

Claims on the General Government for £1,661,484 13s. 10d. were paid on behalf of the Treasury. Discount-stamps numbering 1,223,760, for £1,274 15s., were sold and 1,238,640, for £1,290 5s., redeemed during the year.

Contributions to the National Provident Fund collected by Postmasters amounted to £1,333 16s. 5d.

GROSS RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.

The gross amount received by the Department during 1911 was £36,387,554 5s. 4d., of which £30,227,885 13s. 11d. was departmental and £6,159,668 11s. 5d. on account of other Departments.

The gross amount paid out was £36,314,660 18s. 4½d., made up of £30,183,465 4s. 11½d. departmental and on behalf of other Departments, to individuals £4,000,577 15s. 1d., and to accounts £2,130,617 18s. 4d.

The total gross receipts and payments were therefore £72,702,215 3s. 8½d.

TELEGRAPHS.

The total value of the telegraph and telephone business for the year ended the 31st March, 1912, including miscellaneous telegraph receipts and Government telegrams, was £479,289 17s. 4d., as compared with £438,989 19s. 10d. for the previous year—an increase of £40,299 17s. 6d., or 9·18 per cent.

The following is a comparison of the traffic in paid telegrams during the last five years:—

	Number.		Revenue.	
			£	
1907-8 ...	6,958,279	Increase, 12·96 per cent. ...	222,926	Increase, 10·2 per cent.
1908-9 ...	7,338,017	" 5·46 "	233,517	" 4·75 "
1909-10 ...	7,757,128	" 5·71 "	244,906	" 4·88 "
1910-11 ...	8,268,340	" 6·59 "	265,624	" 8·45 "
1911-12 ...	8,971,725	" 8·51 "	288,431	" 8·59 "

The number of telegrams forwarded and the revenue derived therefrom during the four quarters of the financial years 1910-11 and 1911-12 respectively are as follows:—

Quarter.	Number of Telegrams forwarded.			Revenue.			
	Year ended 31st March, 1911.	Year ended 31st March, 1912.	Increase per Cent.	Year ended 31st March, 1911	Year ended 31st March, 1912.	Increase per Cent.	
June quarter ...	1,958,996	2,099,745	7·18	£ 62,873 10 2½	£ 66,808 8 2½	6·26	
September quarter ...	1,930,574	2,084,614	7·98	62,382 16 11½	66,738 18 2½	6·98	
December quarter ...	2,160,751	2,353,496	8·92	69,195 18 11	76,480 3 5½	10·53	
March quarter ...	2,218,019	2,433,870	9·73	71,171 16 9½	78,404 6 8	10·16	
	8,268,340	8,971,725	8·51	265,624 2 10½	288,431 16 6½	8·59	

The telegraph receipts for the financial year, including telephone-exchange subscriptions, private-wire rents, &c., amounted to £474,458 6s. 10d., as compared with £434,115 19s. 8½d. in 1910-11—an increase of £40,342 7s. 1½d., or 9·29 per cent.

The expenditure was £469,716 17s. 7d., as against £446,709 17s. 1d. for the previous year—an increase of £23,007 0s. 6d., or 5·15 per cent.

There were 11,805 miles of line and 39,370 miles of wire at the close of the year—an increase of 489 and 2,158 miles respectively.

The net expenditure out of Public Works Fund for telegraph-extension was £147,692 6s. 8d., as compared with £111,867 13s. 1d. in 1910-11.

The number of private wires and subsidized lines was 519, as compared with 536 in 1910-11.

The amount received for rent and maintenance, &c., of such lines was £3,325 17s. 4d., as against £3,712 15s. 4d. in 1910-11.

The total number of telegraph and telephone offices open at the close of the year was 2,081. Of these, 310 were Morse-telegraph offices and 1,771 were telephone-offices. The total number of telegraph and telephone offices combined with post-offices was 1747; not combined, 334.

The number of telegrams of all codes forwarded during the last financial year was 9,063,133—an increase of 702,486, or 8·40 per cent. over 1910-11.

The proportion of paid telegrams per head of population was 8·34, and 7·78 the previous year.

The number of ordinary telegrams forwarded was 5,911,322, of the value of £185,612 9s. 4d., compared with 5,536,706, of the value of £173,142 15s. 11½d., in 1910-11—an increase of 374,616 in number, and of £12,469 13s. 4½d. in amount.

The urgent telegrams numbered 258,983, to the value of £15,854 8s. 10d.—a decrease of 3,161 in number and £219 8s. 3d. in amount.

The average value of each ordinary telegram was 7·54d., and of each urgent telegram 1s. 2·69d.

440,506 Press telegrams, of the value of £22,152 18s. 7½d., were forwarded in 1911-12, as compared with 438,114, valued at £22,069 11s. 1d., forwarded in 1910-11—an increase in number of 2,392, or 0·55 per cent., and an increase of £83 7s. 6½d., or 0·38 per cent. in value.