

The estimated net cost of the service for 1889 was £5,291 16s. 8d.

255,956 letters, 164,262 books, and 610,036 newspapers were received from the United Kingdom, &c., by the Direct contract service; and 158,114 letters, 20,080 books, and 110,080 newspapers despatched.

P. and O. and Orient Lines (Federal Mail Service).

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments to P. and O. and Orient Lines ...	575	8	1			
Transit charges across European Continent ...	30	16	3			
Gratuities (to and from Australia) ...	208	3	11			
Cr.				814	8	3
Postages from London and Foreign offices ...	144	9	11			
Postages collected in the colony ...	780	3	3			
				924	13	2
Net profit to the colony...				£110	4	11

The number of letters, books, and newspapers conveyed from and to the United Kingdom, &c., by the Peninsular and Oriental and the Orient packets were: Received, 39,931 letters, 11,596 books, and 39,759 newspapers; despatched, 6,626 letters, 122 books, and 205 newspapers.

RETURN showing the several Subsidised Mail Steam Services, the Subsidy Payments for the Year 1890, the Dates when established, and the Date on which each terminates.

Service.	Subsidy or Payment.	Duration of Service.		Number of Voyages per Annum.	Mileage for Complete Voyage.	Cost per Mile.
		When established.	When terminated or when terminable.			
	£ s. d.					s. d.
Auckland and San Francisco ..	12,272 17 2	Nov., 1885	Nov., 1891	13	11,916	1 7-01
Direct Steam Service ..	13,272 8 9	Dec., 1884	Dec., 1891	13	23,019	0 10-64
Auckland and Fiji ..	1,690 0 0	June, 1880	..	13	2,334	1 1-37
New Zealand and South Pacific Islands ..	1,200 0 0	June, 1885	..	8	6,992	0 5-15
New Zealand and Chatham Islands ..	200 0 0	..	March, 1893	4	1,050	0 11-43
Helensville and Matakohu ..	450 0 0	Jan., 1881	Dec., 1892	52	118	0 4-53
Helensville and Dargaville ..				104	170	
Rawene and Omapere ..	240 0 0	Jan., 1889	Dec., 1892	52	34	1 3-82
Rawene and Horeke ..				52	12	
Russell and Opuia ..				156	8	
Nelson and Golden Bay ..	150 0 0	..	Dec., 1892	72	130	0 3-85
Hokitika, Bruce Bay, Paringa, Haast River, Okuru, Okarito, and Jackson's Bay ..	375 0 0	Jan., 1886	Dec., 1891	6	280	4 5-57
Westport and Karamea ..	120 0 0	June, 1886	Dec., 1892	13	102	1 9-72
Bluff and Stewart Island ..	150 0 0	July, 1886	Dec., 1891	52	40	1 5-31
Interprovincial Service in connection with San Francisco Line ..	3,500 0 0	Nov., 1886	Nov., 1891
Interprovincial Service in connection with Direct Contract Steamers ..	3,000 0 0	Dec., 1884	Dec., 1891

TELEGRAPHS.

The increase of business disclosed in the last report has been more than maintained during the past year.

1,961,161 telegrams of all codes were forwarded, an increase of 158,174, or 8·77 per cent. over the number forwarded in 1889.

The number of telegrams forwarded was in the proportion of 3·13 to each head of the population. For 1889 the proportion in the United Kingdom was 1·64; Victoria, 2·53; New South Wales, 3·03; and Queensland, 3·02.

The number of ordinary and delayed telegrams forwarded was 1,541,499 of the value of £77,168 16s. 8d. The number dealt with in 1889 was 1,416,914, of the value of £74,231 5s. 3d.

192,882 press telegrams, of the value of £8,785 7s. 10d. were dealt with, an increase of 20,639 in number and £191 11s. 7d. in value compared with the press business in 1889. The proportion of the press to the ordinary and delayed telegrams was as 1 to 8. The average value of each press telegram was 11d., compared with 1s. 0½d. in 1889, and 1s. 1½d. in 1888.

The number and value of telegrams of all codes forwarded during the calendar years 1890 and 1889 were as under:—

Ordinary and Delayed Telegrams.				Press Telegrams.				Government Telegrams.			
	Number.	£	s. d.		Number.	£	s. d.		Number.	£	s. d.
1890 ...	1,541,499	77,168	16 8	...	192,882	8,785	7 10	...	226,780	26,070	12 7
1889 ...	1,416,914	74,231	5 3	...	172,243	8,593	16 3	...	213,830	24,218	9 3

The telegraph receipts for the financial year ended the 31st March last—including telephone-exchange subscriptions, private-wire rents, &c.—amounted to £111,786 17s. 10d., compared with £106,253 17s. 10d. in 1889, an increase of £5,533, or 5·20 per cent.