

The estimated value of the official correspondence and Government telegrams was equal to 28 per cent. of the receipts.

21,501,937 letters were posted and 22,415,263 delivered—an increase of 475,100 and 1,140,867 respectively.

117,613 inland parcels were posted—an increase of 15,479.

1,961,161 telegrams, of all codes, were forwarded—an increase of 158,174.

176,427 money-orders, for £602,077 ls. 11d., were issued, and 151,286 orders, for £547,308 9s. 3d. paid.

184,599 postal-notes, representing £69,461 19s. 7d., were sold—an increase of 13,713 notes for £4,248 5s. 11d.

Thirty-six offices were established, 3 re-opened, and 18 closed. The total number of post and telegraph or telephone offices at the end of 1890 was 1,212.

A telephone exchange was established at Gore. The total number of exchanges at the end of the year was 15, connected with which there were 43 bureau offices. The number of telephone subscribers increased by 208. The total number of subscribers on the 31st March last was 2,592, and the subscriptions received for the year amounted to £19,252 4s. 3d.

There were 632 inland mail services in operation, at a cost to the department of £26,174 7s. 10d.

One hundred and eighty-six miles of telegraph line were erected, and at the close of the year there were 5,061 miles of line and 12,771 miles of wire.

The expenditure out of loan on telegraph extension was £16,291 14s.

The sum of £1,658,543 3s. 5d. was deposited in the Post Office Savings Banks during the calendar year; £1,500,437 9s. 5d. was withdrawn. The total sum at the credit of depositors on the 31st December last was £2,441,876 8s. 7d.

The letter rate to the United Kingdom was reduced to 2½d. per half-ounce, except *via* Brindisi and Naples, which was reduced from 1s. to 6d., and an exchange of twopenny post-cards established on the 1st January last.

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

Postal Districts.	Permanent Offices.				Country Post-offices.		Telephones only.			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.	Telegraph Offices.	Combined Post and Telegraph Offices	Combined Post, Tel., and Railway Offices.	Post-offices.	Post and Telephone Offices.	Telephone Offices only.	Telephone Exchanges.	Telephone Bureaux.	Town.	Country.	Town.	Country.		Town.	Country.		Town.	Country.
Auckland ..	1	2	24	18	149	77	5	1	12	40	..	24	10	45	16	4	3	13	12
Thames ..	..	..	9	..	19	8	..	..	..	..	1	8	5	9	2	1	..	3	3
Gisborne ..	..	..	1	..	11	9	..	..	..	3	..	5	..	1	1	..	..	3	..
Napier ..	1	1	9	9	26	15	1	1	..	13	..	22	8	20	3	1	1	6	4
New Plymouth ..	..	..	3	2	17	5	..	..	..	3	..	4	2	5	2	..	..	2	3
Wanganui ..	..	..	6	5	21	9	1	1	3	7	..	13	6	11	3	1	1	4	7
Wellington ..	1	3	11	9	56	19	1	1	4	51	..	42	15	24	11	4	2	29	11
Blenheim ..	..	1	6	..	16	3	1	1	..	4	..	38	1	7	2	1	..	3	2
Nelson ..	..	2	4	3	23	11	3	1	1	5	..	11	4	9	3	..	1	4	..
Westport ..	..	..	5	..	12	8	..	..	..	1	..	4	..	5	1	..	..	3	3
Greymouth ..	..	..	4	..	23	5	..	1	..	2	..	9	6	4	2	2	..	3	4
Hokitika ..	..	..	3	..	30	3	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	3	1	1	..	2	..
Christchurch ..	1	2	12	34	97	12	1	1	2	36	4	27	7	49	16	6	2	16	12
Timaru ..	..	..	5	11	28	..	..	1	..	4	..	8	3	16	2	3	1	3	2
Oamaru ..	..	..	1	9	6	7	..	1	..	3	..	8	..	10	2	..	1	3	1
Dunedin ..	1	1	21	15	69	45	..	2	14	38	..	30	9	38	15	4	2	14	10
Invercargill ..	..	..	9	12	64	17	2	3	7	9	..	9	6	21	2	1	2	4	6
Total on 31st Dec., 1890 ..	5	12	133	127	667	253	15	15	43	222	5	264	82	277	84	29	16	115	80

COMPARATIVE RETURN of OFFICERS of the POSTAL and TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT for the Years 1890 and 1889.

	1890.	1889.		1890.	1889.
Postmaster-General ..	1	1	Sorters in Clearing-room ..	14	11
Superintendent ..	1	1	Storekeeper and Assistants ..	5	3
Secretary ..	1	1	Chief Postmasters ..	16	16
Inspector of Post-offices ..	1	1	Postmasters and Officers in Charge on Permanent Staff ..	261	260
Assistant Inspector of Post-offices ..	1	1	Clerks and Cadets ..	227	203
Controller of Money-orders and Savings-banks and Accountant ..	1	1	Operators (including Cadets) ..	346	290
Telegraph Inspectors ..	3	3	Country Postmasters and Telephonists ..	935	912
Telegraph Sub-Inspectors ..	3	3	Letter-carriers ..	113	104
Electrician ..	1	1	Messengers (Post Office) ..	17	15
Mechanicians ..	3	3	Linemen ..	50	46
Clerks in General Post Office—			Telegraph Message Boys ..	195	205
Secretary's Branch ..	7	7	Nightwatchmen ..	2	2
Dead-letter Branch ..	4	4			
Money-order and Savings-bank Branch ..	17	16	Totals ..	2,225	2,110