

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue and expenditure of the Department for the financial year 1908-9 are shown in the following table :—

Item.	Postal.			Telegraph.			Total.		
<i>Receipts.</i>									
Stamps for postage .. .. .	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Money-order and postal-note commission .. .. .	480,958	8	0½	..	..	..	480,958	8	0½
Money-order commission received from foreign offices .. .. .	18,586	7	5	..	..	..	18,586	7	5
Private box and bag fees .. .. .	644	2	3	..	..	..	644	2	3
Miscellaneous receipts .. .. .	10,583	16	0	..	..	..	10,583	16	0
Paid telegrams .. .. .	33,869	6	6	4,587	6	1	38,456	12	7
Telephone exchanges .. .. .	..	..	..	233,516	10	4	233,516	10	4
	..	..	..	131,249	0	7	131,249	0	7
	544,642	0	2½	369,352	17	0	913,994	17	2½
Balance of expenditure over revenue .. .. .	..	..	..	25,297	2	6	..	..	..
Totals .. .. .	544,642	0	2½	394,649	19	6	913,994	17	2½
<i>Expenditure.</i>									
Salaries (classified officers) .. .. .	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries (country Postmasters and telephonists, and contributions to Railway officers) .. .. .	156,118	14	7	258,260	6	4	414,379	0	11
Conveyance of mails by sea .. .. .	20,880	15	0	34,801	5	0	55,682	0	0
Conveyance of inland mails .. .. .	55,682	2	10	..	..	..	55,682	2	10
Conveyance of mails by railway .. .. .	60,171	18	9	..	..	..	60,171	18	9
Money-order commission credited to foreign offices .. .. .	57,825	10	1	..	..	..	57,825	10	1
Maintenance of telegraph-lines .. .. .	2,114	16	5	..	..	..	2,114	16	5
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	40,900	8	11	40,900	8	11
	60,208	12	8	60,687	19	3	120,896	11	11
	413,002	10	4	394,649	19	6	807,652	9	10
Balance of revenue over expenditure (Postal) .. .. .	131,639	9	10½	..	..	..	..	..	..
" " (whole Department) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	106,342	7	4½
Totals .. .. .	544,642	0	2½	394,649	19	6	913,994	17	2½

The total revenue exceeded that of 1907-8 by £91,355 8s. 5d., and the expenditure exceeded the expenditure of 1907-8 by £98,627 13s. 8d.

Postal matter posted in New Zealand and received from abroad during the year reached a total of 89,089,871 letters, 7,643,831 post-cards, 47,420,009 other articles, and 930,267 parcels. The number of parcels insured during the year was 1,731, valued at £34,676 12s. 11d., upon which premiums amounting to £63 3s. 8d. were received.

488,084 money-orders, for £2,050,684 6s. 10d., were issued, and 371,424, for £1,747,670 19s. 1d. paid. The increase in the number of orders issued as compared with last year was 46,597.

The postal-note business continues to increase. During the year 1,222,280 postal notes, of the value of £389,143, were sold, being an increase of 11·87 per cent. in number and 12·05 in amount as compared with the preceding year.

The number of British postal orders sold increased from 36,600, for £19,564 12s., to 44,877, valued at £24,178 5s. 6d., and 14,801 orders, for £10,264 19s. 6d., were paid, as against 12,238, for £8,533 19s., paid during the previous year.

The Savings-bank deposits (£9,674,075 4s.) exceeded the withdrawals (£9,417,820 10s. 3d.) by £256,254 13s. 9d. There has been added £379,808 6s. 7d. as interest, making a total increase of £636,063 0s. 4d., and bringing the whole amount at credit up to £12,159,293 18s. 1d., a sum which equals £12 1s. 2d. per head of the population.

The number of old-age-pension payments was 164,633, as compared with 158,782 in the previous year, the respective amounts being £336,813 1s. and £325,220 13s. 2d.

The total number of telegrams forwarded was 7,425,693, an increase of 382,770, or 5·43 per cent., over the business of the previous year.

The number of bureau communications shows a marked increase, being 1,423,093, as against 1,210,174.

The amount expended on telegraph-extension was £163,033, with liabilities amounting to £68,837 on account of works for which the authority of Parliament was granted too late for the necessary expenditure to be brought within the financial year.

On the 31st March, 1909, there were 10,404 miles of telegraph-line and 32,654 miles of wire. The length of submarine cables within the Dominion was 368 knots.

The number of telephone-exchange connections still continues to increase rapidly. It has now reached 26,833.