

In addition, 1 gold ring, 1 gold chain, 1 gold brooch, 1 gold cross, 1 pair of earrings set with jewels, 1 greenstone and gold brooch and earrings, 1 silver brooch, 1 gold horseshoe pin, 1 silver locket, 1 gold open-faced watch, 1 gold geneva watch, 1 silver lever hunting watch, 1 silver hunting watch with chain, 1 nugget of gold, and 6 rubies were received at the Dead Letter Office.

1,385 unclaimed registered letters were dealt with.

44 letters detained for postage were received, 9 of which were subsequently forwarded.

795 newspapers and 436 books and other articles without addresses were also received: of these, 97 were delivered.

87 letters were posted without addresses.

23 letters with obscene and libellous addresses were intercepted.

143 letters were imperfectly and wrongly addressed.

1,311 letters were refused.

4 letters were posted with previously-used stamps.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered letters dealt with, compared with the numbers in 1880, 1881, and 1882, is shown below:—

Postal Districts.	1880.			1881.			1882.			1883.		
	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.
Auckland..	3,195	15,625	18,820	4,010	15,385	19,395	4,642	15,459	20,101	4,964	15,831	20,795
Thames ..	123	911	1,034	135	1,167	1,302	161	1,136	1,297	292	3,337	3,629
New Plymouth ..	334	1,939	2,273	356	2,413	2,769	507	2,589	3,096	401	2,738	3,139
Gisborne ..	..	..	..	69	757	826	130	745	875	155	1,024	1,179
Napier ..	751	4,485	5,236	770	3,926	4,696	921	4,141	5,062	973	4,574	5,547
Wanganui ..	376	4,354	4,730	481	5,081	5,562	439	4,771	5,210	522	4,845	5,367
Wellington ..	2,803	12,894	15,697	2,824	13,630	16,454	3,137	15,147	18,284	3,252	16,945	20,197
Nelson ..	473	2,020	2,493	797	2,629	3,426	805	2,581	3,386	988	2,707	3,695
Westport ..	108	1,104	1,212	75	966	1,041	106	809	915	80	1,014	1,094
Greymouth ..	196	1,776	1,972	175	1,881	2,056	187	1,999	2,186	194	2,106	2,300
Hokitika ..	180	1,882	2,062	188	1,823	2,011	220	1,700	1,920	174	1,662	1,836
Blenheim ..	188	1,263	1,451	166	1,400	1,566	215	1,286	1,501	209	1,319	1,528
Christchurch ..	3,831	15,873	19,704	4,156	15,274	19,430	4,271	13,677	17,948	4,256	13,678	17,934
Timaru ..	418	3,757	4,175	550	3,783	4,333	512	2,853	3,365	506	2,865	3,371
Oamaru ..	232	1,615	1,847	315	1,886	2,201	271	1,712	1,983	277	1,985	2,262
Dunedin ..	3,442	13,136	16,578	4,190	13,328	17,518	4,217	13,344	17,561	4,425	12,358	16,783
Invercargill ..	1,126	4,495	5,621	1,471	4,492	5,963	1,484	5,100	6,584	1,230	5,837	7,067
Totals ..	17,776	87,129	104,905	20,728	89,821	110,549	22,225	89,049	111,274	22,898	94,825	117,723

Cloth-lined registered-letter envelopes of the sizes of 5½ inches by 3¼ inches, 6 inches by 3¼ inches, and 9 inches by 5 inches have been introduced.

BUILDINGS.

There were but few buildings erected, and only absolutely necessary alterations and repairs were put in hand.

The new building at Wellington, designed to accommodate the entire staff of the General Post Office as well as the staffs of the Chief Post Office and Telegraph branches, was completed on the 15th February last, and occupied on the 5th April. The arrangements are in every respect found to be convenient for both the public and official requirements.

New buildings were also completed and occupied at Greytown North, Manaia, Kihikihi, Te Aroha, Paeroa, and Ohinemutu. The latter office is erected in the township recently laid out by the Government.

Additions, repairs, or alterations were effected at the following offices: Ashburton, Lyell, Greymouth, Kaitangata, Russell, Tauranga, Thames, Bull's, Alexandra South, Drury, Charleston, Kumara, Port Ahuriri, Reefton, Upper Hutt, Waiau, Waipukurau, Milton, and Kaikoura.

New offices are in course of erection at the Port (Nelson), Oamaru, and Picton, and plans are being prepared for an office at Greymouth.

INLAND MAIL SERVICES.

The inland mail services were performed with but few interruptions, and, on the whole, the contracts were carried out satisfactorily.

The particulars of the several inland services in force during the year may be gathered from the following:—

Performed by coach and mail-cart ..	...	...	...	131
" on horseback ..	...	...	...	255
" on foot ..	...	...	...	44
" by water ..	...	...	...	30
" by railway ..	...	...	...	55

Total number of services ..	...	...	...	515
Aggregate mileage ..	...	...	...	8,794
Total number of miles travelled ..	...	...	...	3,014,985
Cost to the department ..	...	...	...	£25,170 11s. 7d.
Average cost per mile ..	...	...	...	2d.
The total cost in 1882 was £24,808 18s. 6d., and the cost per mile ..	...	...	...	2·08d.