

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered articles dealt with in 1907, compared with the numbers in 1890, 1900, 1906, and 1907, is shown below :—

Postal Districts.	1890.			1900.			1906.			1907.		
	From Places beyond the Dominion.	Registered in the Dominion.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Dominion.	Registered in the Dominion.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Dominion.	Registered in the Dominion.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Dominion.	Registered in the Dominion.	Totals.
Auckland ..	7,119	34,398	41,517	18,108	101,533	119,641	26,929	178,876	205,805	22,799	163,261	186,060
Blenheim ..	92	3,193	3,285	116	6,371	6,487	786	12,395	13,181	897	12,793	13,690
Christchurch ..	3,659	20,404	24,063	5,404	49,049	54,453	12,919	96,843	109,762	10,252	96,033	106,285
Dunedin ..	4,615	19,696	24,311	6,954	44,003	50,957	10,648	58,654	69,302	10,632	53,710	64,342
Gisborne ..	118	2,120	2,238	421	7,193	7,614	626	9,736	10,362	412	11,496	11,908
Grey mouth ..	102	8,879	8,981	680	11,606	12,286	633	13,181	13,814	393	12,121	12,514
Hokitika ..	95	2,579	2,674	94	4,344	4,438	555	13,312	13,867	634	6,371	7,005
Invercargill ..	1,740	9,819	11,559	3,352	24,989	28,341	6,588	32,593	39,181	8,745	31,509	40,254
Napier ..	999	10,911	11,910	1,659	26,685	28,344	3,378	50,883	54,261	3,159	36,680	39,839
Nelson ..	322	3,430	3,752	644	14,726	15,370	1,895	21,817	23,712	2,168	15,762	17,930
New Plymouth ..	341	3,372	3,713	1,310	16,903	18,213	2,839	22,317	25,156	2,938	22,106	25,044
Oamaru ..	278	2,505	2,783	120	8,880	9,000	147	8,094	8,241	792	8,598	9,390
Thames ..	130	4,781	4,911	267	19,912	20,179	324	23,128	23,452	324	22,834	23,158
Timaru ..	312	3,551	3,863	1,196	9,973	11,169	1,226	15,265	16,491	1,737	13,856	15,593
Wanganui ..	211	6,060	6,271	2,151	24,980	27,131	3,035	39,931	42,966	5,545	46,048	51,593
Wellington ..	6,129	30,369	36,498	9,513	85,915	95,428	22,731	171,662	194,393	34,263	154,189	188,452
Westport ..	112	3,254	3,366	354	6,974	7,328	589	9,283	9,872	1,438	9,145	10,583
Totals ..	26,374	169,321	195,695	52,343	464,036	516,379	95,848	777,970	873,818	107,128	716,512	823,640

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The system of payment by official stamps for the postages and telegrams of Government Departments inaugurated on the 1st January, 1907, has now been sufficiently long in existence to prove its utility.

Owing to the cordial co-operation of all the Departments concerned the system has worked smoothly and well.

As was anticipated, payment by official stamps has largely reduced both the number of letters and telegrams, the increasing bulk of which under the former franking system was becoming a heavy burden upon the resources and staff of the Post and Telegraph Department. The postages prepaid or paid on delivery on official letters last year amounted to £21,611, and the revenue from telegrams to £9,093, or £31,704 in all. In 1906 the value of free letters was £56,898, and of telegrams £24,168, or £81,066 in all. It is evident that many unnecessary telegrams must have been sent under the old system, and the present reduction in number has released for the pressing demands of the rapidly increasing public business an equivalent in time to the services of a considerable number of telegraphists. This applies also, but to a much less extent, to postages, as the Government Departments have benefited very considerably by the initial rate for letters being applied to any weight up to 4 oz.

In order to lighten the work of Departments posting large quantities of letters or circulars at one time, such letters are accepted unstamped, provided that the total postage is paid in one sum. There is also an arrangement whereby unstamped letters posted throughout the Dominion, which were formerly franked by officials upon receipt, may be delivered and the postage thereon collected from the Department to which they are addressed.

To further facilitate accounting it is proposed to issue at an early date credit notes, which may be used when posting large quantities of mail-matter. These will take the place of the high-value stamps, and be accepted in lieu thereof from Departments in prepayment of postage.

DEAD LETTERS.

The following comparative table shows the number of unclaimed letters, letter-cards, and post-cards dealt with in the Dead-letter Office and by Chief Postmasters during the undermentioned years :—

Manner of Disposal.	1884.	1885.	1890.	1896.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Opened and returned to the writers	68,942	66,592	60,540	63,112	68,872	74,132	76,692	100,036	107,476	107,271	119,642	125,106	137,210	162,103
Returned unopened to other countries	9,134	8,115	7,779	7,546	8,899	9,706	9,707	12,251	14,401	18,176	26,048	26,943	32,062	44,875
Reissued ..	107	185	141	148	219	178	265	*5,112	†13,373	203	234	265	358	336
Destroyed ..	3,986	2,872	2,660	4,069	3,368	4,536	4,900	5,705	6,249	9,579	12,167	18,060	27,575	29,216
Returned unopened by Chief Postmasters	17,593	19,187	21,931	26,414	33,273	22,915	40,282	44,523	54,285	93,920	85,670	97,267	117,666	153,942
Totals ..	99,762	96,951	93,051	101,289	114,631	111,467	131,846	167,627	195,784	229,149	243,761	267,641	314,871	390,472

* Including 4,011 troopers' letters. † Including 13,180 troopers' letters. ‡ Including 1,000 post-cards bearing imitation postage-stamps which were detained as being posted contrary to the regulations.