

## REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered letters dealt with in 1892, compared with the numbers in 1885, 1890, and 1891, is shown below:—

Postal Districts.	1885.			1890.			1891.			1892.		
	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	7,119	34,398	41,517	7,797	40,807	48,604	9,346	50,348	59,694
Thames ..	205	2,879	3,084	130	4,781	4,911	165	4,552	4,717	179	5,314	5,498
New Plymouth ..	675	2,876	3,551	341	3,372	3,713	381	3,953	4,334	375	5,514	5,889
Gisborne ..	108	922	1,030	118	2,120	2,238	132	2,428	2,560	100	2,930	3,030
Napier ..	892	5,453	6,345	999	10,911	11,910	1,053	12,627	13,680	644	11,999	12,643
Wanganui ..	283	4,500	4,783	211	6,060	6,271	306	7,030	7,336	410	10,341	10,751
Wellington ..	4,757	19,218	23,975	6,129	30,369	36,498	7,492	36,491	43,983	6,924	44,413	51,337
Nelson ..	559	2,432	2,991	322	3,430	3,752	392	4,314	4,706	339	5,009	5,348
Westport ..	45	1,438	1,483	112	3,254	3,366	90	3,434	3,524	98	3,492	3,590
Greymouth ..	125	2,835	2,960	102	8,879	8,981	235	10,436	10,671	338	11,150	11,488
Hokitika ..	173	1,907	2,080	95	2,579	2,674	76	2,624	2,700	101	2,821	2,922
Blenheim ..	181	1,413	1,594	92	3,193	3,285	125	3,262	3,387	133	2,848	2,981
Christchurch ..	3,717	13,678	17,395	3,659	20,404	24,063	4,292	21,956	26,248	4,483	27,423	31,906
Timaru ..	440	3,153	3,593	312	3,551	3,863	380	3,740	4,120	263	3,961	4,224
Oamaru ..	316	1,947	2,263	278	2,505	2,783	293	2,048	2,341	219	2,638	2,857
Dunedin ..	5,645	12,737	18,382	4,615	19,696	24,311	4,782	19,762	24,544	4,140	26,088	30,228
Invercargill ..	1,614	6,661	8,275	1,740	9,819	11,559	2,031	10,708	12,739	2,770	13,240	16,010
Totals ..	25,625	106,173	131,798	26,374	169,321	195,695	30,022	190,172	220,194	30,862	229,529	260,391

## DEAD LETTERS.

The number of unclaimed letters received and disposed of during the under-mentioned years is shown in the following table:—

Manner of Disposal.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Opened and returned to the writers ..	69,452	68,942	66,592	66,729	62,847	55,118	62,654	60,540	60,245	63,483
Returned unopened to other countries ..	8,143	9,134	8,115	8,359	7,287	6,892	6,220	7,779	6,930	7,751
Reissued ..	67	107	185	251	96	88	92	141	158	128
Destroyed ..	3,302	3,986	2,872	6,600	5,974	5,246	4,340	2,660	2,090	2,092
Returned unopened by Chief Postmasters ..	15,833	17,593	19,187	21,144	20,185	19,963	21,164	21,931	18,713	19,909
Totals ..	96,797	99,762	96,951	103,083	96,389	87,307	94,470	93,051	88,186	93,363

The unclaimed letters dealt with show an increase of 5·93 per cent., compared with the number disposed of the previous year.

The proportion of dead or unclaimed letters to the total number of letters posted in the colony was 0·37 per cent.

The number of missing-letter inquiries to the total number of letters posted was in the proportion of 1 to 18,541.

29,806 book-packets and circulars were returned to foreign countries, 30,866 were returned to the senders through the Dead Letter Office, 4 were reissued, and 17,367 were returned by Chief Postmasters: a total of 78,043 book-packets and circulars, against 61,767 in 1891. 935 newspapers were returned to the publishers.

The under-mentioned articles of value were found in letters opened in the Dead Letter Office, and returned to the senders where practicable:—

	£	s.	d.
170 post-office orders ..	...	...	...
30 bank drafts ..	...	...	...
131 cheques ..	...	...	...
2 dividend warrants ..	...	...	...
6 promissory notes ..	...	...	...
Postal-notes ..	...	...	...
Stamps ..	...	...	...
Bank-notes ..	...	...	...
Gold ..	...	...	...
Silver and copper ..	...	...	...

Representing a total of ... .. £4,740 3 1

In addition, 4 silver watches, 1 silver watch and steel chain, 1 silver watch chain, 1 silver stop-watch, 1 ladies' waterbury watch, 1 greenstone brooch, 2 gold brooches, 1 pair gold earrings, 1 gold locket, 1 gold safety-pin with pearls, 2 gold rings, 1 silver needle-case, 1 silver thimble, 1 shell necklace, 1 pair gold-mounted spectacles, 1 silver locket, 1 gold watch-key were received.

1,003 unclaimed registered letters were dealt with.