

Item.	Postal.			Telegraph.			Total.		
<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries (classified officers)	92,512	4	0	164,337	7	0	256,849	11	0
Salaries (country Postmasters and telephonists and contributions to railway officers)	18,400	4	1	15,400	6	0	33,800	10	1
Conveyance of mails by sea	53,283	17	5	..	..	..	53,283	17	5
Conveyance of inland mails	47,386	17	7	..	..	..	47,386	17	7
Conveyance of mails by railway	18,351	13	0	..	..	..	18,351	13	0
Money-order commission credited to foreign offices	1,954	4	0	..	..	..	1,954	4	0
Maintenance of telegraph-lines .. .. .	..	..	..	22,898	14	1	22,898	14	1
Miscellaneous	27,558	9	4	25,549	3	6	53,107	12	10
Telegraph-cable subsidies .. .. .	..	..	..	181	10	0	181	10	0
	259,447	9	5	228,367	0	7	487,814	10	0
Balance of revenue over expenditure (Postal)	43,156	11	4½	..	..	..	..	..	..
" " (combined Department) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	37,284	7	3½
Totals	£302,604	0	9½	£228,367	0	7	£525,098	17	3½

The amount payable to the Railway Department for the conveyance of mails was £42,457 12s. against which the sum of £30,426 6s. was recovered for the postage on railway correspondence, for private-box rents, transmission of railway telegrams, telephone-exchange subscriptions, and maintenance of railway telegraph-wires. £9,836 was also paid by the Post Office on account of the salaries of railway officers who also act as Postmasters and telegraphists or telephonists at combined offices. There was a balance in favour of the Railway Department of £21,867 6s.

53,278,875 letters were posted, equal to 66·78 letters to each head of the population, an increase of 4,908,059. The total increase on all letters dealt with was 5,144,991.

The number of forwarded telegrams of all codes was 4,559,304, an increase of 391,323.

80 post-offices were established (including 7 re-opened). The number of post-offices open at the close of the year was 1807.

367,207 money-orders, for £1,277,059 2s. 3d., were issued; and 286,642 orders, representing £1,117,137 12s. 8d., paid.

616,264 postal notes, of the value of £191,904 13s., were sold.

£5,069,619 6s. 2d. was deposited in the Post-Office Savings-Bank, and £4,708,771 11s. 2d. withdrawn.

The total amount to credit of depositors on the 31st December last was £6,883,787 5s. 9d., as compared with £6,350,013 9s. 2d. at the close of the previous year.

1,137 inland mail-services (excluding services by railway) were in operation during the year.

At the close of the year there were 7,749 miles of telegraph-line, and 22,672 miles of wire.

The net expenditure on telegraph construction was £68,578 7s. 8d.

There were 10,633 telephone-exchange connections on 31st March last. The subscriptions received amounted to £62,151 8s. 11d.

A comparison of the revenue and expenditure year by year for the past ten years is shown in the table below. The figures for 1881-82—the first year after the amalgamation of the Post-Office and Telegraph services—and 1891-92 are also given.

STATEMENT showing REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the POST and TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT for the Ten Years ended 31st March, 1903, and for the Years 1881-82 and 1891-92.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Balance of Revenue over Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1881-82	234,529	8	0	233,291	10	4	1,237	17	8
1891-92	320,058	1	3	268,343	1	1	51,715	0	2
1893-94	344,676	12	3	293,704	7	3	50,972	5	0
1894-95	357,449	14	9	299,971	1	4	57,478	13	5
1895-96	365,727	6	5	332,325	4	8	33,402	1	9
1896-97	392,117	1	0	353,699	14	5	38,417	6	7
1897-98	408,383	15	3	364,403	3	1	43,980	12	2
1898-99	445,770	7	1	390,197	8	6	55,572	18	7
1899-1900	488,245	16	4	390,448	1	7	97,797	14	9
1900-1901	503,835	19	5½	418,271	16	11	85,564	2	6½
1901-1902	488,573	1	11½	465,756	9	5	22,816	12	6½
1902-1903	525,098	17	3½	487,814	10	0	37,284	7	3½
Total for ten years .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	£523,286	14	7½

The balance of revenue over expenditure for last year was £37,284 7s. 3d., as compared with £22,816 12s. 6d. for 1901-1902.

Adding the value of the free official correspondence and Government telegrams, there is a credit balance on the year's transactions of £135,670 10s. 1d.