

REGISTER OF NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES.

Twenty-two newspapers were registered for transmission by post, and sixteen were removed from the register. Fourteen magazines were registered, and one was removed from the register.

The number of registered newspapers on the 31st March, 1930, was 295, and the number of registered magazines 315.

CUSTOMS PARCELS.

The following table shows the declared value of goods received by parcel-post from places abroad and the Customs duty thereon; also the declared value of goods despatched by parcel-post to places abroad. The figures for the years 1929 and 1928 are shown in each case:—

	1929.			1928.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Declared value of received parcels ..	1,648,250	0	0	1,523,924	0	0
Customs duty	372,143	10	8	351,896	15	4
Declared value of forwarded parcels ..	115,580	0	0	91,651	0	0

POSTAL NOTES.

The postal-note service continues to be freely used. The number of postal notes issued was 240,651 more than the previous year, and the value increased by £65,822.

The sales for the year were 3,816,635 postal notes, of a total value of £1,123,446, as against 3,575,984, of a total value of £1,057,624, during the previous year.

The commission totalled £25,711 8s., an increase of £1,413 4s. 11d. on that for the previous year.

BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS.

British postal-order business again increased slightly, 157,777 orders, of a value of £88,057 15s. 4d., being sold, as against 155,680 orders, of a value of £87,046 9s. 11d., for the previous year. The number of orders paid was 34,687, of a value of £20,264, as against 33,652, of a value of £19,904, paid during the previous year.

MONEY-ORDERS.

The extent of the use of money-orders by the general public may be gauged by the fact that 835,358 orders, amounting to £5,187,553, were issued during the year, being an increase over the previous year of 27,473 in number and £210,031 in value.

The commission amounted to £25,673 8s. 2d., an increase of £789 11s. 8d.

SAVINGS-BANK.

The deposits amounted to £28,561,854 and the withdrawals to £29,575,994, as against £27,252,381 and £28,111,940 respectively for the previous year. The excess of withdrawals over deposits for the year was £1,014,140, as compared with £859,559 for the previous year. Notwithstanding the excess of withdrawals over deposits the total amount at credit of the Savings-bank Fund shows an increase of £792,274 over the previous year, the interest credited to depositors amounting to £1,806,414. The sum at the credit of the fund is now £49,436,491.

POST OFFICE INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES.

Post Office Investment Certificates provide a regular avenue of investment for people of small means who desire the slightly higher rate of interest offered by a fixed deposit.

The certificates are issued for one, two, and five years currency, respectively.

The total sales since 1st September, 1927, the date on which the new issue was first available, amount to £1,729,781, of which £638,669 was sold during the past financial year.

TELEGRAPH AND TOLL SERVICES.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH CONFERENCE, BRUSSELS, 1928: CODE LANGUAGE.

Following upon the decisions of the International Telegraph Conference held at Brussels in September, 1928, new regulations relating to the acceptance of international telegrams in code language came into force on the 1st October, 1929. Telegrams of which the text contains words in code language are divided into two categories, A and B. The former comprises telegrams of which the text contains code words of not more than ten letters, having at least one vowel if they comprise not more than five letters; at least two vowels if they comprise six, seven, or eight letters; and at least three vowels if they comprise nine or ten letters. Category B comprises messages which contain code words or not more than five letters, subject to no condition or restriction as to the method of formation of the words. Messages of category A are charged at the ordinary rate, while the charges for messages of category B are computed at two-thirds of the total cost of such messages at the full ordinary rate.