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TWENTIETH REPORT

OF

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,

ON

THE POST OFFICE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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CONTENTS.

	Page
Inland Service:—	
Post Offices - - - - -	5
Free Deliveries - - - - -	6
Early Collections - - - - -	6
Dublin Deliveries - - - - -	6
Rugby Junction - - - - -	6
Extra Work thrown on Derby Post Office - - - - -	6
Improvements at a single Post Office - - - - -	7
Pneumatic Tubes - - - - -	7
Letters, Post Cards, Book Packets, and Newspapers :—	
Returns of Letters - - - - -	7
Number of Letters, Post Cards, Book Packets, and Newspapers - - - - -	7
Compulsory Registration - - - - -	7
Missing Letters - - - - -	7
Robberies from Door Letter-Boxes - - - - -	8
Case of Letter Stealing - - - - -	8
Letters containing Postage Stamps - - - - -	8
Groundless Charges - - - - -	8
Returned Letters - - - - -	9
Newspapers for Foreign Parts - - - - -	9
Abuse of Sample Post to India - - - - -	9
Unaddressed Letters - - - - -	9
Postage Stamps found loose - - - - -	9
Valentines - - - - -	9
Telegraphs:—	
Development of Service - - - - -	10
Telegraph Offices - - - - -	10
Additional Wires - - - - -	10
Duplex System - - - - -	10
Press Messages - - - - -	10
Number of Words sent in one night to Provincial Newspapers - - - - -	11
Private Wires - - - - -	11
Special Arrangements - - - - -	11
Damage to Plant - - - - -	11
Removal of Central Telegraph Office to New Building - - - - -	11
Money Orders:—	
Money Order Offices - - - - -	12
Money Order System with Places abroad - - - - -	12
Vienna Exhibition - - - - -	12
Number of Inland Orders - - - - -	12
Proportion to Population - - - - -	12
Number of Colonial Orders - - - - -	12
Number of Foreign Orders - - - - -	12
Militiamen - - - - -	12
Post Office Savings Banks :—	
Progress - - - - -	12
Number of Savings Banks - - - - -	13
Extension of Hours for receiving Deposits - - - - -	13
Depositors and Deposits - - - - -	13
Proportion of Depositors to population - - - - -	13
Interest - - - - -	13
Cost per transaction - - - - -	13
Penny Banks - - - - -	13
Depositors residing Abroad - - - - -	13
Losses from Fraud - - - - -	13
British System adopted by other Countries - - - - -	14

	Page
Post Office Annuities and Life Insurances :—	
Immediate Annuities - - - - -	14
Deferred Annuities - - - - -	14
Life Policies - - - - -	14
Licenses :—	
Number of Licenses - - - - -	14
Foreign and Colonial Posts :—	
Australian Mail Service - - - - -	14
Agreement with Egypt - - - - -	15
Speed <i>versus</i> Postage - - - - -	15
Staff of Officers :—	
Number of Officers - - - - -	16
Health of the Officers - - - - -	16
Death Rate - - - - -	16
Candidates medically examined - - - - -	16
Examples of Replies from Candidates - - - - -	16
Soldiers as Rural Post Messengers - - - - -	16
Employment of Women - - - - -	16
Drunkenness - - - - -	17
Revenue and Expenditure in relation to Postage and Money Orders :—	
Gross Revenue - - - - -	17
Expenditure - - - - -	17
Chief items of Expenditure - - - - -	18
Net Revenue - - - - -	18

CONTENTS OF APPENDIX.

APPENDIX A. :—	
Estimated Number of Letters delivered in the United Kingdom in each year, beginning with the year 1839 - - - - -	20
APPENDIX B. :—	
Estimated Number of Letters, Post Cards, Books, and Newspapers delivered in 1872 and 1873 - - - - -	21
APPENDIX C. :—	
Letters, Post Cards, Books, and Newspapers received in the Returned Letter Offices of London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dublin respectively, in the years 1872 and 1873 - - - - -	22
APPENDIX D. :—	
Improvements in the Postal Arrangements at a single Post Office (Norwich) during the year 1873 - - - - -	23
APPENDIX E. :—	
Estimate of the Weight of Correspondence carried, and the Value of Postal Service performed for Public Offices in the Year 1873 - - - - -	24
APPENDIX F. :—	
Home Packet Service : (List of Contracts.) - - - - -	25
APPENDIX G. :—	
Colonial and Foreign Packet Service : (List of Contracts.) - - - - -	26
APPENDIX H. :—	
Number of Mails daily between London and other Post Towns in England and Wales - - - - -	28
APPENDIX I. :—	
(A.) Number of Telegraphic Messages - - - - -	28
(B.) Private Wire Contracts - - - - -	29
APPENDIX J. :—	
(A.) Progress of Money Order Business since its commencement - - - - -	31
(B.) Amount of Money Order transactions with the principal Colonies and Foreign Countries - - - - -	33

	Page
APPENDIX K. :—	
Progress of Post Office Savings Bank Business since its commencement	- 34
Balance Sheet of the Post Office Savings Banks	- 35
Extracts from the Report of the Controller	- 37
APPENDIX L. :—	
Annuities and Life Insurances	- 39
APPENDIX M. :—	
Licenses	- 41
APPENDIX N. :—	
Staff of Officers	- 42
APPENDIX O. :—	
Extract from the Medical Officer's Report	- 43
APPENDIX P. :—	
Force and Expenditure, in relation to Postage and Money Orders, in the last Ten Years	- 44
APPENDIX Q. :—	
Gross and Net Revenue from Postage and Money Orders in the last Ten Years	- 45
APPENDIX R. :—	
Gross Revenue, Cost of Management, and Net Revenue from Postage and Money Orders, since the Year 1837	- 46

TWENTIETH REPORT.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

MY LORDS,

I HAVE the honour to present to your Lordships the Twentieth Annual Report on the Post Office ; being that for the year 1873.

INLAND SERVICE.

The number of Post Offices in the United Kingdom was increased last year by 270 ; so that there are now upwards of 12,500, of which 880 are Head Offices. Post Offices.

The number of Road Letter Boxes was increased by 700 ; making a total of nearly 9,000.

Thus, the whole number of postal receptacles is now nearly 21,500 ; as compared with about 15,200 ten years ago, and with little more than 4,500 before the establishment of Penny Postage in 1840.

In London alone there are more than 1,600 such receptacles.

The new Post Office in St. Martins-le-Grand has been completed and brought into full occupation ; but I regret to state that owing to the transfer of the Telegraphs to the Post Office, the building is not sufficient for the purposes originally contemplated ; the consequence being that the Money Order and Savings Bank duties have still to be carried on for the present in detached offices. Enquiries have, however, been set on foot with a view to provide another building for these and other duties.

Much relief has, of course, been given to those employed in the old Office (now reserved almost entirely for the ordinary business of a Post Office) ; but large alterations will be needed in the portions vacated to adapt them to their new uses.

The new Offices at Birmingham, Bury (Lancashire), Carlisle, and Colchester have been completed and brought into use. New Offices are in course of erection at Aberdeen, Chester, and Limerick ; and sites for new Offices have been purchased, or are about to be purchased, at Hull, Shrewsbury, Peterborough, Oldham, and other places.

A large and commodious building has been purchased for a new Office at Norwich. A similar purchase has been made at Leith. And additional property adjoining the Post Office at Glasgow has been acquired for enlarging that Office. Several new Branch Offices have been provided in London and its suburbs.

Free deliveries. At nearly 660 places free deliveries have been established for the first time; and at more than 900 other places the deliveries have been extended in their area or increased in number.

Early collections.

The arrangement referred to in the Eighteenth Annual Report under which, in London and many other large towns, a very early collection of letters is made, so as to admit of their being sent out by the first delivery or forwarded by the earliest morning mails, has been further extended; and in London alone nearly half a million of letters and other packets are now thus collected weekly.

Dublin deliveries.

Last autumn, under the supervision of Mr. Boucher, Controller of the Circulation Department in London, who was sent over specially for the purpose, extensive changes were made in the arrangements for the collection and delivery of letters in Dublin and its suburbs; resulting in more frequent collections and deliveries, and in a more expeditious mode of performing the work. One of the chief alterations consisted in the establishment, on the plan of the Postal Districts in London, of separate centres for collection and delivery.

Rugby junction.

As an instance of the large amount of work for which the Department has to provide at important Railway junctions, it may be mentioned that at the Rugby Station nearly 300 bags are dealt with daily; three Mail Porters being wholly engaged on the duty of transferring them to and from the trains.

Extra work thrown on Derby Post Office.

There are also places at which the work, never otherwise than heavy, is subject to remarkable fluctuations. In the case of Derby, for instance, the local Postmaster reports as follows:—
 “ In consequence of this town being as nearly as possible in the centre of England, it frequently happens that Mail Bags which are thrown out of course in consequence of railway accidents or the non-arrival of trains at the proper time at the different points of junction, are sent here for disposal, entailing heavy additional pressure on the force. Thus, on the 28th November, in consequence of an accident at Syston, all the letters from Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and the Eastern Counties for both the North and South of England were dealt with at Derby. Other cases, arising mainly from the failure of the London and North-western Company's trains to reach Tamworth in time for the Midland trains, have been of very frequent occurrence; but the clerks have always shown great energy and good judgment in meeting these emergencies; and by a prompt despatch of special bags the correspondence has been saved from delay which otherwise would have been inevitable. On five different occasions during the year, the Midland Railway Company alone have posted at one time

" 18,000 letters or book packets ; but neither these nor the " regular correspondence have suffered any delay."

A Table given, by way of example, in the Appendix, page 23, shows how numerous are the improvements which are sometimes made in the course of a year at a single Post Office. Improvements at a single Post Office.

At the request of the Pneumatic Despatch Company, a few Day Mail Bags to and from towns on the North-western Line of Railway have for some time past been conveyed daily by tube between Euston Station and the terminal point of the company's office in St. Martin's-le-Grand. The working, thus far, shows that these bags may indeed be transmitted from Euston Station to the Chief Office in a little less time than they can be conveyed by mail cart ; but no circumstance has arisen to alter the view always held by the Department, that the system offers no advantages to counterbalance the inconveniences attaching to it, especially those which would be the result of even a temporary interruption in the working of the tubes. Pneumatic tubes.

LETTERS, POST CARDS, BOOK PACKETS, AND NEWSPAPERS.

The measure referred to in the last Report for checking the returns of the numbers of letters and other packets having been in operation during the whole of the last year, I am able to speak, on trustworthy information, regarding the actual numbers ; although these, after all, must be given with some allowance for error, seeing that the counting which serves as the basis of calculation, though now made with great care, is confined to a single week in the year ; such week, however, being chosen so as, it is believed, to afford a fair average. Returns of letters.

Subject to these remarks, the number of letters last year may be taken at 907,000,000 ; the number of post cards at 72,000,000 ; that of book packets at 129,000,000 ; and that of newspapers at 125,000,000 ; making a total of 1,233,000,000. These numbers show an increase on the corrected numbers for 1872 of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on letters, of 13 per cent. on book packets, and of 15 per cent. on newspapers, but a decrease of more than 5 per cent. on the number of post cards. In the aggregate there is an increase of about 4 per cent. Number of letters, post cards, book packets, and newspapers.

Compulsory registration, formerly confined to letters known to contain coin, has been extended to letters which, owing to careless packing, are seen to enclose either jewellery or watches ; and although the change has led occasionally to erroneous charges (which, of course, were corrected as soon as the fact was known), there has been but little complaint on the subject. Though many watches are sent through the post, the chief articles to which the new regulation applies are jewellery, and the town principally affected is Birmingham, where the repair of jewellery forms an extensive trade. Compulsory registration.

While there appears to have been a considerable decrease last year in the number of missing letters, partly owing no doubt to the extension of the rule of compulsory registration, it must Missing letters.

be admitted that thefts of letters by servants of the Post Office are still only too common ; although, as stated in previous Reports, charges are not unfrequently brought against the Department which are found on inquiry to be groundless.

Robberies from
door letter-
boxes.

Of late there have been many robberies of letters from door letter-boxes ; owing to the boxes being too shallow or otherwise ill-adapted for their purpose. Frequently too the doors to which they are attached are left unlocked till late at night ; the consequence being that in the evenings or on Sundays the letters which have been deposited there sometimes become the prey of thieves.

Case of letter
stealing.

Not unfrequently, in the case of these and other thefts, the offender proves to be an inmate of the house, office, or shop ; but on the part of the owners a disposition is found (not unnatural in a country where, happily, honesty is the general rule,) absolutely to disbelieve any evidence to this effect until its amount becomes overwhelming. The following is an illustration :—Complaint having been made by a dealer in foreign postage stamps that several letters containing such stamps had not reached him, a careful investigation was made, but for some time without any result. The letters should have been dropped by the letter carrier into the addressee's letter-box, but to this box no one, the dealer asserted, had access but himself. Some time afterwards, however, a cover addressed to the complainant was picked up in the street ; and on inquiry being made whether the letter to which it belonged had been delivered, the complainant stated that it had not. But it so happened that the letter-carrier had a clear recollection of dropping this letter into the letter-box, and moreover remembered to have observed a young girl who was at the window move, as he thought, towards the box. This led to the girl being closely questioned, when she admitted the theft, confessing also that she had committed other similar thefts previously. Thus, by a mere chance, a suspicion which had been cast on the Post Office was dispelled.

Letters con-
taining post-
age stamps.

While, however, by the adoption of compulsory registration in the case of badly-packed letters containing jewellery or watches, the number of lost letters of this kind has much decreased, the temptations to theft arising from the far more frequent cases of bad packing of letters containing postage stamps, remain in full force ; the intention to apply compulsory registration to this class of letters not having been carried into effect.

Groundless
charges.

Irrespective of dishonesty on the part of some of its servants, the Department is, no doubt, often in fault in cases of the mis-sending or mis-delivery of letters ; but some complainants on this score, as on that of dishonesty, instead of first carefully inquiring into the cases themselves, in order to ascertain whether the error be not at their own door, and then, if necessary, applying to the Post Office for investigation, rush into print and make sweeping charges which ultimately prove to be without foundation. Two instances of the kind occurred last year.

The Post Office does not for one moment claim to be immaculate ; but I am sure I shall be supported by public opinion when I protest against judgment being ever pronounced on a mere indictment which is unsupported by evidence, and with reference to which the accused party has not had an opportunity of saying a word in defence.

The number of letters which, owing to wrong addresses and other causes, were sent to the Returned Letter Office last year was rather more than 4,000,000; being less than one in every 200 of the total number of letters; and as respects the great majority, it was found possible either to re-issue them to corrected addresses, or to return them to the writers.*

Returned letters.

Owing to the adoption of the measures mentioned in the last Report, there was a large decrease in the number of those newspapers for places abroad which from insufficient payment of postage, or other cause, were stopped in their transmission; the number having fallen from more than 700,000 in 1872 to less than 250,000 in 1873. Even the latter number, however, is large; and, with a view to its diminution, I would again urge the senders of newspapers to foreign parts always to be careful to see that the regulations are strictly observed; especially in regard to the value of the stamps affixed, and to the newspapers being posted within eight days after publication. Many persons seem to forget that as regards newspapers going abroad, the postage, when the paper weighs more than four ounces, is generally double; and that in no case whatever is the halfpenny stamp sufficient. A reference to the British Postal Guide would keep every one right in these matters.

Newspapers for foreign parts.

Till lately the privilege of sending samples by post to or from India was much abused; many packets having been found to contain articles of wearing apparel or fancy work; but the number of such packets has greatly diminished, owing, it is supposed, to the arrangement now made for the conveyance of small parcels at low rates by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

Abuse of sample post to India.

The number of letters posted without any address last year was unusually large, viz., about 18,700; nearly 500 of which contained cash, cheques, or bills of exchange, of an aggregate value of more than 13,000*l*.

Unaddressed letters.

Nearly 60,000 postage stamps were found loose in the different post offices; most of them having dropped off letters, newspapers, or book-packets to which they had been insecurely attached.

Postage stamps found loose.

A large number of valentines still continue to be sent every year through the post; and some idea of the magnitude of the extra work thereby thrown upon the Department may be gathered from the fact that on the eve of last St. Valentine's day, no fewer than 306 extra mail bags, each 3 feet long and 2 feet wide, were brought into requisition, at the Chief Office alone, for the conveyance of the valentines posted in London for despatch to the different parts of the United Kingdom.

Valentines.

* See table in Appendix, page 22, giving details.

TELEGRAPHS.

Development
of service.

The telegraphic business again shows a large increase; the number of messages, irrespective of communications for the newspapers, having been upwards of 17,000,000; or nearly 17 per cent. more than in 1872.*

Telegraph
offices.

The system was extended during the year to 157 additional Post Offices, making the whole number of Postal Telegraphic Offices nearly 5,600.

Additional
wires.

Additional wires have been provided for Bristol, Exeter, Plymouth, and Cardiff; and many places, including Guernsey and Jersey, have, to the saving of delay and risk of error, been put, for the first time, into direct communication with London, instead of having their messages sent, preparatorily, to an intermediate station.

An improvement has been made in the telegraphic service of the chief towns in North Wales; the communication between London and Newcastle-on-Tyne has been increased; that between towns in the Potteries and what is known as the "Black Country," and Birmingham on the one side, and Manchester on the other has been accelerated; and a direct wire has been provided between Bristol and Leeds, Birmingham and Leeds, and Birmingham and Sheffield.

Much also has been done in Scotland; and although the arrangements contemplated in that part of the country have not been quite completed, relief has been afforded, during the pressure of business in the tourist season, to the offices at Aberdeen, Perth, and Inverness, and in the Western Highlands. The service north of Inverness has also been improved.

The extensive improvement of the telegraphic system in Ireland in the years 1870 and 1871 left comparatively little to be done in that portion of the kingdom, though steps have been taken towards securing, as far as possible, uniformity of apparatus there; an alteration from which much benefit will result.

Duplex system.

The greatest improvement, however, last year was, perhaps, the application of the so-called "Duplex" system to many of the principal wires. By means of this apparatus (the perfecting of which is largely due to the American electrician, Mr. Stearns) a telegraph wire can be worked simultaneously in opposite directions; and thus the transmitting power of about 70 wires, varying in length from a few miles to some hundreds, has been practically doubled.

The principle of the duplex working has, I believe, been known for a long time; but it is only within the last year that it has been successfully applied to British telegraphs.

Press messages.

There has been a large increase in the telegrams for newspapers; the number of words received for transmission having risen from about 26,000,000† to nearly 38,000,000, or by nearly 50 per cent.

* See table in Appendix, page 28, giving details.

† In the last Report the number was given erroneously as 28,000,000.

This number, however, great as it is, gives no adequate idea of the work done, because many of the messages have been sent to more than one newspaper. Thus, the actual number of words forwarded last year was more than 214,000,000.

On one occasion, when an unusual number of events of interest were reported from various parts of the country, upwards of 300,000 words of news, or about 150 columns of the "Times" were transmitted from the Central Telegraph Office in London in a single night.

Number of words sent in one night to Provincial Newspapers.

The increase in the business done for newspapers has been accompanied by an increased payment of 10,000*l*.

The revenue derived from wires laid down by the Post Office to private houses continues rapidly to increase; the amount last year having been 47,000*l*. as against 38,000*l*. in 1872.*

Private wires.

The "Special Arrangements Branch" of the Postal Telegraph Service continues to work vigorously. Special arrangements were made on more than 350 occasions; causing the transmission of 370,000 ordinary messages and 7,000,000 words of news for the press. The income from this source was more than 20,000*l*.; being an increase of more than 25 per cent. on that of the previous year.

Special arrangements.

On two occasions last year violent storms and atmospheric disturbances caused serious damage to the telegraphic plant. The first of these was on the 3rd February, when owing to heavy snow-storms serious failures occurred in the circuits to the north of England, and to Scotland and Ireland. The weather moderating, however, every wire was restored to full efficiency by the night of the 6th. The second was on the 16th December, when owing to high winds there were again serious interruptions in communication with the north and with the Midland counties. All injuries, however, were repaired in the course of the next day.

Damage to plant.

At the end of the year preparations, requiring prolonged and careful consideration, were made for the removal of the London Central Telegraph Office from the old building to the new Post Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand; and soon after the turn of the year the removal was effected. So well had everything been arranged, and so zealously and accurately were the arrangements carried out, that no interruption of any kind occurred; indeed the clerks in the provincial offices were not aware of the change. The great telegraphic business which up to the 17th January had been conducted in the old building in Telegraph Street was on that night, as the clock struck ten, taken up without the slightest hesitation or confusion in the new Post Office building; where it has been carried on ever since, with increased advantage to the public service and with much greater ease and comfort to the officers. My predecessor expressed himself at the time in terms of warm approval of the skill and energy shown in planning and carrying out this delicate, complex, and exten-

Removal of Central Telegraph Office to new building.

* For further details, see Appendix, pages 29 and 30.

sive change; and I am glad to have the opportunity of recording my own sense of the way in which all the arrangements of the new office have been brought into operation.

MONEY ORDERS.*

Money Order Offices.	During the last year more than 230 additional Money Order Offices were opened; making the whole number upwards of 4,800.
Money Order system with places abroad.	The Money Order system was also extended to Mauritius, Smyrna, Valparaiso, and Coquimbo. It now too embraces the whole of Egypt, instead of being confined to Alexandria and Suez, and arrangements have been made for an exchange of Money Orders between India and Canada.
Vienna Exhibition.	During the International Exhibition last year in Austria, with which country there is as yet no general exchange of Money Orders, arrangements were made for the transaction of Money Order business with Vienna; but the number of Orders issued was not large.
Number of Inland Orders.	The number of Inland Orders last year was upwards of 15,000,000; being an increase of about 8 per cent. on the number in the previous year; and the aggregate amount of the Orders was upwards of 25,000,000 <i>l.</i> ; being an average of rather more than 1 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> per Order.
Proportion to population.	The proportion of Orders to population was, in England and Scotland, about one Order to two inhabitants, but in Ireland only one to five.
Number of Colonial Orders.	The number of Orders which passed between this country and the colonies was upwards of 165,000; being an average increase of 9 per cent. The greatest increase was in the cases of Canada and India. The aggregate amount was 670,000 <i>l.</i> ; of which more than 580,000 <i>l.</i> was sent from the colonies, as against less than 90,000 <i>l.</i> from the mother country.
Number of Foreign Orders.	Between the United Kingdom and those foreign countries with which it exchanges Money Orders, nearly 150,000 Orders were transmitted, amounting to upwards of 530,000 <i>l.</i> , of which sum nearly 400,000 <i>l.</i> came to this country. The average increase in the Foreign Orders was nearly 40 per cent.; the greatest being in the Orders from the United States.
Militiamen.	An arrangement, which was turned to much account, was made last year in the interests of the families of militiamen, whereby, during the period of the training season, small sums were sent weekly by means of Money Orders, to the men's wives and families.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.†

Progress.	The Post Office Savings Banks have again made considerable progress.
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* For detailed information, see Appendix, page 31.

† For detailed information, see Appendix, page 34.

The number of offices has increased by nearly 250, making a total of more than 4,800. In the London District alone there are now 560; so that from almost any point in the thickly populated portions of the metropolis one may be found within a distance of a few hundred yards.

Number of savings banks.

In order to accommodate depositors who cannot conveniently attend during the usual hours of business, it has been the rule, for some years past, to receive deposits at the Receiving Houses in London and provincial towns on Saturday evenings; and to afford still greater facilities arrangements were made in the early part of last year to keep open many of these offices on Friday evenings also.

Extension of hours for receiving deposits.

The number of depositors has increased by about 120,000; making the whole number at the end of the year more than a million and a half; while the amount of deposits, including interest due, has advanced by about 2,000,000*l.*, and at the end of the year reached more than 21,000,000*l.*

Depositors and deposits.

Considerable as was the increase in the deposits last year, it fell far short of what it might have been had habits of greater sobriety and thrift prevailed in the large class that was in the receipt of high wages, and had not trade and agriculture been interrupted by lamentable strikes and lock-outs.

The proportion of depositors to population was, in England and Wales, 1 to about 16, and in Scotland 1 to about 72; but in Ireland it was only 1 to about 105; although, as heretofore, the average sum belonging to each depositor was larger in Ireland than in either England or Scotland; being upwards of 16*l.*, as compared with less than 14*l.* in England and less than 9*l.* in Scotland.

Proportion of depositors to population.

With reference to the comparatively small number of depositors in Scotland it is right to point out that in that part of the kingdom the ordinary banks allow interest for small sums of money.

The sum accruing to the depositors for interest last year was 478,000*l.*, being an increase of 48,000*l.* on the previous year.

Interest.

The cost to the Post Office of each transaction in Savings Bank business, i.e., of each separate deposit or withdrawal, is still about 6*d.*, as compared with 1*s.* in the old Savings Banks.

Cost per transaction.

More than 100 accounts last year were opened with Penny Banks; this great increase being chiefly attributed to the movement set on foot by the Provident Knowledge Society.

Penny banks.

Many persons temporarily residing abroad, in countries with which we exchange Money Orders, avail themselves of these Orders to remit money to be deposited in our Savings Banks.

Depositors residing abroad.

As the recent trials of two or three Postmasters for frauds in connection with depositors' accounts have attracted public notice, it may be well to mention that the total loss (all falling upon the Post Office) which has resulted from such frauds during the period of more than 12 years, from the establishment

Losses from fraud.

of Post Office Savings Banks to the end of 1873, was under 3,000*l.*, or less, on an average, than 250*l.* a year.

Although the Department took upon itself the whole of this loss, part of it might, in justice, have been thrown upon some of the depositors for neglecting to observe the printed regulations, a careful attention to which would, in many instances, have entirely prevented any fraud.

British system
of Post Office
Savings Banks
adopted by
other countries.

It is gratifying to remark the extent to which the system of the British Postal Savings Banks has been adopted by our colonies and by foreign countries. On this point some interesting statements, which enter into the report of Mr. Thomson, the Controller of the Savings Bank Department, will be found in the Appendix, page 37.

POST OFFICE ANNUITIES AND LIFE INSURANCES.*

Immediate
Annuities.

At the end of 1873 the number of immediate Annuities was nearly 4,000 ; being an increase during the year of about 1,300 ; and the amount payable for these annuities had risen from 46,000*l.* to more than 54,000*l.*

Deferred
Annuities.

In the number of deferred Annuities the increase was but small. The total amount is rather more than 5,400*l.*

Life Policies.

The Life Policies in the course of the year increased from about 3,300 to more than 3,600 ; and the amount rose to more than 280,000*l.* ; being an increase of 25,000*l.*

LICENSES.†

Licenses.

Last year, the Post Office, on behalf of the Board of Inland Revenue, issued more than a million licenses of various kinds ; being an increase of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the previous year ; and the sum received for them was nearly 500,000*l.* Of these licenses more than 600,000 were for keeping dogs ; being an increase of 40,000 on the number in 1872.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POSTS.

Australian
Mail service.

In the Eighteenth Annual Report it was mentioned that notice had been received from several of the Australian Colonies of their intention to withdraw, at the earliest time open to them, from the arrangement under which, at the joint expense of the mother country and the colonies, the Australian Mails were then forwarded *viâ* Suez.

Accordingly, notice was served upon the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company to terminate on the 31st December 1873 their contract for the mail service between Point de Galle and Sydney ; and the question of making provision for the future conveyance of the mails was taken into consideration. The result was the despatch of a circular from the Colonial Office to the governments of the respective Australian Colonies

* For details, see Appendix, pages 39 and 40.

† For details, see Appendix, page 41.

and that of New Zealand, informing them that, as much difficulty had been experienced in providing a service satisfactory to the colonies, the Imperial Government did not consider it advisable any longer to undertake the task, so far as related to the service between Point de Galle and Australia, and would leave this latter service to be provided by the colonies themselves, acting in combination.

In communicating this decision the Imperial Government offered to convey the colonial mails between England and Point de Galle free of charge to the colonies, and further to contribute one half (not, however, to exceed 40,000*l.* a year) of the expense of any efficient line of packets which might be provided for the performance of the other service.

This offer gave rise to considerable discussion and correspondence; and eventually, as your Lordships are aware, a new offer was made to undertake the free conveyance of the Australian mails between this country and either Point de Galle, Singapore, or San Francisco, and in addition to surrender to the colonies, in aid of the expense they might incur in performing the service beyond these points, the whole of the sea postage, as well as the British inland rate on letters coming from Australia.

This offer was in the end accepted, and the following colonial services have been established:

- 1st. A line between Melbourne and Point de Galle.
- 2nd. A line between Brisbane and Singapore, viâ Torres Straits.
- 3rd. A line between Sydney and San Francisco, calling at two ports in New Zealand, at the Fiji Islands, and at Honolulu.

The above services all commenced on the cessation of the former contract; that is, in January last.

A new agreement has been made with the Government of Egypt for the conveyance of the Indian and Australian mails through Egypt; which, besides being advantageous to this country financially, secures a more expeditious transmission of the mails. Agreement with Egypt.

As evidence of the greater importance which the public attach to speed than to low rates of postage, in relation to correspondence with distant places, it may be mentioned that while the postage to India and Australia by way of Southampton is 3*d.* less than by the quicker route of Brindisi, nearly three-fourths of the correspondence is sent by the Brindisi route; 682,000 letters to and from Australia and 940,000 to and from India having been sent last year viâ Southampton, as compared with 1,696,000 to and from Australia and 2,517,000 to and from India viâ Brindisi.* Speed versus postage.

* For further information, including a list of mail packets with the heads of the contracts relating to them, see Appendix, pages 26 and 27.

STAFF OF OFFICERS.

Number of
Officers.

Last year the number of officers was increased by about 2,000; being almost exactly the same increase as in the previous year. The total is now upwards of 42,000,* of whom nearly 10,500 are employed exclusively on telegraph work.

The number of postmasters is rather more than 12,500; of clerks upwards of 9,000; and of letter carriers, sorters, and messengers, upwards of 20,000.

Of the foregoing staff, nearly 9,500 belong to the London district; and of these, 5,000 are attached to the chief offices in St. Martin's-le-Grand.

Health of the
Officers.

It appears from the report of Dr. Waller Lewis, the Chief Medical Officer of the Department, that in the London district, to which his duties are for the most part confined, the health of the officers has, as usual, been very good; the proportion of deaths having been as low as between seven and eight in the thousand. Two-thirds of the deaths were caused by diseases of the lungs.

Death rate.

Candidates
medically
examined.

Of the candidates for appointment medically examined last year, upwards of 3,000 in number, only one-tenth were rejected as unfit. Their ages varied from 13 to 25.

Examples of
replies from
candidates.

In the appendix, page 43, will be found some amusing examples of the written replies made by some of these candidates to questions concerning the medical history of themselves and their families. The following are selected: "Father had "sunstroke and I caught it of him." "Sister died of compulsion." "Toncertina in the throat." "Pistoles on the back."

Soldiers as
rural post mes-
sengers.

Your Lordships are aware that about two years ago, as an encouragement to good soldiers, an arrangement was made for allowing a number of those who have passed into the Reserve to obtain situations as Rural Post Messengers, by authorizing the War Office to nominate to these appointments. This authority has been used to the extent of 220 nominations; being about one-fifth of the number of vacancies reported to the War Office. In not fewer than 103 cases out of the 220 the appointment was declined; in 8 others the men failed to pass the medical examination; 6 were found to be too old; 5 refused to furnish evidence as to their age; 13 could not be found at their addresses; 12 were rejected on the score of education; and 22 on that of character; leaving, with 8 nominations not yet disposed of, only 40 who were really admitted into the service; and of these 40, one was rejected after probation, 10 have resigned, and one has been dismissed.

Thus, this attempt to reward those who have done good service of one kind by giving them employment of another kind has proved a signal failure.

Employment
of women.

In pursuance of the arrangement adopted a few years ago for extending female employment in the Post Office, a class of young

* For detailed information, see Appendix, page 42.

women was last year formed as clerks in the Returned Letter Office. Of the result, Mr. Smith, the Controller, reports very favourably; stating that he has been surprised at the excellence and quantity of work done by these young women.

The observations in the last Report concerning mistaken kindness towards Letter Carriers by giving them drink, with special reference to a practice of the sort at Manchester, appear to have had a good effect; Mr. Beaufort, the Postmaster of Manchester, having stated that there were fewer cases of drunkenness during the last Christmas holidays than he ever remembered; a result which he attributes to the notice in the Annual Report, supported by remarks in the local newspapers.

Corroborative evidence is afforded by Mr. Hobson, Postmaster of Glasgow, who states that at the last New Year's day, always, as he observes, a trying time in Scotland, he had not a single man under the influence of liquor.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN RELATION TO POSTAGE AND MONEY ORDERS.*

Gross Revenue.

The gross revenue from postage and Money Orders, according to the actual receipts, last year was in round numbers 5,348,000*l.*; viz., 5,135,000*l.* from postage, and 213,000*l.* from Money Orders; showing an increase of 122,000*l.* from postage and 17,000*l.* from Money Orders; or a total increase of 139,000*l.* on the nominal gross revenue of the previous year.

To arrive, however, at the true revenue 36,000*l.*, an amount paid by the Inland Revenue Commissioners in 1872 in excess of the value of the postage stamps sold by their distributors, should be deducted from the gross revenue of that year, and 25,000*l.* the amount underpaid by the Commissioners last year should be added to the gross revenue of 1873. Subject to this adjustment and to a few minor adjustments, the gross revenue for 1873 was 5,371,000*l.* as compared with 5,164,000*l.* in 1872; showing a real increase of 207,000*l.*

Of the revenue from Money Orders 5,000*l.* was derived from unclaimed Orders; a sum which includes a balance of nearly 1,500*l.* from the old "Void Order Fund," which until 1871, as stated in the Eighteenth Annual Report, had been used in aiding the officers of the Department to insure their lives, but which in that year, with the exception of this outstanding balance, was paid into the Exchequer.

Expenditure.

The expenditure last year was 3,793,000*l.*; showing an increase of 108,000*l.*

* For full details, see Appendix, pages 44, 45, and 46.

Chief items. The chief items of expense were 1,775,000*l.* for salaries, wages, pensions, &c. ; 945,000*l.* for conveyance by mail packets and private ships ; 644,000*l.* for conveyance by railways ; 148,000*l.* for conveyance by coaches, carts, and omnibuses ; and 81,000*l.* for buildings and repairs.

These items, as compared with those in 1872, exhibit an increase of 93,000*l.* in salaries, &c. ; of 17,000*l.* for conveyance by mail packets and private ships ; and of 25,000*l.* for conveyance by railways ; but a decrease of 35,000*l.* for buildings and repairs.

Net Revenue.

Net Revenue. The net revenue for 1873, adjusted in the same manner as the gross revenue, was 1,578,000*l.* as compared with 1,479,000*l.* the adjusted net revenue for 1872 ; showing an increase of 99,000*l.*, or more than 6½ per cent.

I have the honour to be,
My Lords,
Your Lordships' obedient humble Servant,
JOHN MANNERS.

General Post Office,
15 July 1874.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX (A.)

Letters Delivered.

ESTIMATED NUMBER (to the nearest million) of Chargeable Letters delivered in the United Kingdom in the year immediately preceding the first General Reduction of Postage on the 5th day of December 1839, and in the years subsequent thereto; also (in the first year) the number of Franks.

Year ending 31st December.	Delivered in England and Wales.				Total in England and Wales.		Total in Ireland.		Average number to each person.		Total in United Kingdom.		Average number to each person.		Increase per cent. per annum.		Average number to each person.	
	By Country.	Increase per cent. per annum.	In London District, including Local Letters.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Total in England and Wales.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Total in Ireland.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.	Average number to each person.	Total in United Kingdom.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.	Average number to each person.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.	Average number to each person.
Estimated No. of Letters, 1839 -	-	-	-	-	60,000,000	-	8,000,000	-	3	1	76,000,000	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
Estimated No. of Franks, 1839 -	-	-	-	-	5,172,000	-	336,000	-	-	-	6,563,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated No. of Letters, 1840 -	88,000,000	-	44,000,000	-	132,000,000	120	19,000,000	143	7	2	169,000,000	122	2	7	-	-	-	-
Average of 5 years, 1841-45 -	122,000,000	10	57,000,000	9	179,000,000	10	24,000,000	9	9	3	227,000,000	10	3	8	-	-	-	-
" " 1846-50 -	180,000,000	6	79,000,000	6	259,000,000	6	34,000,000	4	12	4	327,000,000	6	4	12	-	-	-	-
" " 1851-55 -	223,000,000	6	97,000,000	6	320,000,000	6	41,000,000	5	14	6	410,000,000	5	6	15	-	-	-	-
" " 1856-60 -	302,000,000	4	125,000,000	6	427,000,000	4	51,000,000	3	16	7	533,000,000	4	7	18	-	-	-	-
" " 1861-65 -	373,000,000	6	161,000,000	6	534,000,000	5	61,000,000	5	20	9	646,000,000	5	9	22	-	-	-	-
" " 1866-70 -	472,000,000	4	192,000,000	6	664,000,000	4	76,000,000	4	24	11	800,000,000	4	11	26	-	-	-	-
Year 1871 - - - -	601,000,000	0.5	220,000,000	7	721,000,000	2	80,000,000	1	24	13	867,000,000	2	13	27	-	-	-	-
" 1872 - - - -	610,000,000	1	227,000,000	8	737,000,000	2	82,000,000	2	24	13	888,000,000	2	13	28	-	-	-	-
" 1873 - - - -	618,000,000	1	228,000,000	5	756,000,000	2	84,000,000	2	24	13	907,000,000	2	13	29	-	-	-	-

Note.—It having been discovered in the course of 1872, as stated in the Nineteenth Annual Report, that many of the Returns upon which the yearly numbers of letters were based, were inaccurate, special measures were taken during 1873 to secure thoroughly trustworthy Returns; and the numbers for that year have been adopted as a standard by which to correct the numbers for the four or five previous years.

APPENDIX (B.)

TABLE showing the estimated NUMBER of LETTERS, BOOK PACKETS (including CIRCULARS), NEWSPAPERS, and POST CARDS delivered within the UNITED KINGDOM during the years 1872 and 1873.

	Number of Letters.			Number of Book Packets.			Number of Newspapers.			Number of Post Cards.			TOTAL.		
	1872.	1873.	Increase per cent.	1872.	1873.	Increase per cent.	1872.	1873.	Increase per cent.	1872.	1873.	Decrease per cent.	1872.	1873.	Increase per cent.
England	737,000,000	756,000,000	2½	90,000,000	104,000,000	15½	87,000,000	100,000,000	15	64,000,000	60,000,000	6	978,000,000	1,020,000,000	4½
Scotland	92,000,000	84,000,000	2½	13,000,000	14,000,000	8	12,000,000	14,000,000	17	8,000,000	8,000,000	Nil	116,000,000	120,000,000	4
Ireland	66,000,000	67,000,000	1½	11,000,000	11,000,000	Nil	10,000,000	11,000,000	10	4,000,000	4,000,000	Nil	91,000,000	93,000,000	2½
United Kingdom }	895,000,000	907,000,000	2½	114,000,000	129,000,000	13	109,000,000	125,000,000	15	76,000,000	72,000,000	5½	1,184,000,000	1,233,000,000	4

APPENDIX (C.)

RETURNED LETTERS.

LETTERS, POST CARDS, BOOKS, and NEWSPAPERS received in the RETURNED LETTER OFFICES of LONDON, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, and DUBLIN, respectively, in the Years 1872 and 1873.

1872.										1873.						
—	Letters received.	Letters re-issued to corrected Ad-dresses.	Letters returned to the Senders.	Letters returned unopened to Foreign Countries.	Letters which could not be either deli- vered or returned to the senders.	Post Cards received.	Books re- ceived.	New- papers received.	Letters received.	Letters re-issued to corrected Ad-dresses.	Letters returned to the Senders.	Letters returned unopened to Foreign Countries.	Letters which could not be either deli- vered or returned to the senders.	Post Cards re- ceived.	Books re- ceived.	New- papers re- ceived.
LONDON	3,304,556	83,258	2,896,756	147,908	176,634	243,571	1,892,200	845,363	3,398,566	72,022	2,968,538	163,182	184,824	262,966	1,952,545	503,963
EDINBURGH	303,835	13,365	290,127	8,847	21,546	37,540	100,447	24,149	254,180	14,007	232,205	7,902	9,006	20,041	174,463	23,403
GLASGOW	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	53,233	795	46,893	1,760	3,785	6,788	24,603	4,611
DUBLIN	297,744	10,970	292,338	15,071	69,571	15,590	134,467	22,210	314,768	8,407	231,934	13,832	60,585	12,710	184,744	24,301
	3,906,195	107,593	3,359,315	171,896	267,551	290,710	3,187,134	891,752	4,090,737	95,231	3,490,630	176,676	258,200	311,495	2,293,296	554,198

TABLE showing the IMPROVEMENTS in the POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS, &c. at a single TOWN (NORWICH) and its SUB-OFFICES during the year 1873.

Additional Bags despatched to	Additional Bags received from	Alterations in Time of Posting.			Additional Sub-Offices or Receiving Offices opened at	Additional Money Order and Savings Bank Offices opened at	Additional Wall Letter Boxes erected at	Additional Collection of Letters.	Improved and extended City and Rural Deliveries.	Acceleration of Mail Carts.
		Names of Bags.	Former Time. H. M.	Present Time. H. M.						
Bungay. Coltishall. Dereham. Fakenham. Harleston. Wells. London.	1 Beccles. 2 Bungay. 1 Cottisball. 2 Dereham. 1 Fakenham. 2 Harleston. 1 Ipswich. 1 Lowestoft. 1 Yarmouth. 2 London.	Wymondham. (Day Mail.) Yarmouth & Lowestoft. (Night Mail.)	10 10 AM 9 30 PM	11 40 AM 11 30 PM	Aylmerton. Carrow. Lower Helles- don. Palling. Rackheath Walcot.	Carrow. Cawston. Dereham Rd. Lower Sher- ingham. Ludham. New Catton. New Laken- ham. Trowse.	Antingham. Ashmanauagh. King Street, Norwich. New Mills, Norwich.	An Collection of Letters, &c. from the Pillar Boxes and Town Receiv- ing Offices at 3.0 PM.	Improved. City. Hellesdon. Mile End. Mousehold. New Catton. — Rural. Bracon Ash. (Horse Post.) Honingham. (Horse Post.) Bremstead & East Ruston. (from 3 to 6 days a week.) — Extended. Aylham. Ashmanauagh. Beeston. Bowthorpe. Catfield. Hackford. Honing. Neatishead. Rolleby. South Walsham. (3 days a week.) Walcot.	The under-men- tioned Five Mail Carts, viz., those for the— Acle, Cromer, North Walsham, Reepham, and Stalham Rides have each been accelerated in their despatch from Norwich 80 minutes, and the Mail Cart for the Loddon Ride 2 hours and 10 minutes.

APPENDIX (E.)

Official Correspondence.

AN ESTIMATE of the WEIGHT of CORRESPONDENCE carried, and the VALUE of POSTAL SERVICE performed for the following Public Offices in the Year 1873.

NAMES OF OFFICES.	Great Britain.		Ireland.		Total.	
	Weight.	Amount.	Weight.	Amount.	Weight.	Amount.
	oz.	£	oz.	£	oz.	£
Adjutant General	—	—	54,000	260	54,000	260
Admiralty, Lords Commissioners of	893,770	17,840	—	—	893,770	17,840
Army Medical Department	—	—	22,000	100	22,000	100
Board of Trade	374,460	2,800	—	—	374,460	2,800
Census Commissioners	4,780	50	—	—	4,780	50
Central Loan Fund	—	—	2,200	10	2,200	10
Chancellor, The Lord	14,400	60	—	—	14,400	60
Charity Commissioners	33,080	170	—	—	33,080	170
Chelsea Hospital	26,170	140	—	—	26,170	140
Chief and Under Secretary, Dublin } Castle	—	—	300,000	1,360	300,000	1,360
Civil Service Commissioners	125,320	580	—	—	125,320	580
Colonial Office	249,210	7,090	—	—	249,210	7,090
Colonial Land and Emigration Com- missioners	4,250	60	—	—	4,250	60
Commander of the Forces	—	—	12,000	55	12,000	55
Commissariat Department	—	—	111,000	500	111,000	500
Constabulary Office	—	—	130,000	600	130,000	600
Convict Prisons, Directors of	—	—	60,000	270	60,000	270
Council Office	609,300	2,920	—	—	609,300	2,920
Court of Chancery	14,260	60	—	—	14,260	60
Court of Probate	71,130	310	—	—	71,130	310
Crown Office, House of Lords	8,360	30	—	—	8,360	30
Ditto (Scotland)	61,440	260	—	—	61,440	260
Customs	401,930	1,360	15,000	70	416,930	2,030
Education Board	30,560	90	300,000	1,300	330,560	1,390
Endowed Schools	53,230	230	—	—	53,230	230
Exchequer and Audit Department	33,000	290	—	—	33,000	290
Fines and Penalties Office	—	—	115,000	360	115,000	360
Foreign Office	143,640	5,660	—	—	143,640	5,660
General Valuation Office	—	—	30,000	130	30,000	130
Home Office	353,630	1,870	—	—	353,630	1,870
Inland Revenue*	1,925,300	8,290	230,000	1,040	2,155,300	9,330
Inspector of Fisheries	—	—	35,000	160	35,000	160
Inspector General of Prisons	—	—	10,000	40	10,000	40
Insurances and Annuities	4,880	20	—	—	4,880	20
Irish Office	55,420	250	—	—	55,420	250
Lord Lieutenant and Private Secretary	—	—	10,000	45	10,000	45
Mercantile Marine Board	34,650	140	—	—	34,650	140
Merchant Seamen, Registrar of	582,690	2,180	—	—	582,690	2,180
National Debt Office	29,240	130	—	—	29,240	130
Ordnance Survey	—	—	35,000	160	35,000	160
Paymaster of Civil Services	—	—	90,000	400	90,000	400
Paymaster General	77,520	560	—	—	77,520	560
Local Government Board	636,930	2,840	180,000	770	816,930	3,610
Public Record Office	—	—	2,300	10	2,300	10
Quartermaster General	—	—	18,000	80	18,000	80
Queen's Remembrancer (Scotland)	13,570	60	—	—	13,570	60
Register House, Edinburgh	22,010	160	—	—	22,010	160
Registrar General†	351,900	1,010	550,000	1,950	901,900	2,960
Ditto ditto (Scotland)	166,740	440	—	—	166,740	440
Registrar of Friendly Societies	40,000	200	—	—	40,000	200
Science and Art Department	814,080	3,610	—	—	814,080	3,610
Stationery Office	31,640	170	15,000	55	46,640	225
Board of Supervision (Scotland)	28,860	120	—	—	28,860	120
Tithe Commissioners	53,170	230	—	—	53,170	230
Treasury	427,180	2,140	—	—	427,180	2,140
War Office‡	2,124,570	20,130	68,000	300	2,192,570	20,430
Woods and Forests, Commissioners of	58,610	260	—	—	58,610	260
Works and Buildings, Commissioners of	97,550	520	110,000	500	207,550	1,020
TOTALS	10,895,460	86,590	2,506,500	10,225	13,401,960	96,815

* Including about 125,000 oz. charged with Book Postage.

† " 175,000 " "

‡ " 490,000 " "

Note.—The Charge for Postage of Official Correspondence has not been provided for in the Estimates since the 31st March 1868. The Estimate of Official Postage up to that date was framed on the principle of charging Inward Letters at the unpaid rate. The present Estimate is framed on the principle of charging Inland and Colonial Letters, inwards and outwards, at the prepaid rate.

APPENDIX (F.)

Home Packet Service.

Line of Communication.	Contract.		Payment.	Contract Time.	Penalties for Overtime.	Premium for Under Time.	Penalty for General Non-performance.	Remarks.
	Commencement.	Termination.						
HOLYHEAD and KINGSTOWN	1st Oct. 1860	On 12 months' notice.	85,000 <i>l.</i> per annum.	Not defined, being included in General Contract for Conveyance of Mails between London and Kingstown.	1 <i>l.</i> 14 <i>s.</i> per minute, if journeys between London and Kingstown, and Crew and Kingstown exceed 11 hours and 74 hours respectively from appointed time of departure.	-	-	The Annual Payment is liable to be reduced in amount when the receipts arising from Passenger traffic, or (if the Contractors are hereafter empowered to carry Cattle and Goods) from the traffic generally, reach a certain sum.
LIVERPOOL and DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.	-	-	850 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	-	-	-	This Contract expired long since, but the service is continued upon the same terms. The Company's vessels run more frequently than required under the old Contract, and carry Mails on every voyage.
LIVERPOOL and RAMSEY, ISLE OF MAN.	-	-	100 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	-	-	-	-
PORTSMOUTH and RYDE	1st Aug. 1865	On 6 months' notice.	800 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	-	-	-	-
PENZANCE and SCILLY	-	-	800 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	-	-	-	-
GREENOCK and BELFAST	16th July 1849	On 6 months' notice.	Performed free of charges.	-	-	-	100 <i>l.</i>	This Contract has terminated, but the service is being carried on temporarily at the same rate of payment.
ORKNEY ISLANDS	1st April 1868	On 31st March 1875.	1,300 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	20 <i>l.</i> for undue delay or deviation from course.	-	200 <i>l.</i>	-
SHETLAND ISLANDS	1st Feb. 1840	On 6 months' notice.	1,200 <i>l.</i> per annum.	60 hours	-	-	500 <i>l.</i>	Contract of 1840 terminated in 1855, but was renewed. Steamers may touch at intermediate ports of Wick and Kirkwall, but sailing vessels must go direct.
STORNOWAY and ULLAPPOOL	3rd Aug. 1871	After 10 years on 6 months' notice.	1,300 <i>l.</i>	-	20 <i>l.</i> for undue delay or deviation from course.	-	500 <i>l.</i>	When a sailing vessel is employed a deduction of 2 <i>l.</i> a trip may be made if the Postmaster-General thinks proper.
CHANNEL ISLANDS	1st Jan. 1870 1st Oct. 1873	On 6 months' notice.	6,000 <i>l.</i> 620 <i>l.</i>	To or from Guernsey hours, and to or from Jersey in 12 hours.	-	-	2,000 <i>l.</i>	-

* These penalties are at present suspended, owing to the state of the harbour at Holyhead.

APPENDIX (G.)

Colonial and Foreign

Line of Packets.	Contracts.		Payment.
	Com- mencement.	Termination.	
AUSTRALIA : Point de Galle and Sydney (<i>see Note</i>) -	13 Feb. 1866	On 31st December 1873 - -	[£] (a) 130,000
BRAZIL, RIVER PLATE, AND CHILI : Monthly Service from Southampton -	1 Jan. 1864	On 31st December 1874 - -	(b) 33,500
Monthly Service from Liverpool -	1 June 1870	On 6 months' notice - -	* 2,903
Weekly service from Liverpool -	1 Jan. 1873	On 30th June 1873, if 12 months' previous notice has been given.	* 12,360
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - - -	1 July 1863	On 30th June 1876, if 12 months' previous notice has been given.	* 27,015
EAST INDIES, CHINA, and JAPAN - -	1 April 1869	On 31st January 1880, if 24 months' previous notice has been given.	(c) 450,000
EAST COAST OF AFRICA : Aden and Zanzibar - - -	6 Dec. 1872	On 5th December 1882 (d) - -	10,000
Table Bay and Zanzibar - - -	1 Aug. 1873	On 8th February 1881 - -	20,000
NORTH AMERICA : United States: Cunard Line - - - -	1 Jan. 1869	On 12 calendar months' notice, but not before 31st December 1876.	70,000
Inman Line - - - -	1 May 1869	Ditto - - -	35,000
North German Lloyd's Line -	6 May 1870	On 12 calendar months' notice -	* 6,607
British North America : Queenstown and Halifax - - -	Contract with	Canadian Government - - -	16,350 Imperial contri- bution, 8,125
Intermediate : Halifax, Bermuda, and St. Thomas	1 Jan. 1868	At the end of 1877, if 12 months' previous notice has been given.	19,500
New York and Nassau - - -	Contract with	Bahamas Government - - -	6,000 Imperial contri- bution, 2,708
PACIFIC - - - - -	1 Jan. 1873	On 30th June 1878, if 12 months' previous notice has been given.	* 15,833
WEST INDIES : Bi-monthly Service - - - -	1 Jan. 1864	On 31st December 1874 - -	(e) 172,914
Additional Services : Liverpool and Puerto Cabello, Tam- pico, and Santa Martha.	20 Oct. 1869	On 6 months' notice - - -	* 1,889
Belize and Jamaica - - - -	Contract with	Honduras Government - - -	5,000 Imperial contri- bution, 2,000
St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat -	1 Jan. 1864	On 6 months' notice - - -	490
St. Thomas and Porto Rico - - -	1 Jan. 1871	On 31st December 1874 - -	1,000
Turk's Island and St. Thomas -	Contract with	Turk's Island Government - -	600 Imperial contri- bution, 300
WEST COAST OF AFRICA - - - -	No Contract.	- - - - -	* 6,064

Note.—This contract is now superseded by the arrangement mentioned in the text, page 15.

(a) The actual payment for the Australian service was 129,000*l.*—an abatement of 500*l.* being made on account of the discontinuance of the Admiralty Survey, and a further abatement of 500*l.* on account of the withdrawal of Naval Agents.

(b) Subject to a deduction of 400*l.* on account of the withdrawal of Naval Agents.

(c) An abatement of 1,000*l.* is allowed by the Company on account of the withdrawal of Naval Agents.

(d) This Contract may terminate on the 31st January 1880 provided that six calendar months' notice be given by the Postmaster General in the event of the existing Contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company coming to an end.

General Post Office, London, June 1874.

APPENDIX (G.)

Packet Service.

Penalties for Overtime.	Premiums for Undertime.	Contributions towards the Cost of the Service.	Estimated British Share of Sea Postage on Letters, Newspapers, &c.	Estimated British Loss on the Service.	Rate of Postage per single Letter, excluding Transit Rates.	Estimated Number of Letters† carried by the Packets in both Directions.
200 <i>l.</i> for every 24 hours.	On outward voyage, 50 <i>l.</i> for every 24 hours.	Australia and New Zealand, 64,500 <i>l.</i>	£ 35,000	£ 65,000	6 <i>d.</i>	No. 2,337,000
50 <i>l.</i> for every 12 hours.	25 <i>l.</i> for every 12 hours.	- - - - -	53,000	Nil.	1 <i>s.</i>	No account taken.
One-eighth part of ordinary payment for every 24 hours.	- - -					
Ditto -	- - -					
50 <i>l.</i> for every 24 hours.	- - -	- - - - -	25,500	1,500	1 <i>s.</i>	400,000
50 <i>l.</i> per day -	25 <i>l.</i> per day	{ India, 120,000 <i>l.</i> - New } Australia and Zealand, 30,000 <i>l.</i>	140,000	145,000	{ Mediterranean 6 <i>d.</i> India & Ceylon 9 <i>d.</i> China, &c. 1 <i>s.</i>	{ 2,950,000
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	{ One half of the cost of conveyance across the Atlantic by Cunard and Inman Packets of the Mails for Bahamas is repaid by the Government of that Colony. The amount thus to be recovered for the year 1873 is about 160 <i>l.</i> }	54,000	57,000	3 <i>d.</i>	10,800,000
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 <i>l.</i> for every 12 hours.	- - -	- - - - -	4,000	25,000	{ Canadian Dominion and Newfoundland. } 3 <i>d.</i> Bermuda - 6 <i>d.</i> Bahamas - 1 <i>s.</i>	{ No account taken.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
One-eighth part of ordinary payment for every 24 hours.	- - -	- - - - -	17,000	Nil.	1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	"
50 <i>l.</i> for every 12 hours.	25 <i>l.</i> for every 12 hours.	- - - - -	78,000	100,000	1 <i>s.</i>	"
One-eighth part of ordinary payment for every 24 hours.	- - -					
- - -	- - -					
- - -	- - -	- - - - -	6,000	Nil.	6 <i>d.</i>	"
- - -	- - -	- - - - -	-	-	-	-
- - -	- - -	- - - - -	-	-	-	-
- - -	- - -	- - - - -	-	-	-	-
- - -	- - -	- - - - -	-	-	-	-
- - -	- - -	- - - - -	-	-	-	-

* The payments in these cases depend upon the amount of correspondence conveyed by the packets.

† International and Transit Letters only.

(e) An additional sum of 2,000*l.* is paid to the Company for landing the mails at Plymouth. Deductions amounting to 1,315*l.* are made on account of the withdrawal of Naval Agents and sorting officers, and further deductions, amounting to 2,794*l.*, are made on account of alterations of route.

GEORGE CHETWYND,
Receiver and Accountant General.

APPENDIX (H.)

NUMBER of MAILS daily between London and other Post Towns in England and Wales.

Year.	Towns having One Mail only.		Towns having Two Mails.		Towns having Three Mails.		Towns having Four Mails.		Towns having Five Mails.		Towns having Six Mails.		Towns having Seven Mails.		Towns having Eight Mails.		Total Number of Post Towns in England and Wales.
	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	
1872	41	89	315	222	99	114	80	101	36	42	5	9	5	4	2	2	583
1873	43	89	319	227	93	119	88	98	38	43	5	11	5	4	2	2	594

APPENDIX (I.)

A.—Telegraphic Messages.

TABLE showing, to the nearest Thousand, the Number of Messages (exclusive of Press and News Messages) forwarded from Postal Telegraph Stations in the United Kingdom during each Month of 1872 and 1873.

Month.				Number of Messages, 1872.	Number of Messages, 1873.	Increase.
January	-	-	-	1,055,000	1,243,000	188,000
February	-	-	-	1,014,000	1,184,000	170,000
March	-	-	-	1,096,000	1,400,000	304,000
April	-	-	-	1,221,000	1,350,000	129,000
May	-	-	-	1,233,000	1,488,000	255,000
June	-	-	-	1,195,000	1,432,000	237,000
July	-	-	-	1,385,000	1,595,000	210,000
August	-	-	-	1,466,000	1,642,000	176,000
September	-	-	-	1,393,000	1,561,000	168,000
October	-	-	-	1,371,000	1,578,000	207,000
November	-	-	-	1,324,000	1,488,000	164,000
December	-	-	-	1,105,000	1,385,000	280,000
Total	-	-	-	14,858,000	17,346,000	2,488,000

APPENDIX (L)—*continued*.**B.—Private Wires.**

TABLE showing the NET ADDITIONAL RENTALS, Quarter by Quarter, in each of the Four Years since the transfer; with the Total Increase in each Financial Year, and the NET AGGREGATE RENTALS at the same date (31st March) in each of those Years.

Financial Year.	Net additional Rentals obtained within				Total increase within the Financial Year.	Aggregate Rentals current at the end of the Financial Year.
	Quarter ended 30th June.	Quarter ended 30th September.	Quarter ended 31st December.	Quarter ended 31st March.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
* Amount at the 31st March 1870	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	*26,425 16 6
1870-71	101 0 0	545 16 6	527 4 0	432 5 6	1,606 6 0	28,032 2 6
1871-72	623 0 0	439 6 0	1,402 7 0	1,110 18 0	3,575 11 0	31,607 13 6
1872-73	1,390 7 0	1,220 12 0	1,729 16 6	2,488 0 10	6,828 16 4	38,436 9 10
1873-74	2,220 11 0	2,022 14 0	1,726 2 0	2,501 5 0	8,570 12 0	47,007 1 10

* The figures given in the last column, as the Total Rentals current at the 31st March 1870, are the aggregate Rentals of the Private Wire Systems of the late "Universal Private" and other Telegraph Companies, which were acquired by the Post Office at the transfer; and they include also some Rentals which accrued between that date (29th January) and the 31st March 1870.

APPENDIX (I).—*continued.***B.—Private Wires.**

STATEMENT showing the PROGRESSIVE INCREASE in the NUMBER of PRIVATE WIRE CONTRACTS, MILES of WIRE, and INSTRUMENTS in use on Lines of Private Wire, from the 31st March 1870.

Financial Year.	Net Increase.									Total Increase for the Year.			Total Number at End of Financial Year.		
	Quarter ended 30th June.			Quarter ended 30th September.			Quarter ended 31st December.			Quarter ended 31st March.			Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments.
	Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments.	Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments.	Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments.	Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments.			
At the 31st March 1870	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	775	3,971	1,901
1870-71	6	2	5	16	52	37	11	19	41	16	8	42	824	4,052	2,026
1871-72	22	29	41	13	44	23	18	133	43	37	87	66	914	4,345	2,199
1872-73	41	95	84	27	105	56	38	178	88	72	471*	290*	1,092	5,194	2,717
1873-74	53	179	154	64	150	143	48	177	119	82	226	170	1,389	5,926	3,303

* Including a very considerable extension of the system of Police Wires in London.

APPENDIX (J.)

Money Orders.

Year.	ENGLAND AND WALES.						SCOTLAND.						IRELAND.						UNITED KINGDOM.					
	Number. Amount. Increase per cent. on Number.			Proportion of Money Orders issued to population.			Number. Amount. Increase per cent. on Number.			Proportion of Money Orders issued to population.			Number. Amount. Increase per cent. on Number.			Proportion of Money Orders issued to population.			Number. Amount. Increase per cent. on Number.			Proportion of Money Orders issued to population.		
1839	-	142,723	240,063	-	-	-	16,183	25,765	-	-	-	30,015	47,205	-	-	-	188,021	313,124	-	-	-	-	-	-
1840	-	463,764	802,827	-	-	-	51,326	80,980	-	-	-	53,507	77,167	-	-	-	587,797	960,975	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average of 5 years	1841-45	2,020,977	4,211,933	318	422	-	210,063	385,036	908	377	-	198,785	339,443	271	340	-	2,429,855	4,937,256	318	414	-	-	-	-
"	1846-50	3,303,993	6,663,684	66	53	-	374,187	630,696	78	76	-	347,547	583,151	75	72	-	4,087,703	7,054,533	69	61	-	-	-	-
"	1851-55	4,893,045	8,493,175	30	27	-	418,906	789,463	12	13	-	407,698	683,277	17	17	-	5,219,559	9,941,316	27	25	-	-	-	-
"	1856-60	5,673,207	10,898,412	29	23	-	424,097	975,299	25	26	-	484,064	863,803	18	26	-	6,684,368	12,737,504	28	28	-	-	-	-
"	1861-65*	6,799,296	14,021,757	20	20	-	649,417	1,293,434	24	31	-	652,414	1,093,170	14	26	-	8,001,127	16,398,361	19	29	-	-	-	-
"	1866-70	8,159,558	16,454,950	20	17	-	792,205	1,500,601	22	21	-	656,822	1,274,090	15	16	-	9,588,585	19,319,707	19	18	-	-	-	-
1871†	-	10,276,875	18,566,317	26	13	-	983,911	1,786,574	24	14	-	803,100	1,446,682	26	14	-	12,062,886	21,790,583	26	13	-	-	-	-
1873	-	11,901,483	20,875,179	16	10	-	1,164,629	2,046,662	18	15	-	918,078	1,592,500	14	10	-	13,984,189	24,013,747	16	10	-	-	-	-
1875	-	12,863,004	21,629,750	8	6	-	1,273,036	2,210,107	9	8	-	982,546	1,760,212	7	10‡	-	15,118,636	25,606,000	8	0‡	-	-	-	-

In 1840 the commission on Money Orders was reduced as follows:—

For any sum not exceeding 2*l.*, from 6*l.* to 3*l.*

For any sum above 2*l.*, and not exceeding 5*l.*, from 1*8s.* 6*d.* to 6*d.*

† In May 1871 the commission on Inland Money Orders was reduced as follows:—

Former Rates of Commission.

	s.	d.
For sums not exceeding 2 <i>l.</i>	-	0 3
" above 2 <i>l.</i> , but not exceeding 5 <i>l.</i>	-	0 6
" above 5 <i>l.</i> , but not exceeding 7 <i>l.</i>	-	0 9
" above 7 <i>l.</i> , but not exceeding 10 <i>l.</i>	-	1 0

Present Rates of Commission.

	s.	d.
For sums under 10 <i>8s.</i>	-	0 1
For sums of 10 <i>8s.</i> and under 1 <i>l.</i>	-	0 2
" of 1 <i>l.</i>	2 <i>l.</i>	0 3
" of 1 <i>l.</i>	3 <i>l.</i>	0 4
" of 3 <i>l.</i>	4 <i>l.</i>	0 5
" of 4 <i>l.</i>	5 <i>l.</i>	0 6
For sums of 5 <i>l.</i> and under 6 <i>l.</i>	-	0 7
" of 6 <i>l.</i>	7 <i>l.</i>	0 8
" of 7 <i>l.</i>	8 <i>l.</i>	0 9
" of 8 <i>l.</i>	9 <i>l.</i>	0 10
" of 9 <i>l.</i>	10 <i>l.</i>	0 11
" of 10 <i>l.</i>	-	1 0

APPENDIX (J.)—continued.

Money Orders.

Year.	COLONIAL ORDERS.						FOREIGN ORDERS.						GRAND TOTAL.		
	Orders issued in the United Kingdom.		Orders issued in the Colonies.		Total of Colonial Orders.		Orders issued in the United Kingdom.		Orders issued in Foreign Countries.		Total of Foreign Orders.		Total of Inland, Colonial, and Foreign Orders.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	
1871	19,739	£ 80,431	123,473	£ 520,550	143,211	£ 600,981	18,760	£ 65,072	28,662	£ 107,911	47,431	£ 172,963	12,253,528	22,573,547	—
1872	20,533	£ 83,923	131,341	£ 550,004	153,173	£ 633,927	23,751	£ 94,136	77,469	£ 277,871	106,250	£ 372,009	14,242,612	25,019,693	10 11
1873	21,131	£ 86,329	144,676	£ 584,803	165,807	£ 671,131	40,603	£ 133,726	107,200	£ 397,338	147,803	£ 531,064	15,432,245	26,302,234	8 7

Note.—Money Order business with the Colonies commenced in 1856, and with Foreign Countries in 1869; but as 1871 was the first year in which the Foreign were separated from the Colonial Orders, the number and amount of these in previous years cannot be given in this Table.

APPENDIX (J).—*continued.***Money Orders.****TABLE showing the Amount (to the nearest Pound) of Money Order Transactions between the United Kingdom and the principal Colonies during the Year 1873.**

Colony.	Issues on the United Kingdom.	Issues on Colony.
	£	£
Australia - - - - -	143,014	29,921
British America - - - - -	163,138	33,899
Cape Colony - - - - -	11,231	2,800
India - - - - -	57,725	2,673
New Zealand - - - - -	48,760	6,656
South and West Africa - - - - -	23,308	1,207
West Indies - - - - -	91,126	2,909

TABLE showing the Amount (to the nearest Pound) of Money Order Transactions between the United Kingdom and the principal Foreign Countries during the Year 1873.

Country.	Issues on United Kingdom.	Issues on Foreign Country.
	£	£
Belgium - - - - -	15,652	10,738
Denmark - - - - -	2,005	2,176
France - - - - -	1,857	8,638
Germany - - - - -	30,246	39,321
Italy - - - - -	4,997	7,097
Netherlands - - - - -	4,000	3,197
Switzerland - - - - -	5,408	11,516
United States - - - - -	275,453	48,370

APPENDIX (K.)

Post Office Savings Bank.

Year.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Number of Post Office Savings Banks.	Number of Deposits.	Amount of Deposits.	Average Amount of each Deposit.	Interest credited to Depositors.	Number of Withdrawals.	Amount of Withdrawals.	Average Amount of each Withdrawal.	Charges of Management.	Average Cost of each Transaction.	Number of Accounts opened.	Number of Accounts closed.	Number of Accounts remaining open at close of the Year.	Amount, inclusive of Interest, standing to credit of all open Accounts at close of the Year.	Average Amount standing to credit of each open Account at close of the Year.	Percentage of Cost of Management to total funds in possession of the Post Office Savings Bank.	Total sum standing to credit of Post Office Savings Banks on Books of National Debt Commissioners at close of the Year.	Balance in hands of Postmaster General, after allowing for Charges of Management, at close of the Year.	Total Balance in hand, applicable to Payment of Depositors, at close of the Year.	Number at close of the Year of Old Savings Banks and Post Office Banks combined.	Number at close of the Year of Old Savings Banks and Post Office Banks combined.
From 16 Sept. 1861 to 31 Dec. 1862.	2,535	639,216	2,114,669	3 6 2	22,189	97,294	439,637	4 10 2	20,591	6 1/2	205,928	27,433	178,495	1,688,221	2 10 3	2 10 3	1,659,032*	35,692	1,694,724	3,157	1,752,555
1863	2,991	842,948	2,651,209	3 2 11	55,204	197,451	1,027,154	5 4 0	25,401	7 1/2	185,934	44,760	319,669	3,277,490	10 11 4	0 15 0	3,228,182*	44,413	3,372,595*	3,594	1,878,389
1864	3,081	1,110,762	3,350,000	3 0 3	100,493	309,242	1,834,949	5 18 8	45,356	7 1/2	226,153	74,964	470,538	3,993,123	10 12 1	0 18 4	4,996,663*	5,522	5,001,180*	3,659	1,967,663
1865	3,321	1,302,509	3,719,017	2 17 1	132,870	407,412	2,318,310	5 13 10	49,327	6 1/2	239,696	99,160	611,394	5,326,400	10 13 6	0 15 2	6,592,329*	4,327	6,586,656*	3,822	2,078,546
Average of 5 Yrs.: 1866-70	3,815	1,802,031	5,292,108	2 18 1	253,014	647,620	3,770,581	5 16 5	62,908	4 1/2	235,524	181,170	967,066	11,632,914	12 0 6	0 10 92	11,624,504*	50,351	11,662,124*	4,358	2,352,942
1871	4,335	2,362,421	6,094,629	2 16 5	376,738	845,279	5,115,467	6 1 0	69,427	4 1/2	370,745	250,406	1,303,492	17,022,004	13 1 24	0 8 22	17,303,310	166,466	17,470,271	4,896	2,707,270
1872	4,607	2,745,245	7,699,916	2 16 1	490,079	983,975	5,930,660	6 4 11	78,404	4 1/2	424,848	285,887	1,442,448	10,818,339	13 7 10	0 8 14	19,559,804	301,070	19,860,874	5,067	2,807,596
1873	4,865	2,917,898	7,965,740	2 14 6	477,561	1,026,333	6,054,181	6 8 5	84,160	4 1/2	433,478	319,281	1,566,645	11,167,749	13 11 11	0 7 11	21,745,442	82,860	21,828,292	5,534	3,002,134

* These sums do not include the dividends accruing to the Post Office Savings Banks on the 8th January (that is, five days after the close of the account in each year) up to the year 1866 inclusive, but after that year the securities belonging to the Banks have been valued by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and the amount, including dividends due but not paid at the end of the year, has been inserted in the above return.

† The falling off in the cost per transaction and in the percentage of cost of management in 1863 and the increase in these items in 1864 are attributable to one and the same cause, viz. the payment during 1864 of various charges properly belonging to 1865.

‡ The increase in the cost per transaction and per-centage of cost of management since 1865, is partly owing to a discontinuance, in 1868, of any charge for postage; a charge amounting to about three farthings per transaction.

APPENDIX (K.)—continued. POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

BALANCE SHEET.

RETURN of the BALANCE SHEETS of the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS for the Year 1873, showing the Balance due to Depositors, the Amount of Expenses remaining Unpaid, the Value of Securities at the Cost Price, less Depreciation of those which are Terminable by Lapse of Time, Amount of Cash in Hand and Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year, and the Surplus or Deficiency of Funds to meet Liabilities.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance due to Depositors on the 31st December 1873 (including interest)	21,167,740 16 2	Value of Securities at the Cost Price, less depreciation of those which are terminable by lapse of time	20,961,838 7 1
Amount of expenses remaining unpaid (partly estimated)	30,000 0 0	Amount of cash in hands of Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt	2,571 18 3
Surplus of Funds to meet Liabilities	647,423 15 6	Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the year	781,031 17 8
		Total Amount in the hands of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt	21,745,442 3 0
		Amount received for issuing new Deposit Books	760 5 0
		Cash in the hands of Her Majesty's Postmaster General	129,523 9 5
		Less, Amount required to meet the Payment of Warrants issued, but not cashed on 31st December 1873	130,583 14 5
			50,562 5 9
	£ 21,845,173 11 8		£ 99,731 8 8
			21,845,173 11 8

Total amount received from Depositors, including interest, to 31st December 1873 £ 63,176,217 0 10
Total amount repaid to Depositors to 31st December 1873 £ 42,608,467 4 8

Number of Transactions.		Number of Accounts.	
Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Opened.	Closed. Remaining Open.
20,980,854	7,054,068	3,564,397	2,007,742 1,556,645

The total cost of the Post Office Savings Banks from their establishment to the 31st December 1873, including the sum of 30,000*l.* charged as above, was 700,501*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*
The total number of transactions, i.e., Deposits and Withdrawals, in the period was 27,984,922.
The average cost of each transaction was 6*d.*
Prior to the passing of the Post Office Savings Banks Act, 1861, it was estimated (see Parliamentary Paper, No. 623, 1861) that the average cost of each transaction would be 7*d.*
General Post Office, 4 June 1874.

GEO. CHERRYARD,
Receiver and Accountant General.

APPENDIX (K.)—continued.

RETURN of the BALANCE SHEETS of the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS for the Year 1873; showing the Balance due to Depositors, the Amount of Expenses remaining unpaid, the Value of Securities at the Cost Price, less Depreciation of those which are Terminable by Lapse of Time, Amount of Cash in Hand, and Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year, and the Surplus or Deficiency of Funds to meet Liabilities. (So far as relates to the National Debt Office.)

Securities standing in the Names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt on account of the Post Office Savings Banks Fund.	Value of such Securities at the Cost Price, less Depreciation of those which are Terminable by Lapse of Time.	Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Consolidated 3l. per Cents - - -	1,013,353 12 2	1,758,878 16 0
Reduced 3l. per Cents - - -	1,427,652 13 3	1,309,771 14 0
New 3l. per Cents - - -	3,509,272 2 11	3,198,823 6 0
New 2½l. per Cents - - -	1,000,000 0 0	765,000 0 0
Turkish Guaranteed 4l. per Cent. Bonds	108,800 0 0	108,971 10 0
Church Temporalities, Ireland, Bonds	3,800,000 0 0	3,800,000 0 0
Advances made under Pensions Com- mutation Act, during the year ended 31st December 1873—34 & 35 Vict. c. 36.	380,920 1 1	380,923 1 1
Annuities for Terms of years expiring at various periods of the year 1885 - }	(a) 987,790 8 3 per annum }	9,152,943 0 0
Red Sea and India Telegraph Annui- ties, expiring 4th August 1908 - }	(b) 3,100 0 0 per annum }	57,806 0 0
Annuities of an amount sufficient to repay sums advanced under Pensions Commutation Acts 32 & 33 Vict. c. 32. and 34 & 35 Vict. c. 36., to 31 Decem- ber 1872 - }	(c) 70,847 15 0 per annum }	428,718 0 0
	£ 20,961,838 7 1	781,031 17 8
Add Value of Securities - - -		20,961,838 7 1
Cash Balance in Bank of England -		2,571 18 3
		£ 21,745,442 3 0

NOTE.—The value on 31st December 1873 of the several Terminable Annuities (a, b, and c) in Column 1, will be found by adding the sums in Columns 2 and 3 together.

National Debt Office,
22nd May 1874.

C. RIVERS WILSON,
Comptroller General.

APPENDIX (K.)—continued.

EXTRACT from the Report of the Controller of the Post Office Savings Banks.

* * * * *

" Foreign governments as well as financiers and statisticians in various countries, colonial and otherwise, continue to look to our system of Post Office Savings Banks as a model for practical imitation, and a guide in developing schemes for encouraging saving habits among the population. In February 1873 the directors of the National Savings Bank at Pesth were furnished with information to aid them in introducing a system of Post Office Savings Banks into Hungary; and in November last the United States Government, which in 1871 had obtained full information, applied for and was furnished with the particulars of alterations and improvements made since that time.

Attention of Foreign Governments to the system of Post Office Savings Banks.
Hungary.
United States of America.

" The government of France has fully recognised the importance of fostering anew the *Caisse d'épargne* as powerful means of social renovation after the late war, and, with reference to the measure for their development at present before the National Assembly, several articles by Monsieur A. de Malarce, an eminent statistical writer, have appeared in the *Economiste Français*, and the *Journal des Débats*, containing remarkable testimony to the influence exercised, not only in France, but in Austria, by the success of our system of Post Office Savings Banks. The writer who, in 1870, obtained much information personally at this Department, appears to have been sent on a mission to Vienna last year respecting the Austrian *Sparcassen*, which he found to be on a most extensive scale, and in a very flourishing condition, their capital at that time being 60,400,000*l.*, which was even larger than that of the whole of the English Savings Banks, Post Office and old banks included, namely 59,600,000*l.* It will be remembered that in 1871 the Austrian government obtained full information respecting the system of our Post Office Savings Banks. M. de Malarce also gives some interesting statistics as regards the comparative investments in Savings Banks in certain countries. He estimates such investments throughout Europe, exclusive of Turkey and Russia, at 200,000,000*l.* of which France, since the war, has only 21,600,000*l.* (the amount before the war having been 30,000,000*l.*) As regards Europe this gives 19*s.* 2*d.* per head of population, and the following are the proportions for each inhabitant in the countries named :—

France.
Austria.

Comparison of Savings Bank investments in certain countries of Europe.

	£	s.	d.
England	-	-	-
Austria	-	-	-
France	-	-	-
	1	16	9
	1	12	10
	0	12	0

" The movement in England and Belgium respecting Penny Banks is largely dilated on by M. de Malarce, and he gives much prominence to the report of the interview of the deputations from the Society of Arts, and the Provident Knowledge Society, with the Postmaster General in December last.

Subject of Penny Banks exciting attention in France.

" The legislature of the Australian colony of Victoria, which in 1865 established a system of Post Office Savings Banks with regulations similar to ours in nearly every clause, except that relating to the limit of deposits, has recently found it necessary to adopt our rule

Shilling limits of Deposits adopted by Legislature of Victoria.

Desire for
extension of
limit of
Deposits in
the United
Kingdom.

against depositing fractional parts of a shilling ; a change which is somewhat remarkable in view of recent proposals to do away with that restriction in our case. It may here be mentioned that, while almost from the outset of the Post Office Savings Banks, numerous applications have been received from depositors and persons interested in their welfare, for an extension of the annual and total limit of deposits, the expression of any strong desire for the lowering of the minimum below one shilling is but recent, having emanated not from the depositors themselves but principally from the Provident Knowledge Society."

* * * * *

APPENDIX (L.)—*continued.*

(II.) TABLE showing the Number and Amount of CONTRACTS entered into from the Commencement of Business on 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1873, and the Number and Amount of Contracts in existence on the 31st December 1873.

	CONTRACTS GRANTED.				TOTAL.	
	From 17 April 1865 to 31 December 1872.		From 1 January to 31 December 1873.			
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Contracts for Annuities granted from the commencement of business on 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1873, viz. :—						
Immediate Annuities - -	2,911	48,863 15 2	1,344	10,200 11 10	4,255	59,154 7 0
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - -	133	2,517 1 6	10	195 0 0	143	2,712 1 6
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - - - -	241	4,867 10 0	25	368 19 0	266	5,256 9 0
Contracts for Sums payable at Death granted from the commencement of business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1873 - - - - -	3,804	289,284 4 8	396	36,073 5 11	4,200	322,357 10 7
Contracts for Annuities in existence on the 31st December 1873, viz. :—						
Immediate Annuities - - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	3,994	54,422 16 0
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	125	2,309 19 6
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	164	3,094 11 0
Contracts for Sums payable at Death, in existence on the 31st December 1873 - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	3,643	281,527 6 2

APPENDIX (M.)

Licenses.

NUMBER and DESCRIPTION of LICENSES issued by the Post Office since 1869, with the Revenue from the same.

Year.	Dogs at 5s. each.	Male Servants at 15s. each.	Carriages.		Horse Dealers at 2l. 10s. each.	Horses and Mules at 10s. 6d. each.	Armorial Bearings.		Guns at 10s. each.	Total Number.	Revenue. £ s. d.
			At 42s. each.	At 15s. each.			At 42s. each.	At 21s. each.			
1869	473,218	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	473,218	118,304 10 0
1870	524,032	74,607	32,020	73,171	10	203,331	6,171	10,219	40,742	904,323	400,027 16 6
1871	552,229	70,835	31,887	73,111	10	201,527	5,945	10,303	62,101	1,008,038	473,311 15 6
1872	573,728	71,294	32,978	74,412	10	205,914	5,943	11,090	62,239	1,037,608	485,439 9 0
1873	615,342	60,280	32,930	74,651	8	206,562	5,756	10,762	70,671	1,085,938	498,157 0 0

APPENDIX (N.)

Staff of Officers.

At the end of 1873 the Staff of Officers was as follows, as compared with the Staff at the end of 1872.

On 31st of Dec. 1872.	—	On 31st of Dec. 1873.
	I. Officers in British Isles :— (A.) Staff employed either wholly in postal duties (including Money Order and Savings Bank business,) or partly in postal and partly in telegraph duties, viz.:	
	1 Postmaster General - - - - -	1
	7 Secretary, second secretary, assistant secretary, assistant under-secretaries, surveyor general for Scotland, and secretary for Ireland.	7
	21 Other superior officers in the Metropolitan offices, viz. : heads of departments, chief clerks, &c.	21
	17 Surveyors - - - - -	15
	12,241 Postmasters - - - - -	12,529
	2,742 Clerks, &c. - - - - -	2,954
	15,409 Letter carriers, sorters, messengers, &c. -	16,072
	94 Mail guards and porters - - - - -	101
	6 Marine mail officers - - - - -	6
30,538		31,706
	(B.) Staff engaged exclusively on telegraph duties, viz.:	
	19 Chief engineers and other superior officers -	19
	5,915 Clerks, subordinate engineers, &c. -	6,309
	3,657 Messengers, &c. - - - - -	4,130
9,591		10,458
	29 II. Postmasters, clerks, letter carriers, &c. in the colonies, the posts of which are under the direction of the Postmaster General.	24
29		24
	50 III. Agents in foreign countries for collection of postage, &c.	48
50		48
40,208		42,236

APPENDIX (O).

EXTRACT from the Medical Officer's Report.

* * * * *

"Appended are a few examples of replies of candidates in making their written statements as to the medical histories of their families or themselves. It is to be hoped that in future years the effects of compulsory education may be shown by rendering such replies among the things of the past :—

- "Father had sunstroke and I caught it of him."
 - "My little brother died of some funny name."
 - "A great white cat drew my sister's breath and she died of it."
 - "Apperplexity."
 - "Parasles."
 - "I caught Tiber fever in the Hackney Road."
 - "I had goarnders."
 - "Burrarger in the head."
 - "Rummitanic pains."
 - "Shortness of breadth."
 - "Carracatic fever."
 - "Indigestion of the lungs."
 - "Sister was consumpted, now she's quite well again."
 - "Sister died of compulsion."
 - "Toncertina in the throat."
 - "Pistoles on the back."
- * * * * *

APPENDIX (P.)

Force and Expenditure in relation to Postage and Money Orders in the last Ten Years.

Year.	Force.		EXPENDITURE.												Total Cost of Post Office Service.
	Effective.	Non-Effective.	Cost of Collection and Delivery, of Management, and of Money Order Business.						Cost of Conveyance of Mails.						Total Cost of Conveyance.
			Staff Officers, Postmasters, Clerks, Sorters, Stampers, Messengers, Guards, Letter Carriers (exclusive of Telegraph and Savings Bank Officers).	Pensioners.	Salaries, Wages, Pensions, Travelling Allowances, Foundries on Sale of Stamps, Commission on Money Order Business, Cost of Uniform Clothing, of Medical Attendance, of Substitutes during Holidays or Sickness, and Amount of Official Postage, Law Charges, and incidental Expenses.	Manufacture of Postage Stamps, Post Cards, and Stamped Newspaper Wrappers.	Stationery.	Buildings and Repairs, Rents, Rates, Taxes, Fuel, and Light.	Total Cost of Collection, Delivery, and Management, and of Money Order Business.	Conveyance by Coaches, Carts, and Omnibuses.	Conveyance by Railways.	Mail Bags and Boxes, Tolls, and Ferryage, Apparatus for Exchange of Bags conveyed by Railway, and Miscellaneous Expenses.	Conveyance of Mails by Packets under Contract, and by private Ships.	Conveyance of Mails over Isthmuses of Suez and Panama and in other Foreign Ports, and Salaries of Admiralty Agents and other Officers in charge of Foreign and Colonial Mails.	
1864	25,637	1,131	1,325,945	32,561	89,730	1,414,986	145,069	585,503	21,807	900,610	29,953	1,663,311	3,078,297	2	
1865	25,082	1,274	1,298,153	32,396	75,351	1,462,934	140,517	528,220	22,220	796,399	28,786	1,516,142	2,941,086	2	
1866	25,594	1,423	1,368,167	34,969	182,627	1,609,007	139,898	586,085	21,336	817,467	27,598	1,592,674	3,201,631 (a)	2	
1867	25,902	1,559	1,421,854	33,033	234,592	1,716,163	140,069	559,575	22,434	783,945	22,764	1,531,687	3,246,850 (b)	2	
1868	26,293	1,756	1,440,144	39,014	214,522	1,719,680	139,553	578,927	18,769	777,097	33,696	1,548,044	3,266,724 (c)	2	
1869	26,910	1,871	1,455,251	40,788	110,123	1,634,162	139,316	583,596	17,533	1,056,798	25,322	1,823,065	3,459,227 (d)	2	
1870	28,078	1,983	1,467,813	42,561	110,223	1,698,097	138,763	587,296	16,295	968,464	26,290	1,737,768	3,435,865	2	
1871	28,959	2,064	1,550,783	46,300	136,072	1,731,422	140,822	595,321	19,911	1,047,044 (e)	26,280	1,829,278	3,610,700	2	
1872	30,046	2,241	1,631,975	46,037	164,308 (f)	1,860,520	144,576	618,715	10,774	927,763	23,699	1,734,426	3,684,646	2	
1873	31,055	2,421	1,774,703	57,273	132,307 (f)	2,010,451	147,877	644,179	23,970	944,896	21,300	1,785,228	3,792,679	2	

(a) Including £73,897 paid under the Post Office Extension Act, the greater portion of which has been charged to Buildings, &c.

(b) Including £188,181 ditto.

(c) Including £106,202 ditto.

(d) Including £17,754 ditto.

(e) For an explanation of this increase see Appendix (Q), Note (C).

(f) Of this amount, £116,493 was for Buildings, alterations, and repairs in 1872 and £21,813 in 1873.

APPENDIX (Q.) Gross and Net Revenue from Postage and Money Orders in the last Ten Years.

Year.	Gross Revenue from Letters, Post Cards, Newspapers, and Books.	Money Order Commission.	Unclaimed Money Orders.	Gross Revenue collected by the Post Office.	Produce of the Impressed Stamp on Newspapers collected by Inland Revenue Office.	Total Postal Revenue.	Total Cost of Post Office Service.	Net Revenue.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1864 -	3,967,047	151,979	—	4,109,026	123,533	4,231,559	3,078,297	1,153,261
1865 -	4,142,088	157,113	—	4,299,199	124,409	4,423,608	2,941,086	1,482,522
1866 -	4,311,457	166,430	—	4,477,887	121,780	4,599,667	3,201,681	1,397,986
1867 -	4,376,044	172,085	—	4,548,129	120,085	4,668,214	3,246,850	1,421,364
1868 -	4,391,270 (a)	175,612	—	4,566,882	116,764	4,683,646	3,268,724	1,414,922 (a)
1869 -	4,472,746	176,460	—	4,649,206	115,349	4,764,575	3,459,227 (b)	1,305,348
1870 -	4,664,512 (c)	184,093	—	4,848,605	180,870	4,929,475	3,435,865	1,493,610
1871 -	4,697,607 (d)	183,140	20,707 (e)	4,900,454	—	4,900,454	3,610,700 (f)	1,289,754 (d)
1872 -	5,012,616	192,804	3,502 (e)	5,208,922	—	5,208,922	3,684,946	1,523,976
1873 -	5,134,816	206,067	5,167 (e)	5,346,040	—	5,346,040	3,792,679	1,553,361
Average Net Revenue of first Five Years								
Ditto second ditto								
—								
—								
£1,374,411								
£1,433,610								

(a) The Public Departments ceased to be charged with postage early in the year 1868. The amount so charged in 1867 was upwards of £30,000.

(b) The large increase in the cost of the Post Office Service in 1869 was owing to an increased cost of the Packet Service; as shown in Appendix (P.)

(c) The Impressed Stamp on Newspapers was abolished in September 1870; and since that date the whole Postage on Newspapers has been collected by the Post Office.

(d) The revenue of 1871 was to a certain extent affected by the assimilation of Letter rates of Postage with those of Trade Patterns, and the reduction of Postage on letters exceeding half an ounce in weight; both of which took place on 5th October in that year.

(e) Before 1871 the money accruing from unclaimed Money Orders had, for many years, been used in aiding Officers of the Department to insure their lives; but in that year the Lords of the Treasury gave directions for the discontinuance of the practice (except in regard to then existing recipients of the aid) and for the payment of this money into the Exchequer. In obedience to this order, the accumulated capital together with the interest thereon (amounting to £20,707), was paid into the Exchequer. The actual amount of unclaimed Money Orders for 1871 was £23,390. The unclaimed orders for 1873 are estimated at 3,703*l*. The above sum of 5,167*l* includes a balance of forfeited orders, viz., 1,464*l*, not previously added to the revenue.

(f) Part of the increase in 1871 was owing to a balance due for the Packet Service in 1870 having, at the end of that year, remained unpaid.

APPENDIX (R.)

GROSS REVENUE, COST of MANAGEMENT, and NET REVENUE of the
POST OFFICE of the UNITED KINGDOM, since the Year 1837.*

Year.	Gross Revenue. (a)	Cost of Management.	Net Revenue.	Postage charged on Government Departments.
	£	£	£	£
1838 (b) - -	2,346,278	686,768	1,659,510	45,156
1839 (c) - -	2,390,763	756,999	1,633,764	44,277
1840 (d) - -	1,359,466	858,677	500,789	90,761
Average of Five } Years, 1841-45 }	1,658,214	1,001,405	656,809	112,468
„ 1846-50	2,143,717	1,304,772	838,944	110,798
„ 1851-55	2,569,836	1,441,834	1,128,502	157,003
„ 1856-60	3,135,587	1,785,911	1,349,676	145,566
„ 1861-65	3,891,568	2,074,188	1,817,380	184,912
„ 1866-70.	4,618,146 (f)	2,419,926	2,198,220	92,877 (e)
1871 - -	4,900,454 (g)	2,559,797	2,340,657	—
1872 - -	5,208,922	2,754,764	2,454,158	—
1873 - -	5,348,040	2,846,707	2,501,333	—

* In this Table the Revenue does not include the produce of the Impressed Stamp on Newspapers, and the Expenditure does not include either the cost of the Packet Service or that of Stationery. The Finance Accounts relating to the Post Office from 1838 to 1859 inclusive having been constructed in this manner, the same arrangement (so far as this table is concerned, except that, with a view to greater accuracy the liabilities of the year have been substituted for the disbursements) has been continued subsequently, with a view to facilitate comparison. The correct revenue of the Post Office for the year 1873 will be found at page 17 of this Report.

(a) Namely, the Gross Receipts after deducting the Returns for "Refused Letters," &c.

(b) 1839 was the last complete year before the general reduction of postage.

(c) On 5th December 1839 the maximum Inland Postage for a single letter was reduced to 4d.

(d) On 10th January 1840 the postage on all inland letters weighing not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. was reduced to a uniform charge of one penny.

(e) Postage ceased to be charged on the correspondence of Government Departments early in the year 1868. The amount of Government Postage (excluding the Post Office itself) for the last complete year in which it was charged (1867) was about 197,000l.

(f) Prior to 1st October 1870 newspapers bearing the impressed stamp of the Inland Revenue Department passed through the Post free. The impressed stamp, however, was abolished on that date, the rate of postage being at the same time reduced from a penny on any newspaper not weighing more than 4 oz. to a halfpenny on each newspaper irrespective of weight. On the same date, the Book rate was reduced to a halfpenny for every 2 oz.; circulars (not wholly printed) were admitted to the privileges of the Book Post; and Post Cards at one halfpenny each were issued.

(g) In October 1871 the distinctive rate of postage on patterns and samples was abolished; the letter rate on all letters and packets weighing more than half an ounce being at the same time reduced to the following scale:

For a letter not above 1 oz.	-	-	-	1d.
„ above 1 oz. but not above 2 oz.	-	-	-	1½d.
„ „ 2 oz.	„	4 oz.	-	2d.
„ „ 4 oz.	„	6 oz.	-	2½d.
„ „ 6 oz.	„	8 oz.	-	3d.
„ „ 8 oz.	„	10 oz.	-	3½d.
„ „ 10 oz.	„	12 oz.	-	4d.
„ „ 12 oz.	one penny for each ounce.			

L O N D O N :

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