

SESS. II.—1891.
NEW ZEALAND.

PROPOSED REDUCTION IN POSTAGE
(RETURN OF ESTIMATED LOSS OF REVENUE CONSEQUENT UPON).

Return to an Order of the House of Representatives dated 2nd July, 1891.

Ordered, "That there be laid upon the table of this House (1) a return of the estimated loss of revenue consequent upon the proposed reduction from 2d. to 1d. on the inland letter-rate and from 1d. to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on each newspaper posted in New Zealand for Australia, also a statement showing how the loss of revenue consequent upon such reduction is likely to be recovered in three years; (2) a return showing the number of inland and town letters posted in New Zealand during 1890 for delivery in the colony, also the number of letters posted in New Zealand for delivery in the Australian Colonies, including Tasmania, during the same year; (3) a return showing the proportion of domestic to business letters estimated to be posted in the colony during twelve months."—(Hon. Mr. MITCHELSON.)

(1.) RETURN showing the Estimated Loss of Revenue in the event of the Inland Letter-rate being reduced from 2d. to 1d. per Half-ounce, and the Newspaper-rate for Australia reduced from 1d. to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for each Newspaper.

ESTIMATED LOSS OF REVENUE.

If proposed Decrease in the Postage resulted in an Increase of Letters and Newspapers of	By the Reduction of the Inland Letter-rate from 2d. to 1d. per Half-ounce.	By the Reduction of the Rate for Newspapers for Australia from 1d. to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each.
	£	£
Nil	63,641	1,232
10 per cent....	57,277	1,109
20 "	50,913	986
30 "	44,549	863
40 "	38,185	740
50 "	31,821	616
60 "	25,456	493
70 "	19,092	370
80 "	12,728	246
90 "	6,364	123

NOTE.—The opinion expressed in the Financial Statement that the loss in the revenue from the reduction of the inland letter-rate would be recovered in three years was based on the assumption that the following increases might be looked for: First year, normal increase 5 per cent., abnormal 25 per cent.=30 per cent.; second year, 30 per cent.; and third year, 35 per cent.

(2.) RETURN showing the Number of Inland and Town Letters, and the Number of Letters for the Australian Colonies, including Tasmania, posted in New Zealand during 1890.

Number of town letters	3,909,443
Number of inland letters	13,661,934
Number of letters for Australian Colonies, including Tasmania	650,895

(3.) RETURN of the Estimated Proportion of Business to Domestic Letters, Inland and Town, for a Yearly Period.

INLAND AND TOWN.
 $2\frac{1}{3}$ business letters to 1 domestic letter.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,300 copies) £1.

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBURY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1891.