

The following is a statement of traffic over the New Zealand-Sydney cable for the year from the 1st May, 1898, to the 30th April, 1899, and amounts payable by guaranteeing colonies :—

Amount guaranteed to Cable Company	...	...	...	£	s.	d.
Actual receipts during the above period	...	...	...	20,000	0	0
				17,367	15	0
Showing a loss to the Cable Company of	...	...	...	£2,632	5	0
Apportioned as follows :—				£		
New Zealand, one-third	...	...	...	877		
Contributing colonies, including New Zealand, two-thirds	...	...	...	1,755		
				£2,632		

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

Colony.	Population (Census, 1891).	Amount.
		£ s. d.
Victoria	1,140,405	526 4 8
New South Wales	1,132,234	522 9 4
New Zealand	620,030	286 2 2
Queensland	393,718	181 13 7
South Australia	320,431	147 17 3
Tasmania	146,667	67 13 7
Western Australia	49,782	22 19 5
Totals	3,803,267	£1,755 0 0

New Zealand's proportion was therefore £1,163 2s. 2d.

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 1897 and 1898 was as follows :—

International,—	Messages. Number.	Value.
		£ s. d.
1897	9,725	36,051 10 3
1898	9,439	32,527 3 4
Decrease	286 or 2·94 per cent.	3,524 6 11 or 9·78 per cent.
Intercolonial,—	Messages. Number.	Value.
		£ s. d.
1897	41,592	10,157 6 4
1898	45,703	11,033 19 0
Increase	4,111 or 9·88 per cent.	876 12 8 or 8·63 per cent.

A total increase in 1898 of 3,825 messages, and a decrease in value of £2,647 14s. 3d.

The forwarded and received cable Press business for the past eight years has been :—

Year.	Forwarded.			Received.		
	Number of		Value.	Number of		Value.
	Messages.	Words.		Messages.	Words.	
1891	837	45,285	£ 932 15 8	2,828	198,935	£ 2,739 6 0
1892	791	44,263	898 3 9	2,884	197,477	2,796 9 4
1893	796	57,390	504 9 9	2,883	202,170	1,540 17 10
1894	994	103,366	899 4 9	3,033	203,326	1,179 13 7
1895	1,168	68,682	433 13 0	3,926	314,136	1,782 13 5
1896	1,069	92,946	531 4 9	2,946	285,369	1,576 1 3
1897	1,294	128,839	945 4 8	3,665	323,617	1,752 7 5
1898	1,154	133,342	907 7 0	3,599	282,882	1,599 7 0

NOTE.—The intercolonial cable Press rate was reduced from 3d. to 1d. per word on the 1st April, 1893.

POST OFFICE.

ARTICLES POSTED AND DELIVERED.

The number of articles posted in the colony, and received from places outside the colony, during 1898, as compared with the number in 1897, was as under :—