

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS OF THE
DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1932.**

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.

The receipts and payments of the Department for the financial year 1931-32 are shown in the following account:—

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Payments.</i>					
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance forward			55,669	17 8½	By Salaries	1,580,355	14 4		
Postages	1,395,399	9 8½			Conveyance of ocean mails	78,843	6 9		
Money-order and postal-note commission	60,876	12 9			Conveyance of inland mails	138,827	6 6		
Private box and bag rents and rural delivery fees	45,852	19 10			Conveyance of mails by rail	91,502	8 7		
Miscellaneous receipts	280,657	19 8			Maintenance of telegraph and telephone lines	76,111	6 1		
Paid telegrams	296,576	3 2½			Renewals and replacements	80,029	5 1		
Paid tolls	417,794	9 5½			Motor services and workshops	12,489	19 4		
Telephone-exchange rentals	1,218,072	3 1			Miscellaneous	186,407	7 1		
			3,715,229	17 8½	Interest on capital liability	550,000	0 0		
								2,794,566	13 9
					Paid to Consolidated Fund			941,616	6 2
					Balance carried down			34,716	15 6
			<u>£3,770,899</u>	<u>15 5</u>				<u>£3,770,899</u>	<u>15 5</u>
			£	s. d.					
To Balance brought down			34,716	15 6					

The total cash value of the transactions of the Department, inclusive of the above, amounted to approximately £169,000,000 for the year.

STAFF.

The current general depression is still adversely affecting the Department's business, and it has been necessary to continue the system of granting "time off" in lieu of making cash payments for overtime. No new appointments to the Service were made during the year notwithstanding that, as will be seen from the return published below, there was a reduction, from retirements, resignations, &c., of over three hundred in the permanent staff establishment, and a total decrease under all headings of 533 employees. In addition, a number of officers of the Department are on loan to Departments under the control of the Public Service Commissioner, notably the Unemployment Department.

There has been no falling-off in the efficiency of the staff, who have assisted whole-heartedly in suggesting new economies in working and in making a success of the economies already introduced. The service given to the public remains on a high plane. Officers have been called upon to make substantial personal sacrifices, but they have accepted the position in excellent spirit and have continued to give good service. In point of fact, it is due largely to the active and intelligent interest of officers in the management and operation of the Service that many economies have been possible.

The work undertaken in connection with the Unemployment Act of 1930 continues to be heavy. During the year the duties were increased by the introduction under the amending Act of 1931 of the special emergency tax on salary and wages, and income derived from other sources. Many of these transactions are completed only with the advice and help of officers, and this is, of course, freely given. A great amount of work continues also to be undertaken most successfully in connection with the Dominion's motor-vehicle registration system and on behalf of other Departments of State generally. An idea of the great volume of business handled by the Department is gained when it is mentioned that the total cash value of the transactions handled in the year was 169 millions sterling. In the previous year the total reached 201½ millions.

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE DEPARTMENT.

The total number of persons employed on the 1st April, 1931 and 1932, was as under:—

	1st April, 1931.	1st April, 1932.
Permanent staff—		
Administrative Division	4	4
Clerical and Engineering Divisions	3,484	3,342
General Division	5,413	5,239
	<u>8,901</u>	<u>8,585</u>
Temporary staff	53	36
Casual staff	265	83
	<u>9,219</u>	<u>8,704</u>
Non-permanent staff—		
Country Postmasters and Telephonists	1,710	1,692
Postmasters who are Railway officers	83	83
	<u>11,012</u>	<u>10,479</u>