

The following is a comparison of letters and other articles dealt with as undeliverable during the year, compared with those so dealt with during 1924:—

Year.	Returned direct to Senders from Chief Offices ("Special Request").	Returned direct to Senders from Dead Letter Office.	Returned to other Administrations from Chief Offices ("Special Request").	Returned to other Administrations from Dead Letter Office.	Destroyed (Senders unknown and Contents of no Value).	Total.
<i>Letters.</i>						
1925..	247,934	291,598	54,556	39,091	26,308	659,487
1924..	235,015	272,653	44,854	35,564	14,688	602,774
<i>Other Articles.</i>						
1925..	157,543	9,211	75,377	24,532	..	266,663
1924..	130,363	6,013	72,926	19,481	..	228,783

The proportion of undeliverable letters to the total number of letters delivered was 0.45 per cent. In 1924 the proportion was the same.

MISCELLANEOUS.

	1925.	1924.
Letters and letter-cards posted without addresses	19,731	17,352
Letters imperfectly or insufficiently addressed	19,380	20,335
Letters intercepted on account of libellous addresses	42	42
Registered letters unclaimed	9,650	8,762
Newspapers received without addresses	5,221	4,540
Other articles received without addresses	4,070	3,937
Newspapers returned to publishers as undeliverable	43,685	28,881
Articles bearing previously used stamps	81	77

During 1925 there were dealt with in the Dead Letter Office 5,287 packets (other than parcels) the contents of which gave little or no indication of the senders' names or addresses. In the majority of these cases special effort on the part of the Dead Letter Office was successful in tracing either the senders or the addressees. Two hundred and sixty-five letters from overseas bearing insufficient or wrong addresses were specially dealt with, and a large proportion was delivered.

During the year an auction of unclaimed packets and parcels was held, at which 164 bundles of miscellaneous articles were sold.

The number of "special request" letters returned unopened to senders shows a satisfactory increase. 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, still more would avail themselves of the system.

PROHIBITED POSTAL PACKETS.

During the year 3,873 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, as against 2,214 in 1924.

REGISTER OF NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES.

Eighteen newspapers were registered for transmission by post, and fourteen were removed from the register. Ten magazines were registered, and nine were removed from the register.

The number of registered newspapers on the 31st March, 1926, was 300, and the number of registered magazines 337.

POSTAGE-STAMPS.

During the year the following new postage-stamps were issued: On the 1st April, 1925, 4d. and 9d. Official; in November, 1s., Niue (printed in New Zealand); and on the 17th November, commemorative of the New Zealand and South Seas International Exhibition, $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., and 4d. The last-named stamps, which were sold only at the Dunedin Exhibition post-office, were withdrawn from sale at the close of the Exhibition on the 1st May, 1926. Owing to the limited time available it was necessary for the Exhibition stamps to be produced entirely in New Zealand.

New postage-stamps of the Dominion which will be issued in the near future are 1d., 2s., and 3s., the design of the 1d. being His Majesty the King in military uniform, and of the 2s. and 3s. His Majesty in naval uniform. The 1d. stamp will replace the present "Universal" 1d. stamp, which was issued twenty-five years ago on the introduction of penny postage; while the 2s. and 3s. stamps will replace, for postage purposes, the present stamp-duty stamps of those denominations.

STAMP-VENDING MACHINES.

In March, 1925, an order was placed in England for the supply of fifty stamp-vending machines, and towards the end of the year the machines commenced to come to hand. As the new machines are made ready for issue they are sent to the more important places throughout the Dominion. The convenience afforded by the machines in enabling stamps to be obtained at any hour of the day or night is greatly appreciated by the public.

DISCOUNT-STAMPS.

Owing to the lack of demand, discount-stamps (which were created under the Trading-stamps Abolition and Discount-stamps Issue Act, 1900) were withdrawn from sale at the 31st March, 1926. The redemption of such stamps is, however, being continued until the 31st March, 1927.

PARCEL-POST.

INSURED PARCEL-POST TO THE DOMINION OF CANADA AND FIJI.

On the 21st October, 1925, a system of exchange of insured parcels was inaugurated between New Zealand and the Dominion of Canada. The maximum amount for which any one parcel may be insured is £20. In the case of insured parcels posted in Canada for New Zealand the Administration of Canada is responsible for loss, damage, or abstraction of contents up to the point at which the parcels are delivered into the custody of the Administration of New Zealand. In the case of insured parcels in the reverse direction New Zealand assumes liability up to the point at which the parcels are delivered into the custody of the Administration of Canada.

In response to a request received from the Post Office of Fiji the Department agreed to the introduction in the New Zealand - Fiji parcel-post service of a system of insurance for parcels. The system will operate from the 1st July, 1926. Responsibility for damage is to be allocated as in the case of the New Zealand - Canada insured-parcel service.

CASH-ON-DELIVERY SERVICE TO FIJI.

The Department has agreed also to the introduction between New Zealand and Fiji of a cash-on-delivery service for post parcels. It is considered that this step will prove of benefit to traders in New Zealand. The cash-on-delivery service has not yet come into operation.

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 1925 and 1924 are shown in each case.

	1925.			1924.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Declared value of received parcels ..	1,492,300	0	0	1,333,745	0	0
Customs duty	311,055	19	7	277,467	16	7
Declared value of forwarded parcels ..	76,980	0	0	75,572	0	0

"INSURED BOX" SERVICE.

On the 1st December, 1925, the "insured box" service, which has long been in operation between Great Britain and certain other countries, was introduced between Great Britain and New Zealand. The service provides for the conveyance by letter-mail of articles of gold or silver, precious stones, jewellery, and other articles of a like nature which are prohibited transmission by the ordinary insured-letter service. Prior to the introduction of the "insured box" service such articles could be forwarded only by *parcel*-post. An "insured box" must not exceed in weight 2 lb., in length 12 in., and in breadth or depth 4 in. For packing, a strong wooden or metal box must be used. The postage is 2d. an ounce, with a minimum charge of 10d., plus an insurance fee of 8d. for the first £12 of insured value and 5d. for each additional £12 of insured value. The limit of insurance is £400.

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, 1926, being 3,040,722, of a total value of £922,873, an increase over the previous year of 194,389 in numbers and £62,844 in value.

The commission totalled £20,754 3s. 4d., an increase of £1,283 7s. 5d. on that earned in the year 1924-25.

BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS.

The sale of British postal orders also shows a marked increase: 136,763 orders, of a value of £78,030 11s. 4d., were sold, as against 132,348 orders, of a value of £75,554, sold during the previous year. The number of orders paid was 30,248, of a value of £17,666, as against 27,168, of a value of £16,135, paid during the previous year.

TELEGRAPH AND TOLL SERVICES.

DIRECT TELEGRAPH CIRCUITS BETWEEN ATHLETIC PARK, WELLINGTON, AND EDEN PARK, AUCKLAND.

A direct Morse circuit between Athletic Park, Wellington, and Eden Park, Auckland, was provided on the 12th, 19th, and 26th September, 1925, to enable scores in the Hawke's Bay - Auckland Rugby Football Match (at Auckland) and the Wellington - Otago match (at Wellington) on the 12th, the New South Wales - New Zealand match (at Auckland) and the Wairarapa-Wellington match (at Wellington) on the 19th, and the Wellington-Auckland match (at Auckland) and the Wellington-Manawatu match (at Wellington) on the 26th to be exchanged as soon as they occurred.

In addition, individual, half-time, and final scores in the Auckland - Hawke's Bay match (at Auckland) and the Poverty Bay - New South Wales match (at Gisborne) on the 12th, the Taranaki-Auckland match (at New Plymouth), and the Wanganui-Otago match (at Dunedin) on the 19th, and

the Wanganui-Canterbury match (at Christchurch) on the 26th were telegraphed to Eden Park and Athletic Park and exhibited for the information of spectators.

The scores were promptly conveyed to the Rugby Union officials responsible for announcing them to the public. The Department's service was performed free of charge.

At Athletic Park and Eden Park telegrams giving progress results of the matches or other information were accepted also from the public. During the three days that the offices were open 45 telegrams (exclusive of Press messages) were lodged at Eden Park, and 5 were presented at Athletic Park.

Great appreciation of the facilities provided was expressed.

TELEPHONING OF WEATHER - FORECAST TELEGRAMS TO EXCHANGE SUBSCRIBERS.

Weather-forecast telegrams may now be telephoned to an exchange subscriber at the prescribed charge irrespective of the length of line of his connection. Formerly the facility was not granted in the case of a subscriber whose premises were situated within a mile of the exchange.

INLAND LETTER - TELEGRAMS.

The inland letter-telegram service has now become an important factor in the Department's telegraph business. The growth of letter-telegram business is no doubt due to the very cheap rate that applies to this class of telegram. Such messages may now be accepted written in Maori language. As letter-telegrams are transmitted after other telegrams and throughout the day as opportunity offers, they are the means of keeping the telegraph circuits engaged at times when they would otherwise be idle. The number of letter-telegrams sent during the year was 317,484, an increase of 102,011 on the number sent during 1924-25.

PRESS TELEGRAMS.

In order that people throughout the Dominion might be kept in touch with the progress of the Dunedin and South Seas International Exhibition the free transmission was authorized of a daily Press telegram relative thereto, not exceeding 200 words, addressed to all Press Association newspapers.

PRESS-TELEGRAM RATES.

Up to the 31st March, 1926, evening newspapers were permitted to receive, at Press rates, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily, an aggregate of 2,000 words of inland news. Any excess of that number was charged for at the rate of 1d. a word. As it was found that occasionally the restriction pressed heavily on evening newspapers, authority was given for the number of words that may be charged for at Press rates to be increased to 3,000. The alteration came into operation from the 1st April, 1926.

MISCELLANEOUS (TELEGRAPHS).

Particulars of the offices opened, &c., during the year are as follow :—

Offices opened, 30 ; offices closed, 73 ; offices remaining open on 31st March, 1926, 2,212. Of this number 340 are operated by Morse, 1,858 by telephone, 4 by radio-telegraphy, and 10 are toll stations only. There are also four other radio stations on the mainland (Awanui, Auckland, Wellington, and Awarua) and five in the Cook Islands. As was the case in the year 1924-25, the number of offices closed exceeded the number opened. This decline is due to the extension of the telephone-exchange system in rural areas rendering a number of small offices unnecessary.

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.

	1925-26.	1924-25.	Increase.	Increase per Cent.
Number	16,201,874	15,471,950	729,924	4.717
Value	£787,670	£753,520	£34,150	4.532

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

	Number.	Value. £
Ordinary	6,043,563	508,169
Urgent	317,021	32,385
Press	488,487	67,481
Letter	317,484	14,738
Toll communications	8,976,859	358,037
	16,143,414	980,810
Less net amount paid to other Administrations on cable and radio messages .. .. .	..	198,130
Net total for paid messages of all codes, 1925-26	16,143,414	782,680
Net total for paid messages of all codes, 1924-25	15,410,390	749,100

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

	1925-26.	1924-25.
Number of ordinary telegrams sent per unit of population	4.54	4.43
Number of toll communications per unit of population	6.37	6.54
Number of paid messages, telegrams, or toll communications per unit of population	11.49	11.71
Number of paid telegrams for every 100 letters posted	4.39	5.05

OCEAN CABLE SERVICES.

Although a number of minor troubles occurred on the overseas cable routes, there was no serious interruption of cable traffic during the year. As remarked in last year's report, the Pacific cable is worked to its full carrying-capacity. Duplication of the Vancouver - Fanning Island and the Fanning Island - Fiji sections will be commenced shortly, and when the work is completed a faster service will be given. During the year 322,722 messages were transmitted from and 290,728 received in New Zealand by overseas cables. This is an increase over last year's totals of 38,471 messages in the case of forwarded and of 38,792 messages in the case of received.

PACIFIC CABLE BOARD.

After considerable delay in selecting a successor to Mr. John Milward as Manager in the Pacific the Pacific Cable Board recently appointed Mr. Percy Hunter. Mr. Hunter is a man of very wide commercial experience, both in Australia and in London, and that experience should prove of great value to him in his new position with its onerous duties. Mr. Hunter, whose headquarters are in Sydney, visited New Zealand in May, 1926, and conferred with the Postmaster-General and with the Secretary of the Department. In view of the approaching duplication of the cable between Fiji and Vancouver, and the consequent greater capacity of the line, the discussions proved of considerable interest.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH CONFERENCE.

After having been postponed from time to time since 1913, owing in the first place to the Great War and in the second place to post-war conditions, an International Telegraph Conference was opened at Paris on the 1st September, 1925. Previous similar Conferences at which the Dominion was represented were held at London in 1903 and at Lisbon in 1908. At the London Conference New Zealand was represented by Messrs. W. P. Reeves and R. J. McKay, the latter being an officer of the British Post Office. At the Lisbon Conference Mr. W. P. Reeves was New Zealand's sole representative. It was considered that as a suitable departmental officer could not be spared to attend the Paris Conference the services of a competent person resident in London should be availed of, and it was finally decided to appoint Major T. E. Donne, formally of the High Commissioner's Office. The British Post Office authorities very generously offered to afford the New Zealand representative every assistance; and the assistance given was much appreciated. A considerable number of amendments were made to the regulations governing the exchange of telegrams between the countries adhering to the Convention, and these will come into operation on the 1st November, 1926.

CABLE 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 were reduced to the level of those chargeable for messages sent via Pacific.

The ordinary Press rate between New Zealand and Great Britain was reduced from 7½d. to 6d. a word from the 7th July, 1925. On the 1st August, 1925, the cable rate for Press messages exchanged between New Zealand and Canada, via Pacific, was reduced from 5d. to 4d. a word. The special rate of 3¼d. on messages exchanged with Vancouver City was reduced to 2¾d. a word. The whole cost of the reduction was borne by the Pacific Cable Board.

From the 1st August, 1925, the rate for cable messages to France by both Eastern and Pacific routes was increased to 2s. 6½d. ordinary and 1s. 3¼d. a word deferred. This represents an increase of ½d. and ¼d. a word respectively.

From the 25th January, 1926, cable messages for Belgium, France, Holland, and Switzerland have been accepted "via Pacific and Marconi" at the same rate as "via Pacific," and cable messages for Germany have been accepted "via Pacific and Marconi" at the same rate as "via Pacific and Imperial." Formerly the rates via Pacific and Marconi were 2d. a word higher.

DAILY LETTER CABLE MESSAGES.

The daily letter-telegram service has been extended to include Iraq, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island.

In order that daily letter-telegrams lodged on Saturdays might not be at a disadvantage in the matter of delivery as compared with the cheaper week-end messages, it was decided to effect delivery of the former on Mondays irrespective of the hour of lodgment on Saturdays. The daily letter-telegram service which was introduced in 1923 is now firmly established, no fewer than 31,340 such messages being sent from New Zealand during the year.

INTERCOLONIAL NIGHT LETTER-TELEGRAM SERVICE.

The night letter-telegram service with the Commonwealth of Australia, introduced in 1924, has become very popular with cable users. Although this service is relatively new, no less than 10,275 such messages were exchanged with the Commonwealth during March, 1926, as against 6,635 in March, 1925. The requirement that a sender of an intercolonial night letter-telegram must sign a declaration to the effect that his message is in plain language and that it bears no secret meaning was recently withdrawn.

CABLE TRAFFIC.

The number of cable messages, excluding Press, sent from New Zealand to international offices shows an increase of 9.67 per cent. on the number sent during 1924-25, and the number sent to Australian offices shows an increase of 11.90 per cent. Messages received from international offices increased by 11.18 per cent., and messages from Australia increased by 11.57 per cent.

The proportion of cable messages sent "via Pacific" was less than that sent by the same route during the previous year, the percentages being 65.0 and 65.3 respectively.

The following table shows the total number of cable messages, excluding Press, forwarded by each route during each of the past five years; also the percentage of such traffic falling to each.

PACIFIC.			EASTERN.		
Year.	Messages.	Percentage of Total.	Year.	Messages.	Percentage of Total.
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
1925-26	204,586	65	1925-26	110,146	35

Press messages numbering 3,163 were sent via Pacific and 4,827 via Eastern, compared with 2,534 and 4,369 respectively during 1924-25. The number received via Pacific was 5,921 and via Eastern 4,203, compared with 6,628 and 4,176 respectively.

The following table shows the total number of each class of message, excluding Press, forwarded during 1925-26, as compared with the number forwarded during 1924-25:—

	1925-26.		1924-25.	
	Forwarded.	Received.	Forwarded.	Received.
Full-rate international cable messages	84,074	81,115	80,381	76,611
Deferred international cable messages	21,263	21,642	17,295	18,196
Daily letter-telegrams	31,849	21,086	27,408	15,579
Week-end telegrams	28,020	15,837	25,549	15,253
Australian cable messages	96,266	98,592	103,147	102,464
Australian night-letter telegrams	53,260	42,327	30,471	23,833
Totals	314,732	280,599	284,251	251,936

(For further statement of the Dominion's cable business see page 39.)

TELEGRAPH AND TOLL-LINE SYSTEMS.

EXTENSIONS.

The rapid growth during the last few years in the number of subscribers' stations has led to a corresponding increase in the use of the telephone toll-line system. Consequently, toll circuits which a few years ago were adequate are now heavily loaded. Wherever practicable, congestion on trunk lines has been relieved by providing short branch lines for intermediate offices, thus eliminating such offices from the main arterial circuits. By the adoption of this practice and by the application of superimposed methods by employing subsidiary apparatus it has been possible to rearrange the trunk circuits to much better advantage and to obtain additional circuits without erecting extra wires. Where existing facilities could not be augmented other than by the erection of additional circuits, rearrangements effected in conjunction with the erection of new circuits have almost invariably resulted in the traffic-carrying capacity of the original speech-channels being considerably increased. The progress made during the year in extending the toll-line system generally has been most satisfactory, and has resulted in a very appreciable improvement in the standard of toll service.

There has now been completed a comprehensive scheme, comprising a reconstruction and extension of the telegraph and telephone circuits in the North Auckland district, which provides greatly improved facilities for intercommunication between the various exchanges in the North Auckland district and between that district and Auckland. The new scheme is characterized by the following important features:—

A new trunk line of four wires has been erected between Auckland and Kaitaia via Kirikopuni and Kaikohe, this route being forty-three miles shorter than the previous one. These wires are

designed to serve as main arterials between Auckland and the two areas for which Kaitaia and Kaikohe are the switching-centres. Thus good channels of speech are now available throughout the day between Auckland and all places north of Kaikohe.

South of Kaikohe increased facilities have been given by providing new trunks to the switching-stations at Dargaville, Whangarei, Ruawai, Paparoa, Maungaturoto, Waipu, and Warkworth. Every part of the North, therefore, shares in the improved service with Auckland.

The erection of the new circuits, together with the adoption of special methods, has made it possible also to provide intercommunication between switching-centres in North Auckland without the previous necessity of utilizing Auckland as a switching-centre.

By means of special apparatus and improvised methods additional Morse circuits have been provided between Auckland and Kaitaia, between Auckland and Whangarei, and between Dargaville and Whangarei.

Ultimately, the arterial system of trunk lines in the North Auckland district will form a section of the proposed inter-trunk system whereby telephonic communication will be practicable between any two exchanges in the North Island.

A commencement has now been made with the erection of new trunk circuits between Kohukohu and Kaitaia by means of which the Hokianga and Mangonui Counties will be linked up with efficient channels of telephonic communication.

The completion of two toll circuits between Taumarunui and Raetihi, and of one additional circuit between Taumarunui and Ohakune, has rendered practicable an extension of toll facilities between certain groups of exchanges in the King-country and the Waikato, Wanganui, and New Plymouth districts. At many exchanges such extension has meant the introduction of continuous toll service.

With a view to improving their efficiency, a rearrangement of the toll circuits on the west coast of the South Island is now being carried out. Already an improvement has been effected in the toll service between Greymouth and Westport. A Morse circuit has also been provided between the last-named place and Reefton. A rearrangement of the wires between Westport and Seddonville is now in hand, and when completed the exchanges and toll stations north of Westport will have a much improved service.

Three direct telephone circuits have been provided between Ashburton and Timaru. In addition, an improved utilization of the existing circuits between those places has enabled new or additional circuits to be made available between Ashburton and Hinds, Hinds and Geraldine, Ashburton and Geraldine, Geraldine and Temuka, Temuka and Timaru, and Geraldine and Timaru. Thus toll facilities available to telephone subscribers in the areas named have been improved to a very appreciable extent.

The section of main line between Timaru and Dunedin was reconstructed during the year, and the circuits were grouped to much better advantage. This rearrangement, together with the erection of new wires, has resulted in two additional circuits being provided between Dunedin and Timaru, an equivalent increase in the circuits between Dunedin and Oamaru, and a much improved service generally between Dunedin, Timaru, and intermediate stations. Dunedin now has two circuits to Palmerston, four to Oamaru, and three to Timaru, one of the last-mentioned being used when necessary for Dunedin-Christchurch traffic.

The completion during the next few months of new toll circuits between Dunedin and Gore, Gore and Invercargill, and Clyde and Cromwell will have the effect of very considerably reducing the delay on toll traffic between those places.

The more important of the additional toll circuits provided during the year are as follows :—

Inter-Island telephone cable.	Martinborough-Pirinoa.
Auckland-Kaitaia.	Nuhaka-Morere.
Auckland-Kaikohe.	Raetihi-Raurimu.
Auckland-Whangarei.	Richmond-Appleby.
Auckland-Dargaville.	Richmond - Spring Grove.
Whangarei-Kaikohe.	Tokomaru Bay - Ruatoria.
Whangarei-Dargaville.	Wairoa-Nuhaka.
Dargaville-Kaikohe.	Waipawa-Ongaonga-Tikokino.
Kaikohe-Kaitaia.	Wakefield-Kohatu.
Kaitaia-Awanui.	Upper Moutere - Neudorf.
Maungaturoto-Mareretu.	Ashburton-Geraldine.
Mareretu-Waikiekie.	Christchurch-Dunedin.
Maungaturoto-Waipu.	Hinds-Geraldine.
Wellsford-Warkworth.	Mayfield-Springburn.
Kaikohe-Okaihau.	Timaru-Ashburton.
Whangarei-Pakotai.	Timaru-Fairlie.
Whangarei-Parakao.	Timaru-Geraldine.
Whangarei-Maungatapere.	Timaru - Pleasant Point.
Dargaville-Paparoa.	Timaru - St. Andrew's.
Dargaville-Ruawai.	Timaru-Temuka.
Auckland-Warkworth.	Timaru-Waimate.
Auckland-Waipu.	Oamaru-Waimate.
Hamilton-Matamata.	Oamaru-Timaru.
Ohinepanea-Matata.	Dunedin-Timaru.
Paeroa-Ngatea-Turua.	Dunedin-Oamaru.
Taumarunui-Ohakune.	Dunedin-Palmerston.
Taumarunui-Raetihi.	Dunedin-Ranfurly.
Te Aroha - Morrinsville.	Palmerston-Oamaru.
Tirau-Cambridge.	Dunedin-Balclutha.
Waitakaruru-Pokeno.	Dunedin-Clinton.
Havelock-Canvastown.	Invercargill-Edendale-Wyndham.

INTER-ISLAND TOLL SERVICE.

Prior to the laying, in the last week of March, 1926, of the telephone cable across Cook Strait toll communication between the North and South Islands was available between the hours of midnight and 8 a.m. From the 31st March, 1926, toll communication was made available continuously. Pending the installation of amplifying-apparatus the service will be an improvised one, and will be confined to calls from Wellington on the one hand and Blenheim, Nelson, Picton, and Seddon on the other. A full report of the laying of the cable appears at pages 27–28.

EFFECT OF EXTENSION OF HIGH-TENSION LINES.

The continued activity of electric-power Boards throughout the Dominion has involved the carrying-out by the Department of a considerable amount of protective work and the removal and readjustment of many sections of toll and telephone-exchange lines. In addition, a number of earth-working toll lines and exchange systems have been converted to metallic-circuit working in order to eliminate inductive interference from power-lines. The work involved in carrying out these modifications has to some extent hampered a more vigorous prosecution by the Department of its own telegraph and telephone developmental works.

MACHINE-PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

The installation of machine-printing telegraph apparatus at Wanganui for communication with Wellington was completed on the 17th December in readiness for the Christmas traffic.

Steady progress was made with the scheme for linking up, by means of the multiplex machine-printing system, Wellington, Wanganui, New Plymouth, and Auckland via the west-coast lines, and Wellington, Napier, and Auckland via the east-coast lines. With the completion of this scheme multiplex channels will be available for telegraph traffic between the following places:—

Auckland–Christchurch.	Napier–Auckland.
Auckland–Dunedin.	Napier–Wellington.
Auckland–Napier.	New Plymouth – Auckland.
Auckland – New Plymouth.	New Plymouth – Wellington.
Auckland–Wanganui.	Wanganui–Auckland.
Auckland–Wellington (three routes).	Wanganui–Wellington.
Christchurch–Auckland.	Wellington–Auckland (three routes).
Christchurch–Dunedin.	Wellington–Christchurch.
Christchurch–Wellington.	Wellington–Dunedin.
Dunedin–Auckland.	Wellington–Napier.
Dunedin–Christchurch.	Wellington – New Plymouth.
Dunedin–Wellington.	Wellington–Wanganui.

In addition, it will be possible to provide a multiplex channel between Christchurch and Wanganui to meet any abnormal traffic requirements between those places.

MAINTENANCE OF LINES.

Notwithstanding heavy snowstorms in the Canterbury District and violent gales elsewhere during the year, telegraph and telephone communication was satisfactorily maintained, there being but few serious interruptions.

In April an exceptionally heavy rainstorm at Christchurch caused several aerial telephone cables to become inoperative, with the result that over a thousand subscribers were temporarily deprived of service. (The whole cable system at Christchurch is now being reconstructed preparatory to the Christchurch Exchange being converted to automatic working.)

A severe storm in the Auckland District in May resulted in the cutting-off of all communication between Auckland and Whangarei, and between Auckland and the east coast north of Waiwera, but within three days all services were restored.

In July a heavy snowstorm in the Canterbury District resulted in the interruption of all the main east-coast wires between Kaikoura and Clarence Bridge. Further heavy falls of snow occurred in August, all the Christchurch–Greymouth wires west of Springfield being interrupted. As a result of the same storm 60 exchange subscribers' lines at Methven were broken and 40 subscribers at Springfield were cut off. In all, about 100 poles were completely destroyed; and many miles of wire had to be replaced. Another snowstorm occurred in September, and was the cause of considerable damage on the West Coast, particularly between Bealey and Jackson's, and at Reefton. The damage on this occasion, however, consisted chiefly of broken wires, which were quickly replaced.

On the morning of the 27th January Morse and multiplex circuits in the Auckland District were markedly affected by earth currents of a very variable nature due to an auroral disturbance; but conditions soon became normal.

POLES AND WIRE.

During the year 170 miles of pole-line and 3,486 miles of wire were erected or acquired for telegraph and telephone (toll) purposes, while 53 miles of pole-line and 287 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 lengths of pole-line and wire in use for telegraph and telephone toll purposes on the 31st March, 1925 and 1926, respectively, were as follow :—

Pole-line and Wire.				Year ended 31st March, 1925.	Year ended 31st March, 1926.	Increase.
Miles of pole-line	..	..	..	12,935*	13,052	117
Miles of wire	..	..	..	56,592*	59,791	3,199

* Revised figures.

The telegraph and telephone wire in use on the 31st March, 1926—viz., 59,791 miles—is classified as under :—

	Miles.
Used exclusively for telephone toll traffic	4,152
Used exclusively for telegraph traffic	10,902
Used simultaneously and (or) conjointly for telegraph and telephone toll traffic	44,737

The total length of wire that may be used for telephone toll traffic is therefore 48,889 miles; the total length that may be used for the transmission of telegrams, 55,639 miles; and the length of telephone toll-lines over which telegrams may be transmitted by telephone, 23,060 miles. The total length of Morse circuit derived from the superimposing of telephone circuits is 12,114 miles, and the total length of additional telephone toll circuit improvised from the existing wire circuits by the use of subsidiary apparatus associated therewith (so-called phantom working) is 4,333 miles.

NEW ZEALAND SUBMARINE CABLES.

The Wanganui-Wakapuaka (Nelson) cable and the No. 3 Cook Strait cable are still out of commission. Repairs to these cables are being deferred until there is sufficient cable-work available to warrant the chartering of a cable-repairing steamer.

Cables which developed faults and which were repaired were the Mititai-Te Kopuru, the Tokatoka-Tatarariki, and the Tiritiri and Great Barrier (Auckland) cables.

On account of their being of no further use, two small sections of cable at Dog Island and Centre Island (Foveaux Strait) have been abandoned.

INTER-ISLAND SUBMARINE TELEPHONE CABLE.

The 26th March, 1926, marked the completion of the laying of the Cook Strait telephone cable, which is destined to become an important factor in fostering the development of long-distance telephony in New Zealand and in promoting a closer relationship, both commercially and socially, between the North and South Islands.

The cable, which is a four-core continuously loaded type, was manufactured by Messrs. Siemens Bros. and Co. (Limited), of Woolwich, England. The total length of cable purchased was $41\frac{1}{4}$ nautical miles, made up of $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles of shore-end cable and 35 miles of intermediate cable. The shore-end cable weighs approximately 11 tons per nautical mile, and the intermediate cable $7\frac{3}{4}$ tons per nautical mile.

As the Pacific Cable Board's cable-steamer "Iris," which usually undertakes the repair of the Department's cables, could not be made available for this special work, arrangements were made with the Marine Department for the Government steamer "Tutanekai" to be recommissioned for the occasion.

The cable was shipped from London by the s.s. "Tongariro" on the 16th January, 1926, and reached Wellington on the 7th March. Discharging operations commenced on the 9th March, and within three days the whole of the cable had been transhipped direct from the tank in the "Tongariro" into the holds of the "Tutanekai."

On the 22nd March the "Tutanekai" proceeded to the mouth of the Blind River (approximately 5 miles south-east of Seddon, in the Awatere County) for the purpose of laying the South Island shore end, measuring $1\frac{1}{4}$ nautical miles. On the following morning the Seddon shore-end cable was landed and anchored, the $1\frac{1}{4}$ nautical miles paid out, and the end buoyed. The "Tutanekai" then returned to Lyall Bay in the hope of laying the main portion of the cable on the following day. During the night, however, a strong southerly wind sprang up and prevented the ship from working on the 24th. On the 25th March, the weather being favourable, the ship dropped anchor at Lyall Bay at 6 a.m. The Lyall Bay end of the cable was secured on shore at 7.20 a.m., and the ship commenced paying out at 8.30 a.m. The paying-out of cable continued until 4 p.m., when the "Tutanekai" reached the buoy at the extremity of the Seddon shore end. Testing and jointing operations proceeded throughout the night, and the section containing the splice between the main cable and the Seddon shore end was dropped from the ship at 9 a.m. on the 26th March.

The laying of the cable was carried out without mishap of any kind; and much credit is due to the officers of the Marine Department who were in command of the "Tutanekai" during the cable-laying operations.

The cable was shipped from the manufacturers' works in two lengths, one length consisting of $1\frac{1}{2}$ nautical miles of shore cable for the Seddon end, and the other length consisting of 5 nautical miles of shore cable and 35 nautical miles of main cable for laying between Lyall Bay and the sea end of the Seddon shore cable. This arrangement necessitated the making of only one splice at sea, the cable being so arranged in the special tank in the "Tongariro" as to permit of its being laid from the "Tutanekei" in the order set out above.

The total length of cable actually laid between Lyall Bay and the South Island landing was 38.1 nautical miles, this being made up of 5 nautical miles of shore-end cable at the Lyall Bay end, 1.25 nautical miles of shore-end cable at the Blind River end, and 31.85 nautical miles of intermediate or main cable.

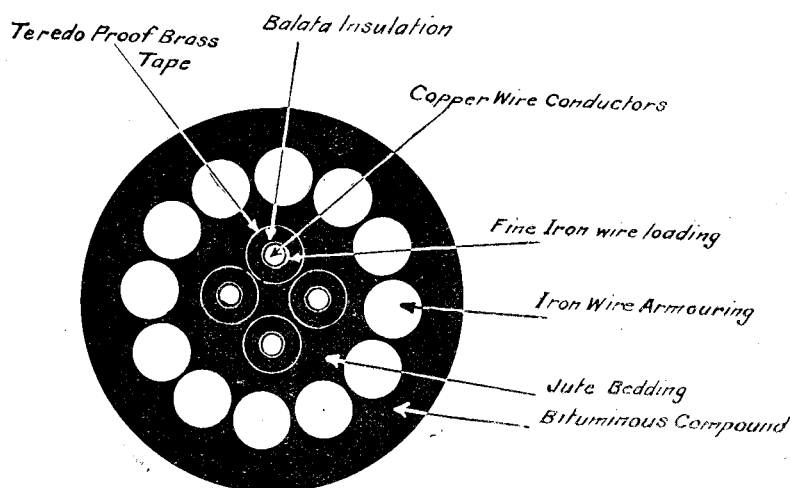
A few days after the laying of the cable continuous telephone service was established between Wellington on the one hand and Nelson, Seddon, Picton, and Blenheim on the other. For the present the inter-Island service is limited to communications between Wellington and the exchanges mentioned, as the cable itself does not constitute the complete equipment necessary to link up and provide satisfactory communication between all North and South Island exchanges.

The next work to be undertaken in connection with the Cook Strait cable is the connection of its extremities with the Wellington Central and Seddon Exchanges respectively by means of special trench cable, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of which is to be laid between Lyall Bay and the Wellington Central Exchange and 5 miles between the mouth of the Blind River and the Seddon Exchange. The characteristics of the trench cable are similar to those of the submarine cable, except that the armouring is somewhat lighter and the cores are enclosed in a lead sheathing. Preparations for the laying of the trench cable, which has already been delivered at Wellington, are now in hand. Meantime aerial land-lines connect the extremities of the submarine cable with the Wellington and Seddon Exchanges.

A further work preliminary to extended range working via the new cable is the installation at the Wellington and Seddon Exchanges of special telephone repeaters or amplifiers, which in turn necessitate the installation of storage batteries and associated power plants, together with a considerable amount of special electrical apparatus. A new building to accommodate the repeaters and associated equipment at Seddon is in course of erection.

The manufacture of the repeater equipment at Messrs. Siemens Bros. works is nearing completion, and it is expected that it will be ready for use about December next.

Appended is a sketch of the cross-section (actual size) of the shore end of the submarine telephone cable.



CROSS-SECTION OF COOK STRAIT SUBMARINE TELEPHONE CABLE (SHORE END).

The intermediate section of the cable is of similar construction, but is smaller in diameter.

WIRELESS SERVICES.

WIRELESS EQUIPMENT, EXTENSION, ETC.

As a result of the careful attention that has been paid to routine maintenance, the operation of the New Zealand coast stations was carried out without interruption.

On the 30th July and 9th October respectively radio-telegraph stations were installed in the lighthouses at Puysegur Point (in Foveaux Strait) and Stephens Island (in Cook Strait). These stations are owned and operated by the Marine Department, and are primarily for the purpose of reporting passing ships. Ordinary telegraph traffic also is handled, the charge for telegrams being $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. a word, with a minimum of 1s. 3d. a message. The stations are for fixed point-to-point working, Puysegur Point communicating with Radio-Awarua at 9.15 a.m. and 4.15 p.m. daily, and Stephens Island with Radio-Wellington at the same times.

A radio-telegraph station was erected on the Island of Atiu, in the Cook Group, and was opened for traffic on the 17th December. The hours of attendance are from 8 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The rate for telegrams from New Zealand is 1s. 9d. a word.

During a hurricane experienced at Apia, Samoa, on the 2nd January, 1926, considerable damage was caused to the aerial system of the radio station. Temporary repairs were effected immediately, and operations were resumed on the following day. Fortunately, no other damage was caused.

WIRELESS INSTALLATIONS ON SHIPS.

The number of wireless licenses in force on the 31st March, 1926, in respect of ship stations was 56, an increase of 24 on the number in force in the previous year. The increase is largely due to the Marine Department's new regulations. These regulations provide that every ship which is registered in the Dominion and to which one or more of the following conditions applies must be provided with wireless telegraph apparatus :—

- (a.) That is of 1,600 tons gross registered tonnage or upwards ; or
- (b.) That carries more than twelve passengers ; or
- (c.) That carries more than twenty-five persons.

For the purpose of the regulations ships are classified as follows :—

Class I : Foreign-going ships carrying two hundred persons or more ;

Class II : Foreign-going ships carrying seventy-five but less than two hundred persons other than those in Class III :

Class III : (a) Foreign-going ships carrying less than seventy-five persons ; (b) foreign-going ships proceeding between ports of call within the Dominion of New Zealand when carrying less than two hundred persons ; (c) home-trade ships carrying four hundred persons or more.

Class IV : Home-trade ships other than those in Class III.

Provision is made for the wireless installations on Class IV ships, which are all small vessels engaged in the coastal trade, to be operated by one of the ship's officers qualified as a wireless telegraph signaller, instead of by a regular qualified operator as is required in the case of other ships. Twenty-two ships registered in New Zealand are being operated by wireless signallers. Radio-telegrams exchanged with vessels the wireless installations of which are operated by wireless signallers are restricted to messages to or from officers of the ship relative to urgent maritime matters. The qualifications of a wireless signaller are that he must be able to send and receive satisfactorily at a speed of not less than ten words a minute for a continuous period of five minutes, and that he must have a sound practical knowledge of the transmitting and receiving apparatus and its accessories, and also of the care and adjustment necessary to maintain the equipment in an efficient condition. The Department conducts the examination for these certificates, the fee for which is 5s. Up to the 31st March, 1926, eighty-eight wireless signaller certificates had been issued. Provision has been made also for the issue of wireless watcher certificates, but no candidates have yet presented themselves for examination.

RECEPTION OF SIGNALS FROM THE BRITISH HIGH-POWER STATION AT RUGBY.

The opening of the high-power station at Rugby, England, in December last marked an important step in radio communication between Great Britain and the Dominions. The new station is designed to provide a reliable means whereby communication with all parts of the Empire can be obtained during any period of the day or night.

Since the 1st January, 1926, the British Official News Service messages previously sent from the Leafeld Station have been sent from the Rugby Station on a wave-length of 18,740 metres. Tests of signal strength and reliability are being conducted at Radio-Awarua, and it is hoped that at an early date reliable reception in New Zealand will be an established fact.

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL RADIO-TELEGRAPH CONFERENCE.

The last Radio-telegraph Conference was held in London in 1912. The next Conference should have been held at Washington in 1917, but was postponed owing to the war. After peace had been declared, negotiations were commenced with a view to combining the International Telegraph Convention and the Radio-telegraph Convention, the former of which was set down to be held in Paris. The negotiations were prolonged ; and, finally, as an agreement with one or two of the principal allied countries could not be reached, the French Government decided to proceed with the Telegraph Conference, which was held in Paris in September and October, 1925. Arrangements are now being made to hold the Radio-telegraph Conference at Washington in 1927. As the last Conference was held in 1912 and wireless telegraphy has made such enormous strides since then there will be many important matters to be discussed. It is intended that the Dominion shall be adequately represented at the Washington Conference.

IMPERIAL WIRELESS SERVICES.

The High Commissioner for New Zealand and Mr. John Milward, late Manager in the Pacific for the Pacific Cable Board, have been selected to represent New Zealand on the Standing Committee appointed to advise on matters of detail arising out of the conduct of the Imperial wireless services

to be opened between Great Britain on the one hand and Australia, Canada, and South Africa on the other. Although New Zealand is not yet directly interested in the service, it is desirable that the Dominion should be represented on the Committee from its inception.

LISTENING SERVICE.

In January, 1922, the continuous listening service previously observed at Radio-Awarua for the reception of distress-signals was restricted practically to correspond with the hours of daylight. On the 23rd May, 1925, the continuous watch was re-established.

AURORA AUSTRALIS.

A brilliant display of Aurora Australis on the nights of the 27th and 28th January had its effect upon radio operations. On the 27th the signals at Radio-Awarua were much above normal strength, but on the following day fierce crashes were in evidence. The effects on wireless signals were in no way similar to those observed during the magnetic disturbance of 1921, when considerable variation in reception was experienced. No sudden variations in signal-strength were noticed in the case of this year's phenomenon, signals from all directions remaining fairly constant. The disturbance was experienced also at other radio stations, but to a lesser degree.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION WITH ANTARCTICA.

Opportunity was taken during the voyage to the Antarctic of the whaling-steamer "Sir James Clark Ross" to conduct experiments in wireless communication with Antarctica. The experimental and commercial transmissions were carried out by Radio-Awarua and the "Sir James Clark Ross," and were chiefly by means of short waves.

ELIMINATION OF INTERFERENCE TO "LISTENERS-IN."

In order to eliminate the interference caused to broadcast listeners-in by the spark transmissions from Radio-Auckland, provision was made for a combined continuous-wave and interrupted-continuous-wave valve transmitting attachment for that station. Until such time as the permanent attachment is installed use is being made during broadcasting-hours of a low-power-valve transmitting set.

WIRELESS AT EXHIBITION.

A wireless transmitting and receiving set installed in the departmental court at the New Zealand and South Seas International Exhibition proved of considerable interest to the general public. By means of the set the daily time signals transmitted from the Dominion Observatory at Wellington were received and reproduced through a loud-speaker in the Exhibition building.

PRIVATE RADIO-STATIONS AND RADIO-DEALERS' LICENSES.

The number of radio receiving licenses issued during the year was 3,588. A percentage of this number was, however, for short terms. A large number of people renewed their licenses during March, 1926; and it is hoped that the number of licenses issued during the coming year will be very greatly increased. Licenses were issued also in respect of 98 transmitting and receiving stations, 6 private broadcasting stations, and 1 experimental station. The number of radio-dealers' licenses issued was 191.

MOUNT ETAKO PLANTATION.

The considerable area planted with native trees and shrubs on Mount Etako (in the vicinity of the Wellington radio station) was increased during the year by the planting of 320 pohutukawa-trees.

WIRELESS TRAFFIC.

The numbers of forwarded and received radio messages show increases of 0.06 per cent. and 1.29 per cent. respectively. The amounts earned by New Zealand show a decrease under both headings of 5.14 per cent. and 2.26 per cent. respectively. The number of words of paid forwarded radio Press telegrams decreased from 123,018 to 64,502; 57,956 words of Press news were broadcasted free of charge to all ships and coast stations within range of Awanui. For statement of radio business transacted by New Zealand coast stations see page 39.

RADIO BROADCASTING.

After prolonged and unsuccessful negotiations with the New Zealand broadcasting syndicate, Mr. W. Goodfellow, of Hamilton, and Mr. A. R. Harris, of Christchurch, as trustees of a company registered as the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand (Limited), undertook, on the 1st August, 1925, to provide a radio broadcasting service on the conditions laid down in the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1924, and the Broadcasting Regulations, 1925. Under the agreement the company is required to take reasonable steps to provide and maintain during a term of five years an efficient broadcasting service in pursuance of the Broadcasting Regulations, and to provide any new apparatus that may be necessary to keep the stations up to date. The agreement provides also

for two of the four stations mentioned in the regulations (one at Auckland and the other at Christchurch) to be in operation within six months after the date of the agreement. The right was retained, however, to extend the time beyond six months, provided that all reasonable steps were taken by the company to have the stations erected within that period. Further, the trustees undertook to erect stations at Wellington and Dunedin when requested by the Minister of Telegraphs so to do, and to form a company with a capital of £20,000 to ratify the agreement within a month. Except in regard to the time allowed for the erection of the Auckland and Christchurch stations the conditions of the agreement have so far been met. Although an order for the apparatus for the Auckland and Christchurch stations was placed in England by cable immediately the agreement was signed, and every effort was made to hasten delivery, the manufacturers have not been able to ship the order. It is expected, however, that shipment will not be much longer delayed. The delay is disappointing; but, in view of the circumstances, it was agreed to extend the time allowed to the 30th June.

From the beginning of April, 1925, when the annual license fee for a receiving station was raised from 5s. to £1 10s., and when radio-dealers' licenses were first issued, up to the 31st July, 1925, the broadcasting stations operating in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin were subsidized out of those fees to the extent of £15 per week each. Since the signing of the agreement by Messrs. Goodfellow and Harris on the 1st August, 1925, £1 5s. out of every license fee of £1 10s. and 90 per cent. of the fees received in respect of the radio-dealers' licenses has been paid to the Broadcasting Company. The company purchased the existing Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington broadcasting stations, and with the aid of additional apparatus and various improvements has carried out a satisfactory broadcasting service. There is no doubt that when the new stations are in working-order broadcasting in the Dominion will be improved.

When the New Zealand and South Seas International Exhibition opened in November, 1925, the Dunedin station was transferred to the Exhibition buildings, and was able to broadcast excellent vocal and instrumental items rendered at the Exhibition.

TELEPHONE-EXCHANGE SERVICE.

EXTENSION OF TELEPHONE-EXCHANGE SYSTEM.

The demand for telephone-exchange service was consistently steady throughout the year, and to provide telephone facilities for the 13,368 new subscribers joined up extensive construction work was necessary. As a result many rural areas previously unserved are now enjoying the benefits of telephone service.

One of the most popular features of the present rating-system is its operation in suburban and rural areas where the reasonable charges for residential connections encourage the residents and settlers to avail themselves of this increasingly popular public utility.

On account of the erection of power-lines having rendered inefficient many privately owned earth working sections of exchange lines, numerous requests were received for the replacement of privately owned lines by metallic circuits owned and maintained by the Department. Settlers are evidently finding this course more satisfactory and profitable than undertaking on their own account the erection and maintenance of new circuits on the metallic-circuit principle. Although this form of development is revenue-producing, it involves a good deal of construction work without any corresponding increase in the number of subscribers' stations.

The amalgamation of small exchanges for the purpose of obtaining more extensive local service and longer hours of attendance has resulted in the local exchanges at Aratapu, Northcote, Southbridge, and Tangowahine being closed, and the subscribers' stations being connected with the exchanges at Te Kopuru, Birkenhead, Leeston, and Dargaville respectively.

A work of considerable magnitude now in progress is the reconstruction of the whole cable system at Christchurch, which is being undertaken preparatory to the conversion of the Christchurch Exchange area to automatic working. Earthenware ducts manufactured locally are being used for accommodating the cables underground. Already 20 miles of ducts have been laid, into which 15 miles of large-size cable have been drawn. Of this cable 10 miles have already been brought into operation, enabling a much improved service to be given to 1,500 subscribers who were previously working through defective aerial cables.

During the year the number of subscribers to the Whangarei Exchange passed the 1,000 mark, and from the 1st November, 1925, the status of the exchange was raised from Class III to Class II. The reclassification had the effect of increasing subscribers' rentals, and also of extending the limits of the base-rate area.

Among other operations, the year's work included—

The opening of new manual exchanges at Kohuratahi, Okaihau, Rai Valley, Tadmor, Te Kauwhata, Upper Moutere, Waitakaruru :

The conversion to automatic working of the Wellington Exchange system by the opening of the Wellington Central (Stout Street) Main Automatic Exchange :

The extension of the switching equipment at 55 manual exchanges and two automatic exchanges :

The erection of 1,606 miles of pole line and 12,159 miles of open aerial wire for telephone-exchange subscribers' circuits :

The laying or erection of 270 miles of lead-covered cable containing 73,770 miles of wire for subscribers' circuits :

The connection of 13,368 new subscribers' stations :

The maintenance of 125,372 telephone stations.

The steady growth of the telephone system in New Zealand is exemplified in the following table, which shows annually since 1917 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:—

Year.	Number of Exchanges.	Miles of Wire.	Revenue.	Number of Telephone Stations.	
				Total.	Per 1,000 Population.
1917	267	142,469	£ 317,275	62,523	54·32
1918	280	154,799	344,368	67,763	58·67
1919	287	165,962	373,169	72,561	61·59
1920	291	177,509	419,318	80,723	65·26
1921	296	192,027	533,535	88,439	69·80
1922	301	207,529	614,367	94,683	72·78
1923	320	229,882	595,967	107,036	80·78
1924	327	269,421	830,470	111,441	82·67
1925	340	331,453	867,218	120,097*	87·09
1926	341	402,433	980,281	130,186*	94·40

* Includes approximately 4,000 non-exchange stations.

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, 1926, 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 ..	34,496	21,569	19,271	27,173	102,509
Toll and service stations ..	580	470	674	2,216	3,940
Public call offices	298	74	32	5	409
Extension stations—					
P.B.X.	4,964	1,201	341	96	6,602
Ordinary	6,645	2,858	1,447	962	11,912
Telephone stations: Class totals ..	46,983	26,172	21,765	30,452	125,372
Number of exchanges in each class	4	12	41	284	341
Percentage of new connections made with each class of exchange during the year	37	16	18	29	..

In addition to the above there were 4,448 stations connected by private telephone-lines with departmental toll stations, and 366 stations connected with non-departmental rural exchanges, making a grand total of 130,186 telephone stations on the 31st March, 1926.

Of the new connections made during the year, 4,896 were with Class I exchanges, 2,217 with Class II exchanges, 2,382 with Class III exchanges, and 3,873 with Class IV (country) exchanges. The waiting-list at these exchanges now stands at 960, 227, 329, and 677 respectively: total, 2,193—a reduction of 1,429 on the figures for the year ended 31st March, 1925. The waiting-list for Class IV exchanges includes 116 applicants for connections at telephone exchanges authorized but not yet opened.

The following table shows the number of telephone stations in each engineering district in the Dominion on the 31st March, 1925 and 1926, respectively, and the percentage of increase in each case:—

Engineering District.	Number of Stations on 31st March,						Per-centage of Increase.
	1925.			1926.			
	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	
Auckland	28,528	4,262	32,790	31,528	4,668	36,196	10·4
Wellington	41,941	7,236	49,177	44,825	8,003	52,828	7·4
Canterbury	15,148	3,151	18,299	16,230	3,399	19,629	7·3
Otago	13,016	2,267	15,283	14,275	2,444	16,719	9·4
Totals	98,633	16,916	115,549	106,858	18,514	125,372	8·5

The number of subscribers' stations (main and extension) connected with each of the fourteen principal exchanges on the 31st March, 1926, was—Wellington, 14,686; Auckland, 14,655; Christchurch, 10,055; Dunedin, 7,158; Wanganui, 3,274; Hamilton, 2,574; Palmerston North, 2,574; Gisborne, 2,510; Invercargill, 2,450; Napier, 2,422; Hastings, 2,308; Masterton, 1,820; Timaru, 1,774; New Plymouth, 1,580.

The number of party and rural lines on the 31st March, 1926, was 8,831, to which were connected 33,740 main stations—an increase of 444 and 2,553 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, 1926:—

Percentage of	Class I Exchanges.	Class II Exchanges.	Class III Exchanges.	Class IV Exchanges.	Dominion Percentages.
Business stations	43	35	31	24	34
Residential stations	57	65	69	76	66
	100	100	100	100	100
Individual-line stations	89	74	59	42	68
Party- and rural-line stations	11	26	41	58	32
	100	100	100	100	100

The length in miles of the various items of telephone-exchange plant in existence on the 31st March, 1925 and 1926, respectively, was as follows:

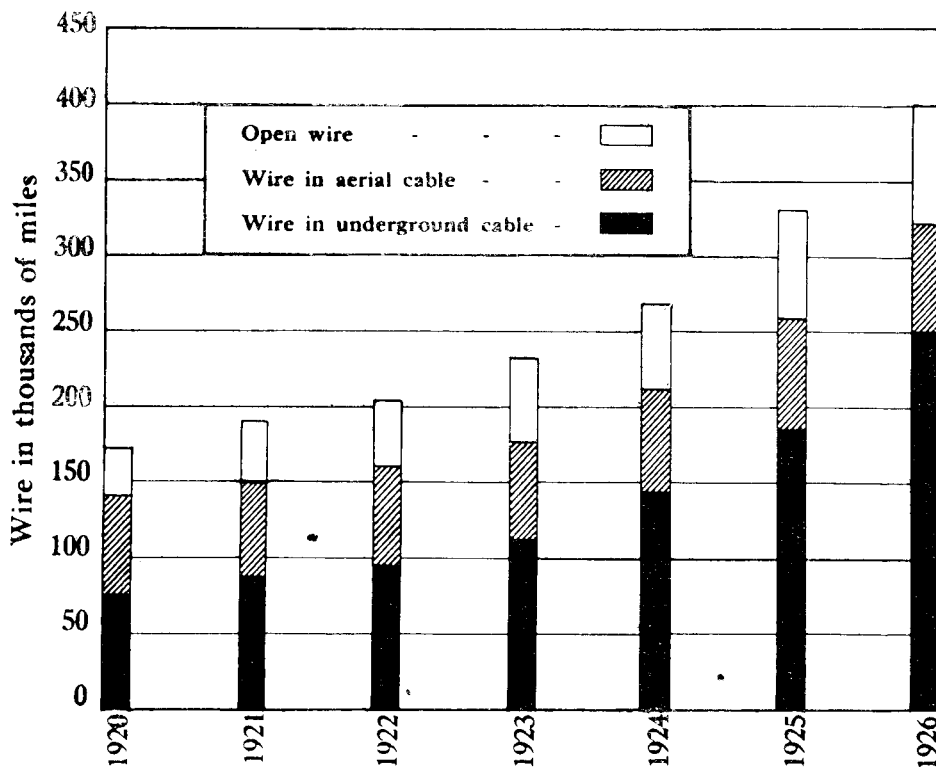
	Pole-line.	Cable.		Wire.			
		Under-ground.	Aerial.	In Under-ground Cable.	In Aerial Cable.	Open Aerial.	Under all Headings.
In existence on 31st March, 1925	9,499	557	641	188,102	74,532	68,819	331,453
Erected during year ..	1,606	187	83	65,808	7,962	12,159	85,929
Dismantled during year	48	22	62	6,631	6,016	2,302	14,949
In existence on 31st March, 1926	11,057	722	662	247,279	76,478	78,676*	402,433

* Includes 2,666 miles of earth-working circuit.

The percentages of the total wire-mileage in underground and aerial cables and open aerial wire respectively for the year ended 31st March, 1926, are as under:—

Telephone-exchange wire in underground cables	61
Telephone-exchange wire in aerial cables	19
Telephone-exchange wire in open aerial wires	20

GRAPH SHOWING THE TELEPHONE-EXCHANGE WIRE IN UNDERGROUND AND AERIAL CABLES AND OPEN AERIAL WIRE RESPECTIVELY EACH YEAR SINCE 1920.



	1920.	1926.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Percentage of wire in underground cable	43	61
Percentage of wire in aerial cable	35	19
Percentage of open aerial wire	22	20

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

A considerable amount of installation work was carried out during the year at the different automatic exchanges, and, where necessary, provision was made for increasing the existing equipment to meet future growth of telephone business. With a view to meeting future requirements, a good deal of development work was also done in connection with the planning and extension of automatic-exchange building accommodation.

Installation work and the maintenance of automatic-exchange equipment made big demands on skilled labour. In connection with this work, there is scope for lads having secondary technical-school education. To meet the growing demands it has been found necessary to recruit for training purposes a number of juniors who had already acquired at secondary schools elementary experience in mechanical and electrical work.

On the 31st March, 1926, automatic exchanges in operation throughout the Dominion provided service for 32,583 subscribers' main stations, or over 30 per cent. of the total. In the four metropolitan areas 23,621 subscribers' main stations, representing 22 per cent. of the total, were connected with automatic exchanges.

AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN AREA AND DISTRICT AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

The new automatic-exchange system in the Auckland metropolitan area has now been in operation for a little over twelve months. Satisfaction with the system and with the service given to the public is freely expressed. Notwithstanding that the total number of subscribers in the area has very largely increased, complaints received during the past year show a marked decrease compared with those received in previous years. This satisfactory state of affairs is due to the decided improvement which the system shows over the old mixed manual and automatic systems.

The Devonport Automatic Exchange, with 408 stations, was completed and brought into service on the 13th March last. Subscribers connected with this exchange are now able to communicate with the metropolitan area, free of toll charges.

The Takapuna Automatic Exchange is nearing completion, and when cut into service will be absorbed in the multi-office area, thus providing Takapuna subscribers with the same switching-facilities as are now enjoyed by the Devonport telephone users.

The following extensions to the present exchange equipment are in view: Mount Eden (400 individual lines), Remuera (200 individual lines and 100 two-party lines), Ponsonby (600 individual lines and 100 two-party lines), Devonport (100 individual lines and 100 two-party lines).

At the Hamilton Automatic Exchange an extension of 200 individual lines has been sufficiently advanced to allow of new subscribers being connected. The extension of the toll and rural sections of the equipment is in progress. Provision will be made during next year for an extension of 100 two-party lines and 200 individual lines.

WELLINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA AND DISTRICT AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

The Wellington Central Exchange (Stout Street) was cut into service on the 26th September, 1925, when the remainder of the manually operated subscribers' stations (4,600) and a number of waiting subscribers were given automatic telephone service. The automatic system was thus brought into operation in the whole of the Wellington metropolitan exchange area. Coincident with the opening of the Stout Street Exchange, there were diverted from the Courtenay Place Automatic Exchange 1,200 lines which properly belonged to the Stout Street area but had been temporarily accommodated at Courtenay Place.

All public telephone business, such as applications for exchange connections, payment of accounts transfers and removals of telephones, inquiries, &c., are transacted in the public offices provided in the Stout Street new building. Facilities for the payment of accounts, however, continue to be available at the Chief Post-office. A public toll office, with hours of attendance 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., has been provided at the new building.

The conversion from manual to automatic working of the telephones in the central area of the City of Wellington involved a considerable amount of preparatory work. The underground cables, which terminated in the old exchange building, had to be diverted to the new exchange in a manner that would not only not interfere with the operation of the old system prior to the cut-over, but would permit of the dis severing of the old exchange connections after the cut-over without dislocating the working of the new system. The accomplishing of this result involved the installation in the new building of nineteen cables each containing 1,200 insulated wires. In addition, the telephone equipment in subscribers' premises had to be supplemented by automatic apparatus, so arranged that a simple and rapid change could be made at the time of the cut-over from one telephone to the other. This was done with the least possible inconvenience to subscribers. In order to obtain the best possible results the installation of subscribers' apparatus was delayed until the last moment. The old equipment was recovered as early as possible. Eight thousand new telephones were installed in five weeks; and the whole of the old apparatus was recovered in about eight days.

In addition to attention to the actual telephones, the cut-over necessitated special treatment to a number of telephone accessories. To enable them to be merged satisfactorily into the automatic system the circuit wiring of twenty comparatively large private branch exchanges was altered, and 168 smaller private branch exchanges were converted from the cord-and-plug system to the key-box "interphone" system. The last-named operation involved the installing of about 1,200 key-boxes of various sizes, and the laying in subscribers' premises of 19,000 yards of telephone cable.

As may be well imagined, the satisfying of the varying needs of the many types of businesses in a city such as Wellington required considerable thought on the part of the construction staff. The erection of the automatic equipment itself was a work involving an immensity of detail as can be gathered from a glance at the following figures:—

The installation of the switching-apparatus for 6,000 subscribers' lines necessitated the making and testing of 3,850,000 soldered connections, and the use of 37,000 relays, 14,000 driving-magnets, 4,400 timing-switches, and 4,164 selecting-machines. In addition, after the erection of this apparatus the more intricate work of testing still remained to be done.

The installation work was commenced at the end of April, 1924; and the system was brought into service at the end of September, 1925—thus to complete the whole of the work only seventeen months were taken.

In addition to work at the Central Exchange it was necessary to rewire all the impulse-receiving mechanism at the other automatic exchanges in the area. As the rewiring had to be done in exchanges that were working careful organizing was necessary to obviate interruptions.

The power-supply used in the automatic exchange normally comes from the city power-mains, but a storage-battery installation and an automatic cut-over mechanism have been provided to ensure uninterrupted service in the event of a breakdown in the city power-supply.

Among many other subsidiary services that might be mentioned are the toll-board and the telephone directory. The latter was, in itself, a task of considerable magnitude, calling for the exercise of the greatest care and attention. A careful analysis of the exchange load had to be made in order that the new numbers might be allotted in such a manner that the traffic would be evenly distributed throughout the system.

In view of the foregoing it will be appreciated that after the cut-over a few days elapsed before all minor installation defects could be removed and final adjustments made.

During the year the following extensions to equipment were installed: Courtenay Place Automatic Exchange (400 exclusive lines); Kelburn (100 four-party lines). At Wellington South 400 individual lines are at present being installed, and at the Wellington Central and Khandallah Exchanges contracts have been let for extensions of 100 two-party lines and 200 exclusive lines respectively. To relieve the congestion in the Wellington South Telephone Exchange area consideration is now being given to the question of erecting at Miramar an automatic branch exchange to serve the Lyall Bay - Miramar - Seatoun area.

Provision is being made for an extension of 100 two-party lines at the Masterton Exchange.

The more modern portion of the Strowger automatic equipment previously in use in Auckland is now in course of installation at Napier. Prior to its being brought into operation at Napier the equipment is being completely overhauled and readjusted so that it will function with precision and furnish an up-to-date automatic system.

Additional switching-apparatus which is being installed at the Palmerston North Automatic Exchange will provide increased accommodation for subscribers.

At Wanganui provision has been made for utilizing a portion of the latest type of Strowger automatic material released from Auckland, which, when installed, will provide accommodation for 300 additional subscribers.

The Blenheim Automatic Exchange equipment is taxed almost to its full capacity, and provision is being made for an extension of 100 exclusive lines and 10 rural lines.

The automatic-exchange equipment for the Dannevirke, Hawera, and Stratford Exchanges is expected to arrive in the Dominion shortly, and as soon as the apparatus is available a commencement of the installation work will be made.

CHRISTCHURCH METROPOLITAN AREA AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

As soon as the Auckland City exchanges were converted to automatic working a section of the manual switchboard was transferred to Christchurch in order to tide over the transition period pending the completion of the Christchurch underground distribution work and automatic-exchange installations. As a result of this action the Department was enabled to increase the capacity of the exchange by 400 lines. At the present rate of progression the time when this increased capacity will be fully availed of is close at hand.

The system in Christchurch at present is a mixed one, being partly automatic and partly manual; and when the manual section was transferred from Auckland opportunity was taken to introduce into the Christchurch system certain features which greatly improved the service and which will continue in operation until the full-automatic system is introduced.

Almost the whole of the apparatus for the Western Electric full-automatic exchanges at Christchurch is now in hand. Satisfactory progress is being made with the installation work; and a good deal of the equipment is already in position. This is a work of considerable magnitude, and every effort is being made to hasten its completion so that it will be ready when the final stages of reconstruction of the outside cable and aerial plant are reached.

The auxiliary Strowger automatic apparatus which is at present in use has given satisfactory service during the year.

DUNEDIN METROPOLITAN AREA AND DISTRICT AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

In April, 1925, a section of the Auckland manual switchboard, which was released when the Auckland Exchange was converted to automatic working, was transferred to Dunedin, and it is now being utilized to provide accommodation for new subscribers until the automatic system is brought into operation. The Dunedin Exchange will ultimately operate on full automatic principles, and will in every respect be similar to the automatic systems in operation in the Auckland and Wellington metropolitan areas. The installation of the automatic-exchange equipment in the Dunedin area is well advanced, but a considerable amount of detail work still remains to be done before the intricate mechanism can be made available for service.

The Oamaru Automatic Exchange continues to provide an efficient and smooth-running service. The present equipment has sufficient capacity to meet all immediate requirements.

AIR-CONDITIONING PLANTS FOR AUTOMATIC EXCHANGES.

The air-conditioning plants introduced at the latest machine switching exchanges have given good service, maintaining the air in the switch-rooms at suitable relative humidities and keeping it free from dust. The elimination of dust and excessive humidity has largely contributed to the comparative freedom from apparatus irregularities at those exchanges. The benefits derived have fully justified the introduction of air-conditioning plants as part of exchange equipment.

"INTERPHONE" INSTALLATIONS.

A system of telephone intercommunication for business houses having up to twenty extension stations has been introduced. In addition to the scattered departments of a business house being linked up, each extension station is able to connect directly with the central telephone exchange. The system is at present confined to the Wellington Exchange area, but as further equipment becomes available other centres will be given similar service. In Wellington City 168 subscribers have availed themselves of the so-called "interphone" system. The simple manipulation of the "interphone," the low operating-costs, and the quick and efficient inter-office service provided thereby are features which are making the system an increasingly popular adjunct to business stations.

AUTOMATIC PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGES.

A commencement has been made in the introduction of small automatic-exchange units (private automatic exchanges) for use in business premises where the "interphone" key-box system does not fully meet requirements as regards number capacity, secrecy, or variety of services rendered. Further private-exchange equipment is now under order. It is expected that this important aid to efficient business organization will be greatly in demand.

Hereunder is a return showing automatic-exchange equipment installed and in use in the Dominion on the 31st March, 1926 :—

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	7,200	..	100	5,501	120	5,621	1,906	7,527
Remuera	1,600	..	100	1,493	235	1,728	129	1,857
Mount Eden	1,600	..	100	1,579	274	1,853	83	1,936
Ponsonby	1,200	..	100	1,049	94	1,143	95	1,238
Onehunga	400	..	..	307	..	307	31	338
Devonport	500	..	..	432	..	432	22	454
Christchurch Exchange Area—								
Hereford Street* ..	1,500	..	..	1,498	..	1,498	155	1,653
St. Albans*	500	..	..	497	..	497	53	550
Sydenham*	300	..	..	299	..	299	30	329
Wellington Exchange Area—								
Courtenay Place ..	3,800	100	100	3,058	316	3,374	733	4,107
Wellington South ..	1,400	100	100	1,355	489	1,844	113	1,957
Kelburn	1,200	..	100	925	128	1,053	61	1,114
Khandallah .. ..	..	100	100	115†	235	350	7	357
Stout Street	7,600	..	100	3,430	192	3,622	2,608	6,230
Single-office exchanges—								
Blenheim	700	..	100	687	142	829	93	922
Hamilton	1,600	..	100	1,461	311	1,772	283	2,055
Masterton	1,000	..	100	987	188	1,175	192	1,367
Oamaru	700	..	100	681	73	754	92	846
Palmerston North ..	1,800	..	100	1,827‡	207	2,034	248	2,282
Wanganui	2,500	200	100	2,046	352	2,398	533	2,931
Totals	37,100	500	1,500	29,227	3,356	32,583	7,467	40,050

* Auxiliary apparatus.

† Party lines used for individual stations.

‡ Twenty-seven party lines used

In the telephone statistics of the world (compiled on the 1st January, 1924) the United States leads as regards density, with 13·7 telephones per 100 of population; Canada is second, with 11 telephones; Denmark is third, with 8·7 telephones; while New Zealand takes fourth place, with 8·3 telephones. Australia and Great Britain occupy seventh and eleventh places respectively, with 5 and 2·5 telephones per 100 of population. The number of telephones per 100 of population of the world is 1·4.

INFORMATION BUREAUX.

Arrangements were made for much useful information to be made available to subscribers through the "Information" attendants at the exchanges at each of the four chief centres. In addition to information relative to the telephone numbers of new subscribers, to removals and transfers of existing connections, and to other matters of general information concerning the telephone service, subscribers to the exchanges at the four centres may obtain the correct time, the results of sporting events (except horse-racing) as supplied by the secretaries of athletic associations and clubs, information regarding departures and arrivals of overseas mail-steamers, the times of closing of overseas mails, the names of ships within range of New Zealand radio stations, and times of departure and arrival of the more important trains, &c.

PUBLIC CALL OFFICES (COIN IN THE SLOT).

The revenue derived during the year from public call offices (coin in the slot) bears testimony to the value of the utility to the public. As an indication of the extent to which some of these telephones are used it may be stated that the total number of calls made from the public call offices outside the General Post Office, Wellington, was nearly a quarter of a million.

Twenty-nine new installations were completed during the year. This number includes four temporary installations provided at the Dunedin Exhibition. In several of the larger towns additional installations are required to meet growing needs and the question of sites is being carefully looked into. The number of slot telephones available at Auckland and Wellington particularly will probably be materially increased.

In August, 1925, the flat rate of 1d. was made to apply to calls from all public call offices situated within the base-rate area of any exchange. Later, a charge for calls from public call offices outside the base-rate area was fixed as follows: Up to three miles from the base-rate boundary, 2d.; beyond three miles from the base-rate boundary, 3d.

The reduced charge which affects quite a number of installations is being brought into operation as equipment becomes available for the necessary alteration in mechanism in the apparatus affected. It is anticipated that the increased number of calls will soon more than make good the loss of revenue resulting from the lowering of the charge.

The new type of public-call-office telephone, referred to in last year's report, for use in areas where the telephone system is wholly automatic is now in general use in three automatic telephone centres—namely, Auckland, Wellington, and Palmerston North. With the adoption of the uniform charge of one penny per call from all public call offices in base-rate areas, the new automatic telephone has superseded in the base-rate areas at the automatic centres mentioned the one-penny, two-penny, and three-penny manual types previously in use. The operation of the new telephone is similar in all respects to that of the subscriber's automatic instrument, with the single exception that when the wanted party answers the call it is necessary for the caller to insert a penny in the machine to enable conversation to take place. The adoption of this "coin-last" principle was immediately recognized by the users of public call offices as a decided advance upon the methods previously in existence, and this feature combined with the uniformly satisfactory operation of the automatic telephones has caused a marked increase in the popularity of public call offices.

The total number of public call offices in operation on the 31st March, 1926, was 409, and the revenue derived from them amounted to £25,187, an increase of £540 on the figures for the previous year.

LABORATORY.

With the rapid development now taking place in scientific and technological matters relating to telegraph and telephone services the technical laboratory of the Department is being called upon year by year to carry out an increasing number of investigations regarding the characteristics—mechanical, chemical, and electrical—of materials and apparatus before the materials and apparatus are brought into service. The number of tests and investigations now carried out annually is approximately 3,000, and the total value of the material coming under review is about £300,000. These developments have rendered necessary an extension of the laboratory premises, the greater amount of the additional space being utilized for the accommodation of the more delicate testing instruments and apparatus. The careful study and examination of the characteristics of electrical plant are becoming more and more essential in order that the Department may secure the full benefits which result from the application to telegraphy and telephony of modern invention and discovery.

APPENDIX.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICES CHANGED.

Postal District.	Changed from	Changed to
Wellington	Whakaronga	Whakarongo.
Nelson	Onakaka	Onakaka.
Hamilton	Onekeneke	The Terraces.
Invercargill	Matuku*	Glenelg.
New Plymouth	Tahurangi	North Mount Egmont.
Auckland	Flax-mill.. .. .	Parore.
Wanganui	Ohutu	Ohotu.
Gisborne	Ruatorea	Ruatoria.

* Another office open under same name.

CABLE BUSINESS.

The Dominion's outward International and Australian cable business, excluding Press, for the years 1925-26 and 1924-25 was as follows:—

INTERNATIONAL.

	Number of Messages.	Value. £
1925-26	165,206	189,221
1924-25	150,633	185,468

Increase 14,573 = 9.67 per cent. Increase 3,753 = 2.02 per cent.

AUSTRALIAN.

	Number of Messages.	Value. £
1925-26	149,526	30,626
1924-25	133,618	27,409

Increase 15,908 = 11.90 per cent. Increase 3,217 = 11.73 per cent.

There was a total increase of 30,481 messages, and an increase in value of £6,970. Of the total revenue received on forwarded cable messages—viz., £219,847—£206,947 was paid to other Administrations and £12,900 was retained by New Zealand.

RECEIVED CABLE MESSAGES.

The number of cable messages received in New Zealand during the years 1925-26 and 1924-25, exclusive of Press, was as follows:—

	International.	Australian.
1925-26	139,680	140,919
1924-25	125,639	126,297

Increase 14,041 = 11.18 per cent. Increase 14,622 = 11.57 per cent.

The total revenue earned by New Zealand on received cable messages during the year 1925-26 was £10,441 as compared with £9,318 for 1924-25.

RADIO-TELEGRAMS.

The radio business transacted by the New Zealand coast stations during the years 1925-26 and 1924-25 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.		
1925-26	16,270	241,621	£ 3,467	£ 7,064	26,002	280,716	£ 4,669	
1924-25	16,259	293,189	3,655	7,331	25,669	270,814	4,777	
Increase	11	..	..	..	333	9,902	..
Decrease .. .. .	..	51,568	188	267	..	..	108

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	15,066	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
1925	28,843	610,972	4,406,461	64,777	259,439	72,519	278,050	18,421	£ 33,280	766,689	4,977,230

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
1925	610,972	4,406,461	9,857	69,098	27,318	119,073	2,140	£ 8,391	650,287	4,603,023

* 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, 1926.

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	982	425	2,866	..	16,442	6,910
1887-88	16,605	12,283	..	6,647	..	11,566	5,729	18,103	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	3,633	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	25,006	7,969	10,172	4,366	23,603	..	189,915	69,732
1892-93	42,416	33,722	..	19,383	..	29,550	14,019	30,132	9,058	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	87,857
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	..	32,901	..	49,204	22,802	47,787	13,601	17,191	7,020	33,390	1,090	349,627	123,368
1897-98	74,534	62,056	..	35,322	..	54,219	24,871	51,963	14,365	18,102	7,406	32,868	1,090	376,796	129,012
1898-99	81,958	69,981	..	38,617	..	60,843	26,968	55,748	16,463	19,477	7,901	32,179	728	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	673	431,449	139,957
1900-1901	93,762	77,431	..	44,384	..	70,416	30,680	63,787	16,957	21,393	8,559	33,491	607	461,447	147,686
1901-1902	85,478	68,068	13,834	52,691	14,702	80,630	34,508	71,001	15,463	23,875	6,799	35,067	560	490,506	154,436
1902-1903	49,529	30,255	62,285	70,683	65,467	109,663	102,641	92,708	..	32,128	..	43,042	556	556,316	173,317
1903-1904	54,268	33,409	70,122	76,613	75,700	119,593	114,755	102,641	..	34,508	..	48,852	538	616,264	191,905
1904-1905	61,379	37,514	85,909	86,228	89,276	134,270	130,430	112,747	..	38,030	..	58,629	656	707,044	220,070
1905-1906	65,484	40,263	86,711	96,228	99,739	154,281	143,216	130,430	..	42,317	..	69,206	688	785,347	250,123
1906-1907	74,389	45,358	98,503	108,493	114,411	167,430	148,216	143,216	..	46,228	..	76,508	788	875,324	276,279
1907-1908	82,417	54,375	106,311	120,321	128,384	187,083	159,045	159,045	..	51,559	..	91,193	954	981,642	314,053
1908-1909	89,906	58,202	124,052	136,392	143,854	205,500	171,951	171,951	..	57,637	..	104,714	423	1,092,631	347,300
1909-1910	97,285	59,484	133,925	162,588	146,148	227,471	188,677	188,677	..	62,916	..	123,786	..	1,222,280	389,143
1910-1911	113,825	67,406	181,791	195,168	166,486	261,045	214,463	214,463	..	70,967	..	143,611	..	1,414,752	447,619
1911-1912	130,645	79,792	211,298	244,941	201,569	301,707	262,854	262,854	..	82,253	..	171,900	..	1,666,959	524,943
1912-1913	154,201	85,130	236,665	263,829	215,984	337,338	283,206	283,206	..	88,693	..	180,823	..	1,821,566	574,890
1913-1914	172,400	92,342	264,844	279,311	220,109	367,942	312,870	312,870	..	95,535	..	213,153	..	1,970,643	636,473
1914-1915	182,733	103,753	298,669	324,417	256,231	418,712	325,071	325,071	..	106,560	..	245,230	..	2,238,842	721,743
1915-1916	186,873	114,570	309,834	346,011	263,522	444,427	334,277	334,277	..	107,506	..	229,640	..	2,314,327	725,118
1916-1917	184,873	112,639	322,946	343,031	260,956	440,215	301,825	301,825	..	108,978	..	211,543	..	2,370,079	723,314
1917-1918	187,005	115,867	316,266	337,418	258,421	401,696	252,396	252,396	..	103,343	..	194,180	..	2,286,463	665,819
1918-1919	181,824	114,553	299,791	326,398	253,728	381,202	238,337	238,337	..	102,467	..	208,177	..	2,166,597	638,246
1919-1920	196,327	121,037	310,105	339,341	268,032	396,994	246,688	246,688	..	110,819	..	208,177	..	2,197,520	655,910
1920-1921	217,553	120,888	309,049	342,040	266,119	410,584	254,868	254,868	..	123,917	..	234,601	..	2,280,219	703,927
1921-1922	239,187	130,780	314,035	352,681	259,372	445,995	269,863	269,863	..	137,192	..	238,517	..	2,377,622	739,783
1922-1923	262,172	130,275	331,376	348,779	236,877	475,947	276,650	276,650	..	138,631	..	233,809	..	2,434,506	747,025
1923-1924	285,065	145,277	366,241	385,307	247,915	528,178	299,987	299,987	..	151,281	..	243,519	..	2,652,777	804,343
1924-1925	297,019	154,406	397,666	428,707	253,311	577,873	316,947	316,947	..	162,281	..	258,123	..	2,846,333	860,029
1925-1926	318,454	159,549	448,307	458,634	254,038	607,000	339,864	339,864	..	170,376	..	284,500	..	3,040,722	922,873

Table No. 3.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF TRANSACTIONS AT THE MONEY-ORDER OFFICES DURING THE YEAR 1925, AND SAVINGS-BANK OFFICES OF NEW ZEALAND DURING THE YEAR 1925-26.

Postal District.	Money-orders.						Savings-banks.					
	Issued.		Paid.		Number of New Accounts opened.	Number of Accounts closed.	Deposits.		Withdrawals.			
	Number.	Commission.	Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
Auckland	139,152	£ 5,254	168,415	£ 1,103,335	17,493	13,697	256,587	£ 5,703,522	236,944	£ 5,774,584		
Blenheim	9,160	298	4,519	33,756	965	753	14,923	302,510	12,572	323,977		
Christchurch	68,222	2,593	71,130	593,925	12,513	9,357	218,973	5,020,936	195,312	5,127,256		
Dunedin	62,949	2,139	62,651	435,974	6,546	5,420	118,005	2,398,705	97,277	2,516,006		
Gisborne	19,590	701	9,807	83,491	2,410	1,572	33,351	683,309	26,637	671,748		
Greymouth	21,960	713	10,753	67,782	1,291	1,104	16,961	372,385	11,742	379,576		
Hamilton	76,660	2,394	40,695	258,248	7,097	5,086	77,484	1,503,788	55,894	1,483,785		
Invercargill	33,075	1,047	21,703	141,223	2,792	2,348	38,203	816,988	32,040	941,598		
Napier	37,017	1,289	25,040	205,289	5,228	6,268	66,884	1,609,284	57,493	1,865,551		
Nelson	16,496	551	12,344	87,275	1,458	1,218	240,049	462,370	20,384	525,000		
New Plymouth	32,196	1,038	20,809	170,799	4,159	3,178	54,213	1,270,954	41,066	1,285,992		
Oamaru	9,660	282	4,463	29,376	894	758	14,152	372,340	12,644	371,760		
Palmerston North	21,794	695	14,346	105,717	13,695	2,146	61,656	2,220,070	42,089	1,249,554		
Thames	29,740	965	13,160	86,773	2,792	2,297	29,320	627,829	18,828	642,652		
Timaru	20,269	643	10,423	72,451	2,389	1,822	35,374	923,546	31,277	975,256		
Wanganui	41,953	1,256	22,235	151,639	4,357	3,637	63,727	1,311,045	53,168	1,406,564		
Wellington	110,693	4,237	134,715	947,066	17,040	20,114	310,943	6,044,287	245,652	6,868,608		
Westport	13,205	423	4,639	28,086	606	509	8,509	132,472	5,029	141,412		
Western Samoa	1,813	104	216	1,340	513	119	2,326	42,476	1,138	40,476		
Rarotonga	1,085	70	534	14,268	209	37	890	14,804	799	11,151		
Grand totals	766,689	26,592	652,597	4,977,230	104,447	81,440	1,446,530	31,833,620	1,197,985	32,602,506		

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, 1926.

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 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.		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 the Close of the Period.							
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.		£	s. d.			£	s. d.	£	s. d.						
Auckland ..	183	256,587	5,703,521	16	3	22	4	7	236,944	5,774,583	19	7	5	71,062	3	4	277,025	9	4	17,493	13,697	7,764,890	14	7	58	6	9		
Blenheim ..	15	14,923	302,510	12	8	20	5	5	12,572	323,977	0	2	25	21,466	7	6	23,150	3	4	965	753	636,017	7	10	62	17	11		
Christchurch ..	73	218,973	5,020,935	11	9	22	18	7	195,312	5,127,256	2	7	26	106,320	10	10	275,877	13	11	12,513	9,357	7,583,129	5	10	67	3	1		
Dunedin ..	74	118,005	2,398,705	4	7	20	6	6	97,277	2,516,006	0	0	25	117,300	15	5	173,989	1	8	6,546	5,420	4,735,799	6	9	65	17	3		
Gisborne ..	28	33,351	683,308	17	0	20	9	9	26,637	671,748	4	2	25	..	..	..	39,732	13	8	2,410	1,572	1,102,877	18	7	57	1	8
Greymouth ..	25	16,961	372,385	1	0	21	19	1	11,742	379,575	14	11	32	7,190	13	11	29,750	18	4	1,291	1,104	811,309	16	2	63	7	8		
Hamilton ..	84	77,484	1,503,788	8	3	19	8	2	55,894	1,483,785	8	7	26	..	..	..	78,323	15	4	7,097	5,086	2,210,627	8	7	65	10	3
Invercargill ..	37	38,203	816,987	19	0	21	7	8	32,040	941,597	14	5	29	124,609	15	5	70,794	19	4	2,732	2,348	1,867,206	11	5	64	18	6		
Napier ..	37	66,884	1,609,284	8	0	24	1	2	57,493	1,865,550	13	6	32	256,266	5	6	84,500	1	6	5,228	6,288	2,267,108	0	6	61	12	1		
Nelson ..	31	24,049	462,370	7	8	19	4	6	20,384	525,000	0	0	25	62,629	12	4	34,872	9	3	1,458	1,218	935,886	18	6	57	14	1		
New Plymouth ..	40	54,213	1,270,954	4	4	23	8	11	41,066	1,285,992	5	2	31	15,038	0	10	67,758	0	4	4,159	3,178	1,917,499	8	6	66	16	2		
Oamaru ..	11	14,152	372,340	3	10	26	6	3	12,644	371,759	11	7	29	..	..	..	25,266	6	10	894	758	694,422	4	4	76	17	11
*Palmerston North ..	43	61,656	2,220,069	17	4	36	0	2	42,089	1,249,553	16	8	29	..	..	..	68,690	7	6	13,695	2,146	2,263,943	13	6	86	1	2
Thames ..	41	29,320	627,829	5	0	21	8	3	18,828	642,652	1	1	34	14,822	16	1	39,071	1	4	2,732	2,297	1,096,439	4	0	52	16	4		
Timaru ..	18	35,374	923,546	8	2	26	2	2	31,277	975,256	6	11	31	51,709	18	9	59,279	9	1	2,389	1,822	1,609,201	10	1	73	14	0		
Wanganui ..	44	63,727	1,311,045	2	0	20	11	6	53,168	1,406,563	11	0	26	95,518	9	0	71,300	14	9	4,357	3,637	1,963,244	6	9	57	2	0		
Wellington ..	59	310,943	6,044,287	4	11	19	8	9	245,652	6,868,608	5	0	27	824,321	0	1	297,118	15	5	17,040	20,114	8,040,958	6	11	60	4	4		
Westport ..	18	8,509	132,471	13	5	15	11	4	5,029	141,412	8	11	28	8,940	15	6	12,757	19	5	606	509	345,606	18	9	58	7	7		
Western Samoa ..	3	2,326	42,475	12	10	18	5	3	1,138	40,475	10	10	35	..	..	..	1,561	1	0	513	119	44,611	18	2	45	15	1
Rarotonga ..	6	890	14,803	11	5	16	13	4	799	11,151	2	1	13	..	..	..	756	15	10	209	37	20,540	10	8	41	4	11
Totals for year ended 31st March, 1926	870	1,446,530	31,833,621	9	5	22	0	1	1,197,985	32,602,505	17	2	27	768,884	7	9	1,731,577	17	2	104,447	81,440	758,155	47	911,321	10	5	63	3	11

* Palmerston North created a chief office, 1st July, 1925.

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, 1926.

Year.	Number of Post Offices Savings-banks Open at the Close of the Year.	Number of Deposits received during 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.	Cost of Management during the Year.	Average Cost of each Transaction, Deposit or Withdrawal.	Interest for the Year.	Number of Accounts opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts closed 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.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
Year ended 31st Mar., 1926	870	1,446,630	31,833,621	9 5 22	0 1 1,197,985	32,602,505	17 2 27	4 3	95,000	0 8 62	1,731,577	17 2 104,447	81,440	758,155	47,911,321	10 5 63	3 11
Year ended 31st Mar., 1925	865	1,371,009	29,582,897	2 9 21	11 7 1,108,291	30,413,609	3 11 27	8 10	95,000	0 9 19	1,680,919	10 10 95,595	70,604	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	9 4 1,075,037	29,510,320	19 6 27	9 0	90,000	0 9 24	1,649,976	4 8 92,465	73,098	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	14 2 1,081,300	27,769,262	16 3 25	13 8	70,650	0 7 51	1,605,525	1 10 78,490	66,630	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	14 6 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	678,930	43,841,704	4 7 64	11 6
*Fifteen months ended 31st March, 1921	819	1,664,206	44,302,852	5 4 26	12 5 1,458,008	41,162,498	9 10 28	4 8	80,000	0 6 14	1,818,534	5 2 152,930	118,894	664,819	43,352,030	19 0 65	4 2
Totals for 1919	794	1,289,161	29,758,448	9 7 23	1 8 994,247	25,962,378	2 6 26	2 3	52,000	0 5 46	1,178,935	6 6 118,109	77,531	630,783	38,393,130	18 4 60	17 4
" 1918	786	1,213,353	18,101,104	18 1 14	4 727,729	14,938,841	10 0 20	10 7	32,000	0 3 96	1,059,471	17 8 76,869	53,015	590,205	33,418,125	4 9 56	12 5
" 1908	593	706,101	9,674,075	4 0 13	14 0 484,672	9,417,820	10 3 19	8 8	27,000	0 5 44	379,808	6 7 80,133	57,829	342,077	12,159,293	18 1 35	10 11
" 1898	409	281,749	3,279,611	7 5 11	10 10 196,764	3,194,893	16 7 16	4 9	8,500	0 4 26	128,128	16 6 37,265	26,628	169,968	4,957,771	5 5 29	3 5
" 1888	290	145,355	1,544,747	7 11 10	12 6 96,204	1,387,471	1 10 14	8 5	4,000	0 3 97	78,080	6 0 21,307	16,543	84,488	2,048,441	10 9 24	4 10
" 1878	147	69,908	762,084	12 0 10	18 0 42,746	742,053	14 3 17	7 2	2,500	0 5 33	31,664	12 9 13,005	9,634	32,132	819,071	8 2 25	9 9
" 1868	55	13,014	194,535	11 6 14	18 11 6,365	107,094	17 3 16	16 6	789	0 9 77	4,980	7 3 3,282	1,186	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	16 3 1,919	26,415	18 9 13	15 3	822	1 10 18	1,241	5 0 2,520	364	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, 1926.

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Cr.</i>	£	s.	d.
Balance at credit of depositors on 1st April, 1925	46,948,628		1 0	Withdrawals, 1st April, 1925, to 31st March, 1926	32,602,505		17 2
Deposits, 1st April, 1925, to 31st March, 1926	31,833,621		9 5	Balance at credit of depositors, 31st March, 1926	47,911,321		10 5
Interest credited to depositors, 1st April, 1925, to 31st March, 1926 ..	1,731,577		17 2				
	<u>£80,513,827</u>		<u>7 7</u>		<u>£80,513,827</u>		<u>7 7</u>

Reserve Fund Account.

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Cr.</i>	£	s.	d.
Balance at credit on 1st April, 1925 ..	1,000,000		0 0	Amount at credit of Reserve Fund Account on 31st March, 1926 ..	1,000,000		0 0
	<u>£1,000,000</u>		<u>0 0</u>		<u>£1,000,000</u>		<u>0 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, 1926	47,911,321		10 5	Securities (Post Office Savings-bank)	48,221,311		16 9
Balance on transfer	9,396		9 4	Balance uninvested	889,688		13 2
Balance at credit of Reserve Fund Account	1,000,000		0 0				
Balance of assets over liabilities ..	190,282		10 2				
	<u>£49,111,000</u>		<u>9 11</u>		<u>£49,111,000</u>		<u>9 11</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, 1926 ..	1,731,577		17 2	Balance forward	214,961		10 3
Savings-bank profits carried to Postal Revenue	160,000		0 0	Interest received during the year ..	1,965,503		5 8
Paid Public Account for cost of Savings-bank management	95,000		0 0	Accrued interest, 31st March, 1926	561,475		11 5
Balance forward to next account ..	190,282		10 2		<u>2,526,978</u>		<u>17 1</u>
	<u>£2,176,860</u>		<u>7 4</u>	Less accrued interest on 31st March, 1925	571,644		10 4
				Sundry receipts	6,564		10 4
					<u>£2,176,860</u>		<u>7 4</u>

Table No. 7.
SAVINGS-BANK ACCOUNTS REMAINING OPEN ON 31st MARCH, 1926, 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 £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.
Ashburton	1,037	367	238	204	105	89	50	21	9	10	5	17	1	..	..	..	2,185
Auckland	95,234	10,566	7,350	6,848	3,311	1,930	1,402	639	417	333	225	714	94	..	..	16	130,183
Blenheim	6,971	951	605	630	339	206	135	56	28	27	22	54	3	..	..	..	10,112
Christchurch	76,258	10,168	7,490	6,589	3,421	2,117	1,393	643	392	283	229	625	70	..	..	7	110,734
Dannevirke	1,336	282	263	191	98	58	33	15	17	6	10	20	3	..	..	..	2,360
Dunedin	48,219	6,721	4,984	4,795	2,490	1,554	1,073	426	233	173	121	351	23	..	..	2	71,902
Feilding	1,312	451	313	288	139	102	65	25	16	8	8	23	4	..	..	..	2,803
Gisborne	13,944	1,783	1,103	975	467	316	192	123	76	38	33	88	15	..	..	..	19,320
Greymouth	7,461	855	629	585	336	214	166	73	43	29	19	69	2	..	..	..	10,612
Hamilton	23,027	3,582	2,247	2,146	902	541	380	177	115	78	70	175	29	..	..	1	33,743
Hastings	2,887	858	623	562	299	196	103	56	32	21	12	49	6	..	..	..	5,804
Hawera	1,916	495	347	310	153	106	84	34	26	11	7	28	2	..	..	..	3,566
Hokitika	1,619	163	105	113	63	49	26	11	8	3	1	7	..	..	..	..	2,188
Invercargill	19,028	2,938	2,061	1,913	991	569	431	167	90	69	54	116	15	..	..	1	28,759
Masterton	2,322	629	493	444	208	123	95	41	31	22	13	46	5	..	..	..	4,543
Napier	22,411	2,765	1,785	1,594	793	450	321	175	103	74	56	182	32	..	..	2	30,999
Nelson	11,161	1,608	1,101	932	565	284	198	71	54	27	25	59	4	..	..	1	16,218
New Plymouth	17,443	2,389	1,692	1,424	725	419	340	135	83	58	48	137	21	..	..	3	25,136
Oamaru	5,620	960	732	697	343	215	177	52	37	22	20	57	4	..	..	1	9,031
Palmerston North	12,834	2,731	1,755	1,617	1,099	482	386	131	118	69	50	144	19	..	..	2	21,702
Thames	15,134	1,702	1,329	1,072	544	292	178	99	60	30	39	81	13	..	..	2	20,740
Timaru	13,847	2,409	1,764	1,490	767	483	306	146	106	76	45	137	15	..	..	2	21,834
Wanganui	24,801	3,024	1,979	1,818	926	584	394	165	102	79	51	158	23	..	..	1	34,382
Wellington	92,195	11,450	7,947	7,112	3,364	2,127	1,343	598	450	380	223	762	96	..	..	13	128,992
Westport	4,315	485	306	306	165	119	73	21	18	12	13	30	4	..	..	1	5,920
Western Samoa	696	109	73	41	20	13	8	4	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	975
Whangarei	1,664	409	294	248	105	54	39	21	..	4	..	11	..	..	..	..	2,914
Rarotonga	372	44	41	16	6	5	5	3	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	498
Totals 31st March, 1926	525,064	70,894	49,645	44,960	22,744	13,697	9,396	4,128	2,672	1,894	1,410	4,146	505	123	67	51	758,155
Totals 31st March, 1925	500,951	70,365	50,875	46,088	22,621	13,544	9,479	4,029	2,685	1,816	1,378	4,011	457	116	62	45	735,148

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, 1925.

Postal District (1925).	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	34,702,393	1,230,801	14,594,718	5,512,557	941,447	34,207,789	884,104	12,432,019	4,138,888	619,411	68,910,182	2,114,905	27,026,737	9,651,445	1,560,858
Blenheim	1,683,019	29,471	395,766	239,668	19,942	1,763,567	56,966	560,352	478,998	67,275	3,446,586	86,437	956,118	718,666	87,217
Christchurch	18,474,536	685,360	8,087,639	1,931,006	459,160	19,120,127	923,884	7,114,744	2,295,462	340,587	37,594,663	1,609,244	15,202,383	4,226,468	799,747
Dunedin	13,527,352	661,180	6,273,568	1,824,620	324,480	11,411,946	448,578	5,333,302	2,063,113	320,879	24,939,298	1,109,758	11,606,870	3,887,733	645,359
Gisborne	2,908,656	58,825	747,609	603,275	51,870	3,308,812	78,208	1,224,275	1,233,030	134,069	6,217,468	137,033	1,971,884	1,836,325	185,939
Greymouth	1,694,150	41,613	401,739	280,631	39,533	1,991,574	45,890	483,730	506,038	82,615	3,685,724	87,503	885,469	786,669	122,148
Hamilton	9,300,101	239,590	2,067,444	1,075,536	112,645	9,442,862	338,637	3,208,127	1,875,159	313,885	18,742,963	578,227	5,275,571	2,950,695	426,530
Invercargill	6,976,484	192,218	2,409,585	787,101	93,834	7,204,990	213,811	2,598,752	1,198,262	164,229	14,181,474	406,029	5,008,337	1,985,363	258,063
Napier	6,842,376	140,556	2,661,288	788,167	95,069	7,797,699	169,000	3,315,559	1,666,028	208,429	14,640,075	309,556	5,976,847	2,454,195	303,498
Nelson	2,315,740	62,582	649,970	231,660	49,426	2,591,550	58,227	897,494	574,795	110,305	4,907,290	120,809	1,547,464	806,455	159,731
New Plymouth	4,643,332	113,373	1,774,712	786,034	73,398	5,112,952	154,882	2,073,409	896,714	170,989	9,756,284	268,255	3,848,121	1,682,748	244,387
Oamaru	1,393,149	52,026	753,222	131,196	16,965	1,498,952	94,458	668,161	325,494	41,392	2,892,101	146,484	1,421,383	466,690	58,357
Palmerston N.	3,086,348	65,689	1,105,534	380,034	50,635	3,447,847	118,404	1,899,976	654,134	102,661	6,534,195	184,093	3,005,510	1,034,168	153,296
Timaru	2,885,144	75,166	862,295	280,059	42,653	3,478,306	130,182	1,858,110	584,259	131,651	6,313,450	205,348	2,220,405	864,318	174,304
Wanganui	3,214,655	84,006	1,008,875	277,449	48,113	3,554,837	150,306	1,467,726	556,400	94,055	6,769,492	234,312	2,476,601	833,849	142,168
Wellington	5,776,573	146,185	1,914,276	934,925	89,648	5,413,733	165,620	2,152,137	1,037,101	201,435	11,190,306	311,805	4,066,413	1,972,026	291,083
Westport	26,168,239	532,734	13,879,684	4,601,402	931,591	25,608,356	596,538	9,189,649	3,456,505	489,583	51,773,595	1,129,272	23,069,333	8,057,907	1,421,174
Rarotonga	793,802	16,146	124,211	135,574	14,326	1,075,412	48,529	245,375	300,066	44,006	1,869,214	64,675	369,586	435,240	58,331
Western Samoa	52,830	1,410	2,856	534	1,290	39,786	360	4,626	14,514	2,406	8,629,616	1,770	7,482	15,048	3,696
	81,870	1,116	2,238	11,376	546	91,914	450	2,130	50,022	5,196	173,784	1,566	4,368	61,398	5,742
Totals	146,470,749	4,430,047	59,717,229	20,812,404	3,456,571	148,160,011	4,677,034	56,229,653	23,905,002	3,645,057	294,630,760	9,107,081	115,946,882	44,717,406	7,101,628
Previous year..	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

Table No. 9.

REGISTERED ARTICLES.

The number of registered articles dealt with in 1925, compared with the number in 1890, 1900, 1910, and 1924, is as follows:—

	1890.	1900.	1910.	1924.	1925.
From places beyond the Dominion	26,374	52,343	132,493	198,792	210,931
Registered in the Dominion ...	169,321	464,036	993,675	2,046,831	2,103,229
Totals ...	<u>195,695</u>	<u>516,379</u>	<u>1,126,168</u>	<u>2,245,623</u>	<u>2,314,160</u>

Table No. 10.

PARCEL-POST.

The following shows the number and weight of parcels posted during the years 1890, 1900, 1910, 1924, and 1925:—

	1890.	1900.	1910.	1924.	1925.
Number ..	121,292	199,413	1,190,711	3,383,995	3,456,571
Weight ..	336,643 lb. 12 oz.	682,104 lb. 7 oz.	3,953,284 lb. 15 oz.	17,031,048 lb.	17,396,310 lb.

The following table shows the number and weight of parcels exchanged with Great Britain and Ireland and the undermentioned places during the years 1924 and 1925:—

Places.	Received.				Despatched.			
	1924.		1925.		1924.		1925.	
	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.
		lb.		lb.		lb.		lb.
Great Britain and Ireland and foreign countries via London	176,284	1,112,534	179,973	1,313,782	19,340	82,024	21,353	82,877
United States of America ..	62,486	412,116	62,656	408,086	3,939	16,983	5,024	20,342
Canada	9,806	61,123	11,350	77,440	1,323	3,962	1,606	5,891
Victoria	16,963	72,827	17,305	73,650	4,330	15,814	4,704	15,785
New South Wales	27,474	98,490	28,163	108,729	8,524	28,758	9,038	30,396
South Australia	844	2,259	916	2,671	654	2,484	721	2,344
Queensland	1,112	3,105	1,107	3,193	1,078	3,333	1,164	3,718
Tasmania	449	939	409	844	580	1,427	693	1,963
Western Australia	483	1,025	530	1,335	495	1,554	556	1,809
Fiji	666	1,412	682	1,464	1,739	6,476	1,702	5,975
Ceylon	453	2,112	446	2,458	132	824	128	601
Cape of Good Hope	1,163	4,234	986	3,834	95	399	127	605
Natal .. ..	..	..	..	..	334	1,168	393	1,453
India	2,571	16,949	2,348	14,385	707	3,755	845	4,698
Tonga	49	158	59	262	1,115	5,245	1,403	7,507
Tahiti	39	235	50	218	1,006	6,192	502	3,353
Hong Kong	1,561	11,078	1,359	9,685	451	2,041	462	2,158
Straits Settlements	323	1,050	316	1,134	230	966	230	1,030
Solomon Islands .. ..	..	..	2	2	5	9	9	24
New Hebrides	2	11	..	..	2	5	4	15
Uruguay .. ..	..	..	..	..	60	249	58	296
Pitcairn Island	293	636	386	838	98	452	156	692
Norfolk Island .. ..	..	..	6	19	5	8	14	40
Nauru Island .. ..	..	..	2	4	..	..	..	..
Aden	30	160	32	170	..	..	..	..
Fanning Island	41	203	..	..	101	394	72	310
Egypt .. ..	..	..	253*	1,607	17	83	83	634
Totals	303,092	1,802,656	309,336	2,025,810	46,360	184,605	51,047	194,516

* Previously forwarded through the intermediary of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Table No. 12.

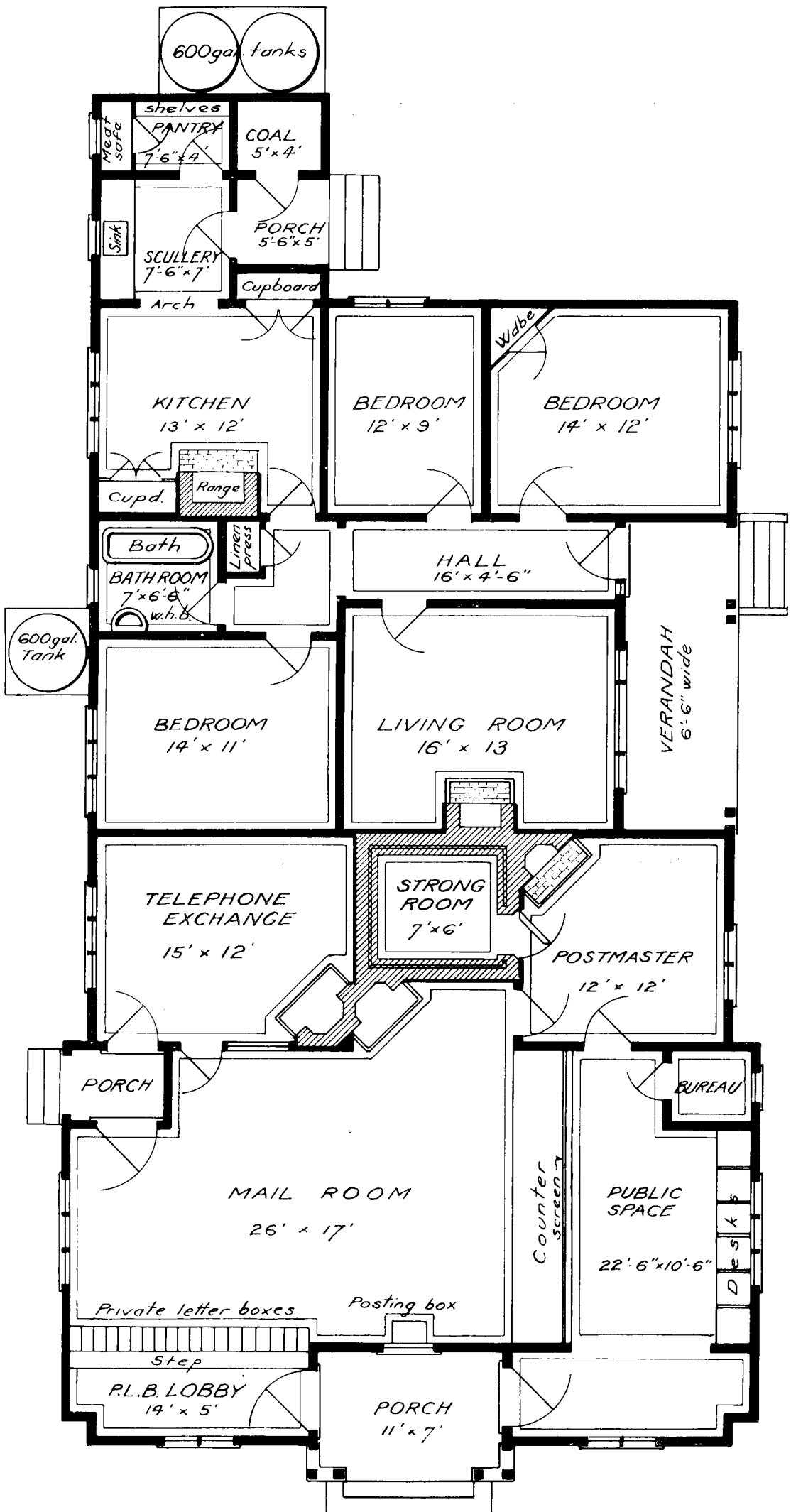
TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER FORWARDED AND THE REVENUE DERIVED FROM TOLL CALLS AND PAID TELEGRAMS OF ALL CODES AND THE VALUE OF FRANKED GOVERNMENT TELEGRAMS AT THE UNDERMENTIONED POSTAL DISTRICTS DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1926.

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	121,385	733	122,118	2,685,647	7,770	2,693,417
Blenheim	12,292	250	12,542	278,247	2,003	280,250
Christchurch	84,458	511	84,969	1,651,859	6,710	1,658,569
Dunedin	63,800	270	74,070	1,276,656	3,343	1,279,999
Gisborne	27,366	165	27,531	468,552	2,231	470,783
Greymouth	15,637	206	15,843	283,583	3,619	287,202
Hamilton	57,772	9	57,781	1,358,240	130	1,358,370
Invercargill	36,119	55	36,174	792,367	778	793,145
Napier	47,121	129	47,250	1,016,948	1,623	1,018,571
Nelson	14,859	320	15,179	332,103	4,689	336,792
New Plymouth	34,359	51	34,410	787,582	730	788,312
Oamaru	10,636	37	10,673	176,826	513	177,339
Palmerston North	35,369	17	35,386	776,882	218	777,100
Thames	20,481	22	20,503	498,037	271	498,308
Timaru	25,367	98	25,465	506,366	1,312	507,678
Wanganui	38,269	81	38,350	745,427	1,197	746,624
Wellington	131,343	1,899	133,242	2,385,775	19,655	2,405,430
Westport	6,046	139	6,185	122,317	1,668	123,985
Totals, 1925-26	782,679	4,992	787,671	16,143,414	58,460	16,201,874
Totals, 1924-25	749,100	4,420	753,520	15,410,390	61,560	15,471,950

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1054 copies), £135.

By Authority: W. A. G. SKINNER, Government Printer, Wellington.—1926.

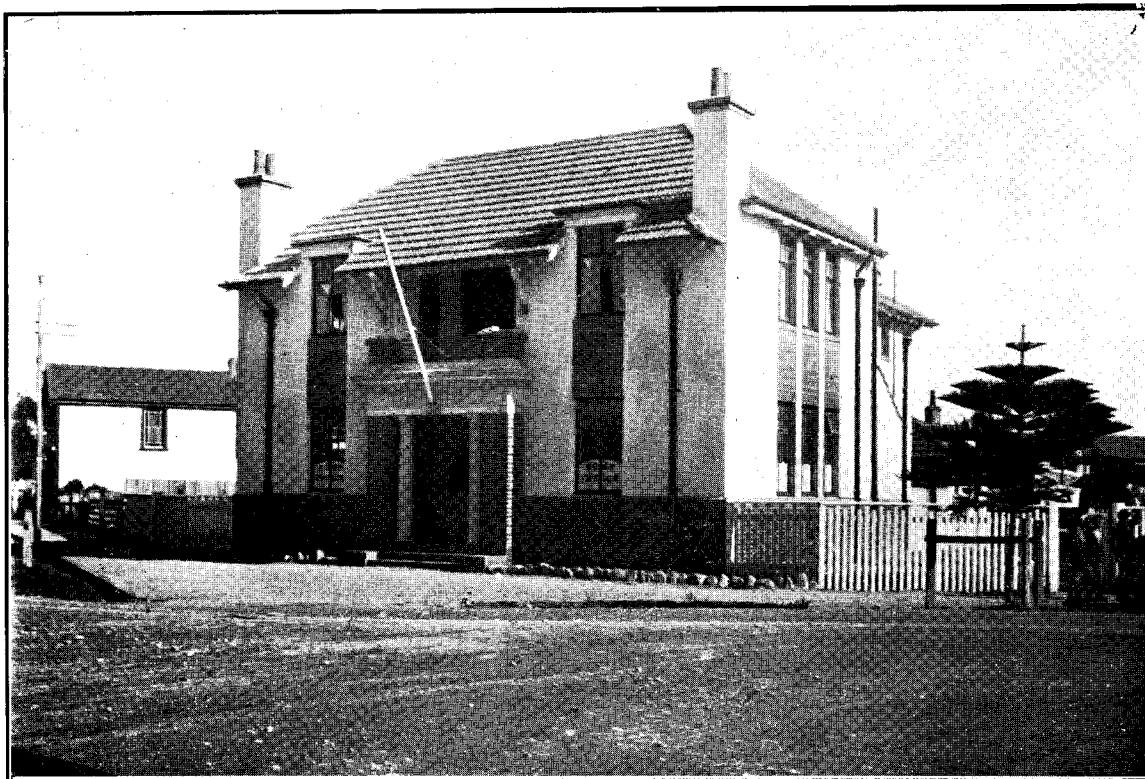
Price 2s.]



PLAN OF TUATAPERE POST-OFFICE BUILDING A TYPE OF COUNTRY POST-OFFICE WITH QUARTERS.
 Building completed 13th March, 1926. (See photograph on following page.)

F.—1.

TYPE OF SUBURBAN POST-OFFICE, WITH QUARTERS.



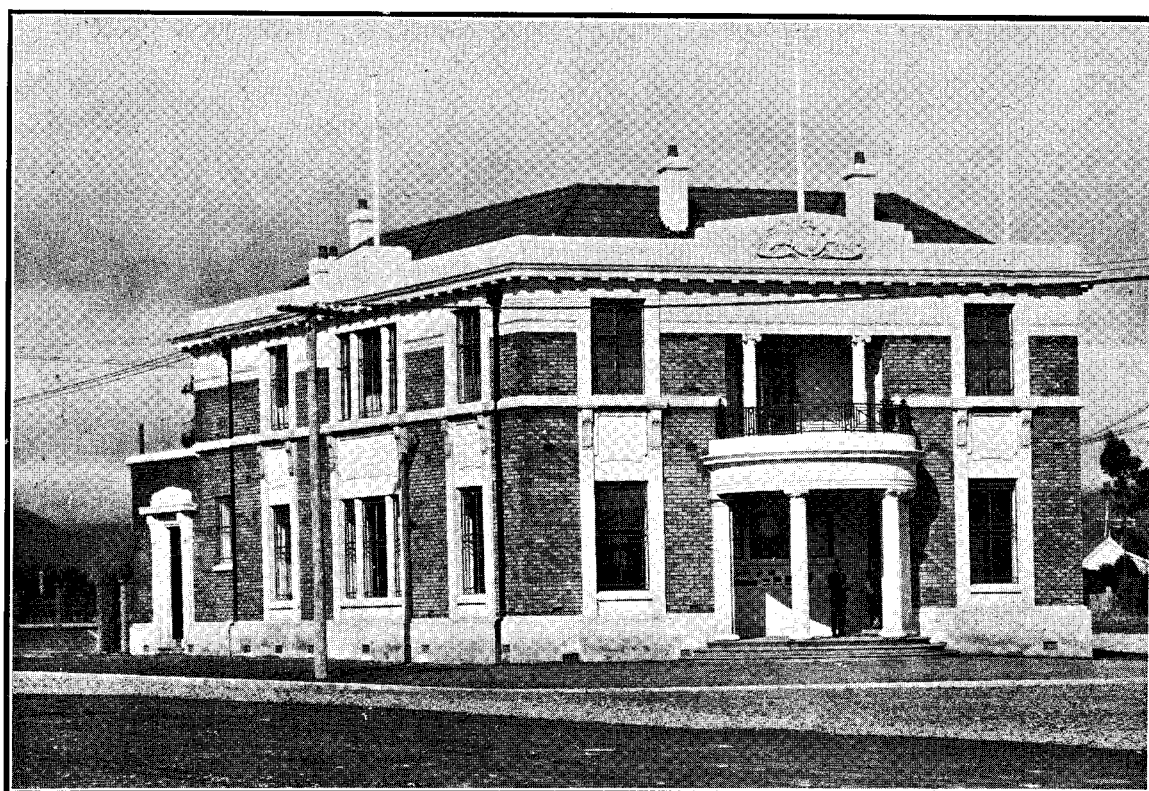
EASTBOURNE POST-OFFICE.
Building completed 12th September, 1925.

A COUNTRY POST-OFFICE OF THE SMALLER TYPE, WITH QUARTERS.



TUATAPERE POST-OFFICE.
Building completed 13th March, 1926. (For plan of building see previous page.)

A COUNTRY POST-OFFICE OF THE LARGER TYPE, WITH QUARTERS.

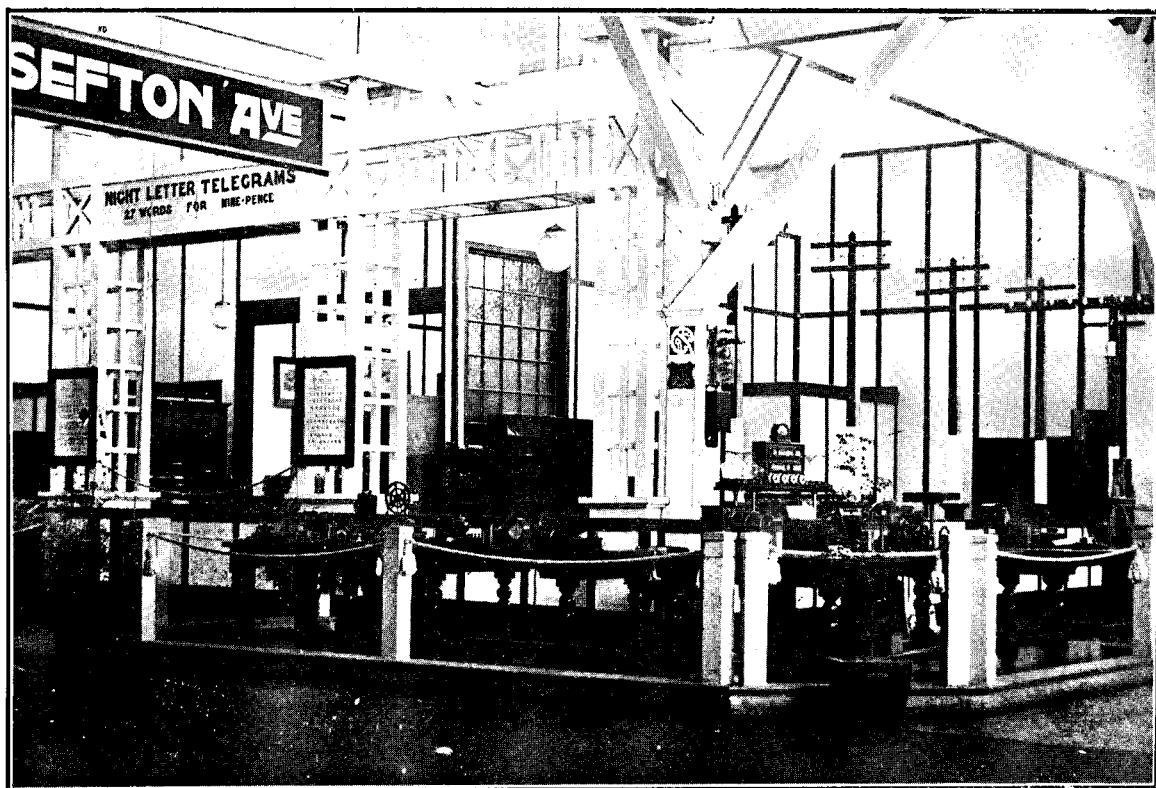


PAEROA POST-OFFICE.
Building completed 27th May, 1926.

NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH SEAS INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

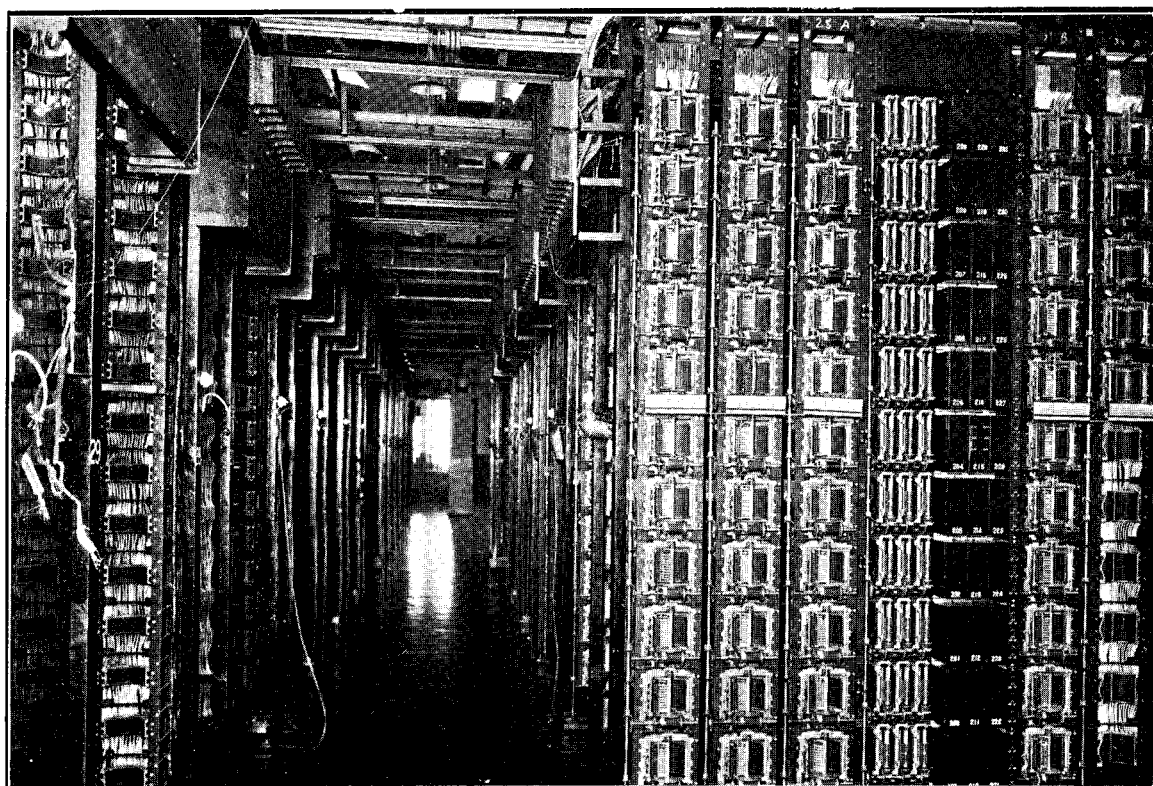


SECTION OF DEPARTMENTAL COURT, SHOWING World's Time, Wireless Apparatus and Model Automatic Telephone System.



SECTION OF DEPARTMENTAL COURT, SHOWING PAST AND PRESENT TELEGRAPH APPARATUS.

CENTRAL AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, WELLINGTON.



SECTION OF SWITCHING APPARATUS.

LAYING OF COOK STRAIT TELEPHONE CABLE.



HAULING-IN SHORE END OF CABLE AT LYALL BAY.



PREPARING TRENCH FOR SHORE END OF CABLE AT LYALL BAY.