

their destination until some time after the commencement of business hours, when the New Zealand wires were fully occupied. In order to obviate the inconvenience arising from this, and to enable cablegrams received at Sydney after the closing of the Wakapuaka-La Perouse cable at night to reach their destination as early in the morning as possible, it was arranged that, from the 28th December last, the Sydney Office should open at 7 a.m.

The number and value of cable messages forwarded from New Zealand during 1897 are shown in the following statement:—

Destination.	Ordinary.		Press.	
	No. of Messages.	Value.	No. of Messages.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
International	9,725	36,051 10 3	28	276 10 0
New South Wales	21,849	4,618 1 6	1,176	620 3 0
Queensland	1,047	339 4 2
South Australia	1,204	361 12 2
Tasmania	2,059	722 1 1	1	0 7 1
Victoria	13,704	3,501 15 2	87	47 13 7
Western Australia	1,729	614 12 3	2	0 11 0
Total for 1897	51,317	46,208 16 7	1,294	945 4 8
Total for 1896	47,236	51,681 19 1	1,069	531 4 9

The following is a statement of traffic over the New Zealand-Sydney cable for the year from the 1st May, 1897, to the 30th April, 1898, and amounts payable by guaranteeing colonies:—

Amount guaranteed to Cable Company	£ 20,000
Actual receipts during the above period	16,646

Showing a loss to the Cable Company of £3,354

Apportioned as follows:—

New Zealand, one-third	£ 1,118
Contributing colonies, including New Zealand, two-thirds	2,236
	<u>£3,354</u>

And the contributing colonies' proportions, on the basis of population:—

Colony.	Population (Census, 1891).	Amount. £ s. d.
Victoria	1,140,405	684 18 0
New South Wales	1,132,234	679 19 10
New Zealand	620,030	372 7 7
Queensland*	393,718	188 6 1
South Australia	320,431	192 8 11
Tasmania	146,667	88 1 8
Western Australia	49,782	29 17 11
Totals	<u>3,803,267</u>	<u>£2,236 0 0</u>

The agreement under which this payment is guaranteed the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company expires in April, 1900.

The colony's outward international and intercolonial cable business, not including Press, for the years 1896 and 1897 was as follows:—

International,—	Messages. Number.		Value.	
			£ s. d.	
1896	9,814	...	42,148 15 1	
1897	9,725	...	36,051 10 3	
Decrease	89	Decrease	6,097 4 10	
	or 0·91 per cent.		or 14·47 per cent.	
Intercolonial,—	Messages. Number.		Value.	
			£ s. d.	
1896	37,422	...	9,536 10 8	
1897	41,592	...	10,157 6 4	
Increase	4,170	Increase	620 15 8	
	or 11·14 per cent.		or 6·5 per cent.	

A total increase in 1897 of 4,081 messages, and a decrease in value of £5,476 9s. 2d.

* Queensland entered as from 8th July, 1897.