

The number of inland mail-services at the end of the year was 641, an increase of 32. 84 miles of telegraph line were constructed. At the close of the year there were 4,874 miles of line and 11,827 miles of wire.

£16,345 15s. 7d. was expended on telegraph extension during the year.

The number of telephone subscribers increased by 130, and the total number on the 31st March last was 2,384.

£1,515,281 11s. 3d. was deposited in the Post Office Savings-bank during the calendar year, and £1,457,081 5s. withdrawn. The total sum at the credit of depositors on the 31st December last was £2,191,451 14s. 2d.

For the convenience of the public a temporary post and telegraph office was established at the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition, which opened at Dunedin on the 19th November last. The office was placed in communication with the Dunedin Telephone Exchange. The Exhibition closed on the 26th April last, and the following postal and telegraph business was transacted at the office :—

	Posted.	Delivered.
Letters	7,698	8,976
Post-cards	348	60
Books	1,500	264
Newspapers	468	2,952

168 money-orders issued, for £578 10s. 4d.; 17 money-orders paid, for £87 12s. 8d. 232 deposits in savings-bank, for £801 10s.; 22 withdrawals, for £194 13s. 2d. 2,990 telegrams were forwarded and 2,300 received.

The classification of the service, it is hoped, is now in a fair way to be carried into practical effect. A short Bill, prepared with this object, is to be submitted to Parliament this session. Classification has long been promised, and as long withheld, with the result that the service is disheartened generally. The scheme which the Bill is intended to bring into operation should do much to remove the prevalent discontent, and give the employés encouragement as to the future.

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 Offices only.		Telephone Exchanges.		Telephone Bureaux.		Clerks and Postal Cadets.		Operators (including Cadets).		Postmasters and Officers in Charge on Permanent Staff.		Letter-carriers.		Messengers (Post Office).		Telegraph Message Boys.	
	Post Offices.	Post and Telephone Offices.					Town.	Country.	Town.	Country.	Town.	Country.	Town.	Country.	Town.	Country.	Town.	Country.	Town.	Country.		
Auckland	44	155	69	3	1	12	38	..	24	5	44	16	4	2	14	8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Thames	10	19	7	..	..	..	2	..	6	5	10	2	1	..	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gisborne	1	16	5	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Napier	20	28	12	..	1	..	11	..	23	5	20	3	1	1	7	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Plymouth ..	5	14	5	..	..	..	3	..	4	..	5	2	..	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wanganui	11	20	9	..	1	2	8	..	12	5	11	3	1	1	5	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	23	55	17	1	1	4	44	..	35	12	23	10	2	2	36	12	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blenheim	7	15	3	1	1	..	4	..	32	1	7	2	..	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson	9	24	11	3	1	..	5	..	11	2	9	2	..	1	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westport	5	13	6	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	5	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greymouth	4	21	5	..	1	..	2	..	8	3	4	2	2	..	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hokitika	3	31	3	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	3	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Christchurch ..	49	96	12	1	1	1	33	2	23	6	49	15	6	2	15	15	..	..	..	..	..	..
Timaru	16	28	..	..	1	..	5	..	5	1	16	2	3	1	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oamaru	10	6	7	..	1	..	2	..	8	..	10	2	..	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dunedin	38	72	40	..	1	14	33	..	27	5	38	14	3	2	14	13	..	..	..	..	..	..
Invercargill ..	21	65	12	1	1	3	8	..	8	4	21	2	1	2	3	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total on 31st Dec., 1889	276	679	223	10	12	36	201	2	236	54	276	80	24	15	124	81	..	..	..	..	..	..

COMPARATIVE RETURN of OFFICERS of the POSTAL and TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT for the Years 1889 and 1888.

	1889.	1888.		1889.	1888.
Postmaster-General	1	1	Sorters in Clearing-room	11	9
Superintendent	1	1	Storekeeper and Assistants	3	3
Secretary	1	1	Chief Postmasters	16	16
Inspector of Post Offices ..	1	1	Postmasters and Officers in Charge on Permanent Staff	260	260
Assistant Inspector of Post Offices ..	1	1	Clerks and Cadets	203	203
Controller of Money Orders and Savings Banks and Accountant	1	1	Operators	290	294
Telegraph Inspectors	3	3	Country Postmasters and Telephonists ..	912	885
Telegraph Sub-Inspectors	3	3	Letter-carriers	104	103
Electrician	1	1	Messengers (Post Office)	15	14
Mechanicians	3	3	Linemen	46	46
Clerks in General Post Office—			Telegraph Message Boys	205	197
Secretary's Branch	7	7	Nightwatchmen	2	..
Dead-Letter Branch	4	3			
Money Order and Savings-Bank Branch ..	16	15	Totals	2,110	2,071