

	1898.					1899.				
	Letters.	Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Packets.	News-papers.	Letters.	Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Packets.	News-papers.
<i>Inland.</i>										
Returned, delivered, &c., through Dead-letter Office	55,517	1,182	2,362	58,777	518	60,332	1,946	2,594	48,704	770
Returned by Chief Postmasters direct ..	30,262	..	3,011	47,232	..	20,334	..	2,581	40,686	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	2,706	58	115	704	30,956	3,682	119	158	1,211	31,130
<i>Intercolonial.</i>										
Originally addressed to other colonies :—										
Returned to writers ..	4,821	..	32	1,001	..	4,041	..	83	1,228	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	233	..	3	56	..	242	..	11	75	..
Returned to other colonies as unclaimed	3,800	9	20	3,573	..	4,298	12	25	4,998	..
<i>International.</i>										
Originally addressed to other countries :—										
Returned to writers ..	5,137	..	40	576	..	5,206	..	108	677	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	251	..	2	33	..	316	..	8	32	..
Returned to other countries as unclaimed	5,020	10	40	19,161	..	5,331	9	31	17,050	..
Totals .. ..	107,747	1,259	5,625	131,113	31,474	103,782	2,086	5,599	114,661	31,900

## MISSING LETTERS.

809 inquiries for letters and 694 for other articles alleged to have been posted and not delivered were made during 1899. In 381 of the inquiries for letters and 408 for other articles—over one-half the total number—the investigations by the department resulted in the missing articles being traced or accounted for. These may be summarised as follows :—

## Number of "Traced" Cases.

Letters.	Other Articles.	Found to have been
37	39	Missent, misdelivered, or otherwise delayed through fault of Post Office.
39	42	Delayed in delivery through fault of addressees.
29	32	Not posted.
26	28	Posted later than advised; forwarded by slower routes than letters of advice, &c.
56	60	Defectively or wrongly addressed.
59	63	Mislaid or lost after delivery.
27	29	Returned through Dead-letter Office as unclaimed, &c.
108	115	Delivered. Reason for inquiry not given, but probably in most cases omission by addressees to acknowledge receipt.
381	408	

## REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered articles dealt with in 1899, compared with the numbers in 1890, 1897, and 1898, is shown below :—

Postal Districts.	1890.			1897.			1898.			1899.		
	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 ..	7,119	34,398	41,517	12,517	62,903	75,420	13,891	94,138	108,029	17,209	105,710	122,919
Thames ..	130	4,781	4,911	206	18,038	18,244	289	16,654	16,943	295	18,659	18,954
New Plymouth ..	341	3,372	3,713	830	14,246	15,076	1,031	15,003	16,034	1,246	15,560	16,806
Gisborne ..	118	2,120	2,238	231	4,850	5,081	232	5,034	5,266	327	3,868	4,195
Napier ..	999	10,911	11,910	1,379	19,545	20,924	948	18,853	19,801	1,115	24,024	25,139
Wanganui ..	211	6,060	6,271	1,484	17,801	19,285	1,584	18,569	20,153	1,850	22,929	24,779
Wellington ..	6,129	30,369	36,498	11,594	54,235	65,829	13,107	69,297	82,404	14,340	78,947	93,287
Blenheim ..	92	3,193	3,285	66	4,318	4,384	68	4,397	4,465	97	5,471	5,568
Nelson ..	322	3,430	3,752	610	10,279	10,889	709	10,270	10,979	656	12,002	12,658
Westport ..	112	3,254	3,366	196	5,472	5,668	179	7,100	7,279	337	7,713	8,050
Greymouth ..	102	8,879	8,981	425	6,496	6,921	540	7,360	7,900	583	8,497	9,080
Hokitika ..	95	2,579	2,674	74	3,444	3,518	60	3,586	3,646	84	4,363	4,447
Christchurch ..	3,659	20,404	24,063	4,637	53,212	57,899	5,371	54,528	59,899	5,143	48,169	53,312
Timaru ..	312	3,551	3,863	232	5,478	5,710	507	6,737	7,244	1,068	8,130	9,198
Oamaru ..	278	2,505	2,783	109	4,197	4,306	170	5,040	5,210	163	7,244	7,407
Dunedin ..	4,615	19,696	24,311	7,392	37,322	44,714	6,352	33,522	39,874	6,427	39,544	45,971
Invercargill ..	1,740	9,819	11,559	3,220	17,866	21,086	3,357	19,740	23,097	3,431	23,936	27,367
Totals ..	26,374	169,321	195,695	45,252	339,702	384,954	48,395	389,828	438,223	54,371	434,766	489,137

## INLAND MAILS.

The general reletting of tenders for the triennium 1900–2 took place at the end of 1899. The prosperous state of trade and the high price of produce at the time gave reason to suppose that a considerable increase in the cost would be shown. The accepted tenders for the services