

Closed.

Blackball, Greymouth
Bromley, Christchurch
Bushside, Christchurch
Cryer's Landing, Thames
Lower Awatere, Blenheim
North Taieri, Dunedin
Okiwi Bay, New Plymouth

Omarama, Oamaru
Omoho, Auckland
Owharoa, Thames
Pukekararo, Auckland
Puysegur Point, Invercargill
Ruakaka, Auckland
Scarborough, Wellington

South Malvern, Christchurch
Tallaburn, Dunedin
Tapuae, Wellington
Waikakaho, Blenheim
Watershed Road, Wanganui
Whangaparapara, Auckland

The total number of post-offices open at the close of the year was 1,524.

PARCEL-POST.

The following table shows the total number and the weight of inland, intercolonial, United Kingdom, and foreign parcels dealt with during the years 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897 :—

Postal Districts.	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.	
	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.
		lb. oz.		lb. oz.		lb. oz.		lb. oz.
Auckland	34,480	98,202 8	35,631	107,729 14½	37,317	117,815 8½	42,287	134,523 4
Thames	2,103	5,702 8	2,235	6,134 10	2,808	8,052 4	3,366	9,945 8
New Plymouth	2,567	6,705 10	2,543	6,780 8	2,857	7,306 11	2,753	8,001 1
Gisborne	1,362	4,140 11½	1,136	3,581 8½	1,480	4,447 8	1,979	5,862 12
Napier	8,778	26,362 15	8,865	25,672 1	9,189	27,025 10	8,932	26,526 12
Wanganui	5,543	15,795 9	5,722	18,139 5	6,230	19,609 8	6,852	21,508 12
Wellington	43,035	143,652 3	43,591	158,124 1	44,824	193,053 6	45,195	166,995 8
Nelson	5,697	17,815 7	5,771	17,860 6	5,529	17,698 6	5,534	18,168 3
Westport	1,696	4,332 6	1,707	4,382 13	1,952	4,188 6	1,941	4,977 3
Greymouth	2,627	7,278 2	2,553	6,319 13	2,653	7,075 15	2,773	7,777 10
Hokitika	1,722	5,598 5	1,816	5,904 8	1,611	5,691 3	1,621	5,583 6
Blenheim	2,260	6,162 8	2,133	5,767 13½	1,902	4,854 1	1,851	5,441 5
Christchurch	26,523	87,776 10	27,053	96,386 9	29,033	108,748 15	32,298	125,764 3
Timaru	2,120	5,542 15½	1,908	5,060 9	2,129	5,259 14½	1,808	4,554 12
Oamaru	1,010	2,618 4	988	2,563 8	1,048	3,337 11	1,056	3,436 13
Dunedin	28,316	90,554 9	28,132	99,186 10	31,427	106,561 1	32,504	112,672 12
Invercargill	4,425	12,074 5	4,422	12,598 15	4,622	13,657 13	4,804	14,314 9
Totals	174,264	540,315 8	176,206	582,193 8½	186,611	654,333 13	197,554	676,054 5

The following table gives the number and weight of parcels exchanged with the United Kingdom, and foreign countries *via* London, and the Australian Colonies and the South Sea Islands, during the years 1896 and 1897 :—

Country.	Received.				Despatched.			
	1896.		1897.		1896.		1897.	
	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.
		lb. oz.		lb. oz.		lb. oz.		lb. oz.
United Kingdom and foreign offices (<i>via</i> London)	13,730	46,750 0	15,742	53,002 4	3,446	8,223 0	4,197	9,510 8
Victoria	2,579	7,491 0	3,174	10,105 12	1,457	2,580 0	1,526	2,869 1
New South Wales	2,853	8,014 6	3,521	9,875 6	1,568	3,537 11½	1,681	3,838 4
South Australia	206	759 13	239	791 12	149	414 15	179	414 4
Queensland	187	489 6	374	858 12	225	583 12½	256	540 14
Tasmania	113	351 2	243	446 0	280	589 1	224	723 0
Western Australia	122	363 6	185	454 6	198	580 5	270	676 12
Samoa	5	22 6	4	33 0	84	213 10	117	299 14
Rarotonga	10	43 12	11	22 7	54	185 9	48	163 8
Hawaiian Islands	38	57 5	54	97 3	28	87 3	39	96 7
Ceylon	44	79 8	150	343 5	33	64 13	126	289 6
Straits Settlements	22	51 2½	1	4 14	..	..	..	..
Uruguay .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	4 4
Totals	19,909	64,473 2½	23,698	76,035 1	7,522	17,060 0	8,670	19,426 2

The declared value of parcels received from places outside the colony in 1897 was £41,820. The Customs duty collected amounted to £9,567 12s. 11d. In 1896 the value was £36,438 0s. 1d., and the Customs duty collected £7,693 11s. 2d.

The declared value of parcels despatched to places beyond the colony was £8,153, as against £7,703 9s. 10d. in 1896.

On the 1st January, 1897, the postage on parcels to and from the United Kingdom was reduced from 1s. 6d. for the first two pounds and 9d. for each additional pound, to 1s. for the first pound and 6d. for each additional pound. The effect of the reduction may be seen from the following figures :—