

Bonâ fide trade catalogues for delivery within the colony are transmitted at the same rates of postage as magazines.

Rate-notices and receipts of local government bodies are now accepted at book-rates.

Reply post-cards were introduced on the 1st July, 1886.

Postage-stamps of not less than 10s. in value are now permitted to be re-purchased by Postmasters in charge of money order offices, at a discount of 5 per cent.

The completion of the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company's line in November last secured through communication by rail between Wellington and New Plymouth. In anticipation of a large increase of postal work, provision was made for post-office vans, in the charge of postal officers, being attached to the trains. The arrangement has been found of great convenience. Only twice a week do the trains run through in the day.

The extension of the Napier Railway-line to Woodville admits of mails being delivered in the day between Napier and Wellington, *via* Palmerston, and also between Wanganui and Napier.

The Inland Parcel Post system commences to-day, 1st October. The maximum weight of a parcel has been fixed at 11lb., and the following are the rates of postage:—

				s.	d.
Not exceeding 1lb. in weight				0	7
Exceeding 1lb., but not exceeding 2lb.				0	10
"	2lb.,	"	3lb.	1	1
"	3lb.,	"	4lb.	1	4
"	4lb.,	"	5lb.	1	7
"	5lb.,	"	6lb.	1	10
"	6lb.,	"	7lb.	2	1
"	7lb.,	"	8lb.	2	4
"	8lb.,	"	9lb.	2	7
"	9lb.,	"	10lb.	2	10
"	10lb.,	"	11lb.	3	1

To places not served by railway, coach, or steamer, only parcels which do not exceed 5lb. in weight may be sent.

The sum paid for the carriage of mails by unsubsidised vessels was £5,519 4s. 1d.

3,487 private boxes were let, which, with the fees on 297 private bags, produced a revenue of £3,988 5s.

FREE OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The estimated value of the official or free correspondence for the year is given in the statement underneath:—

Postal Districts.				Postal Districts.			
Letters.		Books.		Letters.		Books.	
lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
Auckland	22,217 0	15,711 14	6,528 1 11	Hokitika	1,944 8	841 0	546 11 4
Thames	791 3	1,042 5	248 4 7	Blenheim	1,946 12	3,844 0	652 11 7
Gisborne	3,181 0	624 0	265 16 4	Christchurch	11,089 13	11,401 0	3,337 7 0
New Plymouth	921 5	1,600 0	328 5 9	Timaru	3,331 4	2,975 0	990 0 0
Napier	2,287 10	4,797 8	929 19 0	Oamaru	1,754 3	1,875 0	530 5 8
Wanganui	6,396 13	5,814 0	1,905 12 4	Dunedin	20,040 1	12,788 4	5,796 10 6
Wellington	138,782 9	274,260 0	49,960 4 6	Invercargill	3,113 6	3,675 6	1,119 15 9
Nelson	3,299 3	2,360 0	967 6 6				
Westport	1,532 5	332 8	419 14 0	Totals	224,300 13	344,974 9	75,606 11 11
Greymouth	1,671 14	1,032 12	480 5 2				

The estimated value of the free correspondence for 1885 was £70,214 15s. 8d.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered letters dealt with, compared with the numbers in 1883, 1884, and 1885, is shown below:—

Postal Districts.	1883.			1884.			1885.			1886.		
	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	4,964	15,831	20,795	5,803	19,852	25,655	5,890	22,124	28,014	5,346	18,702	24,048
Thames	292	3,337	3,629	217	2,913	3,130	205	2,879	3,084	212	3,850	4,062
New Plymouth	401	2,738	3,139	560	3,266	3,826	675	2,876	3,551	551	2,675	3,226
Gisborne	155	1,024	1,179	141	903	1,044	108	922	1,030	111	1,133	1,244
Napier	973	4,574	5,547	1,037	4,518	5,555	892	5,453	6,345	934	6,769	7,703
Wanganui	522	4,845	5,367	316	4,898	5,214	233	4,500	4,783	185	5,081	5,266
Wellington	3,252	16,945	20,197	3,654	18,250	21,904	4,757	19,218	23,975	4,452	20,942	25,394
Nelson	988	2,707	3,695	969	3,065	4,034	559	2,432	2,991	326	2,410	2,736
Westport	80	1,014	1,094	61	1,290	1,351	45	1,433	1,483	66	2,105	2,171
Greymouth	194	2,106	2,300	133	1,911	2,044	125	2,835	2,960	159	3,126	3,285
Hokitika	174	1,662	1,836	185	1,333	1,518	173	1,907	2,080	177	2,014	2,191
Blenheim	209	1,319	1,528	112	1,397	1,509	181	1,413	1,594	112	1,421	1,533
Christchurch	4,256	13,678	17,934	4,429	17,297	21,726	3,717	13,678	17,395	4,048	13,825	17,873
Timaru	506	2,865	3,371	341	3,311	3,652	440	3,153	3,593	512	2,942	3,454
Oamaru	277	1,985	2,262	238	1,638	1,866	316	1,947	2,263	324	2,048	2,372
Dunedin	4,425	12,358	16,783	4,677	12,192	16,869	5,645	12,737	18,332	6,103	13,069	19,177
Invercargill	1,230	5,837	7,067	1,456	7,649	9,105	1,614	6,661	8,275	1,729	8,040	9,769
Totals	22,898	94,825	117,723	24,319	105,683	130,002	25,625	106,173	131,798	25,352	110,152	135,504