

AVERAGE NUMBER OF LETTERS POSTED PER UNIT OF POPULATION.

1929, 101.6.

NUMBER OF POST-OFFICES IN DOMINION.

Small country post-offices continue to be replaced by rural deliveries. Offices opened during the year numbered 14, while offices closed numbered 52. The number of offices remaining open on the 31st March, 1930, was 1,859.

UNDELIVERABLE POSTAL PACKETS.

The following is a comparison of letters and other articles (including registered) dealt with as undeliverable during the year 1929, compared with those so dealt with during 1928:—

Year.	Returned direct to Senders from Chief Offices ("Special Request").	Returned direct to Senders from Dead Letter Office.	Returned to other Administrations from Chief Offices ("Special Request").	Returned to other Administrations from Dead Letter Office.	Destroyed (Senders unknown and Contents of no Value).	Total.
<i>Letters.</i>						
1929..	333,576	288,474	57,527	32,678	31,506	743,761
1928..	283,921	280,645	64,781	34,000	29,692	693,039
<i>Registered Articles (included in above Totals).</i>						
1929..	21,871	9,504	..	873
1928..	11,785	9,639	..	961
<i>Other Articles.</i>						
1929..	265,109	5,686	117,069	2,414	..	390,278
1928..	260,106	11,317	115,596	3,208	..	390,227

The proportion of undeliverable letters to the total number of letters delivered was 0.46 per cent. In 1928 the proportion was 0.45 per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

	1929.	1928.
Letters and letter-cards posted without addresses	12,048	13,888
Letters imperfectly or insufficiently addressed	23,122	23,972
Letters intercepted on account of libellous addresses	82	66
Newspapers received without addresses	5,752	8,016
Other articles received without addresses	4,629	5,099
Newspapers returned to publishers as undeliverable	44,854	42,949
Articles bearing previously used stamps	80	80

During 1929 there were dealt with in the Dead Letter Office 5,080 packets (other than parcels) the contents of which gave little or no indication of the senders' names or addresses. In a large number of these cases special effort on the part of the Dead Letter Office was successful in tracing either the senders or the addressees. Two hundred and forty-four letters from overseas bearing insufficient or wrong addresses were specially dealt with, and in 228 cases correct delivery was effected.

An auction of unclaimed packets and parcels was held during the year, at which 149 bundles of miscellaneous articles were sold.

PROHIBITED POSTAL PACKETS.

During the year 3,210 letters addressed to persons or firms the transmission of correspondence for whom is prohibited under section 32 of the Post and Telegraph Act, 1928, were intercepted and forwarded to the Dead Letter Office. (In 1928 the number was 641.) The letters for the most part were addressed to agents of art unions or lotteries in other countries. Some were addressed to recognized quacks, while others were addressed to persons who deal in obscene books or pictures, or are engaged in fraudulent business.

MISSING POSTAL PACKETS.

During 1929, 6,472 inquiries for missing postal packets were received by the Department. In 3,639 cases, or considerably more than half the total number, the packets were traced or otherwise accounted for satisfactorily. The position regarding delay in delivery is as follows: Sender responsible for delay, 1,071; addressee responsible for delay, 1,249; Post Office responsible for delay, 376; no delay or responsibility not fixed, 943. In 2,833 cases it was not possible to determine the disposal of the packets. When compared with the total number of articles posted, this represents a loss of 0.00102 per cent.