

The increase in the number of inland parcels posted over the number posted in 1889 was 15,479, or 15·16 per cent. The postage collected amounted to £6,822 9s. 7d., compared with £5,143 11s. 5d., the postage collected in 1889.

The following table shows the number of parcels exchanged with the United Kingdom and the Australian Colonies during 1890 :—

Country.	Number of Parcels.	
	Received.	Despatched.
United Kingdom and Foreign Offices, <i>via</i> London ...	13,491	2,693
Victoria ...	1,426	751
South Australia ...	71	88
Tasmania ...	45	128
Western Australia ...	2	19
Totals ...	15,035	3,679

The declared value of the parcels received from places outside the colony was £13,834. The Customs duty collected amounted to £2,375 19s. 3d. In 1889 the declared value was £11,766, and the duty collected £1,701 6s. 4d.

The declared value of the parcels despatched to places beyond the colony was £3,831.

The foreign parcel-post, through the intermediary of the London Post Office, was extended to the Argentine Republic, Bermuda, Seychelles, Mexico, Fiji, Siam, Morocco, Greece, Heligoland, Madagascar, and Natal.

FREE OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

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

Postal Districts.	Letters.	Books.	Value.	Postal Districts.	Letters.	Books.	Value.
	lb. oz.	lb. oz.	£ s. d.		lb. oz.	lb. oz.	£ s. d.
Auckland ..	24,637 15	16,300 10	7,408 0 3	Hokitika ..	1,671 0	400 0	458 18 8
Thames ..	2,543 12	2,241 11	755 3 7	Blenheim ..	2,735 4	6,695 0	958 19 7
New Plymouth ..	3,596 10	1,100 0	996 1 7	Christchurch ..	10,245 6	15,243 4	3,240 4 2
Gisborne ..	1,694 1	3,760 0	577 1 8	Timaru ..	5,834 0	3,923 0	1,690 10 0
Napier ..	3,787 14	6,075 14	1,212 12 7	Oamaru ..	2,121 7	2,187 0	638 12 4
Wanganui ..	6,553 2	6,465 15	1,973 14 5	Dunedin ..	8,107 11	12,919 2	2,594 3 9
Wellington ..	110,453 2	212,354 8	42,176 3 10	Invercargill ..	3,065 10	2,111 10	896 17 8
Nelson ..	2,919 12	1,161 0	821 1 0				
Westport ..	1,406 0	915 0	405 8 8	Totals ..	193,023 8½	300,751 5½	67,473 17 1
Greymouth ..	1,650 14½	6,897 11½	670 3 4				

The estimated weight was over 220 tons. The estimated value of the free correspondence for 1889 was £82,353 10s. 9d. There was, therefore, a decrease of £14,879 13s. 8d. in value.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered letters dealt with, compared with the numbers in 1885, 1888, and 1889, is shown below :—

Postal Districts.	1885.			1888.			1889.			1890.		
	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 ..	5,890	22,124	28,014	7,485	25,205	32,690	7,574	26,108	33,682	7,119	34,398	41,517
Thames ..	205	2,879	3,084	169	2,729	2,898	152	3,889	3,541	180	4,781	4,911
New Plymouth ..	675	2,876	3,551	331	2,544	2,875	298	3,845	3,643	341	3,372	3,713
Gisborne ..	108	922	1,030	106	1,513	1,619	86	1,577	1,663	118	2,120	2,238
Napier ..	892	5,453	6,345	1,008	6,690	7,698	1,014	7,782	8,796	999	10,911	11,910
Wanganui ..	283	4,500	4,783	207	3,988	4,195	243	4,240	4,483	211	6,060	6,271
Wellington ..	4,757	19,218	23,975	5,138	23,036	28,174	5,911	25,817	31,728	6,129	30,369	36,498
Nelson ..	559	2,432	2,991	367	2,592	2,959	347	3,123	3,470	322	3,430	3,752
Westport ..	45	1,438	1,483	73	2,492	2,565	93	2,517	2,610	112	3,254	3,366
Greymouth ..	125	2,835	2,960	157	6,258	6,415	110	9,650	9,760	102	8,879	8,981
Hokitika ..	173	1,907	2,080	190	2,331	2,521	149	2,490	2,639	95	2,579	2,674
Blenheim ..	181	1,413	1,594	159	1,808	1,967	101	2,422	2,523	92	3,193	3,285
Christchurch ..	3,717	13,678	17,395	4,161	16,250	20,411	3,871	17,655	21,526	3,659	20,404	24,063
Timaru ..	440	3,153	3,593	451	2,757	3,208	373	2,547	2,920	312	3,551	3,863
Oamaru ..	316	1,947	2,263	353	2,230	2,583	280	2,076	2,356	278	2,505	2,783
Dunedin ..	5,645	12,737	18,382	4,498	13,679	18,177	4,480	14,576	19,056	4,615	19,696	24,311
Invercargill ..	1,614	6,661	8,275	1,445	7,915	9,360	1,344	8,874	10,218	1,740	9,819	11,559
Totals ..	25,625	106,173	131,798	26,298	124,017	150,315	26,426	138,188	164,614	26,374	169,321	195,695