

## ARTICLES DELIVERED.

During the year 1931 the estimated number of articles delivered in the Dominion, including those received from places overseas, compared with the number in 1930, was as under:—

	1931.	1930.	Decrease Per Cent.
Letters .. .. .	137,046,678	160,995,793	14.88
Post-cards .. .. .	4,152,807	5,242,939	20.80
Parcels .. .. .	1,817,988	3,317,841	45.20
All other articles .. .. .	97,440,505	108,526,092	1.03
Totals .. .. .	240,457,977	278,082,665	

AVERAGE NUMBER OF LETTERS POSTED PER UNIT OF POPULATION,  
1931, 90.55.

## DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

	1931.	1930.
Letters returned to senders in New Zealand .. .. .	451,537*	650,546‡
Other articles returned to senders in New Zealand .. .. .	218,517	257,238
Letters returned to other Administrations .. .. .	63,843†	101,480§
Other articles returned to other Administrations .. .. .	64,333	127,156
Letters destroyed (senders unknown and contents of no value)	24,470	36,413
Letters and letter-cards posted without addresses .. .. .	9,812	12,148
Letters imperfectly or insufficiently addressed .. .. .	18,095	20,967
Letters intercepted addressed to persons and firms on prohibited list .. .. .	3,354	1,681
Letters intercepted on account of libellous addresses .. .. .	67	112
Newspapers received without addresses .. .. .	3,182	4,183
Other articles received without addresses .. .. .	3,129	3,970
Newspapers returned to publishers as undeliverable .. .. .	50,061	46,346
Articles bearing previously used stamps .. .. .	109	156

\* Including 23,183 registered. † Including 653 registered. ‡ Including 34,265 registered. § Including 923 registered.

The proportion of undeliverable letters to the total number of letters delivered was 0.40 per cent. In 1930 the proportion was 0.49 per cent.

## MISSING POSTAL PACKETS.

During 1931 6,350 inquiries for missing postal packets were received by the Department. In 3,404 cases, or 53.6 per cent. of the total number, the packets were traced or otherwise accounted for satisfactorily. The position regarding delay in delivery is as follows:—

Sender responsible for delay .. .. .	844
Addressee responsible for delay .. .. .	1,216
Post Office responsible for delay .. .. .	322
No delay, or responsibility not fixed .. .. .	1,022

In 2,946 cases, the disposal of the packets could not be determined. These cases represent 0.0013 per cent. of the total number of articles posted.

## MONEY-ORDERS.

During the year 714,478 orders were issued, of a value of £3,993,035. This represented a decrease compared with the previous year of 119,027 in number and of £1,076,594 in value.

## POSTAL-NOTES.

The postal-note service was not so freely used this year as last. The sales were 2,884,654 postal notes, of a value of £952,444, against 3,907,288, of a value of £1,128,807, during the previous year.

The commission totalled £22,704 8s. 8d., a decrease of £3,328 17s. 1d. on the commission earned in the previous year.

On the 1st September a new series of postal notes, comprising thirty-nine denominations, commencing at 1s. and rising in steps of 6d. to 20s., was introduced in replacement of the old issue of nine denominations. The new issue is popular. Previously, three postal notes were sometimes required to make up a remittance for which one postal note now suffices. Under the new arrangement a considerable saving will be made in the cost of printing postal-notes. If the demand for postal notes for the first six months for which the new practice applied had been met by the issue of postal notes of old denomination, the number issued would have been over half a million more than it actually was.