

1877.

NEW ZEALAND.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

(EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.)

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

MY LORD,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 9th July, 1877.

I have the honor to submit to Your Excellency the Eighteenth Annual Report on the Postal Service of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

GEO. MCLEAN,

Postmaster-General.

The Most Hon. the Marquis of Normanby, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of New Zealand.

REPORT.

THE business of the department has been largely extended during the year, and the operations of the several branches have been satisfactory.

The Postal revenue collected within the colony for the financial year ended 30th June ultimo was £86,547 14s., against £80,656 0s. 9d. for the previous year—an increase of £5,891 13s. 3d. But the gross revenue may be stated at £102,474 10s. 11d., as a sum of £15,926 16s. 11d. for postages from the Imperial Post Office and certain of the Australian colonies was due at the close of the financial year, although not received into the Treasury. This amount has been treated as an asset of revenue.

The expenditure for the above period, after making provision for outstanding liabilities, was £140,236 4s. 7d., or £4,710 15s. 5d. less than the sum voted for carrying on the several postal services. The saving has been mainly effected under the item of “Conveyance of mails by sea.”

The total number of letters and newspapers dealt with shows a large increase, as may be seen by the following comparative statement of the number of letters and newspapers received and despatched during the years 1875 and 1876:—

			1876.	1875.	Increase.
Letters—Received	...	...	5,576,848	5,053,403	
Despatched	...	...	6,193,889	5,374,448	
			<u>11,770,737</u>	<u>10,427,851</u>	<u>1,342,886</u>
Newspapers—Received	...	...	4,861,843	4,026,457	
Despatched	...	...	3,100,905	2,784,820	
			<u>7,962,748</u>	<u>6,811,277</u>	<u>1,151,471</u>

The letters increased 12·88 per cent., and newspapers 16·90 per cent.

81 Post Offices were established, 3 re-opened, and 8 closed during the year.

Money Order and Savings Bank business was extended to 6 Post Offices, and an office of this class was abolished.

48 additional mail services were established, and the aggregate length of the services increased by 449 miles.

The staff of the department has been increased by 4 clerks, 61 sub-postmasters, 3 letter carriers, 3 messengers, and 1 shipping officer, making a total of 72 officers.

189 Post Offices have been inspected. The very large number of Post Offices, and the rapid extension of the Money Order and Savings Bank system, render more frequent inspection necessary. There are now 734 Post Offices in the colony, of which 131 are offices for the transaction of Money Order and Savings Bank business; and it is intended that the minor offices shall be inspected at least once a year, while the Chief Offices and Post Offices at which Money Order and Savings Bank business is carried on shall be visited more frequently and at irregular intervals. The arrangements necessary for giving effect to this increased inspection will be carried out without delay.

F.—1.

Several of the existing postal districts are to be re-arranged, and it is the intention to create additional divisions. For the future, all officers in charge of postal districts will be designated "Chief Postmasters."

The post-card system was introduced during the year, and as an event in the history of postal progress in the colony, the fact is one deserving of more than ordinary notice. Post-cards were first issued on the 1st November last, and on the 31st December 92,500 were sold to the public—a number which largely exceeded the most favourable estimate. The introduction of post-cards would appear to have been appreciated by the public, by whom the cards are extensively used, both for general and special purposes.

No complaints have been made against the charge of a penny for each card; and, contrary to anticipation, not a single card has been detained for having obscene or libellous writing. There is reason to believe, however, that a few post cards, with writing of an offensive character, have been posted and delivered to the addressees. There seems no good or sufficient reason for supposing that post-cards will be extensively used as a medium for transmitting obscene or libellous communications. The success which has attended the introduction of the post-card system has been very satisfactory.

It is impossible, in the present report, to state to what extent the revenue may have been affected by the circulation of post-cards. It is believed, however, that the revenue has not suffered; and that when returns have been completed it will be found that the postal receipts have not in any way diminished through the introduction of the post-card system. This assumption is based on the knowledge that the post-cards are to a large extent used for purposes which were formerly effected by agencies other than that of the Post Office.

It may be stated that the New Zealand post-card is a colonial production, having been manufactured in the Government Printing Office. The printing is from an electrotype, the impressed stamp being produced from the die of the penny postage stamp, and the border and body of the card from ordinary type. The card is of the size of five inches by three and an eighth inches. It is printed in Indian red on buff-coloured card.

The expense in connection with the introduction of post-cards, inclusive of the cost of producing 1,002,500 cards, is estimated at £184 3s. 6d.

The United States postal authorities have again been communicated with, in the hope that they may consent to the establishing of a system for the exchange of money orders.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The cash revenue collected within the colony, year by year, for the six financial years ended 30th June ultimo, is shown by the following statement:—

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Increase.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1871-72	47,054	18	3	3,968	3	3
1872-73	50,586	6	4	3,531	8	1
1873-74	60,535	18	2	9,949	11	10
1874-75	70,692	0	0	10,156	1	10
1875-76	80,656	0	9	8,619	0	9
1876-77	86,547	14	0	5,891	13	3

The increase for the six years is 100·87 per cent.; and the year 1876-77 shows an increase over the preceding year of 7·30 per cent.

The total receipts of the department for the financial year, compared with the expenditure, may be stated to be as follows:—

REVENUE.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Revenue collected within the colony	86,547	14 0	Payments on account of Salaries	37,585	6 6
Receipts from non-contracting colonies	1,489	14 1	Conveyance of Mails by Sea	64,919	9 10
Postages estimated to be due by London	14,437	2 10	Carriage of Inland Mails	27,743	5 9
Balance of Expenditure over Revenue	37,236	4 7	Contingencies	3,802	2 6
			Estimated Liabilities	6,186	0 0
	<u>£140,236</u>	<u>4 7</u>		<u>£140,236</u>	<u>4 7</u>

By taking into account £51,816 6s. 0d., the sum estimated for franked correspondence, it will be found that the earnings of the Department for the year exceeded its expenditure by the sum of £14,054 12s. 4d.

OFFICIAL POSTAGE.

The service performed for other departments of the Government service by the Post Office, in the transmission of official correspondence through the post, is shown by the following Table:—

OF THE SERVICE OF	AMOUNT OF POSTAGE FOR THE YEAR 1876.									TOTALS.
	Auckland.	Taranaki.	Hawke's Bay.	Wellington.	Nelson.	Marlborough.	Canterbury.	Otago.	Westland.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Provincial Government	337 8 6	80 8 4	26 7 10	332 1 1	46 1 1	43 8 8	29 7 4	1,245 17 4	185 5 9	2,326 5 10
General Government ...	1,293 19 8	757 9 6	270 5 10	39,272 5 7	547 5 8	179 17 4	1,848 1 4	4,914 8 8	406 6	749,490 0 2
Totals ...	1,631 8 1	837 17 10	296 13 8	39,604 6 8	593 6 9	223 6 0	1,877 8 8	6,160 6 0	591 12	451,816 6 0

DEPARTMENTAL.

81 new Post Offices were opened, and 3 re-opened during the year, at the following places :—

Broad Bay, Otago	Kaurihore, Auckland	Spring Creek, Marlborough
Adelaide Road, Wellington	Kumara, Westland	St. John's, Wanganui, Wellington
Balcarn, Canterbury	Kumeo Flat, Auckland	Sandie Town, Canterbury
Barrhill, "	Kew, Otago	Selwyn, "
Big Bay, Otago	Lee Stream, Otago	St. Andrews, "
Bright Water, Nelson	Little Grey Junction, Westland	Stirling, Otago
Broadfield, Canterbury	Longbeach, Canterbury	Te Kapu, Hawke's Bay
Clarkville, "	Makeritu, Hawke's Bay	Te Wharua, Auckland
Crofton, Wellington	Matawhero, Auckland	Te Mawhai, Hawke's Bay
Clarendon, Otago	Mauriceville, Wellington	Turiroa, "
Coalgate, Canterbury	Makikihi (re-opened), Canterbury	Upper Waiau Ferry, Nelson
Clark's, Otago	Middlemarsh, Otago	Upper Parnell, Auckland
Dipton, "	Normanby, Taranaki	Upper Waikaia, Otago
Duntroon, "	Ngahinepouri, Auckland	Waitoa, Auckland
Dunrobin, "	Oruru, "	Waitohi Flat, Canterbury
Deep Stream, "	Opaki, Wellington	Washdyke (re-opened), Canterbury
Eketahuna, Wellington	Port Fitzroy, Auckland	West Eyreton, Canterbury
East Oxford, Canterbury	Peel Forest, Canterbury	Whakato, Auckland
Foxhill Station, Nelson	Paterangi, Auckland	White's Point, Nelson
Ferntown, "	Purakanui, Otago	Waihenga, Wellington
Hoteo North, Auckland	Pukeuri, "	Waimangaroa, Nelson
Henley, Otago	Round Hill, "	Warrington, Otago
Highcliffe, "	Red Jack's, Westland	Woodville, Wellington
Hilton, Canterbury	Ruatangata, Auckland	Waiheke, Auckland
Halcombe, Wellington	Ravensbourne, Otago	Waitekauri, "
Horokiki (re-opened), Wellington	Rangitata, Canterbury	Whatipu, "
Kimberley, Canterbury	Sandymount, Otago	Whakataki, Wellington
Katikati, Auckland	Sefton, Canterbury	Whirinaki, Auckland.

The under-noted 8 Post Offices were closed during the year :—

Cape Settlement, Auckland.	Southside, Marlborough.
Flaxbourne, Marlborough.	Spreydon, Canterbury.
Goulard's Ferry, Marlborough.	Takaka, Nelson.
Mount Somers, Canterbury.	Upper Wakefield, Nelson.

708 Post Offices were open on the 31st December, 1876, and the number of officers employed was 855.

The number of Post Offices open in the several postal districts on the 31st December, 1876, compared with the number open in 1875, is shown by the following table :—

Postal Districts.	1876.				1875.			
	Chief and Head Post Offices.	Second-class Post Offices.	Sub-Post Offices.	Totals.	Chief and Head Post Offices.	Second-class Post Offices.	Sub-Post Offices.	Totals.
Auckland	1	2	140	143	1	2	126	129
Thames	1	...	9	10	1	...	8	9
Taranaki	1	...	12	13	1	...	11	12
Hawke's Bay	1	2	39	42	1	2	36	39
Wellington	1	1	60	62	1	1	51	53
Nelson	1	...	25	26	1	...	25	26
Westport	1	...	17	18	1	...	15	16
Marlborough	1	2	12	15	1	2	14	17
Canterbury	1	3	132	136	1	3	119	123
Hokitika	1	...	26	27	1	...	26	27
Greymouth	1	...	19	20	1	...	17	18
Otago	1	2	153	156	1	2	136	139
Southland	1	1	36	38	1	1	35	37
Chatham Islands	1	...	1	2	1	...	1	2
Totals	14	13	681	708	14	13	620	647

The following return of officers of the Postal Department for the years 1875 and 1876 shows to what extent the staff was increased during the year :—

Officers.	1876.	1875.	Officers.	1876.	1875.
Postmaster-General	1	1	Postmasters	13	13
Secretary	1	1	Clerks	86	82
Inspector of Post Offices	1	1	Sub-Postmasters	681	620
Accountant, Money Order and Savings Bank Department	1	1	Letter Carriers	36	33
Clerks in General Post Office	4	4	Messengers	9	6
Clerks in Money Order and Savings Bank Department	4	4	Mail-cart Drivers	2	2
Chief and Head Postmasters	14	14	Shipping Officers	2	1
			Totals	855	783

It is contemplated at an early date to relieve the Chief Postmasters at Wellington and Auckland of the business now performed by them on behalf of the Government Insurance Department. The large proportions which the Insurance business has attained at these offices has made it desirable the change should be made.

The staff of letter carriers at Napier, Christchurch, and Invercargill has been increased by the addition of a carrier to each office, enabling more frequent and extended deliveries to be arranged.

A late-letter box has been affixed to the Guard's van of the trains running between Dunedin and Port Chalmers. It is the intention to extend the use of these "late-letter boxes" to other railway lines.

8 additional pillar and receiving boxes have been established, and 2 closed. There were 20 iron pillar and 45 receiving boxes open at the end of the year.

Several Post Offices have been transferred to railway stations, and the duties of Station Clerk combined with those of Postmaster and Telegraphist.

59 additional stamp licenses were issued in 1876, and 14 cancelled. The total number of licensed stamp vendors on the 31st December last was 239, who received £767 14s. 11d. by way of poundage on the sale of stamps. Country postmasters, not on the permanent staff, were also paid poundage amounting to £204 11s. 4d.

For the carriage of inter-provincial mails by unsubsidized vessels, £532 1s. 4d. was paid; and £1,724 18s. 7d. represented the amount disbursed on account of inter-colonial mails conveyed by vessels not under contract.

The number of private boxes occupied was 1,715, producing a revenue of £1,778 10s.

A revenue of £251 was received from the holders of 129 private bags.

From the 1st of January last, the fee for the use of a private bag for six months was fixed at half the annual charge.

The block of Government buildings in Blenheim, which included the Chief Post Office and other Government offices, was totally destroyed by fire on the morning of the 2nd November last. The Post Office being contiguous to that part of the buildings in which the fire originated, everything was destroyed with the exception of four bags of mails, and the contents of the safe. Temporary premises were at once secured, and business was resumed without delay. New and substantial offices are being erected, and the work is progressing most satisfactorily.

POSTAGE STAMPS AND POST CARDS.

A very large reserve stock of postage stamps was printed during the year.

Post-cards were issued on the 1st November last, and the number printed in 1876 as an advance supply was 1,002,500.

DEAD LETTERS.

59,070 unclaimed or dead letters were disposed of in the Dead Letter Office during the year 1876. The table underneath enumerates the number of this class of letters dealt with, year by year, since 1872:—

Manner of Disposal.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Opened and returned to the writers	17,707	20,602	26,153	39,051	44,067
Returned unopened to other countries	5,512	5,393	6,828	10,321	9,703
Re-issued	85	75	105	78	83
Destroyed	2,884	3,801	4,227	6,081	5,217
Totals	26,188	29,871	37,313	55,531	59,070

The following particulars show the number and articles of value enclosed in letters dealt with at the Dead Letter Office for the year:—

	£	s.	d.
105 money orders of the value of	401	18	3
48 bank drafts, representing	2,648	3	8
21 cheques, for a total amount of	455	9	8
Postage stamps amounting to	0	17	3
Duty stamps	2	7	6
Bank notes	93	0	0
Gold	7	0	0
Silver and copper	1	5	5½
Representing a total of	£3,610	1	9½

In addition to the above, 6 gold rings, 1 gold pin, 7 pairs gold earrings, 2 gold brooches, 1 pair gold sleeve links, 2 gold locketts, 2 sets gold studs, 1 gold chain, 1 hair bracelet, and 2 parcels gold dust were also received in the Dead Letter Office.

641 registered letters were received and dealt with.

36 letters were posted without addresses; 4 had valuable enclosures to the amount of £1,506 10s., and 2 contained other articles of value.

16 letters were posted with previously-used postage stamps.

637 letters were detained for postage, 49 of which were subsequently prepaid by the writers, and forwarded to their respective addresses.

787 books, newspapers, and other articles without addresses were received in the Dead Letter Office during the year, 55 of which it was found practicable to deliver to the persons for whom intended.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

52,866 letters of all classes were registered, being an increase of 4,936 over the number registered during the previous year. Of these, "officially-registered" letters, which are authorized to pass through the post free, formed a not inconsiderable number.

BUILDINGS.

After a series of delays, the erection of the new buildings intended for the use of the Chief Post Office and other departments in Christchurch has been commenced. The building should be finished by the 1st July, 1878.

The Telegraph Office at Nelson having been transferred to the new premises erected in Trafalgar Street, the Chief Post Office has been re-arranged and enlarged. The accommodation is now most suitable and convenient, and it may be remarked that the office is one of the most commodious in the colony.

The Chief Post Office, Wellington, has also been re-arranged, and although additional and improved accommodation has been secured, the increase of business has been so great that the office is even now found to be barely large enough for the requirements of the department. As this office cannot be further enlarged, with any corresponding degree of convenience, the question of providing new and suitable offices must shortly be taken into consideration.

The Telegraph Department at Dunedin having vacated the Post Office building for new premises, arrangements are now being made for effecting much required improvements in the Chief Post Office. The intention is to make very considerable alterations, and re-arrange and enlarge the office and public accommodation. It is a matter for regret that the department should only be enabled to carry out these alterations because of the removal of the Telegraph Office to a separate building, a change which cannot but result in more or less inconvenience to the public, from the fact that the business of the Post Office and Telegraph must for the future be carried on in separate offices, considerably apart from each other.

The Post Office and Telegraph building now in course of erection at Port Chalmers will be completed in September next.

The Post Office and Telegraph business at Lawrence is now carried on in the old Courthouse building, which has been adapted for the requirements of the two departments with satisfactory results.

Since the date of last report, new offices have been erected and occupied at Alexandra, Amberley, Cambridge, Drury, Feilding, Kaitangata, Mercer, Outram, Oxford, and Sanson. Several other offices have been altered and enlarged.

New offices are being built or intended to be erected at Kumara, Mohaka, Mongonui, Reefton, Waiwera, and Whangaroa. The buildings in course of erection at Gisborne are also designed to provide accommodation for the Post Office. Alterations to the Nelson Custom House are to be carried out so as to enable a branch Post Office being opened at the port.

INLAND MAIL SERVICES.

The expenditure on account of Inland Mail Services for the year 1876 amounted to £27,797 11s. 9d. The number of services provided by the department was 378, as against 330 in 1875, showing the number of additional services established during 1876 to have been 48. Of the 378 services, 89 were performed by coach and mail cart, 168 on horseback, 49 on foot, 49 by water, and 23 by rail. These services in the aggregate were of a length of 7,479 miles, and the gross number of miles travelled with the mails was 1,792,752 miles, at an average cost to the department of 3½d. per mile. In 1875, the Inland Mail Services were 7,030 miles in length, while 1,464,112 represented the number of miles travelled with the mails, and the cost 4½d. per mile. The above expenditure is, of course, exclusive of the services performed by the railways free of charge to the Post Office, which, if taken into account in calculating the total cost for the carriage of inland mails, would considerably increase the department's expense in this direction.

The coach service between Napier and Tauranga has been re-established.

Mails between Wellington and Napier are now delivered in two days.

The journey between Wellington and Wanganui has also been accelerated, and mails have been delivered within twenty-four hours, but the ordinary time is twenty-seven hours.

Daily mails are now exchanged between Greymouth and Reefton, under a three years' contract, at an annual subsidy considerably less than formerly paid for the thrice-a-week service.

Railway extension has been the means of accelerating the delivery of mails, and enabled the department to provide several important districts with additional postal facilities. The completion of the line between Christchurch and Oamaru admits of mails being delivered between those offices in a day, and the exchange of mails between Christchurch and Oamaru, and several of the intermediate Post Offices, has been increased to twice daily.

A large number of the services have been contracted for for a period of two years. Those services affected by railway extension may, however, be terminated on notice by the department, or a reduction at a fixed rate made from the subsidy for each mile the Contractors shall be relieved from running their conveyances.

The several services have been creditably performed, and generally schedule time has been observed. Several acts of carelessness have been reported, and the Contractors have been called to strict account. One mail has been lost, and as it was shown to have been lost through negligence, the Contractor was summarily dealt with.

MAIL STEAM SERVICES.

The negotiations for effecting a modification in the San Francisco Service only await the assent of the Parliament of New South Wales to the proposals. In the meantime, permission has been given the Contractors to perform, temporarily, the service on the basis of the proposed modification, but on the understanding that, should the New South Wales Parliament refuse to adopt the altered service, the Contractors shall be required to carry out their contract in its entirety. This concession was granted on the 4th May last, from which date the Contractors have been paid a lesser subsidy of £72,500 per annum, instead of £89,950. As a matter of fact, however, the Contractors, owing to unforeseen circumstances, had been permitted to perform the modified service since December last, on the understanding that they arranged for carrying out the coastal part of the service,

The proposals to modify the service may be briefly summarized as follows:—That the calling at Kandavau shall be abandoned, and the Contractors relieved from performing the coastal service. The route to be San Francisco, Auckland, and Sydney, and *vice versa*, this department undertaking at its own expense to collect and distribute the mails along the New Zealand coast. The time between San Francisco and Auckland and Sydney to be 550 hours and 674 hours respectively. The Contractors to receive a gross subsidy of £72,500 a year, of which New South Wales agrees to pay £40,000, and New Zealand £32,500. To the payment made by this colony should be added the cost of the coastal service, at present carried out for £5,000 per annum, which increases the colony's annual liability on account of the San Francisco Service to £37,500, as against £44,975 paid when the coastal service was carried out by the Contractors with the main boats.

The coastal service as at present arranged provides for the outward mails being conveyed to Auckland by way of Napier, and the steamers appointed to distribute the inward mails take their departure from the Manukau.

The adoption of the altered route admits of the mails from London being delivered in New Zealand two days earlier than the dates given in the time-table, while the outward mails are enabled to be despatched from Auckland two days, and from all other ports one day, later than was the case when the steamers were required to call at Kandavau. This late departure does not disarrange the dates fixed for the arrival of the mails at San Francisco and London.

The San Francisco Service has been performed satisfactorily, and generally the mails have been delivered within contract time. An accident which befel the "City of Sydney" at Honolulu, in April last, compelling her to prosecute her voyage to Auckland and Sydney with the aid of one engine only, caused the mails to be delivered six days late; but this was the only serious delay.

A reference to Tables Nos. 1 and 2 will show the times within which mails have been delivered in London, Melbourne, Sydney, and New Zealand by the San Francisco and Galle Services. The quickest delivery of mails between New Zealand and London by the San Francisco Service was made in thirty-nine days, but it is believed that even this time may be shortened. The Contractors contemplate making arrangements which would admit of the Australian and New Zealand mails being conveyed between New York and San Francisco in five days, and they are also disposed to agree to despatch their steamers from San Francisco for Auckland and Sydney immediately on the arrival of the London mails from New York. Should these arrangements be carried out, the time between Auckland and London could be reduced to thirty-seven days.

On the 31st December last the Imperial Post Office terminated all contracts providing for the carriage of mails from Great Britain to the United States, and did not make any permanent arrangement for the carriage of the colonial mails to New York. This had the effect of disarranging the San Francisco Service, and otherwise had a prejudicial effect on the line. To what extent this was the case will be better understood when it is stated that it became the practice for the London Post Office to advertise the dates for closing mails by the San Francisco route from month to month only, while the day of despatch was altered from Thursday to Saturday, in order to avoid forwarding the mails by slow steamer. This unsatisfactory state of affairs was forcibly brought under the notice of the Colonial Office and the London Post Office by the Agents-General for New South Wales and this colony, since which the original days of despatch have been reverted to, and the mails forwarded by powerful steamers. Although it is now understood that the mails will be despatched from London every fourth Thursday by the fast steamers of the Inman line, no permanent provision has been made for a continuous service, the present despatch being still a month-to-month arrangement. A permanent service, it is hoped, may soon be arranged.

The result of the proceedings against Messrs. Hall and Forbes and their sureties, for failure to carry out their contracts, has terminated in Mr. Cunningham, one of the sureties, agreeing to pay a sum of £10,000 as a full release to all parties concerned, which has been accepted. A further small sum on account of costs has also been recovered. Full information in connection with this matter, as well as with regard to the San Francisco Mail Service generally, will be found in the printed papers which have been submitted to Parliament.

The payments made, and the estimated postages and recoveries, on account of the San Francisco and Galle Mail services for the year 1876, may be gathered from the following statement:—

SAN FRANCISCO SERVICE.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Subsidy to main line	43,939	4	3			
Bonus	2,559	5	8			
Inter-provincial services, Mail Agents, &c. ...	2,630	10	2			
				49,129	0	1
Cr.						
Postages from London	11,469	8	9			
Postages collected in the colony	12,428	3	8			
Recoveries from non-contracting colonies ...	1,489	14	1			
				25,887	6	6
Net cost to the colony				£23,741	13	7

684,568 letters, 105,479 book packets and pattern parcels, and 1,135,757 newspapers were received from, and despatched to, the United Kingdom by the steamers of the San Francisco Service.

GALLE AND SUEZ SERVICE.

Dr.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments to Victoria	...	9,121	5	1			
Inter-colonial service, &c.	...	5,104	0	0			
					14,225	5	1
Cr.							
Postages from London	...	3,944	19	9			
Postages collected in the colony	...	4,184	2	5			
					8,129	2	2
Net cost to the colony	...				£6,096	2	11

189,419 letters, 25,330 book packets and pattern parcels, and 155,189 newspapers were received from, and despatched to, the United Kingdom by the Galle and Suez Service.

The steam services between Auckland, Gisborne, and Napier, and also Wellington, Napier, and Gisborne, which were for some time previously carried on under a month-to-month arrangement, were cancelled in February last, as it was believed the trade was sufficiently large to induce the owners of the steamers to continue running without the aid of a Government subsidy. Results have shown this to be the case.

The subsidies hitherto paid on account of the steam services between Auckland and the North Shore, Auckland and Wangarei, Russell and Mongonui, Auckland and Tauranga, Tauranga and Opotiki, and Onehunga and Awitu, have also been withdrawn from the 1st July instant.

All other inter-provincial steam services expired on the 30th June, but are being continued from month to month until Parliament has had an opportunity of dealing with the question of inter-provincial services generally. The steam services continued under this temporary arrangement are—the Middle Island service; the Nelson, Westport, Greymouth, and Hokitika service; the service between Wellington and Kaikoura; the Nelson, Motueka, and Collingwood service; and also the service between Auckland, Warkworth, Matakana, &c.; and the two services connecting the several settlements on the Kaipara waters.

In announcing in last report that a fresh arrangement had been entered into with the Auckland Steam Packet Company for continuing the Fiji Service, it was stated that "the new arrangement will be commenced on the return of the 'Star of the South' from Fiji; and in the meantime the 'Llewellyn' has been withdrawn from the service." It was subsequently ascertained, however, that the Company were not prepared to carry out their undertaking, and they eventually abandoned the service. With the exception of the four-weekly visits of the San Francisco mail steamers, Fiji has not had the advantage of direct steam communication with this colony during the past year. As the San Francisco steamers no longer call at Fiji, it is the intention of the department to endeavour to re-establish a direct line of steamers between this colony and the Fiji Islands for commercial purposes, and to arrange the service, as far as possible, to dovetail with the steamers of the San Francisco mail line, and thereby afford the inhabitants of the sister colony a ready, speedy, and direct means of communication with Europe and America. The Government of Fiji will no doubt readily co-operate with the department in establishing direct steam communication between the two colonies.

MONEY ORDERS.

Money Order business was extended to six new offices during the year—namely, to Cheviot, Kumara, Mosgiel, St. Bathans, Waipu, and Waverley. The Money Order Office at Waitapu was closed. The total number of Money Order Offices open at the close of the year was 124, against 119 at the close of 1875.

There were issued during the year 80,255 orders for £310,268 5s. 11d., against 73,027 orders for £293,481 10s. 9d. in 1875; the increase being 7,228 orders for £16,786 15s. 2d.

The money orders paid were 59,807 for £232,334 6s. 2d., against 52,132 for £211,516 16s. 2d. in 1875; an increase of 7,675 orders for £20,817 10s.

The money orders issued in New Zealand on the United Kingdom and the Australian Colonies were 24,507 for £98,179 4s. 5d., and 4,628 orders, amounting to £21,041 10s. 2d., were received from those countries for payment in this colony. The orders issued in the colony on foreign offices were accordingly in excess of the foreign orders received for payment by upwards of £77,000. In 1875 the excess was £81,000.

Of the money orders issued in the colony during 1876, 11,636, amounting to £52,054 12s., were transmitted by telegraph; the increase for the year being 1,492 orders for £5,020 9s. 8d.

The gross revenue derived from the issue of money orders was £5,261 19s. 2d., the increase for the year being £310 19s. 10d. The net revenue, after allowing for the amount due to the Telegraph Office for the transmission of money order telegrams, and the commission payable to foreign offices was £3,957 19s. 2d.

SAVINGS BANKS.

There were 11,255 Savings Bank accounts opened during the year, against 11,273 in 1875; and 9,472 accounts were closed, against 8,681 in 1875. The number of accounts remaining open had increased to 26,117 from 24,334 at the close of 1875.

The deposits received during the year were 57,295 for £664,134 12s. 6d., the average amount of each deposit being £11 11s. 9d. The withdrawals were 39,486, amounting to £696,281 7s. 4d., and of an average amount of £17 12s. 8d. The amount to the credit of depositors on the 31st December was £723,910 17s. 5d.

The sum of £28,762 4s. 7d. has been credited to the accounts of depositors for the interest which accrued on their deposits during the year. The interest allowed on each account was at the rate of 4½ per cent. for deposits not exceeding £200, and at 4 per cent. for deposits over that amount, but not exceeding £500.

The total receipts of the Money Order and Savings Bank Offices in the colony amounted to £1,008,427 2s. 2d., and the total payments to £928,615 13s. 6d. The total number of transactions was 236,843, of which 137,550 were receipts, and 99,293 payments.

Table No. 1.

STATEMENT showing the Number of Days occupied in the Delivery of Mails between London and the under-mentioned Places, by the San Francisco Mail Service.

INWARDS VIA SAN FRANCISCO.											
AUCKLAND.				WELLINGTON.				DUNEDIN.			
Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Auckland.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Wellington.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Dunedin.	No. of Days.	
1876. 1	1876. 15	44		1876. 1	1876. 18	47		1876. 1	1876. 20	49	
June 29	July 13	45		June 29	August 16	48		June 29	August 18	50	
July 27	September 11	46		July 27	September 14	49		July 27	September 16	51	
August 24	October 8	45		August 24	October 11	48		August 24	October 12	49	
September 21	November 6	46		September 21	November 9	49		September 21	November 10	50	
October 19	December 3	45		October 19	December 6	48		October 19	December 7	49	
November 16	December 30	44		November 16	January 2	47		November 16	January 4	49	
December 14	January 28	45		December 14	February 1	49		December 14	February 3	51	
1877. 13	February 26	44		1877. 13	February 28	46		1877. 13	March 2	48	
January 10	April 20	51		January 10	April 5	54		January 10	April 7	56	
March 10	April 20	41		March 10	April 23	44		March 10	April 25	46	
April 5	May 19	44		April 5	May 22	47		April 5	May 24	49	
May 3	June 16	44		May 3	June 19	47		May 3	June 21	49	
May 31	July 15	45		May 31	July 17	47		May 31	July 19	49	
Maximum ...	...	51		...	...	54		...	...	56	
Minimum ...	...	41		...	...	44		...	...	46	
Average ...	...	44.93		...	...	47.86		...	...	49.64	
OUTWARDS VIA SAN FRANCISCO.											
MELBOURNE.				SYDNEY.				DUNEDIN.			
Date of Despatch from Melbourne.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from Sydney.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from Dunedin.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.	
1876. 7	1876. 29	53		1876. 10	1876. 29	50		1876. 8	1876. 29	52	
April 4	May 23	49		April 7	May 23	46		March 5	April 23	48	
May 3	June 24	52		May 6	June 24	49		April 4	May 24	51	
May 30	July 18	49		June 2	July 18	46		May 31	July 18	48	
June 27	August 18	52		June 30	August 18	49		June 28	August 18	51	
July 25	September 12	49		July 28	September 12	46		July 27	September 12	47	
August 22	October 10	49		August 25	October 10	46		August 23	October 10	48	
September 19	November 7	49		September 22	November 7	46		August 20	September 7	48	
October 17	December 5	49		October 20	December 5	46		September 18	October 5	48	
November 14	January 2	49		November 17	January 2	46		November 15	January 2	48	
December 12	January 30	49		December 15	January 30	46		December 13	January 30	48	
1877. 8	March 4	55		1877. 12	March 4	51		1877. 10	March 4	53	
January 5	March 26	49		January 9	March 26	45		January 8	March 26	46	
March 5	April 25	51		March 9	April 25	47		March 8	April 25	48	
April 2	May 26	54		April 7	May 26	49		April 8	May 26	48	
Maximum ...	...	55		...	...	51		...	...	53	
Minimum ...	...	49		...	...	45		...	...	46	
Average ...	...	50.53		...	...	47.2		...	...	48.8	
MELBOURNE.				WELLINGTON.				DUNEDIN.			
Date of Despatch from Melbourne.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from Wellington.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from Dunedin.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.	
1876. 13	1876. 29	47		1876. 13	1876. 29	50		1876. 10	1876. 29	52	
March 13	April 29	41		March 13	April 29	46		March 8	April 29	48	
April 10	May 24	45		April 10	May 24	49		April 6	May 24	51	
May 5	June 18	44		May 5	June 18	46		May 2	June 18	48	
May 28	July 10	43		May 28	July 10	46		June 30	July 10	41	
June 25	August 8	44		June 25	August 8	44		July 29	August 8	40	
July 22	September 5	44		July 22	September 5	44		August 25	September 5	41	
August 19	October 2	44		August 19	October 2	44		August 22	September 5	44	
September 17	October 30	43		September 17	October 30	43		September 22	October 30	43	
October 17	November 30	43		October 17	November 30	43		October 20	November 30	43	
November 14	December 27	43		November 14	December 27	43		November 17	December 27	43	
December 12	January 24	43		December 12	January 24	43		December 15	January 24	43	
1877. 4	March 16	46		1877. 17	March 16	46		1877. 12	March 16	46	
January 4	March 20	39		January 17	March 20	39		January 10	March 20	41	
March 26	April 25	42		March 17	April 25	42		January 15	April 25	42	
April 26	May 26	44		March 17	May 26	44		March 14	May 26	44	
Maximum ...	...	47		...	...	47		...	...	51	
Minimum ...	...	39		...	...	44		...	...	46	
Average ...	...	43.33		...	...	46.73		...	...	48.8	

* The Mail Steamer met with an accident at Honolulu, which compelled her to prosecute her voyage to Auckland and Sydney with the aid of one engine only. Mails arrived six days late.

Table No. 2.

STATEMENT showing the Number of Days occupied in the Delivery of Mails between London and the under-mentioned Places, by the Mail Service *via* Galle and Suez—Brindisi Route.

GALLE AND SUEZ MAIL SERVICE.

INWARDS *VIA* SUEZ AND GALLE—BRINDISI ROUTE.

MELBOURNE.				SYDNEY.				BLUFF.				DUNEDIN.				WELLINGTON.				AUCKLAND.			
Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Melbourne.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Sydney.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival at Bluff.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Dunedin.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Wellington.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from London.	Date of Arrival in Auckland.	No. of Days.	
1876. May 12	1876. June 24	43		1876. May 12	1876. June 28	47		1876. May 12	1876. July 1	50		1876. May 12	1876. July 2	51		1876. May 12	1876. July 5	54		1876. May 12	1876. July 12	61	
June 9	July 20	41		June 7	July 22	43		June 9	July 27	48		June 7	July 25	49		June 9	July 29	51		June 9	August 1	53	
July 7	August 17	41		July 4	August 20	44		July 7	August 24	48		July 4	August 25	49		July 7	August 27	51		July 7	September 2	57	
August 4	Sept. 16	43		August 1	September 19	46		August 4	September 23	50		August 4	September 24	51		August 4	September 26	53		August 4	September 27	54	
Sept. 1	October 12	41		Sept. 1	October 15	44		Sept. 1	October 18	47		Sept. 1	October 19	48		Sept. 1	October 21	50		Sept. 1	October 25	54	
Sept. 29	Nov. 9	41		Sept. 29	Nov. 12	44		Sept. 29	Nov. 13	45		Sept. 29	Nov. 14	46		Sept. 29	Nov. 16	48		Sept. 29	Nov. 21	51	
October 27	Dec. 8	42		October 27	Dec. 11	45		October 27	Dec. 13	47		October 27	Dec. 14	48		October 27	Dec. 16	50		October 27	Dec. 21	55	
Nov. 24	1877. January 7	44		Nov. 24	1877. January 10	47		Nov. 24	1877. January 14	51		Nov. 24	1877. January 14	51		Nov. 24	1877. January 17	54		Nov. 24	1877. January 22	59	
Dec. 22	Feb. 2	42		Dec. 22	Feb. 4	44		Dec. 22	Feb. 11	51		Dec. 22	Feb. 11	51		Dec. 22	Feb. 14	54		Dec. 22	Feb. 14	54	
1877. January 19	March 4	44		1877. January 19	March 7	47		1877. January 19	March 11	51		1877. January 19	March 12	52		1877. January 19	March 14	54		1877. January 19	March 14	54	
Feb. 16	April 1	44		Feb. 16	April 3	46		Feb. 16	April 9	52		Feb. 16	April 9	52		Feb. 16	April 11	54		Feb. 16	April 12	55	
March 16	April 27	42		March 16	April 30	45		March 16	May 6	51		March 16	May 7	52		March 16	May 9	54		March 16	May 9	54	
April 13	May 26	43		April 13	May 31	48		April 13	June 2	50		April 13	June 3	51		April 13	June 6	54		April 13	June 6	54	
May 11	June 22	42		May 11	June 25	45		May 11	June 28	48		May 11	June 29	49		May 11	July 1	51		May 11	July 4	54	
Maximum	...	44		...	...	48		...	...	52		...	...	52		...	...	54		...	...	61	
Minimum	...	41		...	...	43		...	...	45		...	...	46		...	...	48		...	...	51	
Average	...	42-36		...	...	45-36		...	...	49-21		...	...	50		...	...	52-21		...	...	54-93	
Average <i>via</i> Southampton	...	50-36		...	...	53-36		...	...	57-21		...	...	58		...	...	60-21		...	...	62-93	

OUTWARDS *VIA* GALLE AND SUEZ—BRINDISI ROUTE.

AUCKLAND.				WELLINGTON.				DUNEDIN.				BLUFF.				SYDNEY.				MELBOURNE.			
Date of Despatch from Auckland.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from Wellington.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from Dunedin.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from Bluff.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from Sydney.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.		Date of Despatch from Melbourne.	Date of Arrival in London.	No. of Days.	
1876. March 6	1876. May 6	61		1876. Mar. 11	1876. May 6	56		1876. March 15	1876. May 6	52		1876. March 16	1876. May 6	51		1876. March 18	1876. May 6	49		1876. March 23	1876. May 6	44	
April 4	June 4	61		April 5	June 4	58		April 11	June 4	54		April 12	June 4	53		April 15	June 4	50		April 16	June 4	46	
May 2	July 3	62		May 5	July 3	59		May 8	July 3	56		May 9	July 3	55		May 12	July 3	52		May 16	July 3	48	
May 30	July 31	62		June 2	July 31	59		June 5	July 31	56		June 6	July 31	55		June 10	July 31	51		June 13	July 31	48	
June 24	August 26	63		June 30	August 26	57		June 4	August 26	53		June 6	August 26	52		June 8	August 26	49		June 11	August 26	46	
July 24	Sept. 24	62		July 28	September 24	58		July 31	September 24	55		July 1	September 24	54		August 5	September 24	50		August 8	September 24	47	
August 19	October 22	64		August 25	October 22	58		August 28	October 22	55		August 29	October 22	54		August 2	October 22	50		August 5	October 22	47	
Sept. 19	Nov. 20	62		Sept. 23	November 20	58		Sept. 27	November 20	54		Sept. 28	November 20	53		September 2	November 20	49		September 5	November 20	46	
October 16	Dec. 16	61		October 23	December 16	54		October 25	December 16	52		October 26	December 16	51		October 30	December 16	47		October 2	December 16	44	
Nov. 16	1877. January 13	58		Nov. 18	1877. January 13	56		Nov. 22	1877. January 13	52		Nov. 23	1877. January 13	51		Nov. 27	1877. January 13	47		Nov. 30	1877. January 13	44	
Dec. 12	Feb. 10	60		Dec. 18	Feb. 10	54		Dec. 20	Feb. 10	52		Dec. 21	Feb. 10	51		Dec. 25	Feb. 10	47		Dec. 28	Feb. 10	44	
1877. January 16	March 12	55		1877. January 13	March 12	58		Jan. 17	March 12	54		Jan. 18	March 12	53		1877. January 22	March 12	49		1877. January 25	March 12	46	
Feb. 13	April 7	53		Feb. 10	April 7	56		Feb. 14	April 7	52		Feb. 15	April 7	51		Feb. 19	April 7	47		Feb. 22	April 7	44	
March 6	May 6	61		Mar. 10	May 6	57		Mar. 14	May 6	53		March 15	May 6	52		March 19	May 6	48		March 22	May 6	45	
Maximum	...	64		...	...	59		...	...	56		...	...	55		...	...	52		...	...	48	
Minimum	...	53		...	...	54		...	...	52		...	...	51		...	...	47		...	...	44	
Average	...	60-36		...	...	57		...	...	53-57		...	...	52-57		...	...	48-93		...	...	45-64	
Average <i>via</i> Southampton	...	67-36		...	...	64		...	...	60-57		...	...	59-57		...	...	55-93		...	...	52-64	

Table No. 3.

TABLE showing the Number and Amount of Money Orders issued and of Money Orders made payable in New Zealand, Year by Year, since the Year 1863.

MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN THE COLONY.																			
Year.	Commission received.		Where Payable.						Total.										
			In the Colony.		United Kingdom.		Australian Colonies.												
			No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.											
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.							
1863	1,057	9	0	2,201	9,613	11	11	4,740	21,944	2	1	4,645	24,145	7	5	11,586	55,703	1	5
1864	1,619	2	6	4,267	19,427	4	4	7,700	35,741	5	0	4,625	23,388	10	2	16,592	78,556	19	6
1865	1,463	18	6	6,292	29,742	15	1	7,756	33,426	11	5	3,188	15,406	17	2	17,236	78,576	3	8
1866	1,761	14	0	8,924	42,823	4	7	9,238	41,987	15	0	4,548	23,968	5	2	22,710	108,779	4	9
1867	1,815	19	6	10,293	49,496	13	0	9,242	40,998	14	11	4,938	25,115	5	1	24,473	115,610	13	0
1868	1,863	1	6	11,898	54,342	18	6	9,241	40,581	13	9	4,715	23,286	11	5	25,854	118,211	3	8
1869	1,932	3	0	14,305	63,897	1	10	9,263	39,939	8	6	4,859	23,381	14	7	28,427	127,218	4	11
1870	2,367	3	6	16,821	73,344	11	9	9,624	41,472	3	7	5,419	25,637	12	7	31,864	140,454	7	11
1871	2,608	3	6	20,514	88,546	9	7	10,407	44,197	18	3	5,370	24,653	5	9	36,291	157,397	13	7
1872	3,068	17	6	28,156	120,125	14	8	10,619	44,535	9	9	5,885	26,347	17	7	44,660	191,009	2	0
1873	3,562	3	2	34,288	142,642	4	10	11,913	48,547	11	4	6,150	28,068	5	5	52,351	219,258	1	7
1874	4,393	2	3	40,968	171,683	6	1	14,379	57,821	2	6	7,365	33,659	19	2	62,712	263,164	7	9
1875	4,950	19	4	48,611	193,551	13	9	16,949	66,332	14	9	7,467	33,597	2	3	73,027	293,481	10	9
1876	5,261	19	2	55,748	212,089	1	6	17,331	66,977	4	2	7,176	31,202	0	3	80,255	310,268	5	11

MONEY ORDERS DRAWN ON THE COLONY.										
Year.	Where Issued.						Total.			
	In the Colony.		United Kingdom.		Australian Colonies.					
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.		
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		
1863	2,067	9,169 4 6	415	1,824 0 8	558	3,077 13 7	3,040	14,070 18 9		
1864	4,248	19,417 10 5	675	3,274 2 2	697	3,776 1 7	5,620	26,467 14 2		
1865	6,218	29,282 13 10	762	3,568 15 10	700	3,712 1 5	7,680	36,563 11 1		
1866	8,886	42,768 10 9	1,100	5,021 14 9	917	4,753 3 10	10,903	52,543 9 4		
1867	10,353	49,931 17 2	1,198	5,649 2 10	1,108	5,570 6 4	12,659	61,151 6 4		
1868	11,903	54,349 8 3	1,401	6,502 3 0	1,294	6,685 1 3	14,598	67,536 12 6		
1869	14,250	63,820 15 5	1,218	5,630 18 8	1,272	6,382 4 3	16,740	75,833 18 4		
1870	16,798	73,245 8 3	1,156	5,523 4 4	1,267	6,055 6 11	19,221	84,823 19 6		
1871	20,514	88,592 0 3	1,396	6,217 11 5	1,318	5,914 18 7	23,228	100,724 10 3		
1872	27,983	119,676 1 2	1,504	7,078 8 6	1,459	6,803 15 3	30,946	133,558 4 11		
1873	34,288	142,642 4 10	1,482	6,625 14 5	1,668	7,689 6 8	37,438	156,957 5 11		
1874	40,968	171,683 6 1	1,603	7,284 10 7	1,800	8,316 17 5	44,371	187,284 14 1		
1875	48,611	193,551 13 9	1,969	9,262 9 7	1,995	9,340 19 11	52,575	212,155 3 3		
1876	55,748	212,089 1 6	2,243	10,202 13 6	2,385	10,838 16 8	60,376	233,130 11 8		

Table No. 4.

STATEMENT of the Money Orders issued in New Zealand on the United Kingdom and the Australian Colonies, during the Years 1875 and 1876.

Where Payable.				1875.		1876.	
				Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
United Kingdom	...	...	...	16,949	£ 66,332 14 9	17,331	£ 66,977 4 2
Victoria	...	...	...	5,345	23,765 0 0	5,149	21,790 6 0
South Australia	...	...	...	233	960 1 5	285	1,222 1 3
New South Wales	...	...	...	1,166	5,430 11 6	1,138	5,403 17 2
Queensland	...	...	...	141	601 2 5	151	644 0 9
Tasmania	...	...	...	560	2,685 1 11	447	2,126 10 7
Western Australia	...	...	...	22	155 5 0	6	15 4 6
Totals	...	...	...	24,416	99,929 17 0	24,507	98,179 4 5

STATEMENT of the Money Orders issued in the United Kingdom and the Australian Colonies on New Zealand, during the Years 1875 and 1876.

Where Issued.				1875.		1876.	
				Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
United Kingdom	...	...	...	1,969	£ 9,262 9 7	2,243	£ 10,202 13 6
Victoria	...	...	...	893	3,945 15 0	1,102	4,725 3 10
South Australia	...	...	...	122	677 0 1	131	596 14 0
New South Wales	...	...	...	631	2,841 19 6	744	3,238 4 8
Queensland	...	...	...	125	630 15 4	149	842 19 3
Tasmania	...	...	...	181	881 15 0	233	1,232 19 11
Western Australia	...	...	...	43	363 15 0	26	202 15 0
Totals	...	...	...	3,964	18,603 9 6	4,628	21,041 10 2

Table No. 5—continued.

TABLE showing the Number and Amount of Transactions at the several Money Order and Savings Bank Offices in the Colony of New Zealand during the Year 1876—continued.

Offices.	Money Orders.						Savings Banks.					
	Issued.			Paid.			No. of New Accounts opened.	Deposits.		No. of Accounts closed.	Withdrawals.	
	No.	Commission.	Amount.	No.	Amount.			No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.	
WESTPORT ...	970	67 0 0	3,915 14 4	527	1,959 2 10	100	483	6,696 3 3	121	429	8,035 6 11	
Charleston ...	423	22 12 8	1,434 1 3	173	556 13 2	18	133	1,574 12 6	10	53	2,078 12 4	
GREYMOUTH ...	1,731	112 19 4	6,548 2 1	1,309	5,170 4 8	149	778	11,646 3 9	124	662	13,685 19 8	
Ahaura ...	616	32 7 10	2,560 13 8	105	463 1 8	12	36	577 15 0	3	15	316 14 5	
Reefton ...	1,166	81 10 10	4,992 13 5	613	2,053 17 9	51	181	2,915 19 10	36	112	3,228 6 0	
HOKITIKA ...	1,357	101 7 6	5,692 12 3	1,402	5,311 2 1	143	551	10,218 4 5	119	552	10,404 6 11	
Kumara ...	99	6 5 6	331 5 9	54	294 5 11	11	19	290 11 2	2	5	37 0 9	
Ross ...	239	11 11 6	683 16 0	171	564 12 3	19	87	904 6 0	14	41	430 4 4	
CHRISTCHURCH ...	6,183	481 9 4	23,765 14 10	4,399	16,225 12 4	1,794	9,594	118,560 17 4	1,451	6,737	125,585 7 6	
Akaroa ...	363	23 17 8	1,423 10 2	150	732 4 7	37	101	1,163 6 9	17	28	718 11 4	
Ashburton ...	452	29 4 8	1,586 3 2	147	579 8 2	36	135	1,797 0 0	17	58	1,522 7 9	
Cheviot ...	14	0 16 10	31 11 4	2	11 8 2	6	8	372 13 0	...	...	...
Dunsandel ...	132	6 12 0	336 17 7	33	185 12 11	6	25	508 15 2	6	11	252 10 0	
Geraldine ...	243	13 14 2	821 13 2	57	239 7 11	15	60	500 13 0	14	30	630 10 2	
Hurunui ...	60	3 17 8	210 13 6	10	52 3 0	8	48	492 7 3	4	10	204 7 5	
Kaipoi ...	327	21 17 0	1,222 2 8	183	616 18 2	72	348	3,687 12 0	39	141	3,003 8 3	
Kowai ...	150	7 3 2	352 16 4	43	134 7 1	12	44	554 4 0	18	38	908 0 9	
Lyttelton ...	923	72 1 2	3,655 4 11	472	1,881 17 9	175	914	8,138 11 6	67	222	4,476 13 2	
Malvern ...	118	7 0 8	462 18 8	37	89 18 10	11	20	194 2 6	8	11	112 2 4	
Oxford ...	169	8 0 10	467 17 5	72	252 6 5	18	66	652 10 4	8	29	521 1 5	
Rakaia ...	113	8 1 0	440 5 9	26	70 4 1	17	60	584 6 0	11	18	92 0 2	
Rangiora ...	336	22 9 10	1,117 8 4	167	683 9 7	64	279	2,663 3 11	26	108	2,270 16 1	
Southbridge ...	193	12 15 8	635 18 3	100	461 2 6	28	89	848 11 0	18	42	931 11 10	
Temuka ...	353	21 2 6	1,231 13 11	105	403 11 6	48	212	1,990 15 1	35	89	1,850 9 2	
Timaru ...	2,203	162 13 10	8,601 11 7	989	4,099 19 2	324	1,035	12,708 15 11	231	517	11,125 6 11	
Waiau ...	132	7 10 8	482 8 4	33	137 10 1	9	32	438 16 7	2	13	478 17 1	
Waimate ...	792	50 15 4	3,061 19 6	199	718 18 9	45	115	2,039 6 1	46	83	1,744 18 8	
DUNEDIN ...	6,759	558 0 2	28,625 17 7	9,809	36,815 10 11	1,770	9,851	122,423 12 7	2,049	8,652	149,191 3 0	
Albany Street ...	581	41 15 10	1,952 3 5	252	1,077 16 0	142	1,092	7,428 11 3	63	309	4,074 1 2	
Arrow River ...	268	14 13 10	924 2 9	94	311 3 10	10	18	255 14 0	13	24	1,119 16 9	
Balclutha ...	586	30 15 10	1,963 4 2	318	1,223 3 4	53	230	2,202 8 0	35	95	2,459 13 3	
Clinton ...	192	9 1 8	671 16 9	64	313 12 7	12	29	348 11 1	7	12	226 14 2	
Clyde ...	275	14 13 8	895 13 11	107	336 4 0	6	42	192 15 0	4	18	280 4 0	
Cromwell ...	494	33 1 8	1,950 11 2	112	447 19 9	9	31	226 17 0	13	17	528 12 2	
Green Island ...	72	6 9 10	265 1 2	38	138 0 4	27	136	849 13 0	18	44	688 16 11	
Hamilton's ...	150	11 1 6	873 2 11	46	366 4 3	7	26	817 18 0	5	15	354 4 4	
Hampden ...	382	19 6 10	1,440 18 7	84	419 16 0	25	105	1,165 9 1	21	33	1,452 9 10	
Hyde ...	43	1 11 6	169 14 0	12	59 3 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kakanui ...	341	15 15 0	1,641 11 1	59	317 9 3	11	48	642 19 0	3	15	399 9 11	
Lawrence ...	508	25 11 10	1,902 5 3	345	1,364 5 5	31	133	1,574 2 0	20	55	1,470 11 4	
Manuherikia ...	274	15 13 4	1,039 4 6	57	334 3 1	4	18	119 3 0	3	7	140 3 1	
Mataura ...	260	13 14 10	902 2 1	106	518 10 7	8	35	486 17 0	13	27	785 11 6	
Milton ...	652	34 18 4	2,334 10 4	369	1,321 1 10	65	388	4,137 8 0	41	174	3,035 12 6	
Mosgiel ...	74	3 19 2	220 2 1	28	110 0 6	38	111	491 10 0	14	24	269 13 7	
Naseby ...	420	22 12 0	1,338 16 9	187	561 15 2	7	53	575 14 0	11	20	295 4 11	
Oamaru ...	2,160	155 11 4	8,984 3 10	825	3,409 8 8	274	1,005	12,087 3 5	211	446	11,620 1 5	
Ophir ...	186	9 4 6	547 2 7	28	130 17 10	5	21	316 4 0	2	5	43 0 0	
Otepopo ...	318	14 17 2	1,215 13 10	39	121 17 5	18	59	823 11 0	9	15	330 11 5	
Outram ...	148	8 13 10	473 5 6	52	241 13 8	8	59	282 18 8	5	19	270 2 7	
Palmerston ...	590	28 9 8	1,982 19 3	186	626 2 6	26	117	887 12 0	21	46	858 2 0	
Port Chalmers ...	984	71 18 8	4,403 0 1	350	1,538 13 6	169	702	7,073 19 4	104	288	5,259 2 10	
Queenstown ...	395	26 18 8	1,393 13 11	223	793 13 0	12	45	448 1 5	13	25	301 8 9	
St. Bathans ...	228	9 18 8	592 8 6	27	138 5 6	2	9	6 4 0	1	1	1 15 5	
Switzer's ...	343	13 16 2	1,297 18 2	78	207 16 9	3	30	612 9 0	3	27	767 1 11	
Tapanui ...	255	12 12 8	831 16 8	60	322 9 4	15	43	336 0 0	5	23	325 6 7	
Teviot ...	454	21 17 10	1,558 14 2	68	323 13 3	8	34	275 19 0	4	25	575 14 7	
Waikouaiti ...	364	19 0 4	1,387 0 7	122	524 13 0	17	63	698 12 0	12	24	679 2 0	
INVERCARGILL ...	1,701	124 2 8	6,579 5 1	1,137	4,208 11 8	250	1,085	14,308 2 7	297	1,026	24,077 11 4	
Campbelltown ...	302	17 14 8	1,570 17 3	87	401 7 9	13	40	690 1 1	8	29	910 8 7	
Gore ...	126	7 8 10	524 6 8	30	173 12 5	9	18	327 10 4	2	7	227 0 0	
Long Bush ...	134	5 11 8	329 16 10	16	67 9 0	6	35	274 17 0	2	14	314 8 4	
Riverton ...	352	19 10 2	1,120 17 7	172	592 2 0	31	135	1,198 17 1	30	76	1,286 8 4	
Winton ...	194	11 13 6	724 11 5	71	334 16 4	18	83	715 13 0	16	32	350 8 5	
Total ...	80,255	5,261 19 2	310,268 5 11	59,807	232,334 6 7	11,255	57,295	664,134 12 6	9,472	39,486	696,281 7 4	

Table No. 6.

STATEMENT of the Business of the Post Office Savings Banks in New Zealand, Year by Year, from the Date of their Establishment to the 31st December, 1876.

Postal Districts.	Number of Post Office 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.	Excess of Withdrawals over Deposits 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 remaining open at close of the Year.	Total Amount of 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 close of the Year.	
Auckland	27	6,523	76,892 15 8	£ s. d. 11 15 9	£ s. d. 5 375	85,823 1 2	£ s. d. 15 19 4	£ s. d. 2,937 4 9	£ s. d. 8,930 5 6	£	s. d. ...	£ s. d. 3,551 3 1	1,234	1,127	3,451	85,344 1 1	£ s. d. 24 14 7
Thames	1	1,618	20,073 5 2	£ s. d. 12 8 1	£ s. d. 1,097	17,136 0 5	£ s. d. 10 1 11	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 850 0 8	306	275	892	25,319 13 4	£ s. d. 28 7 8
Taranaki	3	1,049	13,030 0 7	£ s. d. 12 8 5	£ s. d. 845	14,227 5 6	£ s. d. 16 16 8	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 576 12 0	215	164	606	14,246 5 6	£ s. d. 23 10 2
Hawke's Bay	8	2,134	20,139 13 4	£ s. d. 9 8 9	£ s. d. 1,146	19,515 3 5	£ s. d. 17 0 6	624 9 11	...	...	...	£ s. d. 903 3 10	455	329	908	24,275 13 2	£ s. d. 26 14 8
Wellington	14	12,063	127,157 17 11	£ s. d. 10 10 9	£ s. d. 7,250	121,130 6 1	£ s. d. 16 14 1	6,027 11 10	...	...	...	£ s. d. 4,421 6 4	2,234	1,685	4,321	118,880 17 7	£ s. d. 27 10 2
Marlborough	4	947	11,475 12 0	£ s. d. 12 2 4	£ s. d. 570	11,574 10 4	£ s. d. 20 6 1	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 710 17 9	203	170	625	18,396 8 7	£ s. d. 29 8 8
Nelson	4	1,579	17,242 7 7	£ s. d. 10 18 4	£ s. d. 880	17,259 12 2	£ s. d. 20 19 7	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 1,132 0 2	271	197	911	29,048 11 1	£ s. d. 31 17 8
Westport	2	616	8,270 15 9	£ s. d. 13 8 6	£ s. d. 482	10,113 19 3	£ s. d. 20 16 9	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 423 11 8	118	131	367	10,322 15 1	£ s. d. 28 2 6
Greymouth	3	995	15,139 18 7	£ s. d. 15 4 3	£ s. d. 789	17,231 0 1	£ s. d. 21 16 9	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 720 5 6	212	163	817	17,654 14 3	£ s. d. 21 12 2
Hokitika	3	657	11,413 1 7	£ s. d. 17 7 5	£ s. d. 598	10,871 12 0	£ s. d. 18 3 7	541 9 7	...	...	...	£ s. d. 474 13 8	173	135	466	13,371 17 5	£ s. d. 28 13 10
Canterbury	19	13,185	157,806 7 5	£ s. d. 11 19 6	£ s. d. 8,185	156,429 0 0	£ s. d. 19 2 2	1,467 7 5	...	...	...	£ s. d. 6,984 18 0	2,018	6,188	8,185	175,950 2 6	£ s. d. 28 7 8
Otago	30	14,533	167,887 15 10	£ s. d. 11 11 0	£ s. d. 10,485	187,803 11 11	£ s. d. 17 18 2	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 6,942 3 9	2,782	5,679	6,188	167,910 14 10	£ s. d. 29 11 4
Southland	6	1,396	17,515 1 1	£ s. d. 12 10 11	£ s. d. 1,184	27,166 5 0	£ s. d. 22 18 10	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 1,071 8 2	327	355	886	23,489 3 0	£ s. d. 26 10 2
Totals for Colony in 1876...	124	57,295	664,134 12 6	£ s. d. 11 11 9	£ s. d. 39,486	696,281 7 4	£ s. d. 17 12 8	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 28,762 4 7	11,255	26,117	26,117	723,910 17 5	£ s. d. 27 14 4
" " 1875...	119	56,129	657,653 4 0	£ s. d. 11 14 4	£ s. d. 39,977	729,759 17 9	£ s. d. 19 14 8	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 28,565 3 5	11,273	24,334	24,334	727,295 7 8	£ s. d. 29 17 9
" " 1874...	103	52,627	699,249 14 3	£ s. d. 13 5 8	£ s. d. 29,778	620,155 8 9	£ s. d. 20 16 5	79,094 5 6	...	...	...	£ s. d. 26,935 6 8	10,346	21,742	21,742	770,836 18 0	£ s. d. 35 9 0
" " 1873...	97	39,223	580,542 5 5	£ s. d. 14 16 2	£ s. d. 21,268	425,908 3 5	£ s. d. 20 0 5	154,634 2 0	...	...	...	£ s. d. 20,106 16 10	7,382	17,132	17,132	664,807 5 10	£ s. d. 38 16 1
" " 1872...	92	31,681	430,877 0 0	£ s. d. 13 12 0	£ s. d. 17,254	313,176 7 11	£ s. d. 18 3 0	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 14,711 0 5	6,205	13,566	13,566	490,066 7 0	£ s. d. 36 2 5
" " 1871...	81	24,642	312,338 18 4	£ s. d. 12 13 6	£ s. d. 14,773	261,347 16 3	£ s. d. 17 13 9	50,991 2 1	...	...	...	£ s. d. 11,291 10 10	4,615	10,549	10,549	357,654 14 6	£ s. d. 33 18 1
" " 1870...	70	20,480	264,328 5 7	£ s. d. 12 18 0	£ s. d. 11,934	209,509 13 2	£ s. d. 17 11 1	54,818 12 5	...	...	...	£ s. d. 9,242 3 11	4,304	2,277	2,277	295,372 1 7	£ s. d. 35 10 3
" " 1869...	59	17,133	240,898 5 9	£ s. d. 14 1 2	£ s. d. 9,292	180,518 4 1	£ s. d. 19 8 7	60,380 1 8	...	...	...	£ s. d. 7,412 8 0	3,839	8,317	8,317	231,311 5 3	£ s. d. 36 15 5
" " 1868...	55	13,014	194,535 11 6	£ s. d. 14 18 11	£ s. d. 6,365	107,094 17 3	£ s. d. 16 16 6	87,440 14 3	...	...	...	£ s. d. 4,880 7 3	3,282	4,252	4,252	163,518 15 7	£ s. d. 38 9 1
Totals for Colony from 1st Feb. to 31st Dec., 1867...	46	6,977	96,372 7 10	£ s. d. 13 16 3	£ s. d. 1,919	26,415 18 9	£ s. d. 13 15 3	69,956 9 1	...	...	...	£ s. d. 1,241 5 0	2,520	364	2,156	71,197 14 1	£ s. d. 33 0 5

* The high cost of each transaction during 1867 is attributable to the payment during that year of charges properly belonging to the subsequent years.

Table No. 7.

NUMBER and Value of Postage Stamps printed during the Years 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1876.

Denomination.	1872.		1873.		1874.		1875.		1876.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
At One Shilling ...	*	£ ...	60,000	£ 3,000	129,120	£ 6,456	323,520	£ 16,176	...	£ s. d. ...
At Sixpence ...	366,240	9,156	282,000	7,050	1,000,800	25,020	299,520	7,488	1,368,000	34,200 0 0
At Fourpence ...	48,000	800	79,200	1,320	224,400	3,740	...	...	317,520	5,292 0 0
At Threepence ...	474,000	5,925	90,000	1,125	358,320	4,479	...	...	...	...
At Twopence ...	2,898,000	24,150	3,064,800	25,540	4,410,480	36,754	4,155,840	34,632	4,737,360	39,478 0 0
At One Penny ...	2,046,000	8,525	1,868,400	7,785	3,114,960	12,979	2,421,360	10,089	3,949,440	16,456 0 0
At One Halfpenny ...	717,600	1,495	688,080	1,433	1,648,320	3,434	1,224,000	2,550	2,099,760	4,374 10 0
Post Cards ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†1,002,500	4,177 1 8
Totals ...	6,549,840	50,051	6,132,480	47,253	10,886,400	92,862	8,424,240	70,935	13,474,580	103,977 11 8

* A large number of these postage stamps were in stock at the close of previous year. † For two months only.

Table No. 8.

RETURN of Intercolonial and Interprovincial Mail Steam Subsidies, Year 1876.

Service.	Annual Subsidy.	Contract.		Number of Trips per Annum.	Mileage per Trip.	Cost per Mile.
		Commence.	Terminate.			
Melbourne and New Zealand ...	£ 5,000	Sept., 1876	Sept., 1878	13	3,440	£ s. d. 0 2 2½
Auckland and Napier ...	1,200	Feb., 1875	Feb., 1877	26	736	0 1 3
Wellington and Napier and Gisborne }	1,000	Nov., 1875	Feb., 1877	52	408	0 0 9½
Wellington and Kaikoura ...	400	Dec., 1875	June, 1877	26	180	0 1 8½
Nelson and Hokitika ...	1,300	Jan., 1875	June, 1877	13	480	0 4 2
Middle Island Service ...	4,000	Nov., 1874	June, 1877	12	1,213	0 5 6

Table No. 9.

TABLE showing the Number of Officers employed in the several Chief and Head Post Offices and Second-class Post Offices in the Colony during the Years 1875 and 1876.

Post Offices.	1876.							1875.						
	Chief and Head Postmasters.	Postmasters.	Clerks.	Letter Carriers.	Messengers.	Mail-cart Drivers.	Shipping Officers.	Chief and Head Postmasters.	Postmasters.	Clerks.	Letter Carriers.	Messengers.	Mail-cart Drivers.	Shipping Officers.
Auckland ...	1	...	16	5	2	...	24	1	...	15	5	2	...	23
Thames ...	1	...	2	2	1	...	6	1	...	2	2	1	...	6
Onehunga ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Tauranga ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Gisborne ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
New Plymouth ...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3	1	...	2	...	...	...	3
Napier ...	1	...	3	2	...	...	6	1	...	3	1	...	...	5
Port Ahuriri ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Wellington ...	1	...	11	3	1	...	16	1	...	10	3	1	...	15
Wanganui ...	1	...	2	1	...	...	4	...	1	2	1	...	...	4
Nelson ...	1	...	2	2	1	...	6	1	...	2	2	...	...	5
Westport ...	1	...	1	1	...	...	3	1	...	1	1	...	...	3
Blenheim ...	1	...	1	1	...	...	3	1	...	1	1	...	...	3
Picton ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Kaikoura ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Christchurch ...	1	...	14	5	1	1	22	1	...	13	4	1	1	20
Lyttelton ...	1	...	1	1	...	...	3	...	1	1	1	...	...	3
Timaru ...	1	...	2	1	...	...	4	...	1	2	1	...	...	4
Akaroa ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Dunedin ...	1	...	17	6	1	1	26	1	...	16	6	1	1	25
Port Chalmers ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Oamaru ...	1	...	2	1	...	...	4	...	1	2	1	...	...	4
Invercargill ...	1	...	3	2	1	...	7	1	...	4	1	...	...	6
Campbelltown ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Hokitika ...	1	...	2	1	...	...	1	5	1	...	2	1	...	5
Greymouth ...	1	...	2	1	...	...	1	5	1	...	2	1	...	4
Chatham Islands ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals ...	14	13	86	36	9	2	162	14	13	82	33	6	2	151

Table No. 10.

COMPARATIVE TABLE showing the Postal Revenue and Number of Letters and Newspapers received at and despatched from the several Postal Districts, from 1870 to 1876, both Years inclusive.

Postal Districts.				Revenue.		Letters.		Newspapers.	
						Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
				£	s. d.				
Auckland—	1870 ...	...	...	10,264	15 3	653,700	619,466	436,809	262,471
	1871 ...	...	...	12,549	7 9	692,462	603,928	515,532	227,121
	1872 ...	...	...	10,950	12 11	627,212	584,915	524,094	243,543
	1873 ...	...	...	11,108	4 2	691,154	626,188	575,954	259,285
	1874 ...	...	...	12,523	2 4	740,502	786,279	626,164	352,197
	1875 ...	...	...	13,133	11 0	782,329	779,617	647,325	326,248
	1876 ...	...	...	13,445	1 3	851,721	886,452	768,214	372,799
Thames—	1873 ...	...	...	1,787	19 4	118,904	95,398	45,532	40,670
	1874 ...	...	...	1,618	0 1	110,131	97,859	52,244	44,382
	1875 ...	...	...	1,664	0 6	119,418	109,954	52,323	52,886
	1876 ...	...	...	1,601	6 2	114,205	106,605	54,857	49,519
Taranaki—	1870 ...	...	...	593	6 4	30,767	28,320	27,315	15,308
	1871 ...	...	...	820	2 5	42,191	39,806	30,759	15,457
	1872 ...	...	...	982	0 5	57,029	50,739	38,105	18,275
	1873 ...	...	...	1,068	3 5	66,572	58,889	44,354	25,545
	1874 ...	...	...	1,336	1 3	80,112	71,108	56,384	30,217
	1875 ...	...	...	1,815	9 5	97,040	89,469	72,462	49,632
	1876 ...	...	...	2,520	19 6	121,734	106,207	91,482	52,777
Hawke's Bay—	1870 ...	...	...	1,476	14 2	72,744	76,553	61,963	54,157
	1871 ...	...	...	1,569	13 2	85,003	92,297	63,339	67,293
	1872 ...	...	...	1,789	14 4	99,046	109,083	64,315	72,628
	1873 ...	...	...	2,000	2 3	139,189	150,948	88,172	93,090
	1874 ...	...	...	2,972	17 11	148,837	179,703	109,157	136,825
	1875 ...	...	...	4,076	19 8	186,993	230,973	128,480	150,750
	1876 ...	...	...	4,421	6 9	283,430	277,512	282,668	118,220
Wellington—	1870 ...	...	...	12,674	5 3	354,815	336,375	262,631	216,621
	1871 ...	...	...	24,040	10 0	361,442	369,343	283,917	216,181
	1872 ...	...	...	41,883	4 0	458,702	472,016	315,314	236,486
	1873 ...	...	...	38,274	5 0	675,258	564,991	370,149	313,347
	1874 ...	...	...	40,888	16 2	691,956	743,776	506,428	390,085
	1875 ...	...	...	51,050	5 8	802,950	922,177	596,768	470,650
	1876 ...	...	...	51,837	10 9	951,717	1,040,510	732,782	516,060
Nelson—	1870 ...	...	...	3,093	5 8	188,860	185,179	191,671	123,821
	1871 ...	...	...	2,556	9 6	205,159	208,766	154,687	133,805
	1872 ...	...	...	3,004	17 6	266,774	263,147	190,304	157,988
	1873 ...	...	...	3,030	6 8	256,566	249,349	210,467	187,005
	1874*	...	...	2,262	14 7	176,606	172,461	162,202	89,568
	1875 ...	...	...	2,399	11 10	205,716	180,707	145,479	111,769
	1876 ...	...	...	2,367	15 1	209,951	197,122	171,325	109,297
Westport—	1875 ...	...	...	1,053	6 2	73,527	57,447	95,237	51,258
	1876 ...	...	...	828	17 11	72,984	68,394	91,581	49,445
Marlborough—	1870 ...	...	...	1,099	16 7	87,174	92,124	71,467	72,202
	1871 ...	...	...	1,201	14 11	62,647	58,003	54,948	36,279
	1872 ...	...	...	1,317	0 4	75,067	67,928	55,264	36,585
	1873 ...	...	...	1,417	17 11	107,658	96,920	91,968	53,764
	1874 ...	...	...	1,368	7 3	125,314	128,954	128,956	76,205
	1875 ...	...	...	1,719	9 0	153,723	131,624	153,124	60,787
	1876 ...	...	...	1,740	0 0	154,091	149,033	138,035	68,929
Canterbury—	1870 ...	...	...	8,905	19 6	623,794	410,938	353,651	168,635
	1871 ...	...	...	9,072	1 10	718,910	455,536	338,356	179,077
	1872 ...	...	...	10,324	5 1	876,786	497,326	373,763	195,346
	1873 ...	...	...	12,191	14 8	951,020	541,341	511,109	238,416
	1874 ...	...	...	13,382	13 11	844,327	858,393	476,098	231,718
	1875 ...	...	...	17,582	19 8	1,052,071	1,000,864	529,554	295,420
	1876 ...	...	...	20,136	3 1	1,140,180	1,285,833	738,218	410,290
Hokitika—	1870 ...	...	...	2,252	4 4	212,689	225,157	165,380	123,906
	1871 ...	...	...	3,395	7 3	235,179	240,405	215,463	162,782
	1872 ...	...	...	3,386	18 1	220,470	208,028	241,495	156,729
	1873 ...	...	...	3,393	3 7	230,294	201,940	282,207	178,257
	1874†	...	...	1,996	8 3	116,644	125,049	149,035	62,182
	1875 ...	...	...	1,816	0 9	121,517	121,743	151,832	68,695
	1876 ...	...	...	1,839	1 10	135,423	127,518	147,620	80,286
Greymouth—	1875 ...	...	...	2,171	13 7	146,702	167,980	130,734	153,106
	1876 ...	...	...	2,359	3 10	158,240	181,678	132,898	151,154
Otago	1870 ...	...	...	13,667	14 1	711,479	578,299	582,593	558,799
	1871 ...	...	...	15,044	12 9	893,997	716,623	651,633	833,137
	1872 ...	...	...	17,339	7 2	653,141	873,132	828,490	414,275
	1873 ...	...	...	18,418	7 1	824,495	959,219	672,038	821,988
	1874 ...	...	...	18,262	18 8	923,165	1,145,452	1,197,172	746,427
	1875 ...	...	...	20,891	5 9	1,100,168	1,343,748	1,142,015	872,706
	1876 ...	...	...	22,054	18 4	1,140,440	1,500,754	1,286,271	917,994
Southland—	1870 ...	...	...	1,758	15 2	82,910	74,536	113,454	26,808
	1871 ...	...	...	1,696	5 10	92,903	91,657	83,616	58,328
	1872 ...	...	...	1,691	19 3	118,941	131,687	74,877	68,888
	1873 ...	...	...	1,962	11 11	160,867	148,825	71,220	94,658
	1874 ...	...	...	2,368	14 4	173,311	181,248	186,758	70,419
	1875 ...	...	...	3,121	5 9	205,249	238,145	181,133	120,913
	1876 ...	...	...	4,111	2 0	242,732	266,271	225,892	204,135
Totals—	1870†	...	...	55,780	18 3	3,018,932	2,626,947	2,266,934	1,622,728
	1871 ...	...	...	70,249	19 7	3,296,990	2,784,707	2,308,634	1,871,150
	1872 ...	...	...	94,733	14 8	3,588,073	3,370,470	2,767,682	1,643,409
	1873 ...	...	...	94,706	16 0	4,221,977	3,694,008	2,963,170	2,306,025
	1874 ...	...	...	104,361	2 11	4,339,165	4,719,291	3,872,668	2,434,024
	1875 ...	...	...	122,495	18 9	5,053,403	5,374,448	4,026,457	2,784,820
	1876 ...	...	...	129,263	6 6	5,576,848	6,193,889	4,861,843	3,100,905

* The Westport returns separated from those of Nelson.

† The Greymouth returns separated from those of Nelson and Hokitika.

Table No. 11.

TABLE showing the Number of Letters received for delivery in New Zealand during the Year ended 31st December, 1876.

Postal Districts.	From Places without the Colony.				From Places within the Colony.			Totals without and within the Colony.
	United Kingdom.	Australian Colonies.	Other Places.	Totals without the Colony.	Other Districts in New Zealand.	Places within the District.	Totals within the Colony.	
Auckland	81,205	41,758	10,759	133,722	226,321	491,678	717,999	851,721
Thames	7,248	2	287	7,537	88,603	18,065	106,668	114,205
Taranaki	9,402	2,542	420	12,364	43,140	66,230	109,370	121,734
Hawke's Bay	19,467	2,456	727	22,650	123,468	137,312	260,780	283,430
Wellington	62,006	35,801	4,696	102,503	451,244	397,970	849,214	951,717
Nelson	14,722	9,361	7	24,090	122,386	63,475	185,861	209,951
Westport	2,497	63	...	2,560	39,297	31,127	70,424	72,984
Marlborough	6,138	2,176	92	8,406	50,793	94,892	145,685	154,091
Canterbury	102,369	40,322	3,377	146,068	181,485	812,627	994,112	1,140,180
Hokitika	4,505	13,629	324	18,458	66,008	50,957	116,965	135,423
Greymouth	5,726	14,400	...	20,126	66,126	71,988	138,114	158,240
Otago	107,002	66,509	12,346	185,857	218,974	735,609	954,583	1,140,440
Southland	15,604	13,632	457	29,693	74,721	138,318	213,039	242,732
Totals	437,891	242,651	33,492	714,034	1,752,566	3,110,248	4,862,814	5,576,848

Table No. 12.

TABLE showing the Number of Letters despatched by New Zealand during the Year ended 31st December, 1876.

Postal Districts.	To Places without the Colony.				To Places within the Colony.			Totals without and within the Colony.
	United Kingdom.	Australian Colonies.	Other Places.	Totals without the Colony.	Other Districts in New Zealand.	Places within the District.	Totals within the Colony.	
Auckland	70,094	40,845	13,230	124,169	246,790	515,493	762,283	886,452
Thames	5,946	3	676	6,625	76,178	23,802	99,980	106,605
Taranaki	4,750	2	155	4,907	45,789	55,511	101,300	106,207
Hawke's Bay	14,742	...	147	14,889	128,889	133,734	262,623	277,512
Wellington	64,581	45,288	4,254	114,123	451,658	474,729	926,387	1,040,510
Nelson	14,104	9,893	1,290	25,287	120,901	50,934	171,835	197,122
Westport	2,936	36	...	2,972	31,654	33,768	65,422	68,394
Marlborough	5,033	100	181	5,314	48,040	95,679	143,719	149,033
Canterbury	98,541	39,603	3,877	142,021	187,213	956,599	1,143,812	1,285,833
Hokitika	2,882	9,840	143	12,865	63,717	50,936	114,653	127,518
Greymouth	5,228	10,373	...	15,601	74,330	91,747	166,077	181,678
Otago	105,816	66,186	8,999	181,001	259,710	1,060,043	1,319,753	1,500,754
Southland	17,854	17,220	997	36,071	64,813	165,387	230,200	266,271
Totals	412,507	239,389	33,949	685,845	1,799,682	3,708,362	5,508,044	6,193,889

Table No. 13.

TABLE showing the Number of Newspapers received for delivery in New Zealand during the Year ended 31st December, 1876.

Postal Districts.	From Places without the Colony.				From Places within the Colony.			Totals without and within the Colony.
	United Kingdom.	Australian Colonies.	Other Places.	Totals without the Colony.	Other Districts in New Zealand.	Places within the District.	Totals within the Colony.	
Auckland	202,178	50,470	15,231	267,879	140,967	359,368	500,335	768,214
Thames	13,337	...	...	13,337	31,685	9,835	41,520	54,857
Taranaki	19,762	2,602	836	23,200	34,097	34,185	68,282	91,482
Hawke's Bay	56,532	12,912	1,476	70,920	97,020	114,728	211,748	282,668
Wellington	156,013	70,513	8,499	235,025	273,808	223,949	497,757	732,782
Nelson	29,992	13,401	...	43,393	87,631	40,301	127,932	171,325
Westport	6,565	4	...	6,569	46,088	38,924	85,012	91,581
Marlborough	13,302	5,818	308	19,428	40,932	77,675	118,607	138,035
Canterbury	249,568	67,956	4,963	322,487	128,068	287,663	415,731	738,218
Hokitika	18,578	30,313	1,407	50,298	48,495	48,827	97,322	147,620
Greymouth	11,737	35,828	...	47,565	55,996	29,337	85,333	132,898
Otago	235,393	113,301	7,140	355,834	142,892	787,545	930,437	1,286,271
Southland	36,654	24,943	2,881	64,478	107,769	53,645	161,414	225,892
Totals	1,049,611	428,061	42,741	1,520,413	1,235,448	2,105,982	3,341,430	4,861,843

Table No. 14.

TABLE showing the Number of Newspapers despatched by New Zealand during the Year ended 31st December, 1876.

Postal Districts.	To Places without the Colony.				To Places within the Colony.			Totals without and within the Colony.
	United Kingdom.	Australian Colonies.	Other Places.	Totals without the Colony.	Other Districts in New Zealand.	Places within the District.	Totals within the Colony.	
Auckland	59,272	26,294	15,231	100,797	163,727	108,275	272,002	372,799
Thames	4,795	...	614	5,409	43,520	590	44,110	49,519
Taranaki	3,025	...	97	3,122	33,212	16,443	49,655	52,777
Hawke's Bay	12,570	...	120	12,690	84,204	21,326	105,530	118,220
Wellington	38,964	25,371	3,540	67,875	298,044	150,141	448,185	516,060
Nelson	10,015	3,489	1,063	14,567	89,254	5,476	94,730	109,297
Westport	2,233	2	...	2,235	27,657	19,553	47,210	49,445
Marlborough	4,594	58	153	4,805	17,802	46,322	64,124	68,929
Canterbury	54,005	19,064	2,444	75,513	121,747	213,030	334,777	410,290
Hokitika	3,248	4,041	181	7,470	53,286	19,530	72,816	80,286
Greymouth	5,230	6,184	...	11,414	73,716	66,024	139,740	151,154
Otago	127,152	51,535	9,137	187,824	262,611	467,559	730,170	917,994
Southland	12,751	8,175	698	21,624	33,365	149,146	182,511	204,135
Totals	337,854	144,213	33,278	515,345	1,302,145	1,283,415	2,585,560	3,100,905

Table No. 15.

RETURN of the Number of Letters registered at the Post Offices in the several Postal Districts during the Years 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1876.

Postal Districts.	1873.			1874.			1875.			1876.		
	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 ...	1,889	6,652	8,541	2,029	6,513	8,542	1,669	6,640	8,309	1,799	6,468	8,267
Thames ...	354	764	1,118	415	567	982	334	657	991	290	887	1,177
Taranaki ...	147	610	757	147	647	794	217	652	869	230	517	747
Hawke's Bay ...	304	1,217	1,521	320	1,934	2,254	345	1,338	1,683	483	2,286	2,769
Wellington ...	1,169	5,845	7,014	1,783	6,254	8,037	1,674	6,893	8,567	2,134	7,946	10,080
Nelson ...	258	815	1,073	249	814	1,063	256	981	1,237	320	685	1,005
Westport ...	115	260	375	187	381	568	164	629	793	146	499	555
Marlborough ...	158	836	994	132	907	1,039	175	848	1,023	175	665	840
Canterbury ...	1,864	3,689	5,553	2,260	4,508	6,768	2,648	4,988	7,636	3,139	5,846	8,985
Hokitika ...	636	991	1,627	514	1,046	1,560	460	959	1,419	394	1,195	1,589
Greymouth ...	674	1,211	1,885	798	1,346	2,144	778	1,415	2,193	602	1,451	2,053
Otago ...	2,368	4,404	6,772	3,679	4,824	8,503	4,656	5,617	10,273	5,270	6,024	11,294
Southland ...	284	960	1,244	338	1,174	1,512	605	2,532	3,137	681	2,824	3,505
Totals ...	10,220	28,254	38,474	12,851	30,915	43,766	13,981	34,149	48,130	15,663	37,203	52,866

Table No. 16.

STATEMENT of Correspondence received from the United Kingdom *via* San Francisco and *via* Suez, during the Year ended 31st December, 1876.

Date of Receipt.			<i>Via</i> San Francisco.			<i>Via</i> Suez and Melbourne.		
			Letters.	Books.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Books.	Newspapers.
January ...	...	...	27,520	4,331	64,601	5,359	1,480	8,039
February ...	...	...	31,866	7,529	52,768	6,623	2,110	5,860
March ...	...	...	26,167	5,914	73,681	1,811	941	2,388
" ...	...	...	24,230	5,599	62,737	6,175	1,527	4,171
April ...	...	...	27,518	6,500	66,542	6,707	2,263	4,421
May ...	...	...	25,162	9,611	64,758	6,800	1,759	5,331
June ...	...	...	24,741	5,150	65,840	5,707	1,466	5,761
July ...	...	...	24,235	4,470	69,179	5,693	1,241	3,914
" ...	...	...	...	...	...	6,273	1,149	3,818
August ...	...	...	22,896	7,909	58,189	5,727	1,049	4,094
September ...	...	...	26,538	4,942	73,011	6,536	2,383	5,318
October ...	...	...	24,607	10,854	67,960	5,923	1,474	4,546
November ...	...	...	27,472	3,675	63,806	6,636	2,505	4,533
December ...	...	...	29,500	8,630	48,420	8,052	1,852	3,762
" ...	...	...	27,152	11,230	70,840	...	...	...
Totals ...	...	...	369,604	96,344	902,332	84,022	23,199	65,956

Table No. 17.

STATEMENT of Correspondence despatched to the United Kingdom *via* San Francisco and *via* Suez, during the Year ended 31st December, 1876.

Date of Despatch.			<i>Via</i> San Francisco.			<i>Via</i> Melbourne and Suez.		
			Letters.	Books.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Books.	Newspapers.
January ...	...	...	20,261	748	14,157	10,835	118	8,580
February ...	...	...	19,402	848	16,290	8,539	132	7,657
March ...	...	...	27,934	641	18,038	9,801	224	8,361
April ...	...	...	24,794	619	13,248	8,686	152	6,981
May ...	...	...	24,681	494	17,915	8,103	129	6,490
June ...	...	...	26,976	543	20,141	7,689	166	7,133
July ...	...	...	25,623	535	18,986	11,890	305	12,128
August ...	...	...	29,499	840	21,324	6,994	173	7,192
" ...	...	...	24,374	873	19,048	...	...	...
September ...	...	...	24,035	947	18,434	7,812	142	6,418
October ...	...	...	22,486	831	18,933	8,439	212	5,354
November ...	...	...	22,348	594	20,718	8,525	200	7,377
December ...	...	...	22,551	622	16,193	8,084	178	5,562
Totals ...	...	...	314,964	9,135	233,425	105,397	2,131	89,233

Table No. 18.
TABLE showing the Revenue, Expenditure, &c., of the Post Office in the several Postal Districts of New Zealand for the Year 1876.

Postal Districts.	No. of Offices.	Total Correspondence received and despatched.				Expenditure.			Total.		
		Letters.	Books and Newspapers.	Weight of Books and Newspapers in lbs.	Cost of Conveyance to the Department.	Salaries.	Contingencies.	Expenditure.	Revenue.		
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
AUCKLAND ...	143	1,738,173	1,141,013	218,873	3,716 13 10	4,982 1 7	349 11 10	9,048 7 3	13,445 1 3		
THAMES ...	10	220,810	104,376	20,845	273 12 8	915 12 6	95 10 3	1,284 15 5	1,601 6 2		
TARANAKI ...	13	227,941	144,259	25,451	1,151 9 2	564 5 10	77 14 11	1,793 9 11	2,520 19 6		
HAWKE'S BAY ...	42	560,942	400,888	66,814	2,719 6 0	1,294 17 7	186 16 7	4,201 0 2	4,421 6 9		
WELLINGTON ...	62	1,992,227	1,248,842	208,137	2,449 13 4	3,617 5 0	869 14 9	6,936 13 1	51,837 10 9		
TOTALS FOR NORTH ISLAND ...	270	4,740,093	3,039,378	540,120	10,310 15 0	11,374 2 6	1,579 8 4	23,264 5 10	73,826 4 5		
NELSON ...	26	407,073	280,622	46,786	484 13 9	1,255 15 0	247 6 11	1,987 15 8	2,367 15 1		
WESTPORT ...	18	141,378	141,026	29,343	838 10 0	637 10 0	22 4 0	1,498 4 0	828 17 11		
MARLBOROUGH ...	15	303,124	206,964	19,707	682 15 0	741 0 0	55 0 0	1,478 15 0	1,740 0 0		
CANTERBURY ...	136	2,426,013	1,148,508	229,682	4,518 10 0	5,552 4 11	898 13 9	10,969 8 8	20,136 3 1		
HOKITIKA ...	27	262,941	227,906	37,982	1,975 17 10	891 0 9	135 9 11	3,002 8 6	1,839 1 10		
GREYMOUTH ...	20	339,918	284,052	53,259	713 0 0	1,141 13 4	194 19 0	2,049 12 4	2,359 3 10		
OTAGO ...	156	2,641,194	2,204,265	199,576	7,253 6 2	7,508 0 10	823 19 2	15,585 6 2	22,054 18 4		
SOUTHLAND ...	38	509,003	430,027	71,465	1,020 4 0	1,049 17 8	203 13 10	2,273 15 6	4,111 2 0		
TOTALS FOR MIDDLE ISLAND ...	436	7,030,644	4,923,370	687,800	17,486 16 9	18,777 2 6	2,581 6 7	38,845 5 10	55,437 2 1		
TOTALS FOR THE COLONY ...	706	11,770,737	7,962,748	1,227,920	27,797 11 9	30,151 5 0	4,160 14 11	62,109 11 8	129,263 6 6		
TOTALS FOR PREVIOUS YEAR ...	645	10,427,851	6,811,277	1,168,223	28,699 0 10	27,634 12 0	4,019 5 2	60,352 18 0	122,495 18 9		

NOTE.—The revenue includes the postage on franked correspondence, which has been estimated at £51,816 6s., the particulars of which may be found at the foot of page 2.

