

The following table and return give the number of offices and officers of all classes on the 31st December last :—

Postal Districts.	Post and Telegraph Offices.	Country Post Offices.	Telephone Exchanges.	Telephone Bureaux.	Clerks and Postal Cadets.		Operators (including Cadets).		Postmasters and Officers-in-Charge on Permanent Staff.	Country Postmasters.	Letter-carriers.		Messengers (Post Office).	Telegraph Message Boys.	
					Town.	Country.	Town.	Country.			Town.	Country.		Town.	Country.
Auckland ..	53	187	1	13	33	..	25	9	53	187	17	4	2	16	11
Thames ..	11	26	..	..	1	..	6	7	11	26	2	1	..	4	3
New Plymouth ..	6	14	..	..	2	..	5	..	6	14	2	..	..	3	2
Gisborne ..	1	20	..	..	1	..	3	..	1	20	1	..	..	3	..
Napier ..	19	35	1	..	12	..	25	6	19	35	3	1	..	6	2
Wanganui ..	12	20	1	..	8	..	13	5	12	20	3	2	1	4	7
Wellington ..	25	60	1	3	40	2	37	12	25	60	8	3	2	30	7
Blenheim ..	6	18	..	..	1	..	34	1	6	18	1	..	..	3	2
Nelson ..	12	31	1	..	5	..	9	2	12	31	2	..	1	4	3
Westport ..	5	20	..	..	..	..	3	..	5	20	1	..	..	2	1
Greymouth ..	4	21	..	..	2	1	7	3	4	21	1	2	..	3	3
Hokitika ..	3	26	..	..	3	..	3	1	3	26	1	1	..	2	1
Christchurch ..	50	106	1	1	33	3	29	10	50	106	15	6	1	16	14
Timaru ..	17	28	1	..	5	..	7	1	17	28	2	3	1	3	2
Oamaru ..	10	12	1	..	3	..	8	..	10	12	2	..	1	3	1
Dunedin ..	40	105	1	12	34	..	26	7	40	105	14	3	2	14	17
Invercargill ..	20	72	1	1	8	..	7	6	20	72	2	1	2	3	6
Total on 31st Dec., 1886	294	801	10	30	191	6	247	70	294	801	77	27	13	119	82
Total on 31st Dec., 1885	279	770	10	25	193	6	230	65	279	770	71	26	14	121	85

COMPARATIVE RETURN of OFFICERS of the POSTAL and TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT for the Years 1886 and 1885.

	1886.	1885.		1886.	1885.
Postmaster-General	Mail Agent (permanent) ..	..	1
Superintendent	1	Storekeeper and Assistant ..	..	2
Secretary	1	Chief Postmasters ..	..	17
Inspector of Post Offices	1	Postmasters and Officers-in-Charge on Permanent Staff ..	..	294
Assistant Inspector of Post Offices	1	Clerks and Cadets ..	..	197
Accountant	1	Operators ..	..	317
Telegraph Inspectors	3	Country Postmasters ..	..	801
Telegraph Sub-Inspectors	3	Letter-carriers ..	..	104
Electrician	1	Messengers (Post Office) ..	..	13
Mechanicians	3	Linemen ..	..	47
Clerks in General Post Office—			Telegraph Message Boys ..	..	201
Secretary's Branch	7	Totals ..	..	2,044
Dead Letter Branch	3			1,961
Money Order and Savings Bank Branch ..	17	16			
Sorters in Clearing-room	7			

POST OFFICE.

The increase of business was much greater than there was reason to anticipate.

The number of letters posted increased by no less than 1,729,667; and the total increase in the number received and posted was 2,254,737.

The number of letters, post-cards, book-packets and pattern-parcels, and newspapers delivered and posted during the year, compared with the number dealt with in 1885, was as under:—

	1886.	1885.	Increase.
Letters—Delivered ..	19,896,448	19,371,378	
Posted ..	18,188,144	16,458,477	
	38,084,592	35,829,855	2,254,737
Post-cards—Delivered ..	692,276	653,722	
Posted ..	741,611	666,211	
	1,433,887	1,319,933	113,954
Books and parcels—Delivered ..	1,747,941	1,670,708	
Posted ..	1,719,718	1,595,252	
	3,467,659	3,265,960	201,699
Newspapers—Delivered ..	7,479,209	7,685,370	
Posted ..	6,844,838	6,548,508	
	14,324,047	14,233,878	90,169

The letters increased 6.29, post-cards 8.63, books and parcels 6.18, and newspapers 0.63 per cent.