

RETURN for same Period of Number of Payments and Amounts in each Postal District.

Postal District.	1901-2.		1902-3.	
	Number of Payments.	Amount.	Number of Payments.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Auckland	32,091	44,821 3 2	31,903	44,623 11 5
Blenheim	1,863	2,635 19 5	2,007	2,811 7 6
Christchurch	20,828	29,064 10 3	21,182	29,671 9 10
Dunedin	22,283	31,486 17 10	22,706	32,008 18 4
Gisborne	1,236	1,756 6 6	1,380	1,966 6 3
Greymouth	6,409	9,458 11 6	6,524	9,612 6 0
Hokitika	6,128	8,992 7 2	6,278	9,227 6 8
Invercargill	8,848	12,620 4 7	9,429	13,343 9 2
Napier	5,640	7,775 10 3	5,710	7,861 15 10
Nelson	4,238	5,755 10 8	4,233	5,684 11 6
New Plymouth	3,051	4,294 8 4	2,950	4,097 4 6
Oamaru	2,876	4,147 7 4	2,960	4,275 2 2
Thames	5,911	8,550 14 2	5,885	8,511 12 9
Timaru	4,614	6,569 13 6	4,611	6,479 19 10
Wanganui	4,261	6,081 11 11	4,628	6,634 1 0
Wellington	12,446	17,823 6 10	12,796	18,246 1 11
Westport	3,704	5,413 17 11	3,494	5,088 19 2
Totals	146,427	£207,248 1 4	148,676	£210,144 3 10

POST OFFICE.

ARTICLES POSTED AND DELIVERED.

The number of articles posted in the colony and received from places outside the colony during the year 1902, as compared with the number in 1901, was as under:—

	1902.	1901.	Increase.
Letters—			
Posted in the colony	53,278,875	48,370,816	
Received from places outside the colony	3,410,381	3,173,449	
	56,689,256	51,544,265	5,144,991
Letter-cards—			
Posted in the colony	1,025,375	1,023,295	2,080
Post-cards—			
Posted in the colony	1,239,004	1,460,589	Decrease.
Received from places outside the colony	63,163	61,788	
	1,302,167	1,522,377	220,210
Books and pattern-packets—			
Posted in the colony	16,870,951	16,176,195	Increase.
Received from places outside the colony	1,755,373	1,624,871	
	18,626,324	17,801,066	825,258
Newspapers—			
Posted in the colony	13,392,847	13,858,234	Decrease.
Received from places outside the colony	5,124,429	5,115,398	
	18,517,276	18,973,632	456,356
Parcels—			
Posted in the colony	244,016	233,491	Increase.
Received from places outside the colony	47,654	39,951	
	291,670	273,442	18,228

The letters increased 9·98, letter-cards increased 0·2, post-cards decreased 14·46, books and pattern-packets increased 4·64, newspapers decreased 2·41, and parcels increased 6·67 per cent.

In 1901 letters increased 33·32, letter-cards decreased 17·22, post-cards decreased 20·23, books and pattern-packets increased 0·48, newspapers increased 11·31, and parcels increased 17·13 per cent.

The average number of letters posted per head of population was estimated to be 66·78, or 68·07 including letter-cards. The averages in 1901 were 62·18, or 63·49 including letter-cards.

The Post Office receipts for the year amounted to £302,604 0s. 9½d.—an increase of £21,507 3s. 6d., or 7·65 per cent.

The expenditure was £259,447 9s. 5d., as against £253,340 18s. 5d.—an increase of £6,106 11s., or 2·41 per cent. There was a balance of revenue over expenditure of £43,156 11s. 4d.

The estimated value of official (free) correspondence was £71,946. The gross earnings of the Post Office for the year were therefore £374,550, and the credit balance £115,103.