

The balance against the colony on foreign money-order account was therefore £53,243 19s. 5d. In 1889, the balance against the colony was £47,786 8s. 1d.

18,468 telegraph money-orders, for £60,869 9s. 3d., were issued, compared with 16,784 orders, for £56,527 17s. 11d., issued in 1889.

The money-order commission received for the year amounted to £8,823 10s., against £8,696 13s. 5d. for 1889.

POSTAL NOTES.

184,599 postal-notes, of the value of £69,461 19s. 7d., were sold during the year, compared with 170,886 notes, for £65,213 13s. 8d., sold in 1889—an increase of 13,713 notes, of the value of £4,248 5s. 11d.

184,041 postal-notes, for £67,977 4s., were paid.

The commission derived from the sale of postal-notes amounted to £1,327 0s. 7d.—an increase of £87 4s. 5d. over the commission for 1889.

SAVINGS-BANKS.

Eight savings-bank offices were established and five closed.

The number of post-offices open for the transaction of savings-bank business at the end of the year was 298.

23,719 new accounts were opened, compared with 21,778 opened in 1889—an increase of 1,941.

17,256 accounts were closed, as against 15,521 closed during 1889—an increase of 1,735.

The total number of post-office savings-bank accounts open on the 31st December, 1890, with classified balances, and the number open at the end of 1889, are given in the table below:—

Postal District.	Not exceeding £20.	Exceeding £20 and up to £50.	Exceeding £50 and up to £100.	Exceeding £100 and up to £200.	Exceeding £200 and up to £300.	Exceeding £300 and up to £400.	Exceeding £400 and up to £500.	Exceeding £500.	Total.
Auckland	8,387	1,234	775	658	220	65	34	36	11,409
Blenheim	1,728	236	139	102	38	12	3	2	2,260
Christchurch	14,754	2,524	1,456	962	287	101	38	33	20,155
Dunedin	11,768	1,826	1,042	783	270	73	32	20	15,814
Gisborne	668	114	58	46	10	3	..	1	900
Greymouth	1,578	244	163	118	36	6	5	1	2,151
Hokitika	703	110	80	59	13	5	1	..	971
Invercargill	2,757	462	287	215	55	12	4	6	3,798
Napier	3,194	526	321	229	54	15	10	4	4,353
Nelson	2,432	309	219	143	45	13	9	1	3,171
New Plymouth	1,578	275	148	81	35	11	9	2	2,139
Oamaru	1,271	228	162	108	28	12	7	..	1,816
Thames	2,211	306	160	149	46	7	6	7	2,892
Timaru	2,250	346	232	152	42	14	6	6	3,048
Wanganui	3,153	442	235	158	56	16	10	17	4,087
Wellington	11,723	2,826	1,282	723	247	86	40	23	16,950
Westport	862	152	80	64	20	10	4	3	1,195
Totals, 1890	71,017	12,160	6,839	4,750	1,502	461	218	162	97,109
Totals, 1889	67,243	10,880	6,084	4,462	1,319	403	219	135	90,745

The number of accounts with balances not exceeding £20 increased by 3,774; with balances not exceeding £200 increased by 6,097; and with balances over £200, by 267.

There were 97,109 open accounts at the end of the year. The proportion of accounts to the population was as 1 is to every 6.44. The proportion in 1889 was 1 to 6.84.

162,938 deposits for £1,658,543 3s. 5d. were made during the year—an increase of 9,018 for £143,261 12s. 2d. on the deposits of 1889.

The average amount of each deposit was £10 3s. 7d., compared with £9 16s. 10d. in 1889.

There were 106,868 withdrawals for £1,500,437 9s. 5d., or 7,683 withdrawals for £43,356 4s. 5d. more than in 1889.

The average amount of each withdrawal was £14 0s. 9d., compared with £14 13s. 9d. in 1889.

The amount of deposits for the year exceeded the amount of withdrawals by £158,105 14s. In 1889 the excess of deposits was £58,200 6s. 3d.

The interest credited depositors during the year was £92,319 0s. 6d., compared with £84,809 17s. 1d. in 1889.

The total interest paid and credited depositors since the Post Office Savings Bank system was established in 1867 was £939,715 0s. 8d.

The total sum at the credit of depositors on the 31st December last was £2,441,876 8s. 7d., against £2,191,451 14s. 1d. at the close of 1889—an increase of £250,424 14s. 5d.

The total amount of deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks at the end of the year was equal to £3 17s. 11d. per head of the population. For 1889 the proportion in the United Kingdom was £1 13s. 2d.; in Canada, 18s. 4d.; in New South Wales, £1 10s. 6d.; in Victoria, £1 11s. 5d.; and in Tasmania, 7s. 8d.

The average cost of each savings-bank transaction, deposit or withdrawal, for the year was 4½d. and for the period of the existence of the Post Office Savings Banks, 5d.

The number of accounts opened during 1890 by means of stamps affixed to cards, the total number of such accounts open, and the amount at credit, on the 31st December last, may be gathered from the following table:—