

NEW ZEALAND POSTAL SERVICE.

v. E.—No. 1.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The decrease in the business of this branch of the Department during 1868, was, in the last report, said to be possibly "accounted for by the general commercial depression prevailing throughout the colony." There has again been a slight decrease. It seems not unfair to consider that the registration of letters is less resorted to now than formerly, because of an increased confidence in the safe transmission of letters by the ordinary post.

RETURN of the NUMBER of LETTERS REGISTERED at the various Post Offices in the different Provinces in New Zealand, during the years 1866, 1867, 1868, and 1869.

PROVINCES.	1866.			1867.			1868.			1869.		
	To Places		Totals.	To Places		Totals.	To Places		Totals.	To Places.		Totals.
	Without the Colony.	Within the Colony.		Without the Colony.	Within the Colony.		Without the Colony.	Within the Colony.		Without the Colony.	Within the Colony.	
Auckland ...	1,309	5,190	6,499	850	4,048	4,898	1,175	4,248	5,423	5,163	2,006	7,169
Taranaki ...	232	327	559	168	210	378	93	167	260	183	62	245
Hawke's Bay ...	165	363	528	157	444	601	127	532	659	555	114	669
Wellington ...	988	2,604	3,592	916	3,088	4,004	839	3,280	4,119	3,313	684	3,997
Nelson ...	572	841	1,413	811	1,191	2,002	1,430	1,029	2,459	1,009	802	1,811
Marlborough ...	170	565	735	124	435	559	117	446	563	464	82	546
Canterbury ...	6,217	6,302	12,519	5,467	5,565	11,032	1,286	2,307	3,593	1,281	2,364	3,645
Otago ...	2,960	5,711	8,671	2,810	4,761	7,571	2,734	3,279	6,013	3,293	2,342	5,635
Southland ...	329	483	812	422	832	1,254	303	704	1,007	545	241	786
Westland ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,602	1,445	4,047	1,245	1,968	3,213
Totals ...	12,942	22,383	35,328	11,725	20,574	32,299	10,706	17,437	28,143	17,051	10,665	27,716

The Registration Fee on letters addressed to the United Kingdom, Australian Colonies, and British Possessions in the East, has been reduced from one shilling to sixpence; and to British Colonies and Foreign Countries, in transit through the United Kingdom, from one shilling and sixpence to tenpence.

MONEY ORDERS.

The detailed statements as to Money Orders issued and paid in the colony during the year, as per Tables No. 1 and 2 (appended) show a considerable increase, both as to issue and payments, over the year 1868. This increase is almost wholly on the Issues and Payments within the colony, which amount respectively to £63,897 1s. 10d. and £63,821 against in 1868, £54,342 18s. 6d. and £54,349 8s. 3d.

The issues on Foreign Governments, as well as the payments of their issues on New Zealand, show little change as compared with the previous year. The issues on the United Kingdom amounted to £39,939 8s. 6d.; its issues on the colony being £5,640 18s. 8d.

On the Australian Colonies, the issues amounted to £23,381 14s. 7d., whilst their issues on New Zealand amounted to only £6,371 19s. 8d. thus showing that remittances to the amount of about £34,300 were required to be made to the Imperial Post Office; and about £17,000 to the several Australian colonies, to balance the accounts for the year.

The total Issues during the year amounted to £127,218 4s. 11d., against £118,211 3s. 8d. during 1868.

The total Payments amounted to £75,833 18s. 4d. against £67,536 12s. 6d. during 1868, or an increase on issues of £9,007 1s. 3d., and on payments of £8,297 5s. 10d.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

A very marked increase has taken place in the business of this branch of the department, both in the number and amount of Deposits and Withdrawals.

The Deposits during the year amounted £240,898 5s. 9d., against £194,535 11s. 6d. during 1868. The amount of principal withdrawn was £179,599 10s. 6d. against £106,567 6s. 1d. in 1868. Tables 4 to 10 (appended) supply details of these transactions.

The number of New Accounts opened was 3,839, as against 3,282 in 1868. The number of accounts closed was 1801 as against 1186; and the Interest paid on closed accounts was £918 13s 7d, as against £527 11s 2d.

The number of transactions with the Bank during 1869, was 26,425, as against 19,379 during 1868, being an increase of 7,046.

The number of acknowledgments issued was 13,789, against 10,261 in 1868.

The balance of the year's transactions remaining in deposit on the 31st December, was £61,298 15s. 3d. In 1868 it was £87,968 5s. 5d. The larger increase of withdrawals, during the year, is doubtless chiefly attributable to the excited and unsettled state of the mining population; although the reduction on the 1st of April, from five to four per cent. interest allowed on deposits, may, in some degree, have contributed to that result.