

AVERAGE NUMBER OF LETTERS POSTED PER UNIT OF POPULATION.  
1935, 86·53.

DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

	1935.	1934.
Letters returned to senders in New Zealand .. ..	603,192*	378,877†
Other articles returned to senders in New Zealand .. ..	284,259	213,605
Letters returned to other Administrations .. ..	38,344‡	38,655§
Other articles returned to other Administrations .. ..	43,256	37,501
Letters destroyed (senders unknown and contents of no value) .. ..	24,823	22,382
Letters and letter-cards posted without addresses .. ..	10,568	10,059
Letters imperfectly or insufficiently addressed .. ..	19,138	17,885
Letters intercepted addressed to persons and firms on prohibited list .. ..	2,431	8,978
Letters intercepted on account of libellous addresses .. ..	115	43
Newspapers received without addresses .. ..	1,660	2,247
Other articles received without addresses .. ..	2,192	1,795
Newspapers returned to publishers as undeliverable .. ..	41,310	40,849
Articles bearing previously used stamps .. ..	145	83

The proportion of undeliverable letters to the total number of letters delivered was 0·49 per cent.

MISSING POSTAL PACKETS.

Complaints concerning the non-delivery of postal packets of all kinds received and investigated by the Department during the year 1935 numbered 5,542. In 2,981 cases the inquiries resulted in the missing articles being traced or accounted for, as follows:—

Sender responsible for delay .. ..	989
Addressee responsible for delay .. ..	1,099
Post Office responsible for delay .. ..	275
No delay, or responsibility not fixed .. ..	618

In 2,561 cases the manner of disposal of the missing postal packets could not be determined. This figure represents 0·001 per cent. of the total number of articles posted during the year.

MONEY-ORDERS.

An appreciable increase was recorded in money-order business during the year, 673,057 orders, of a value of £3,374,029, being issued. This represents an increase compared with the previous year of 18,436 in number and £164,316 in value.

POSTAL NOTES.

There was a marked increase in postal-note business. The sales were 3,827,417 postal notes, of a value of £1,293,955, against 3,325,561, of a value of £1,140,695, during the previous year.

The commission totalled £33,145 16s. 7d., an increase of £4,068 16s. 6d. on the commission earned in 1934–35.

BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS.

British postal-order transactions also increased, 77,422 orders, of a value of £36,318 14s., being sold, as against 72,971, of a value of £33,977 14s., for the previous year. The number of orders paid was 29,210, of a value of £14,800 18s. 6d., compared with 27,978 orders, of a value of £14,651 5s., paid during the previous year.

SAVINGS-BANK.

Deposits lodged in the Post Office Savings-bank during the year amounted to £25,619,775, and the withdrawals to £23,533,596, an excess of deposits of £2,086,179. The interest credited to depositors was £1,406,459, and the amount at the credit of depositors at the end of the year reached the record total of £52,916,352.

A savings-bank ledger office was established at Morrinsville on the 1st March last.

SCHOOL SAVINGS BRANCH.

Inaugurated in 1934 with the object of encouraging the practice of thrift among children, the school savings-bank scheme is now well established and its success is assured. At the end of the year the scheme was in operation in 236 schools, the number of accounts was 46,823, and the total amount at credit £13,780. During the year 29,116 new accounts were opened and 154 additional schools joined the scheme. The deposits amounted to £14,543 and the withdrawals £3,162. Scholars to the number of 888, on leaving school, transferred their accounts to the Post-office Savings-bank.

From the outset the adoption of the scheme at schools has been facilitated by the support of the various Education Boards and by the co-operation of headmasters. So that the scheme may be introduced into each school as smoothly as possible, the Education Department has made available to the Savings-bank Branch the services of a teacher, who, with the permission of the headmaster, explains the system to the children. The preparation of pass-books and other clerical work is done by a savings-bank officer, who also assists the headmaster with the first day's banking.

\* Increase due mainly to heavy postings of electoral notices prior to general election. The total included 104,734 registered. † Including 15,126 registered. ‡ Including 394 registered. § Including 391 registered.