

## POSTAL NOTES.

The poundage on postal notes was reduced from the 1st January, 1908, and a new series of notes issued. Postal notes at £5 having been withdrawn from circulation as from the 31st October, 1907, the present series consists of the following denominations: 1s., poundage  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 1s. 6d., poundage  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 2s., poundage  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 2s. 6d., poundage  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 3s., poundage 1d.; 5s., poundage 1d.; 10s., poundage 2d.; 15s., poundage 2d.; £1, poundage 2d.

For the first time on record, the number of postal notes sold and paid during the year reached over a million in each case.

The following were created postal-note offices during the year 1907–1908: Clareville, Cowes, Government Buildings, Hastwell's, Hinuera, Inaha, Kakahi, Kiwi, Makatote, Okoroire, Orawia, Paekakariki, Paengaroa, Pohuenui, Puketapu, Puketeraki, Rangataua, Tangiteroria, Tapawera, Waiharara, Whakarewarewa, and Whareama, a total of 22. Three offices were closed—namely, Brunswick, Exhibition (Christchurch), and Ketu Bay.

The number of offices at which postal notes were sold at the end of the year was 707, as compared with 688 on the 31st March, 1907.

1,092,631 notes, of the value of £347,300, were sold, as against 981,642, for £314,053 6s., sold during the previous year, an increase of 11·31 per cent. in number and 10·59 per cent. in value.

The postal notes paid numbered 1,082,516, of the value of £344,841 18s., as compared with 975,898, of the value of £312,411 9s. 6d., paid during 1906–1907.

The postal-note commission amounted to £6,864, as against £6,729 15s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

## BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS.

The amount for which British postal orders may be issued to any one person on any one day for payment to the same payee is now unlimited.

The Imperial postal-order scheme has during the past year been extended to include Bechuanaland Protectorate and Morocco (British postal agencies at Casablanca, Fez, Larache, Mazagan, Mogador, Rabat, Tangier, and Tetuan).

36,600 orders have been sold, valued at £19,564 12s., and 12,238, for £8,533 19s., paid. An extended table of the transactions is printed elsewhere.

The 20s. order is the most popular, sales having reached 30 per cent. of the total. Following in order of popularity are the 10s., 5s., 1s., 2s. 6d., with a percentage of 13, 9, 5, and 5 respectively.

The following reductions in the poundage on British postal orders sold in New Zealand are to be made from the 1st July, 1908:—

On orders of 2s. and 2s. 6d. . . . .	From 2d. to 1d.
On orders from 11s. to 15s., inclusive . . . . .	From 3d. to 2d.

## OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

The payments made during the last financial year numbered 158,782, as against 152,502 in the preceding year, an increase of 6,280, or 4·12 per cent.

The following is a comparative return showing the number and amount of old-age pension payments made during the financial years 1906–7 and 1907–8:—

RETURN showing the Number and Amount of Old-age Pension Payments made each Month for the Two Years ended 31st March, 1908.

Month.	1906–7.		1907–8.	
	Number of Payments.	Amount.	Number of Payments.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
April . . . . .	12,191	25,285 12 8	12,982	26,597 2 1
May . . . . .	12,459	25,802 12 11	13,149	26,938 3 6
June . . . . .	12,451	25,765 4 6	13,153	26,931 3 4
July . . . . .	12,581	25,962 17 3	13,280	27,194 14 3
August . . . . .	12,645	26,098 2 7	13,252	27,110 12 8
September . . . . .	12,652	26,067 16 6	13,253	27,134 13 6
October . . . . .	12,806	26,334 15 0	13,270	27,146 15 5
November . . . . .	12,829	26,371 5 1	13,279	27,159 17 6
December . . . . .	12,959	26,637 0 2	13,379	27,158 10 3
January . . . . .	12,873	26,437 13 2	13,292	27,212 6 2
February . . . . .	13,060	26,782 14 3	13,228	27,284 0 8
March . . . . .	12,996	26,659 1 8	13,365	27,352 13 10
Totals . . . . .	152,502	£314,204 15 9	158,782	£325,220 13 2