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TWENTY-SECOND 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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TWENTY-SECOND 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 Twenty-second Annual Report on the Post Office ; being that for the year 1875.

INLAND SERVICE.

By the establishment of 264 new offices during the year the Post Offices. total number of Post Offices in the United Kingdom was raised to 13,226 ; and of this number 886 are Head Offices.

The number of Road Letter Boxes was increased from 9,671 in 1874, to 10,186 in 1875.

Thus, the total number of postal receptacles in the United Kingdom is now 23,412 ; as compared with 16,246 ten years ago, and with little more than 4,500 before the establishment of Penny Postage in 1840.

In London alone there are 1,744 such receptacles.

Considerable advance has been made in carrying out the structural alterations in the old Post Office building, St. Martins-le-Grand, which have been in progress for some time past, affording improved accommodation to several branches of the Circulation Office, by which that building is now almost wholly occupied. Alterations in chief office, London.

It is in contemplation to provide accommodation in one building for the Central Savings Bank Department and such other departments as are not at present accommodated in either of the two General Post Office buildings. Additional building contemplated for the chief office.

The new Crown Post Offices at Aberdeen, Chester, Dewsbury, Eastbourne, Gateshead, Greenock, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Kingston-on-Thames, Leith, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Norwich, Peterborough, Rochdale, and West Hartlepool, have been completed and occupied.

New Post Offices at Burton-on-Trent, Cheltenham, Margate, New post offices. Paisley, Shrewsbury, and Wakefield, will soon be completed ;

and arrangements have been authorised for providing new offices at Blackburn, Durham, Hull, Londonderry, Manchester, Oldham, Oxford, Reading, Rotherham, St. Helen's, Stockport, Stockton, Warrington, and Waterford.

The offices at Bath and Belfast have been enlarged and improved, and alterations of a like kind will shortly be effected in the offices at Carmarthen, Chesterfield, and Plymouth. At Glasgow, very extensive alterations are about to be carried out with a view to the enlargement of that office.

Volunteer fire brigades.

Volunteer Fire Brigades have either been established, or are about to be established, at the following offices amongst others; viz.:—General Post Office, London, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, and Manchester.

Free deliveries.

Deliveries have been established for the first time at 531 places; and the deliveries at 622 other places have been increased in number or otherwise improved.

Additional mail train service.

A Night Mail train service has been established on the line between Ruabon and Dolgelly, affording greatly improved postal communication to the towns of Llangollen, Corwen, Bala, and Dolgelly, and to the extensive district dependent on them for its posts.

Earlier despatch of day mails.

The earlier arrival of the first Day Mails from London by the 5.15 a.m. express trains on the Midland and Great Northern lines, established early in 1875, has given much satisfaction to many of the large manufacturing towns in the northern counties; and Day Mails from London to Bolton and Stockport have been established for the first time.

Contracts with Railway Companies in the North of Scotland.

Shortly after the conclusion of the arbitration with the Railway Companies in the North of Scotland, to which I referred in my last report, contracts were entered into for a term of years; and under the new arrangements two trains in each direction, serving the counties of Sutherland and Caithness, are now used for postal purposes. A sorting carriage has also been placed on the Highland Railway beyond Inverness, by which the postal service of the extreme north has been improved.

Early morning mails from London.

Arrangements have been made for despatching letters from London by the newspaper train leaving Paddington at 5.30 a.m., with such advantage that the correspondence so forwarded now reaches South Wales $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours earlier than formerly.

Improved mail service to Brighton, Hastings, &c.

The Night Mail service on the London and Brighton Railway has been much improved, with advantage to a very large amount of correspondence, and a Night Mail train to and from Lewes, Eastbourne, and Hastings, has been established in connexion with the London and Brighton Mail trains.

Prevention of delays arising from unpunctuality of trains.

The delays to letters from Scotland and the north-west of England to towns on the north-east coast, which were of frequent occurrence during the winter of 1874–75, through the unpunctual working of trains, have been obviated during the past winter by means of special arrangements.

Various other improvements of minor importance have been effected in the conveyance of Mails during the past year.

The Travelling Post Office has ceased to be a separate establishment, and now exists as a branch of the Circulation Department, to the work of which its duties are closely allied. Travelling post office.

During the year additional Travelling Post Offices were established on three of the principal lines of railway.

The floods which visited England during last autumn were a fruitful source of irregularity, causing frequent derangement of Mail train services, and serious delays to rural posts. They also impeded the deliveries in some towns. At Burton-on-Trent letters were delivered from a cart at the windows of the houses by means of a long pole. Floods.

It is worthy of note that at Burton-on-Trent there was an increase in the sale of halfpenny stamps during one week of the visitation to the extent of 20%; and this increase, which was due to the large number of local newspapers posted, containing accounts of the floods, more than covered the expense incurred at that place during the same week in carrying on the service by special means.

LETTERS, POST CARDS, BOOK PACKETS, AND NEWSPAPERS.

The following table shows the estimated number of letters, post cards, book packets, and newspapers which passed through the Post in 1875, as also the rate of increase on the previous year, together with the proportion of letters to population. Returns of letters, &c.

—	No. of Letters in 1875.	Increase per cent. on No. in 1874.	No. of Post Cards in 1875.	Increase per cent. on No. in 1874.	No. of Book Packets and Newspapers in 1875.	Increase per cent. on No. in 1874.	Number of Letters per head.
England and Wales	846,852,400	5·3	73,369,100	11·6	226,740,500	9·7	35
Ireland	70,568,300	0·8	4,540,900	5·5	23,432,700	2·6	13
Scotland	90,976,400	0·9	9,206,300	6·7	29,542,800	0·5	26
United Kingdom	1,008,392,100	4·2	87,116,300	10·7	279,716,000	8·0	31

The number of registered letters in the United Kingdom during the year was 4,313,404, or about one in 234 of the whole number of letters. Registered letters.

The number of letters received in the Returned Letter Office was 4,346,300; being about 1 in every 232 of the total number of letters. It was found possible either to return to the writers, or to re-issue nearly nine tenths of the whole number received. Returned letters.

Fewer letters reached the Returned Letter Office in 1875 than in 1874, but the decrease is due to the fact that the number in 1874 was unusually high in consequence of the General Election of that year. Had there been no disturbing cause of this kind, it is estimated that the letters dealt with in 1875 would have exceeded those of the preceding year by 30,000.

Proceeding from the same cause, a decrease is shown in the numbers of post cards, books, and newspapers sent to the Returned Letter Office.

Unaddressed letters.

Upwards of 25,500 letters were posted without any address; of which number 464 contained in the aggregate nearly 500*l.* in cash and bank notes, and nearly 6,000*l.* in cheques, &c.

Newspapers for places abroad insufficiently prepaid.

The number of newspapers for places abroad detained for insufficient postage or other cause, which in 1874 was 173,000, was in 1875 only 166,000, showing a decrease of 7,000.

Loose postage stamps.

Nearly 65,000 postage stamps were found loose in the different Post Offices.

Provincial returned letter offices.

In addition to the Returned Letter Offices of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, branch offices for the return of letters have been established at Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, and Manchester.

Articles found without covers.

Miscellaneous articles numbering 13,648 reached the Returned Letter Office wholly destitute of covers. In a large number of these cases the covers were of too flimsy a nature to resist the attrition to which packets are unavoidably subjected in the mail bags.

Articles passing through the post.

The Post Office while fulfilling its first duty to the public by affording means for the rapid transmission of correspondence, is also made the vehicle of conveyance for small articles of almost endless variety; of these the following were observed passing through the post during the year, viz., silkworms and gentles; flowers, fruit, and vegetables; various kinds of game; wearing apparel; models of metal fittings and toys; leeches, snails, eggs, six white mice, a sparrow, two snakes, a crayfish, and a dog. Several of these being prohibited articles were sent to the Returned Letter Office.

The dog was posted at the Lombard Street Office, and, having fallen into the bag affixed to the letter box, was not discovered until the contents were turned out at St. Martin's-le-Grand.

Letters carelessly enclosed or insufficiently addressed.

The failure of letters to reach the persons for whom they are intended is not always attributable to the Post Office.

An unregistered letter was recently received at Liverpool in a very thin cover bearing an almost illegible address, and was delivered to a firm to whom it was supposed to be directed. On being opened, the letter and its enclosures, five 100*l.* notes, were found to be intended for another firm, to whom they were eventually delivered.

The following is a copy of the address of a letter which also reached Liverpool, the names of persons and places being here omitted. "This letter is for Mrs. M. ——— She lives in some part of Liverpool. From her father John ——— a tailor from ———; he would be thankful to some Postmaster in Liverpool if he would find her out." The addressee, unfortunately, could not be found, and the letter was sent to the Returned Letter Office.

Missing letters found in possession of the addressees.

It happens not unfrequently that complaints are made of the failure both of letters and telegrams, which, after inquiry has taken place, are found in the waste-paper baskets or pockets of the addressees.

Superstition rarely stands in the way of the extension of postal accommodation or convenience; but a case of the kind recently occurred in the west of Ireland. Application was made for the erection of a wall letter box, and authority had been granted for setting it up; but when arrangements came to be made for providing for the collection of letters, no one could be found to undertake the duty, in consequence of a general belief among the poorer people in the neighbourhood that, at that particular spot, "a ghost went out nightly on parade." The ghost was stated to be a large white turkey without a head.

TELEGRAPHS.

The increase in the amount of telegraph business, although not so great as in previous years, has still been satisfactory, nearly 1,650,000 more messages having been dealt with in 1875 than in 1874. The amount of matter transmitted on behalf of the Press was also largely in excess of the amount transmitted in any previous year, the number of words so transmitted and delivered to newspapers, clubs, exchanges, &c. being upwards of 220,000,000. Development of service.

The number of post offices open for the transaction of telegraph business at the end of the year was 3,730 or 31 more than the number open at the end of 1874. The number of new offices is small as compared with the number opened in some former years, but the telegraph system had already been extended to nearly every place at which it was considered probable that the revenue would be sufficient to meet the expense involved. Of the 31 new offices, most of them were opened at the request of the inhabitants of the district, who guaranteed the Department against actual loss. In addition to the 3,730 post offices 1,872 railway stations were open for the transaction of public telegraph business. Number of offices.

Although during the year only a small additional mileage of wires has been erected, the Department has been able, by the more extended use of the duplex system of working, and by the substitution of improved forms of apparatus for those previously in use, to deal with the increased number of both private and news messages with greater expedition than in previous years. Improved service.

The increase in the amount of revenue derived from private wires is less than in previous years, owing partly to the depression in trade and partly to less active steps having been taken by the Department to obtain business; the revenue however derived from the rentals of private wires was at the rate of upwards of 56,000*l.* a year.* Private wires.

The number of wires rented by provincial newspapers as special wires for the transmission of news to the towns of Special news-paper wires.

* For further details, see Appendix H., pages 28 and 29.

publication has increased to 18. Two London newspapers also rented special wires for the transmission of news nightly, in the one case for a period of six hours and in the other for three hours, between Paris and London.

Interruptions
to cables.

An unusual number of interruptions, involving very considerable expense for repairs, occurred in the telegraphic communications which are maintained by means of submarine cables. At one time both the cable between England and the Channel Islands and that between England and the Isle of Man were broken.

International
Telegraphic
Conference.

An international telegraphic conference was held in the summer of last year at St. Petersburg, at which this country was represented, and various modifications of the rules under which international telegrams are accepted and forwarded were made; but as the alterations did not come into force until the 1st of January 1876, I do not refer to them specifically in the present report.

Arbitrations
with railway
companies.

I had hoped that during the course of the year some greater progress would have been made towards a settlement of the outstanding claims against the Department of the various railway companies for their interests in telegraphy under the terms of the Act of 1868, but I regret that it was only found possible to proceed to arbitration in the case of the Great Eastern and the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Companies.

The Great Eastern Company claimed the sum of 412,608*l.*, with interest thereon at the rate of 5 per cent. from the 30th of June 1874 to the date of payment, together with an annual payment of 1*l.* per mile per wire for all wires erected upon their railway for way-leave (at the time of the arbitration the Post Office had 3,495 miles of wire upon the railway). Under the terms of the award the railway company were paid the sum of 73,315*l.*, and receive an annual payment of 200*l.* for way-leave, or about one sixth of what they claimed.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company claimed the enormous sum of 1,129,814*l.*, with interest thereon at the rate of 5 per cent. from the 1st of July 1873 to date of payment, and 1*l.* per mile per wire per annum for all Post Office wires upon their system of railways (there were 1,667 miles of wire at the time of the arbitration). Under the award they obtained the sum of 169,197*l.* and receive 1*s.* per mile per wire per annum for way-leave, or but little more than one-eighth of their claim.

In each case the Post Office had to pay to the companies their costs of arbitration, but the bills upon taxation were reduced from 12,213*l.* 12*s.* and 23,311*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* to 3,195*l.* 8*s.* and 7,356*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* respectively.

Retirement of
Mr. Scudamore.

I cannot conclude my observations on the Telegraph Service without alluding to the retirement of Mr. Scudamore. His valuable services, extending over a period of 35 years in several branches of the Post Office, and especially in connexion with the transfer and organization of the Telegraphs, are so well known to your Lordships and to the public, that I am under no

necessity to recapitulate them here. I should not, however, be doing justice to one who has devoted such great ability and such unremitting exertion to the service of the State if I were not to record my regret at the termination, under failing health, of his connexion with the department.

MONEY ORDERS.

During last year 192 additional Money Order Offices were opened; making the whole number in the United Kingdom 5,260. Money Order Offices.

Arrangements have been made for the issue and payment of Money Orders between this country and Norway; and the system with France which, previous to April 1875, was limited to operations with Paris, has been extended to all places in France and Algeria at which there are Money Order Offices. System established with Norway. System extended throughout France and to Algeria.

The number of Inland Orders in 1875 was 16,485,661; being an increase of 585,099, or about $3\frac{7}{10}$ ths per cent. on the previous year. Number of Inland Orders.

The aggregate amount of the Orders was 26,497,918*l.*; and the average value of the Orders 1*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* Aggregate amount of orders.

In the three several divisions of the United Kingdom the proportion of Orders to population was as follows, viz.; England and Wales, 58·6 Orders to 100 persons; Scotland, 39·1 Orders to 100 persons; Ireland, 20·3 Orders to 100 persons. Proportion of orders to population.

It will be seen by Appendix (J.) that there has been a gradual rise in the proportion of Money Orders to population since 1839, the first year of the Money Order system. In that year the numbers in the three divisions were only 0·9, 0·6, and 0·4 per 100 persons respectively, while in 1868 they had risen to 37·2, 24·2, and 11·7 respectively. The increase, as has been already shown, is still maintained, and is due doubtless to a variety of causes—expansion of trade, more frequent changes of abode on the part of members of the community, reductions in the charge for Money Orders, and increase in the number of Money Order Offices, &c.

The number of Orders exchanged between this country and the Colonies was 161,226; being 2,260 less than in 1874. Number of Colonial Orders.

It is to be noted that the Money Order system is more extensively used for the transmission of money home from the Colonies than in the opposite direction, the value of Orders drawn upon England in 1875 being 556,993*l.* as against 95,083*l.* drawn on the Colonies.

The system with Foreign Countries shows an increase for the year of 15,532 Orders, the total number exchanged being 172,987, and their value 543,089*l.* Of this sum 205,880*l.* is the amount of Orders drawn on Foreign Countries, and 337,209*l.* the value of Orders drawn on the United Kingdom. Number of Foreign Orders.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.*

The Annual Returns of the Post Office Savings Bank for Progress. 1875 show that the business of that Department during the

* For detailed information, see Appendix K., pages 34 to 40.

year was considerably greater than in 1874, and that the increase of business of previous years has been fully maintained.

Number of Savings Banks. During last year 163 new Offices were opened in England and Wales; 21 in Scotland; and 8 in Ireland; the total number of Offices in the United Kingdom being thereby raised to 5,260.

Decrease in number of old Savings Banks. Since the establishment of Post Office Savings Banks, 14 years ago, the number of Old Savings Banks in the United Kingdom has diminished from 638 to 473; and the whole number of Old Savings Banks is now considerably less than the number of Post Office Savings Banks in the London District alone, which is 580.

Depositors and deposits. The number of depositors has increased by 108,370, this addition raising the total number of persons having accounts open at the end of the year to 1,777,103.

Total amount at credit of depositors. The total amount of the balances at the credit of depositors, together with interest accrued, at the close of 1875 was 25,187,345*l.*, being an increase of 2,029,876*l.* on the total of the previous year.

Deposits and withdrawals during the year. The whole amount of the sums deposited during the year was 8,783,852*l.*, and that of the sums withdrawn, 7,325,560*l.*

Interest credited to depositors. The amount of interest credited to depositors during the year was 571,584*l.*; showing an increase of 47,025*l.* on the amount of the previous year.

Average of deposits and withdrawals. The average amount of the deposits was 2*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* as against 2*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* in 1874; so that there was a recurrence of the peculiarity manifested in 1874 of the deposit average increasing instead of gradually decreasing as in years prior to 1874. As regards withdrawals the average was 6*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, the increase in the average common to former years being maintained.

Proportion of depositors to population. Average amount at credit of Depositors. The proportion of depositors to population was 1 to about 18 in the United Kingdom; or 1 to about 14 in England and Wales; 1 to about 69 in Scotland; and 1 to about 89 in Ireland; while the average amount to the credit of each depositor, which was over 14*l.* in the United Kingdom, with a slight excess of that sum as regards England and Wales, showed an increased disparity in the sister kingdoms, being considerably less than 9*l.* in Scotland, and fully 17*l.* in Ireland. In the case of Scotland, it has been usual to consider that the comparatively limited number of depositors, as well as the small amount due to each, was greatly attributable to the system of the ordinary banks in allowing interest on small sums. It will be seen, however, from the letter of Dr. Neilson Hancock, quoted in the Report of the Controller of Post Office Savings Banks (Appendix K.), that a similar banking system exists in Ireland, where, as already shown, the proportion of depositors in Post Office Savings Banks is even smaller than in Scotland, while the average amount of each account is larger.

Limited number of depositors in Scotland and Ireland. Similar causes in both countries. The proportion of depositors to population was 1 to about 18 in the United Kingdom; or 1 to about 14 in England and Wales; 1 to about 69 in Scotland; and 1 to about 89 in Ireland; while the average amount to the credit of each depositor, which was over 14*l.* in the United Kingdom, with a slight excess of that sum as regards England and Wales, showed an increased disparity in the sister kingdoms, being considerably less than 9*l.* in Scotland, and fully 17*l.* in Ireland. In the case of Scotland, it has been usual to consider that the comparatively limited number of depositors, as well as the small amount due to each, was greatly attributable to the system of the ordinary banks in allowing interest on small sums. It will be seen, however, from the letter of Dr. Neilson Hancock, quoted in the Report of the Controller of Post Office Savings Banks (Appendix K.), that a similar banking system exists in Ireland, where, as already shown, the proportion of depositors in Post Office Savings Banks is even smaller than in Scotland, while the average amount of each account is larger.

Average daily number of deposits. The average daily number of deposits was 10,236; but on the 1st February, on which the largest number was received, there were 21,626.

Convenience of Post Office system. Of the total number of deposits and withdrawals last year 28 per cent. were made at offices other than those at which the

accounts were originally opened. In 1874 the proportion of such transactions was 26 per cent. ; in 1868, 19 per cent. ; and in the first year of the establishment of Post Office Savings Banks only a little over 4 per cent. This gradual rise in the proportion seems to show that the advantage afforded to depositors, of allowing deposits or withdrawals to be made, in respect of the same deposit book and account, at any Post Office Savings Bank in the kingdom, is more and more appreciated every year.

During the year 351 Friendly Societies, and 1,087 Trade, Charitable, and Provident Societies were authorised to invest their funds in the Post Office Savings Banks, and accounts were opened with 149 Penny Banks.

Friendly and other societies.

Penny Banks.

School Banks.

The experiment of establishing Penny Banks in Schools has been attended with encouraging results during the past year, more detailed information on the subject of which will be found in the Appendix.

Inquiries have again been made by foreign governments for information respecting the working of the Post Office Savings Banks in this country, and early last year the French Government took the important step of sending over a special commissioner to study the details of the system. Shortly after his return to France, a Bill was laid before the National Assembly with a view to the establishment of similar banks in that country, but in consequence of much opposition the Bill had to be withdrawn. There is an opinion, however, that the measure has only been postponed, and that it will eventually become law.

Information asked for by foreign governments.

Proposal to establish Post Office Savings Banks in France.

The force of the Savings Bank Department was augmented last year by the addition of a staff of female clerks, and I am glad to be able to report that the experiment has been attended with very satisfactory results.

Female staff.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POSTS.

The provisions of the Postal Union Treaty, concluded at Berne on the 9th October 1874, were carried into operation generally on the 1st July 1875, an exception being made in the case of France, in which country, according to agreement, the provisions did not take effect until the 1st January 1876.

Postal union treaty.

From this date also Gibraltar has been considered as belonging to the Union, which now comprises the whole of Europe.

Gibraltar brought into postal union.

The United States of America and Egypt are already included in the Union ; British India and all the Colonies of France were admitted on the 1st of this month ; and proposals for the admission of some other foreign countries, as well as the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland, have recently been made.

Extension of Union to other colonies and countries.

A misapprehension appears to exist extensively that identical rates of postage have been adopted by the several countries of the Union, and this misapprehension has led to numerous cases of surcharge on letters reaching this country, but particularly in the case of letters posted in France. The writers would

Misapprehension as to rates to and from this country.

appear to suppose that because the British charge on a single letter for France is 2½d., a like charge of 25 centimes is the proper postage on a single letter to England. The single letter rate from France to England is really 30 centimes.

Each country free within certain limits to fix its own rate.

Within certain limits prescribed by the Treaty, each State is free to fix its own rate. The great majority of the Continental States have, however, adopted the normal charge of 25 centimes, but France, Italy, Russia, and Greece have fixed their unit of charge at 30 centimes, or at the nearest equivalent to that sum in their national currency.

Many complaints having been made respecting the difference of charge in opposite directions, I think it well to afford the above explanation for general information.

Increase of work in consequence of Postal Union.

While the effect of the Postal Union has been to facilitate the exchange of mails between the States concerned, by the adoption of uniformity in the treatment of correspondence and by the simplification of accounts, its provisions entail more work on the Post Office; inasmuch as the correspondence has to be more minutely classified, and consequently more bags have to be made up.

Reduction of postage on letters to Brazil.

Prepayment optional.

Registration system extended to Brazil.

A postal convention has been concluded with Brazil, under which the postage upon letters transmitted in either direction between the United Kingdom and that country can be prepaid to destination, or letters may be sent without prepayment, the rates of postage in the two cases being 9d. and 1s. per half ounce respectively. The inconvenience which formerly existed in consequence of the absence of registration in the Brazilian Post Office has been removed, a system of registration for letters and other packets being now in operation in pursuance of the terms of the convention.

Mail Service to Bahamas improved.

Service to Spain through France resumed.

Fiji. Postal regulations.

The service to the Bahamas has been improved; the mails now being despatched hence every Saturday instead of at varying dates as formerly.

The regular service to Spain and Gibraltar through France has been resumed.

Fiji having become a British possession, has been placed, as regards postal regulations, on the same footing as the Australian Colonies.

Letters for passengers to India, &c. via Brindisi, special arrangements.

For the accommodation of passengers proceeding to India, China, &c., by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Mail Packets, via Brindisi, arrangements have been made for sending every week in a special bag to be delivered on board, letters addressed to the passengers, on the usual conditions that such letters are prepaid and registered, and are addressed to the care of the Commander. This measure has given satisfaction, and has been gratefully acknowledged.

Notice to terminate contract for Cape service.

Notice was given to the Union Steam Ship Company to terminate on the 30th of last month their contract for the Cape of Good Hope Mail Service.

The Governments of the South African Colonies have been left to make their own arrangements for the performance of the service hereafter; and, until new contracts have been entered

into, it is intended to forward the correspondence in ship letter mails.

Notice has also been given to the several companies which now convey the mails from this country to the United States that the contracts made with them will terminate on the 31st December next, and it is hoped that it may be found practicable to secure equally good postal communication with the United States at a cost much lower than that hitherto incurred.

Notice to terminate services to the United States.

There have been some unfortunate casualties in the Ocean Mail Service; in two instances attended with the damage and partial loss of the mails. First, in the wreck of the Hamburg Packet "Schiller," off the Scilly Islands, with mails from the United States, New Zealand, and New South Wales; and secondly, in the wreck of the "Boyne," off Ushant, with mails from Brazil. In both cases a considerable portion of the mails was recovered. Everything was done by means of drying and patching to effect delivery of the contents of the bags recovered, and the efforts made in this direction were attended with considerable success.

Casualties in ocean mail services.

STAFF OF OFFICERS.

During 1875 the number of officers was increased by 662; and the total is now 44,644,* of whom 11,605 are employed exclusively on telegraph work.

Number of Officers.

The number of postmasters is 13,226; of clerks there are nearly 10,000; and of letter carriers, sorters, and messengers, over 21,000.

Of this staff, nearly 10,250 are employed in London; and of these over 5,500 are attached to the chief offices in St. Martin's-le-Grand.

The Chief Medical Officer of the Department, Dr. Waller Lewis, in reporting upon the health of the officers in London, states that during 1875 the staff showed an exceptionally favourable condition of health; the deaths being in the proportion of less than five per thousand of the persons employed.

Health of Officers.

This rate of mortality contrasts most favourably with that of the metropolis generally, which averages 13·8 per thousand, the comparison having reference to persons between the ages of 15 and 60, which are the usual limits of age of officers in actual service. It contrasts even more favourably with the death-rate of officers of the Department in London 20 years ago, which was between 14 and 15 per thousand. There was very little illness of a severe character among the officers during the year.

The number of superannuated officers formerly attached to the London Office was, last year, nearly 800. Of these 27 died during the year; the average age at death being 64 years.

Superannuated Officers.

If the number of deaths among the active and retired officers be taken together, they show a rate of mortality in the com-

* For detailed information, see Appendix N., page 44.

bined body of less than 7 per thousand, which is about one half the general death-rate of London among persons of similar ages.

Practice of
giving drink to
Letter Carriers.

In my last report I had occasion to refer to the practice of giving drink to letter carriers, with especial reference to the extent to which the practice prevailed at Liverpool. I am glad to be able to state that the reports received during the past year induce me to believe that the evil in question has greatly diminished at that place. Indeed, the conduct of the force, both at Liverpool and Manchester, during the last Christmas season, when the temptations are greatest, was such as to call for my special commendation.

Conduct of
officers.

Throughout the country the conduct of the great majority of the officers during the year has been good.

POST OFFICE ANNUITIES AND LIFE INSURANCES.*

Progress.

The work of the Department in these two branches does not call for any special notice, the returns for the past year showing that the business both as regards Annuities and Insurances is steadily though slowly progressing. Measures for bringing to the notice of the public the opportunities afforded by the Department are under my consideration. Detailed statements of the business done under these heads will be found in Appendix (L)

INLAND REVENUE LICENSES† AND RECEIPT STAMPS.

Decrease in
number of
licenses issued.

The amount collected by the Post Office in the year 1875 in respect of Inland Revenue licenses was 438,346*l.* as compared with 521,249*l.* collected in the previous year. The decrease is due to the abolition of the duties on horse dealers and horses and mules; and but for the discontinuance of these duties, the whole number of licenses issued and the amount collected in 1875 would have shown a considerable increase on the figures of 1874.

The increase in the number of dog and gun licenses issued, and the amount collected in respect thereof, was respectively 77,170 and 21,142*l.*, but as regards the other classes of licenses there was little variation from the figures of the previous year.

Receipt stamps.

It may be mentioned here that the Post Office undertook the sale of receipt stamps for the Inland Revenue Department on the 1st of April 1874, and that the amount of such sales in the year 1875 was over 140,000*l.*

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

I.—POSTAGE AND MONEY ORDERS.‡

Gross revenue.

The gross revenue from Postage and Money Orders, properly appertaining to the year, was 5,815,000*l.*, being an increase of 164,000*l.* on the like revenue of the previous year. Considering the depressed

* For details, see Appendix L., pages 41 and 42.

† For details, see Appendix M., page 43.

‡ For details, see Appendices O. and P., pages 45 and 46.

commercial condition of the country during 1875, this result is by no means unsatisfactory. It must also be remembered that the revenue of 1874 was abnormally swollen to the extent of some 30,000*l.* by the general election, and that the arrangement whereby the postage collected on Australian correspondence was handed over to the Australian colonies involved a reduction of revenue in the past year amounting to 66,000*l.*

The expenditure properly appertaining to the year was 3,921,000*l.* as compared with 3,915,000*l.* in 1874, showing an increase of only 6,000*l.* The expenditure may therefore be practically said to have been stationary, a fact owing to more favourable contracts for the conveyance of mails, and to the arrangements with the Australian colonies, whereby the service was taken into their own hands beyond Point de Galle. Expenditure.

The chief items of expense were 1,942,000*l.* for salaries, wages, pensions, &c.; 836,000*l.* for conveyance by mail packets and private ships; 667,000*l.* for conveyance by railway; 162,000*l.* for conveyance by coaches, carts, and omnibuses; and 143,000*l.* for buildings, repairs, &c. Chief items of expense.

As compared with the figures of 1874, these items exhibit an increase of 68,000*l.* for salaries, &c.; of 17,000*l.* for conveyance by railway; of 5,000*l.* for conveyance by coaches, &c.; and a decrease of 80,000*l.* for conveyance by mail packet and private ships; and of 26,000*l.* for buildings, &c.

The net revenue was 1,894,000*l.* as compared with 1,836,000*l.* in 1874; showing an increase of 58,000*l.* Net revenue.

If the several Departments of Government had been charged with postage, both the gross and net revenue from postage would have been increased by 100,000*l.*

II.—TELEGRAPHS.

The gross earnings of the telegraph service in the year 1875 amounted to 1,187,313*l.*, while the expenditure was 1,044,166*l.*, so that the net earnings amounted to 143,147*l.* During the previous year the net earnings applicable to the payment of interest upon the capital raised for the purchase of the telegraphs were 109,000*l.* The increase in the net earnings is therefore 34,147*l.* Gross revenue.
Expenditure.
Net earnings.

Work was performed for other Government Departments without payment to the value of 10,453*l.*, and if this sum be added to the difference between the gross receipts and expenditure, the actual net earnings of the year amounted to 153,600*l.*

Your Lordships will observe that Appendix Q., which exhibits the Telegraph revenue and expenditure since the transfer of the Service to the State, and which is now inserted for the first time, is compiled for the financial year ending the 31st March. I have chosen the financial year in this case with the view of submitting more accurate results than a statement for the calendar year could afford. Appendix Q.

Future reports
to be for the
financial year.

There is a serious objection, I think, to the returns furnished in my Annual Report and in the Finance Accounts not being for identical periods, as questions may arise from time to time respecting apparent discrepancies between the two sets of accounts, which would require much time and labour to explain. I propose, therefore, with your Lordships' concurrence, to let future Annual Reports relate to the financial year.

III.—POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Gross revenue
and expen-
diture.

The number of deposits and the number of withdrawals in the year 1875 were larger than in any previous year, being respectively 3,132,433 and 1,112,637.

Profit.

Since the establishment of the Post Office Savings Banks 4,445,724 accounts have been opened, and 2,668,621 accounts have been closed, leaving 1,777,103 accounts open at the end of the year 1875.

The total amount deposited from the commencement, inclusive of interest credited to depositors, was in round figures 81,397,000*l.*, and the amount withdrawn 56,210,000*l.*, leaving a balance remaining on deposit on the 31st December 1875 of 25,187,000*l.*

The assets belonging to the Post Office Savings Banks exceeded their liabilities by no less than 955,000*l.*, of which sum about 126,000*l.* accrued in the year 1875.

The average cost of a Post Office Savings Bank transaction, —*i.e.*, a deposit or withdrawal,—for the whole period of the existence of Post Office Savings Banks has been 6 $\frac{1}{10}$ *d.*

I have the honour to be,

My Lords,

Your Lordships' obedient humble Servant,

JOHN MANNERS.

General Post Office,
28th July 1876.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX (A.)

Letters Delivered.

ESTIMATED NUMBER 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.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.	Total in Scotland.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.	Total in Ireland.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.	Total in United Kingdom.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.
	By Country Offices.	Increase per cent. per annum.	In London District, including Local Letters.	Increase per cent. per annum.												
Estimated No. of Letters, 1839 -	-	-	-	-	60,000,000	-	{	8,000,000	-	{	8,000,000	-	{	70,000,000	-	{
Estimated No. of Franks, 1839 -	-	-	-	-	5,172,900	-	4	336,000	-	1	1,035,000	-	1	6,533,000	-	3
Estimated No. of Letters, 1840 -	88,000,000	-	44,000,000	-	132,000,000	120	8	19,000,000	143½	7	18,900,000	118½	2	169,000,000	122½	7
Average of 5 years, 1841-45	122,000,000	10½	57,000,000	9	179,000,000	10½	11	24,000,000	9½	9	24,000,000	9½	3	227,000,000	10	8
" " 1846-50	180,000,000	5½	79,000,000	5½	259,000,000	5½	15	34,000,000	4½	12	31,000,000	5	4	327,000,000	5	12
" " 1851-55	233,000,000	6½	97,000,000	6½	330,000,000	6	18	41,000,000	5½	14	39,000,000	3½	6	410,000,000	5½	15
" " 1856-60	302,000,000	4½	125,000,000	5½	427,000,000	4½	22	51,000,000	3½	16	45,000,000	3	7	513,000,000	4½	18
" " 1861-65	373,000,000	5½	161,000,000	5½	534,000,000	5½	29	61,000,000	4	20	55,000,000	3½	9	613,000,000	6½	22
" " 1866-70	472,000,000	4½	192,000,000	3½	664,000,000	4	31	76,000,000	4½	24	60,000,000	3½	11	800,000,000	4	26
Year 1871	501,000,000	½	220,000,000	7	721,000,000	2½	32	80,000,000	1½	24	63,000,000	3	13	867,000,000	2½	27
" 1872	510,000,000	1½	227,000,000	3	737,000,000	2½	32	82,000,000	2½	24	63,000,000	-	13	885,000,000	2	28
" 1873	518,000,000	1½	233,506,000	5	756,000,000	2½	32	84,000,000	2½	24	67,000,000	1½	13	907,000,000	2½	29
" 1874	533,579,100	6½	250,474,000	5½	804,053,100	6½	33	90,195,390	7½	25	*75,254,000	8½	14	997,503,390	6½	30
" 1875	580,081,400	4½	286,771,000	6½	866,852,400	5½	35	90,970,400	½	26	70,563,500	½	13	1,008,392,100	4½	31

* Through a clerical error this number was overstated by about \$260,000.

APPENDIX (B.)

RETURNED LETTERS.

LETTERS, POST CARDS, BOOKS, and NEWSPAPERS received in the RETURNED LETTER OFFICES of LONDON, MANCHESTER, EDINBURGH GLASGOW, and DUBLIN, respectively, in the Years 1874 and 1875.

1874.										1875.						
—	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 delivered to the Senders.	Post Cards received.	Books re-ceived.	Newspapers 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 delivered to the Senders.	Post Cards re-ceived.	Books re-ceived.	Newspapers re-ceived.
LONDON	3,787,686	9,036	290,726	160,375	277,049	306,899	2,337,211	503,384	3,578,105	61,815	3,088,151	131,990	296,149	298,528	1,748,390	468,344
MANCHESTER	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	111,490	1,954	103,705	3,052	2,179	12,273	86,752	5,500
EDINBURGH	206,965	13,335	182,398	5,409	7,845	29,685	157,256	19,799	220,981	6,899	188,317	5,969	19,796	25,828	135,893	90,160
GLASGOW	115,871	2,350	104,230	3,690	5,601	14,068	57,319	10,142	116,887	6,060	102,879	3,994	3,954	16,264	55,422	7,259
DUBLIN	336,278	5,194	226,067	17,828	87,189	13,668	153,759	32,711	318,827	6,709	207,608	13,921	87,589	10,445	157,552	32,128
	4,449,820	79,913	3,803,421	187,902	377,684	364,320	2,706,045	563,036	4,346,290	83,437	3,690,660	162,526	409,667	365,336	2,184,009	533,391

* The Manchester Returned Letter Branch was established in March 1875.

APPENDIX (C.)

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 1875.

NAMES OF OFFICES.	Great Britain.		Ireland.		Total.	
	Weight.	Amount.	Weight.	Amount.	Weight.	Amount.
	oz.	£	oz.	£	oz.	£
Adjutant General	—	—	78,940	370	78,940	370
Admiralty, Lords Commissioners of	889,000	15,540	—	—	889,000	15,540
Army Medical Department	—	—	34,690	155	34,690	155
Attorney General	4,300	20	—	—	4,300	20
Board of Education	—	—	406,020	1,475	406,020	1,475
Ditto (Scotland)	33,600	140	—	—	33,600	140
Board of Supervision (Scotland)	26,400	110	—	—	26,400	110
Board of Trade	461,900	3,100	—	—	461,900	3,100
Board of Works	—	—	140,100	685	140,100	685
Central Loan Fund	—	—	2,600	10	2,600	10
Chancellor, The Lord	20,000	120	—	—	20,000	120
Charity Commissioners	65,500	310	—	—	65,500	310
Chelsea Hospital	24,500	190	—	—	24,500	190
Chief and Under Secretary, Dublin } Castle	—	—	232,850	1,085	232,850	1,085
Civil Service Commissioners	118,000	560	—	—	118,000	560
Colonial Office	263,000	8,260	—	—	263,000	8,260
Colonial Land and Emigration Com- } missioners	3,800	90	—	—	3,800	90
Commander of the Forces	—	—	12,300	60	12,300	60
Commissariat Department	—	—	136,610	625	136,610	625
Constabulary Office	—	—	223,860	1,035	223,860	1,035
Convict Prisons, Directors of	—	—	62,850	295	62,850	295
Council Office	840,200	3,330	—	—	840,200	3,330
Court of Chancery	21,500	100	—	—	21,500	100
Court of Probate	95,000	420	—	—	95,000	420
Crown Office, House of Lords	2,000	10	—	—	2,000	10
Ditto (Scotland)	82,800	345	—	—	82,800	345
Crown and Hanaper	—	—	4,260	20	4,260	20
Customs	435,000	2,040	20,540	100	455,540	2,140
Endowed Schools	48,000	220	—	—	48,000	220
Exchequer and Audit Department	99,000	620	—	—	99,000	620
Fines and Penalties Office	—	—	133,710	490	133,710	490
Foreign Office	204,000	3,500	—	—	204,000	3,500
Home Office	380,000	2,200	—	—	380,000	2,200
Inland Revenue*	2,538,000	9,000	280,400	1,255	2,818,400	10,255
Inspector of Fisheries	—	—	44,270	200	44,270	200
Inspector General of Prisons	—	—	34,790	165	34,790	165
Insurances and Annuities	400	5	—	—	400	5
Irish Office	43,000	200	—	—	43,000	200
Local Government Board	774,000	3,460	268,020	1,175	1,042,020	4,635
Lord Lieutenant and Private Secretary	—	—	12,750	60	12,750	60
Mercantile Marine Board	56,000	380	—	—	56,000	380
Merchant Seamen, Registrar of	402,000	2,250	—	—	402,000	2,250
National Debt Office	21,500	110	—	—	21,500	110
Ordnance Survey	—	—	35,600	170	35,600	170
Paymaster of Civil Services	—	—	24,950	120	24,950	120
Paymaster General	80,000	450	—	—	80,000	450
Public Record Office	—	—	2,750	10	2,750	10
Quartermaster General	—	—	27,460	130	27,460	130
Queen's Remembrancer (Scotland)	14,400	60	—	—	14,400	60
Register House, Edinburgh	45,600	190	—	—	45,600	190
Registrar General	415,000	1,260	389,000	1,700	804,000	2,960
Ditto ditto (Scotland)	133,200	555	—	—	133,200	555
Registrar of Friendly Societies	40,000	230	—	—	40,000	230
Science and Art Department	909,400	4,200	—	—	909,400	4,200
Solicitor General	13,000	55	—	—	13,000	55
Stationery Office	34,000	180	27,190	120	61,190	300
Tithe Commissioners	58,000	300	—	—	58,000	300
Treasury	454,200	2,100	—	—	454,200	2,100
Valuation Office	—	—	31,650	150	31,650	150
War Office	2,200,000	20,200	86,950	400	2,286,950	20,600
Woods and Forests, Commissioners of	61,000	310	—	—	61,000	310
Works and Buildings, Commissioners of	75,000	360	—	—	75,000	360
TOTALS	12,523,200	87,680	2,766,100	12,060	15,289,300	99,740

* Including about 95,000 oz. charged with Book Postage.

† " " 185,000 " "

‡ " " 620,000 " "

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.

Home Packet Service.

Line of Communication.	Contract.		Payment.	Contract Time.	Penalties for Overtime.	Premium for Under-time.	Penalty for General Non-performance.	Remarks.
	Com- mencement.	Termination.						
HOLYHEAD and KINGSTOWN	1st Oct. 1860	On 12 months' notice.	85,000l. per annum.	Not defined, being included in General Contract for Conveyance of Mails between London and Kingstown.	12.14s. per minute, if journey between London and Kingstown, and Crew and Kingstown exceed 11 hours and 17 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.	-	-	8500l. 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 RANSEY, ISLE OF MAN.	-	-	1000l. per annum.	-	-	-	-	-
PORTSMOUTH and RYDE	1st Aug. 1865	On 6 months' notice.	8000l. per annum.	-	-	-	-	-
PENZANCE and SCILLY	-	On 6 months' notice.	4500l. per annum.	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTHAMPTON and COWES	-	-	1500l. per annum.	-	-	-	-	-
GREENOCK and BELFAST	16th July 1849	On 6 months' notice.	Per annum. Performed free of expense.	-	-	-	1000l.	-
ORKNEY ISLANDS	26th July 1875	On 12 months' notice.	2,000l. per annum.	-	20l. for undue delay or deviation from course.	-	2000l.	-
SHEPPLAND ISLANDS	1st Feb. 1840	On 6 months' notice.	1,2000l. per annum.	60 hours	-	-	5000l.	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 ULLAPFOOL	3rd Aug. 1871	After 10 years on 6 months' notice.	1,3000l.	-	20l. for undue delay or deviation from course.	-	5000l.	When a sailing vessel is employed a deduction of 24 a trip may be made if the Postmaster General thinks proper.
CHANNEL ISLANDS	1st Jan. 1870 1st Oct. 1873	On 6 months' notice.	6,0000l. 6500l.	To or from Guernsey in 12 hours, and to or from Jersey in 12 hours.	-	-	2,0000l.	-

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

APPENDIX (E.)

Colonial and Foreign

Line of Packets.	Contracts.		Payment.
	Com- mencement.	Termination.	
AUSTRALIA: Point de Galle and Melbourne, Singa- pore and Brisbane, San Francisco and Sydney	Contracts with Colonial Governments. No information.		£
BRAZIL, RIVER PLATE, AND CHILI: Bi-Monthly Service from Southampton	1 Jan. 1875 -	On 1st September 1876 - -	* 20,828
Monthly Service from Liverpool	18 May 1875 -	On 3rd September 1876 - -	2,042
Fortnightly service from Liverpool	1 Jan. 1873 -	On 30th June 1878, if 12 months' previous notice has been given.	* 9,735
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - - -	1 July 1868 -	On 30th June 1876 - -	* 30,128
EAST INDIES, CHINA, and JAPAN - -	15 Aug. 1874 -	On 31st January 1880, if 24 months' previous notice has been given.	} 430,000
EAST COAST OF AFRICA: Aden and Zanzibar - - -	6 Dec. 1872 -	On 5th December 1882 (a) -	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 31st December 1876 - -	70,000
Inman Line - - -	1 May 1869 -	Ditto - -	35,000
North German Lloyd's Line - -	6 May 1870 -	Ditto - -	* 6,340
British North America: Queenstown and Halifax - -	Contract with	Canadian Government - -	{ 16,250 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 - -	{ Imperial contri- bution, 1,000 }
PACIFIC - - - - -	1 Jan. 1873 -	On 30th June 1878, if 12 months' previous notice has been given.	* 17,487
WEST INDIES: Bi-monthly Service - - -	1 Jan. 1875 -	On 31st December 1879, if 24 months' previous notice has been given.	(b) 86,75
Non-Contract Service - - -	- - -	- - -	* 1,135
Additional Services: Liverpool and Puerto Cabello, Tam- pico, and Santa Martha.	1 Oct. 1875 -	On 6 months' notice - -	* 1,468
Belize and Jamaica - - -	Contract with	Honduras Governmen - -	{ 5,000 Imperial contri- bution, 2,000 }
St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat -	1 Jan. 1864 -	On 6 months' notice - -	490
Turk's Island and St. Thomas -	Contract with	Turk's Island Government - -	{ 600 Imperial contri- bution, 300 }
WEST COAST OF AFRICA - - -	No Contract.	- - -	* 7,364

(a) 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.

(b) Including a sum of 2,000*l.* paid to the Company for landing mails at Plymouth.

General Post Office, London, June 1876.

APPENDIX (E.)

Packet Service.

Penalties for Overtime.	Contributions towards the Cost of the Service.	Esti- mated British Share of Sea Postage on Letters, News- papers, &c.	Esti- mated British Loss on the Service.	Rate of Postage per single Letter excluding Transit Rates.
-	-	£ Nil.	£ Nil.	6d.
One-eighth part of ordinary payment for every 24 hours.	-	60,000	Nil.	1s. (c)
Ditto	-	28,000	2,000	1s.
50l. for every 24 hours.	India, 110,000l. (g) . . .	135,000(g)	190,000(g)	{ Mediterranean 6d. (d) India & Ceylon 9d. China, &c. 1s.
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	34,000	77,000	3d. (e)
-	-	3,500	25,500	{ Canadian Dominion and New- foundland. } 3d. (f) Bermuda - 6d. Bahamas - 1s.
80l. for every 24 hours.	-	17,500	Nil.	1s. 6d.
One-eighth part of ordinary payment for every 24 hours.	-	82,000	10,000	1s.
50l. for every 12 hours.	-	5,200	2,000	
One-eighth part of ordinary payment for every 24 hours.	-			
-	-			
-	-			
-	-			
-	-			

(c) Rate of Postage reduced to 9d., 1st December 1875.

(d) Do. do. 2½d., 1st July 1875.

(e) Do. do. 2½d., 1st July 1875.

(f) Do. do. 2½d., 1st October 1875.

(g) The figures of 1874 remain, the account of 1875 not being complete.

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

GEORGE CHETWYND,
Receiver and Accountant General.

APPENDIX (F.)

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
1874	43	89	302	226	92	118	96	97	43	45	17	17	4	4	2	3	599
1875	27	73	297	232	132	121	86	97	42	54	12	17	4	4	1	3	601

APPENDIX (G.)

Telegrams.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of MESSAGES forwarded from POSTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES in the UNITED KINGDOM during each Month of 1874 and 1875, and the increase in each Month of 1875 over 1874.

Month.	Number of Messages.		Increase or Decrease.	
	1874.	1875.	Increase.	Decrease.
January - - -	1,620,345	1,683,592	63,247	—
February - - -	1,375,343	1,383,043	7,700	—
March - - -	1,375,019	1,440,558	65,539	—
April - - -	1,401,923	1,570,510	168,587	—
May - - -	1,841,330	1,999,375	158,045	—
June - - -	1,540,291	1,666,241	125,950	—
July - - -	1,588,832	2,200,193	611,361	—
August - - -	2,024,580	1,764,271	—	260,309
September - - -	1,598,050	1,748,445	150,395	—
October - - -	1,953,568	2,214,004	260,436	—
November - - -	1,461,127	1,623,420	162,293	—
December - - -	1,336,226	1,472,625	136,399	—
Total - - -	19,116,634	20,766,277	1,909,952	260,309
		Total increase -	- 1,649,643	

Note.—The decrease in the month of August is owing to the fact that the number given for this month in 1874 comprises five weeks' messages, while that in 1875 comprises only four weeks' messages; the decrease it will be seen is more than equalised by the large increase in the numbers for July where the case is reversed.

TABLE showing the TOTAL NUMBER of MESSAGES forwarded from POSTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES in ENGLAND and WALES, LONDON, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND, in each Year since the transfer of the TELEGRAPHS to the STATE.

Year ended	Number of Messages.				
	England and Wales.	London.	Scotland.	Ireland.	TOTAL.
31st December 1870 -	4,655,627	2,462,039	955,116	533,950	8,606,732
30th December 1871 -	6,300,867	3,353,727	1,305,596	800,328	11,760,518
28th December 1872 -	7,664,463	4,398,262	1,677,203	1,118,092	14,858,020
27th December 1873 -	8,963,818	5,107,175	1,942,610	1,280,731	17,294,334
26th December 1874 -	10,034,685	5,577,724	2,141,030	1,363,195	19,116,634
25th December 1875 -	10,775,279	6,283,537	2,272,465	1,434,996	20,766,277

Note.—The figures for the year 1870 represent the number of messages forwarded during the period from the 5th February to the 31st December.

Note.—The years in the above tables are years of 52 weeks or 364 days; the returns from which the figures are taken being furnished weekly.

APPENDIX (H.)

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.		
* Amount at the 31st March 1870	£ - s. - d. -	£ - s. - d. -	£ - s. - d. -	£ - s. - d. -	£ - s. - d. -	£ - s. - d. -
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	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	2,601 5 0	8,570 12 0	47,007 1 10
1874-75	2,236 17 0	0 17 10†	1,154 4 0	2,310 12 0	5,700 15 2	52,707 17 0
1875-76	825 16 0	840 9 0	1,353 4 0	945 17 0	3,965 6 0	56,673 3 0

* 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.

† The falling off in this Quarter is due to the fact that, under a decision arrived at about this time, Lines of Telegraph maintained by the Department for certain Railway, Canal, and Cable Companies, and before treated as Private Wires, ceased to be so classed, and consequently 1,120 miles of wire, with rentals amounting in the aggregate to 1,742*l.* a year, were deducted; thus showing a decrease of 17*s.* 10*d.*, instead of a net increase of 1,741*l.*, the amount which would have been shown if the same course as had hitherto been adopted had been followed in this instance.

APPENDIX (H.)—continued.

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.	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	49	81	125	834	4,052	2,026
1871-72	22	29	41	13	44	23	18	133	43	37	87	66	90	293	173	914	4,345	2,199
1872-73	41	95	84	27	105	56	38	178	88	72	471*	290*	178	849	518	1,092	5,194	2,717
1873-74	53	179	154	64	150	143	48	177	119	82	226	170	247	732	566	1,339	5,926	3,303
1874-75	56	219	177	27	143	140	47	93	101	60	226	175	190	681	593	1,493†	5,487†	3,785†
1875-76	37	76	60	32	71	69	40	140	73	38	72	57	147	359	265	1,640	5,846	4,050

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

† These figures give the totals after deducting 1,150 Miles and 111 Instruments under the circumstances explained in Note 2 to the previous statement on the preceding page.

APPENDIX (I.)

TABLE showing the VALUE of WORK PERFORMED by the POST OFFICE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT for other GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, and for which no Payment has been made, from the 5th February 1870 to the 31st December 1875.

Period.	Telegrams.		Wire Rentals.	Salaries.	Work executed.	Total.
	Inland.	Foreign.				
Period to 31st March 1871	£ s. d. 243 3 1	£ s. d. 513 9 5	£ s. d. 882 1 7	£ s. d. 256 15 9	£ s. d. 1 15 0	£ s. d. 1,897 4 10
Year ended 31st March 1872	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	313 7 3	743 4 7	731 0 4	247 5 0	21 2 11	2,056 0 1
" 1873	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	486 10 8	408 13 11	892 1 3	273 5 0	43 1 1	2,103 11 11
" 1874	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	626 8 5	752 8 10	1,046 14 9	341 10 5	6 13 11	2,773 16 4
Nine months to 31st December 1874	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	714 18 4	91 15 9	2,018 16 10	1,131 0 10	23 18 11	3,980 10 8
Year ended 31st December 1875	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	1,703 2 1	1,707 16 9	4,544 5 11	2,495 4 2	2 17 8	10,453 6 7
TOTALS	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	4,087 9 10	4,217 9 3	10,115 0 8	4,745 1 2	99 9 6	23,264 10 5

APPENDIX (J.)

Money Orders.

Year.	ENGLAND AND WALES.						SCOTLAND.						IRELAND.						UNITED KINGDOM.					
	Increase per cent.			Number of Money Orders issued to each 100 of population.			Increase per cent.			Number of Money Orders issued to each 100 of population.			Increase per cent.			Number of Money Orders issued to each 100 of population.			Increase per cent.			Number of Money Orders issued to each 100 of population.		
	Number.	Amount.	£	Number.	Amount.	£	Number.	Amount.	£	Number.	Amount.	£	Number.	Amount.	£	Number.	Amount.	£	Number.	Amount.	£	Number.	Amount.	£
1839	-	142,733	240,043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1840	-	463,764	863,327	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average of 5 years	1841-45	2,020,977	4,311,893	313	423	12.3	193,785	333,443	271	340	2.4	198,785	333,443	271	340	2.4	2,430,355	4,937,256	313	414	8.9	188,921	313,194	-
"	1846-50	3,363,999	6,693,694	66	58	13.3	347,517	533,151	75	72	4.5	407,603	633,377	17	17	6.5	4,097,703	7,954,533	69	61	14.7	5,370,459	9,941,316	27
"	1851-55	4,233,045	8,468,175	30	27	14.3	407,603	633,377	17	17	6.5	407,603	633,377	17	17	6.5	5,370,459	9,941,316	27	23	13.9	6,639,938	12,737,044	23
"	1856-60	5,673,397	10,998,112	30	26	17.3	464,064	893,803	13	23	8.2	464,064	893,803	13	23	8.2	6,639,938	12,737,044	23	23	23.6	8,061,127	15,398,361	19
"	1861-65	6,799,394	14,021,757	30	29	20.8	552,414	1,093,170	14	23	9.7	552,414	1,093,170	14	23	9.7	8,061,127	15,398,361	19	23	31.2	9,585,585	19,319,707	19
"	1866-70	8,159,558	16,464,860	30	17	37.2	633,323	1,274,068	15	16	11.7	633,323	1,274,068	15	16	11.7	9,585,585	19,319,707	19	23	38.2	12,063,833	21,799,553	26
1871†	-	10,375,875	18,560,317	26	13	29.2	863,100	1,446,692	28	14	14.9	863,100	1,446,692	28	14	14.9	12,063,833	21,799,553	26	13	43.9	13,984,139	24,013,747	16
1873	-	11,901,453	20,375,179	16	10	34.3	913,078	1,592,506	14	10	17.1	913,078	1,592,506	14	10	17.1	13,984,139	24,013,747	16	10	47.1	15,118,633	25,600,039	8
1875	-	12,963,004	21,632,750	8	6	37.1	933,546	1,760,212	7	104	18.4	933,546	1,760,212	7	104	18.4	15,118,633	25,600,039	8	64	49.0	16,460,532	26,236,441	5
1874	-	13,550,011	23,946,623	54	3	33.2	1,023,138	1,781,017	44	1	19.4	1,023,138	1,781,017	44	1	19.4	16,460,532	26,236,441	5	24	50.3	16,460,532	26,236,441	5
1876	-	14,043,013	25,397,716	54	16	39.1	1,074,593	1,790,383	44	16	20.3	1,074,593	1,790,383	44	16	20.3	16,460,532	26,236,441	5	24	50.3	16,460,532	26,236,441	5

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

* On the 1st of January 1863 the limit of amount of a single order was extended from £1. to 10s.

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

Former Rates of Commission.				Present Rates of Commission.			
For sums not exceeding 2s.	For sums above 2s., but not exceeding 5s.	For sums above 5s., but not exceeding 10s.	For sums above 10s., but not exceeding 100s.	For sums not exceeding 2s.	For sums above 2s., but not exceeding 5s.	For sums above 5s., but not exceeding 10s.	For sums above 10s., but not exceeding 100s.
0 3	0 6	0 9	1 0	0 1	0 2	0 3	0 4
0 6	0 9	1 0	1 0	0 2	0 3	0 4	0 5
0 9	1 0	1 0	1 0	0 3	0 4	0 5	0 6
1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	0 4	0 5	0 6	0 7
1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	0 5	0 6	0 7	0 8
1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2	0 6	0 7	0 8	0 9
1 3	1 3	1 3	1 3	0 7	0 8	0 9	1 0
1 4	1 4	1 4	1 4	0 8	0 9	1 0	1 1
1 5	1 5	1 5	1 5	0 9	1 0	1 1	1 2
1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 0	1 1	1 2	1 3
1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 4
1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5
1 9	1 9	1 9	1 9	1 3	1 4	1 5	1 6
2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0	1 4	1 5	1 6	1 7
2 1	2 1	2 1	2 1	1 5	1 6	1 7	1 8
2 2	2 2	2 2	2 2	1 6	1 7	1 8	1 9
2 3	2 3	2 3	2 3	1 7	1 8	1 9	2 0
2 4	2 4	2 4	2 4	1 8	1 9	2 0	2 1
2 5	2 5	2 5	2 5	1 9	2 0	2 1	2 2
2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 0	2 1	2 2	2 3
2 7	2 7	2 7	2 7	2 1	2 2	2 3	2 4
2 8	2 8	2 8	2 8	2 2	2 3	2 4	2 5
2 9	2 9	2 9	2 9	2 3	2 4	2 5	2 6
3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	2 4	2 5	2 6	2 7
3 1	3 1	3 1	3 1	2 5	2 6	2 7	2 8
3 2	3 2	3 2	3 2	2 6	2 7	2 8	2 9
3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	2 7	2 8	2 9	3 0
3 4	3 4	3 4	3 4	2 8	2 9	3 0	3 1
3 5	3 5	3 5	3 5	2 9	3 0	3 1	3 2
3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 0	3 1	3 2	3 3
3 7	3 7	3 7	3 7	3 1	3 2	3 3	3 4
3 8	3 8	3 8	3 8	3 2	3 3	3 4	3 5
3 9	3 9	3 9	3 9	3 3	3 4	3 5	3 6
4 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	3 4	3 5	3 6	3 7
4 1	4 1	4 1	4 1	3 5	3 6	3 7	3 8
4 2	4 2	4 2	4 2	3 6	3 7	3 8	3 9
4 3	4 3	4 3	4 3	3 7	3 8	3 9	4 0
4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	3 8	3 9	4 0	4 1
4 5	4 5	4 5	4 5	3 9	4 0	4 1	4 2
4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 0	4 1	4 2	4 3
4 7	4 7	4 7	4 7	4 1	4 2	4 3	4 4
4 8	4 8	4 8	4 8	4 2	4 3	4 4	4 5
4 9	4 9	4 9	4 9	4 3	4 4	4 5	4 6
5 0	5 0	5 0	5 0	4 4	4 5	4 6	4 7
5 1	5 1	5 1	5 1	4 5	4 6	4 7	4 8
5 2	5 2	5 2	5 2	4 6	4 7	4 8	4 9
5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	4 7	4 8	4 9	5 0
5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	4 8	4 9	5 0	5 1
5 5	5 5	5 5	5 5	4 9	5 0	5 1	5 2
5 6	5 6	5 6	5 6	5 0	5 1	5 2	5 3
5 7	5 7	5 7	5 7	5 1	5 2	5 3	5 4
5 8	5 8	5 8	5 8	5 2	5 3	5 4	5 5
5 9	5 9	5 9	5 9	5 3	5 4	5 5	5 6
6 0	6 0	6 0	6 0	5 4	5 5	5 6	5 7
6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1	5 5	5 6	5 7	5 8
6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	5 6	5 7	5 8	5 9
6 3	6 3	6 3	6 3	5 7	5 8	5 9	6 0
6 4	6 4	6 4	6 4	5 8	5 9	6 0	6 1
6 5	6 5	6 5	6 5	5 9	6 0	6 1	6 2
6 6	6 6	6 6	6 6	6 0	6 1	6 2	6 3
6 7	6 7	6 7	6 7	6 1	6 2	6 3	6 4
6 8	6 8	6 8	6 8	6 2	6 3	6 4	6 5
6 9	6 9	6 9	6 9	6 3	6 4	6 5	6 6
7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	6 4	6 5	6 6	6 7
7 1	7 1	7 1	7 1	6 5	6 6	6 7	6 8
7 2	7 2	7 2	7 2	6 6	6 7	6 8	6 9
7 3	7 3	7 3	7 3	6 7	6 8	6 9	7 0
7 4	7 4	7 4	7 4	6 8	6 9	7 0	7 1
7 5	7 5	7 5	7 5	6 9	7 0	7 1	7 2
7 6	7 6	7 6	7 6	7 0	7 1	7 2	7 3
7 7	7 7	7 7	7 7	7 1	7 2	7 3	7 4
7 8	7 8	7 8	7 8	7 2	7 3	7 4	7 5
7 9	7 9	7 9	7 9	7 3	7 4	7 5	7 6
8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	7 4	7 5	7 6	7 7
8 1	8 1	8 1	8 1	7 5	7 6	7 7	7 8
8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	7 6	7 7	7 8	7 9
8 3	8 3	8 3	8 3	7 7	7 8	7 9	8 0
8 4	8 4	8 4	8 4	7 8	7 9	8 0	8 1
8 5	8 5	8 5	8 5	7 9	8 0	8 1	8 2
8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 0	8 1	8 2	8 3
8 7	8 7	8 7	8 7	8 1	8 2	8 3	8 4
8 8	8 8	8 8	8 8	8 2	8 3	8 4	8 5
8 9	8 9	8 9	8 9	8 3	8 4	8 5	8 6
9 0	9 0	9 0	9 0	8 4	8 5	8 6	8 7
9 1	9 1	9 1	9 1	8 5	8 6	8 7	8 8
9 2	9 2	9 2	9 2	8 6	8 7	8 8	8 9
9 3	9 3	9 3	9 3	8 7	8 8	8 9	9 0
9 4	9 4	9 4	9 4	8 8	8 9	9 0	9 1
9 5	9 5	9 5	9 5	8 9	9 0	9 1	9 2
9 6	9 6	9 6	9 6	9 0	9 1	9 2	9 3
9 7	9 7	9 7	9 7	9 1	9 2	9 3	9 4
9 8	9 8	9 8	9 8	9 2	9 3	9 4	9 5
9 9	9 9	9 9	9 9	9 3	9 4	9 5	9 6
1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	9 4	9 5	9 6	9 7

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	123,472	520,550	143,211	600,981	18,769	65,072	28,662	107,911	47,431	172,983	12,233,528	32,573,547	—	—
1872	20,832	83,923	131,341	550,004	152,173	633,927	28,751	94,138	77,499	277,871	108,250	372,009	14,242,612	25,019,883	16	11
1873	21,131	86,329	144,676	584,892	165,807	671,131	40,802	133,726	107,200	397,338	147,892	531,064	15,432,245	26,802,261	8	7
1874	22,381	90,570	141,105	585,661	163,486	676,231	53,930	172,108	103,525	362,892	157,455	535,000	16,221,503	27,507,672	5	2½
1875	26,783	95,083	137,443	550,993	161,226	643,076	68,226	203,880	104,761	337,209	172,987	543,089	16,819,874	27,688,235	3½	1½

Note.—Money Order business with the Colonies commenced in 1854, 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 1875.

Colony.	Issues on the United Kingdom.	Issues on Colonies.
	£	£
Australia - - -	140,197	29,897
British America - -	110,949	38,317
Cape Colony - - -	22,406	3,178
India - - -	46,189	2,980
New Zealand - -	66,563	9,307
South and West Africa -	31,898	1,205
West Indies - - -	98,406	3,220

TABLE showing the Amount (to the nearest Pound) of Money Order Transactions between the United Kingdom and certain Foreign Countries during the Year 1875.

Country.	Issues on United Kingdom.	Issues on Foreign Countries.
	£	£
Belgium - - -	15,017	11,400
Denmark - - -	4,219	2,995
Egypt - - -	1,953	128
France - - -	18,403	36,891
Germany - - -	48,044	58,991
Italy - - -	6,558	11,166
Netherlands - - -	5,064	4,869
Switzerland - - -	5,564	13,606
United States - - -	186,197	62,854

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
From 16 Sept. 1861 to 31 Dec. 1862	2,535	639,216	2,114,639	£ s. d.	22,189	97,294	435,637	£ s. d.	20,591	£	205,928	27,433	178,405	£	9 10 3	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	35,692	1,694,724	3,157	1,732,555
1863	2,991	842,848	2,651,209	£ s. d.	55,204	107,431	1,027,154	£ s. d.	25,401	£	185,934	44,769	319,639	£	10 11 4	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	44,413	3,372,593*	3,594	1,876,389
1864	3,051	1,110,792	3,350,000	£ s. d.	100,493	399,242	1,354,940	£ s. d.	45,856	£	226,153	74,964	470,858	£	10 12 1	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	5,522	5,001,183*	3,659	1,967,693
1865	3,321	1,302,349	3,719,017	£ s. d.	132,570	407,412	2,315,010	£ s. d.	49,627	£	239,686	99,160	611,354	£	10 13 6	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	4,327	6,586,636*	3,822	2,078,346
Average of 5 yrs. 1866-70	3,315	1,502,031	5,232,108	£ s. d.	235,014	647,620	3,770,581	£ s. d.	62,803	£	295,324	181,170	967,066	£	12 0 6	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	50,351	11,862,124	4,358	2,362,942
1871	4,335	2,362,621	6,664,629	£ s. d.	376,738	845,279	5,115,467	£ s. d.	69,427	£	370,745	250,406	1,203,492	£	1 23 0	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	106,456	17,470,271	4,895	2,707,570
1872	4,697	2,745,246	7,699,916	£ s. d.	430,079	933,375	5,839,090	£ s. d.	78,404	£	424,843	285,887	1,442,448	£	1 7 10	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	301,070	19,860,874	5,087	2,867,595
1873	4,853	2,917,698	7,955,740	£ s. d.	477,851	1,025,333	6,584,181	£ s. d.	84,160	£	453,478	319,251	1,556,645	£	1 11 13	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	82,850	21,828,292	5,394	3,062,134
1874	5,008	3,044,692	8,341,256	£ s. d.	524,539	1,089,669	6,876,065	£ s. d.	99,613	£	442,501	330,413	1,698,733	£	1 17 6	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	24,016,836	24,016,836	5,543	3,194,871
1875	5,290	3,132,453	8,783,552	£ s. d.	571,584	1,112,637	7,325,590	£ s. d.	122,325	£	458,896	330,466	1,777,103	£	1 14 3	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	94,518	26,222,485	5,731	3,256,266

* 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 per-centage of cost of management in 1864 and the increase in these items in 1864 are attributable to one and the same cause, viz., to the payment during 1864 of various charges properly belonging to 1863.

‡ Since 1865, the charge for postage, amounting to about three farthings per transaction, has ceased to be debited against the Savings Bank Department.

§ Certain exceptional expenses incurred in 1875 tended to increase the average cost per transaction.

(a) The amount of outstanding Warrants on 31st December 1874 was 36,217, but the amount in the Postmaster General's hands to meet payment of these Warrants was 21,400, only.

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

RETURN of the BALANCE SHEETS of the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS for the Year 1875, 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 1875 (including interest)	26,187,345 17 8	Value of Securities at the Cost Price, less depreciation of those which are terminable by lapse of time	25,990,621 17 10
Amount of expenses remaining unpaid (partly estimated)	80,000 0 0	Amount of cash in hands of Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt	137,345 3 0
Surplus of Funds to meet Liabilities	935,188 5 4	Total Amount in the hands of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt	-
		Amount received for issuing new Deposit Books	933 0 4
		Less,—Amount paid to the National Debt Commissioners	833 4 4
		Amount in the hands of Her Majesty's Postmaster General towards meeting payment of them	126,175 5 6
		Less,—Amount required to meet Warrants issued to Depositors but not cashed on 31st December 1875	31,666 19 4
			48 16 0
			94,518 6 2
			26,222,534 3 0

Total amount received from Depositors, including interest, to 31st December 1875 £ 81,397,469 10 11
Total amount repaid to Depositors to 31st December 1875 56,210,123 13 3

Number of Transactions.		Number of Accounts.	
Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Opened.	Closed.
27,107,979	9,236,374	4,445,724	2,686,621
			Remaining Open.
			1,777,103

The total cost of the Post Office Savings Banks from their establishment to the 31st December 1875, including the sum of 80,000*l.* charged as above, was 922,559*l.* 16*s.* 0*d.*
The total number of transactions, i.e., Deposits and Withdrawals, in the period was 36,344,353.
The average cost of each transaction from the commencement of Post Office Savings Bank business to the end of the year 1875 was 6*s.* 6*d.*
Prior to the passing of the Post Office Savings Banks Act, 1861, it was estimated (see Parliamentary Paper, No. 523, 1861) that the average cost of each transaction would be 7*d.*
General Post Office, June 1876.

GEO. CHESTNUT,
Receiver and Accountant General.

APPENDIX (K.)—*continued.*

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

* * * * *

Letter from
Dr. Neilson
Hancock as to
the limited use
made of the
Savings Bank
and Money
Order systems
in Ireland.

"In the 20th Report of the Postmaster-General (p. 13.) it was remarked, with reference to the comparatively small number of depositors in Scotland, that the Scotch ordinary banks allow interest for small sums of money. On this point Dr. Neilson Hancock, of Dublin, wrote, on the 27th October 1875, as follows:—'As I collect the statistics as to 'savings in Joint Stock Banks in Ireland, I take the liberty of pointing out that the same remark is true of Ireland, and the Banks hold a 'very large amount of deposits of very small sums on which interest 'is allowed on deposit receipt. Some years since they also adopted 'the same idea, and, to an increasing extent, the Scotch system of 'allowing interest on last balances of current accounts of even a small 'amount. To get these small deposits, the banks have established a 'very large number of branches amounting in 1872 to 346. The 'existence of these numerous branches gives great facility of obtaining 'Bank Orders in Ireland, a fact that should be borne in mind in connection with the small number of Money Orders in Ireland, which 'is noticed at page 12 of the Postmaster-General's Report. I call 'attention to these matters as the Postmaster-General's Report, with 'these comparisons as to the three countries, is sometimes referred 'to by newspapers in Ireland representing discontented views, as 'evidence of the extreme poverty of Ireland; so that it would be no 'harm to notice the qualifying circumstances as is done in the case of 'Scotland.'

Progress of
Post Office
Savings Bank
as contrasted
with old
Savings Banks.

"In October 1862, it was predicted that there would be, at the end of 1874, nearly 1,600,000 accounts open in the Post Office Savings Bank. This prediction was strikingly verified in the fact that, on the 31st December 1874, the actual number of open accounts was 1,668,733. The number 1,600,000 had been fixed with reference to the number of accounts in the Old Savings Banks, which was quoted as 1,585,788; and it was calculated that the Post Office Savings Bank, at the rate of progress attained in its first year, would, in 13 years from its establishment, have obtained as many accounts as the whole of the Old Banks (638 in number) possessed in 1860, after working, the majority of them, for 30 or 40 years. At the end of 1874 the number of accounts open in the Old Savings Banks was only 1,466,138.

* * * * *

Deceased
Depositors.

Accidental
deaths.

Death in
interior of
Africa.

Insane
Depositors.
Books lost or
destroyed.

"The number of claims made to the moneys of deceased Depositors, which, in 1874, was 9,456, rose to 11,569, being an increase of 2,113. In 2,430 of these cases Probates of Wills or Letters of Administration were produced. As giving some idea of the extensive relations of the Post Office Savings Bank it may be mentioned that scarcely any accident occurs in any part of the country, involving considerable loss of life, without claims being subsequently made, showing that some of the unfortunate victims had been Depositors. Among the claims received last year was one from the representative of a Depositor who had died in the far interior of Africa, while engaged in the exploring expedition under Mr. H. M. Stanley.

"There were 123 applications to withdraw the moneys of Depositors who had become insane, as against 110 such cases in 1874.

"The number of new books issued to Depositors in place of books lost or destroyed was 1,643, while the previous year there had been 1,484 such cases. The applications for new books, like claims to the

moneys of deceased Depositors, are usually increased on the occurrence of any great casualty on land or water. For instance, last year several Depositors' books were lost in H.M.S. 'Vanguard,' and in the training ship 'Goliath;' and with reference to the latter case, special authority was obtained that such books, and any others lost under similar circumstances, or through the wreck of any of Her Majesty's ships, should be replaced free of charge. The explanations of Depositors in accounting for the loss of their books are sometimes very curious. For instance, an applicant wrote from a travelling circus as follows:—'Last night, when I was sleeping in the tent, one of our elephants broke loose, and tore up my coat, in the pocket of which was my bank Book, and eat part of it. I enclose the fragments.'

Loss of books increased by any great casualty.

Curious explanations.

"The growth of business, of course, continues to augment the correspondence of the Department, the number of letters received in 1875 having been upwards of 99,000 as against 88,570 in 1874. At the heaviest period of the year, the number of communications despatched in one day, including acknowledgments for Deposits, Warrants for Withdrawals, and Depositors' books, reached 40,000; the weight being about 404 lbs.

Correspondence.

Number of letters received.

Number and weight of letters, &c. despatched in one day.

Groundless claims to deposits.

"Among the applications received, there are some which are curiously illustrative of the readiness of many people to prefer a claim to money to which they have not the remotest title. Such a case usually arises when some circular, or other communication, sent from this Department by post, falls into the hands of a wrong person, and the recipient, ignoring the possibility of the mis-delivery of the letter, at once jumps at the idea that some one has deposited money for him without his knowledge, and puts in a claim accordingly. In many such cases, it has been difficult to convince the applicants of the non-existence of the supposed deposits. But perhaps the most troublesome applications are those received from the representatives of deceased persons, when the deceased is supposed to have made some investment which has not come to light. The Post Office Savings Bank seems to be a general resource under such circumstances, for the number of such applications is very great, and a laborious search is frequently undertaken merely to satisfy an applicant even when there is every reason to believe that his supposition is groundless. In one case of this kind, the applicant, who could produce no evidence whatever that his deceased relative was a Depositor in the Post Office Savings Bank, declined to accept the statement of the Department that, in the absence of some tangible data, his application could not be dealt with; and he went so far as to take out Letters of Administration, sworn under an imaginary sum, and to make an affidavit affirming his 'strong belief' that the relative in question had money in the Post Office Savings Bank at his death. On the other hand, there are curious instances of the forgetfulness of Depositors as regards withdrawals which they have made. It is a common occurrence for a Depositor to apply for a new Deposit Book, stating that the original, which showed a balance in his favour, is lost, when, in fact, the account has been closed and the book given up to this Department in accordance with the usual practice. Even Depositors, who still hold their books, frequently allege that sums entered in them as withdrawals were never received; and it is only after the inspection of their receipts for the amounts that they can be brought to acknowledge the transactions.

Imaginary investments in names of persons deceased.

Forgetfulness of Depositors as to withdrawals.

"As showing the peculiar ideas entertained by some persons with regard to the means to be adopted for their identification, I may mention that a Depositor, apprehensive that his book might fall into other hands, furnished the date of his birth, and stated that he had

Ideas as to identification.

a scar under his left arm known only to himself, requesting that no payment of his money should be made to anyone who could not give satisfactory information on these points.

Deposits sent from abroad. "The practice of sending money from abroad to this Department to be deposited, appears to be much on the increase, remittances being almost constantly received from residents, not only on the continent of Europe, but in India, China, Japan, Persia, Australia, the West Coast of Africa, the West Indies, Mexico, and the United States. Numerous sums also continue to be received from soldiers and sailors serving in various parts of the world, particularly from soldiers stationed at Malta and Gibraltar. From the preference which soldiers thus show for the Post Office Savings Bank, it is evident that they will gladly welcome the scheme for abolishing the Military Savings Banks, and amalgamating them with the Post Office Savings Bank, which was recently announced by the Secretary for War in moving for the vote on the Army Estimates in the House of Commons. 'This change,' it was observed, "would give the soldier a greater feeling of security for his 'savings than he has at present, and enable him to draw out his money 'like ordinary civilians.' I may also point out that the connexion between the Post Office Savings Bank and the Army would be still further extended by the carrying out of the proposal to give each private soldier 2*d.* a day deferred pay, which is to accumulate until his discharge after six years service, when the amount (about 18*l.*) would be paid to him in three instalments through the Post Office Savings Bank at the place where he intended to reside.

Deposits from soldiers and sailors on foreign service. Soldiers preference for Post Office Savings Bank. Proposed abolition of Military Savings Banks. Statement by the Secretary for War.

Friendly, trade, charitable, and provident societies. "351 Friendly Societies, and 1,087 Trade, Charitable, and Provident Societies, were last year authorized to invest their funds in the Post Office Savings Bank, the respective numbers for 1874 having been 407 and 1,275. The decrease in the number of Friendly Societies is probably attributable (1) to the want of confidence in many such Societies occasioned by the publication of the evidence taken by the Friendly Societies Commission, (2) to the delay in bringing into operation the Friendly Societies Act; and (3) to the establishment of Trades Unions, which in many cases offer the same benefits in sickness and death as Friendly Societies. In explanation of the decrease in the number of Trade, Charitable, and Provident Societies, I may refer to the arrangement, mentioned in my report last year, which permits the Accounts of many of these Societies to be re-opened without fresh authority. I may point out that the decrease in the number of authorities by no means represents a lessening of work in connexion with the Accounts of Societies, as the frequent change of trustees and other officers in many Societies involves an increasing amount of correspondence from year to year.

Penny Banks. "During the year, authority was given to 149 Penny Banks to deposit their funds in the Post Office Savings Bank, being an increase of 9 over the number for 1874. The rules of one of these institutions provide for the receipt of farthing deposits. The establishment of Penny Banks in Schools still progresses. Several fresh ones have been opened in the schools of the London School Board, and the trustees of these Banks have found it desirable to have a separate one in each division of the schools, *i.e.*, for Boys, Girls, and Infants, respectively; as the head teachers of the divisions take greater interest in a Bank under their own control than when the whole of the savings of the children are deposited in one Bank. Accordingly, during the past year, Accounts, in several instances, have been opened for the Penny Banks in each division of a school which formerly had only one Account. As regards these Penny Banks, Mr. Scrutton, one of the members of the Board, who has taken

Farthing deposits. School Banks. London School Board. Separate bank for each division of a school.

a great interest in the subject, has published a statement of the operations of the Penny Banks in the London Board Schools for the year 1875, from which it appears that in 44 of these Banks, 5,266 children deposited 1,124*l.*, showing an average of nearly 4*s.* 3½*d.* per head, and that, at the end of the year, the sum of 218*l.* remained to the credit of the Depositors. Mr. Scrutton alludes with satisfaction to the assistance given by this Department. The London School Board is no solitary instance of the formation of Penny Banks in connexion with Board Schools, such Banks having been established in schools under the Boards at Birmingham, Brompton (Cumberland), Buckhurst Hill, and Norwich; and, as the subject has been brought under the notice of the various Boards in the *School Board Chronicle*, it may reasonably be anticipated that the example of the London School Board will be generally followed. Among the other Penny Banks, two are in connexion with the Royal Association in aid of the Deaf-and-Dumb. The Oxfordshire Branch of the Provident Knowledge Society (which seems to survive notwithstanding the absorption of the parent society in the "National Penny Bank") has warmly taken up the question of Penny Banks, employing an agent who receives a fee for each Bank established; and in all cases the funds are invested in the Post Office Savings Bank. Many of these Penny Banks have been formed in schools in various parts of Oxfordshire.

Operations of Penny Banks in London Board Schools for 1875.

Acknowledgment of assistance from this department. Banks at Board Schools in the provinces.

Deaf-and-Dumb Association.

Oxfordshire Branch of Provident Knowledge Society.

Agent paid a fee for each Penny Bank established.

School Banks in Oxfordshire.

Benevolent movement for establishing Penny Banks.

Assistance of department accepted.

Number of Penny Bank Books supplied gratis.

Circular as to facilities offered for opening accounts in Post Office Savings Bank.

Replies to circular.

Specimen.

Desire for further aid.

Applications for account books.

* * * * *

"Owing, no doubt, in a great degree to the active interest which has of late been displayed by many eminent persons in inculcating the virtue of thrift, there appears to be a wide-spread movement throughout the country for encouraging saving habits among the humbler classes by means of these excellent institutions. There have been almost constant instances in which clergymen and other benevolent persons have gladly availed themselves of the assistance offered by the Department in such laudable efforts. Accordingly, during the year, no less than 25,500 books for the use of Depositors were supplied gratuitously to the managers of Penny Banks connected with the Post Office. Of these books, 10,000 were supplied to the Penny Banks of the London School Board, and of the rest 10,500 were specially printed for various others with the name of the Penny Bank, the hours of attendance, and the names of the trustees in each case; while 5,000 were printed with blank spaces for the name of the institution and the other particulars to be filled in by the managers. Again, there has been a hearty response to the circular issued last year, with the Secretary's approval to the managers of Penny Banks, pointing out how their depositors may open accounts in the Post Office Savings Bank without personal attendance at the Post Office. From one among the many replies expressive of willingness at once to adopt the arrangement, I may quote the following passages:—'We shall very gladly avail ourselves of any means calculated to render the operation of opening an account less formidable to the untaught depositors in our Penny Banks.' * * * 'I am confident that the country would gain largely, and at the same time an immense boon would be conferred on the poorer classes, if the Penny Bank system were considerably extended under Government direction and patronage.' As regards the desire for further aid, I may refer to the proposal that books for keeping the accounts of Penny Banks should be supplied by this Department, on which subject I forwarded a report in 1874; and I may add that, since that time, there have been several applications for such books.

* * * * *

Losses from fraud.

The losses from fraud continue to be insignificant in comparison with the extent and magnitude of the business. The total number of deposits from the outset to the 31st December 1875 was 27,107,979, amounting, with interest, to 81,397,469*l.*, and the total number of withdrawals 9,236,374, amounting to 56,210,124*l.*, in all 36,344,353 transactions, amounting in the aggregate to 137,607,593*l.* Yet the total loss from fraud up to that time was only 4,387*l.*, or at the rate of three farthings per cent. The amount of loss last year was much less than the average of preceding years, being only 204*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*

Foreign and colonial governments. Spain.

Applications from various countries for further information.

France.

Special Commissioner.

"Foreign and Colonial Governments have continued to watch with interest the progress of Post Office Savings Banks in this country. The Spanish Government applied for information in such a manner as to show that the subject was about to be studied *ab initio*; but nearly all the other numerous applications from abroad (some of them personal) were for further information after either practical trial or careful examination of the system. The French Government took the important step of sending a special Commissioner to London to collect information about Savings Banks and kindred financial matters. This Commissioner, M. Auguste de Malarce, who has been mentioned in my former reports as an eminent authority respecting Savings Banks, arrived in April 1875, with instructions to thoroughly investigate the working and administration of the system of the Post Office Savings Bank, and also to acquaint himself with the manner in which the Deposits are dealt with by the National Debt Commissioners. On his departure, after three weeks sojourn, during which period he had every facility for seeing the working of this Department, M. de Malarce expressed a very high opinion of the system; and, soon after his arrival in Paris, a Bill, having for its object the introduction of a similar system into France, was brought before the National Assembly by the Minister of Finance. After an excited debate of three days, however, the Bill was withdrawn in consequence, it would seem, of the opposition of the friends of the Old Savings Banks, and of the question having ultimately assumed a party aspect. Nevertheless, the Assembly resolved, almost unanimously, that Post and Revenue Offices should be placed at the disposal of the Old Savings Banks for the receipt and payment of deposits, and already 200 Post Offices are used for Savings Bank purposes. It is the opinion of those interested in the question that the establishment of Post Office Savings Banks in France is only postponed, their adoption before long being considered certain, and to hasten this result, as well as by other means to encourage thrift among the people, an influential society has been formed at Paris, including among its members many eminent economists in various parts of France. It also appears that the respective Governments of Sweden and Holland are at present considering the expediency of introducing Post Office Savings Banks into those countries; while, by that remarkable people, the Japanese, the system, evidently with a very perfect organization, was adopted in May last, no less than 18 Post Office Banks having been opened in the city of Yeddo alone. A step in advance has been taken by the Colonial Government Savings Bank of Queensland, in allowing withdrawals by Electric Telegraph, a method of course peculiarly valuable on account of the extent of the colony, and the necessarily imperfect postal communication. From these facts, and others given in my former reports, it would seem that Savings Banks, more or less on the system of our own Postal Banks, are gradually but surely spreading in various parts of the world."

Bill for a system of Postal Banks in France.

Resistance of old Savings Banks.

Post and Revenue Offices to receive deposits.

Prospect of introduction of Post Office Savings Banks into France.

French Society for encouraging Thrift.

Sweden.

Holland.

Japan.

Queensland.

Withdrawals by telegraph.

Spread of Postal Banks.

APPENDIX (L.)

Annuities and Life Insurances.

(I.) TABLE showing the BUSINESS done in each YEAR since the commencement on the 17th April 1865.

Year.	ANNUITIES.										LIFE INSURANCES.					
	Immediate.					Deferred.					Contracts granted.	Receipts.	No.	Amount of Premiums.	Amount of Claims on Death and Surrender.	
	No.	Amount of Annuities.	Amount of Purchase Money.	No.	Amount of Annuities.	Contracts granted.	Receipts.	Payments.*	Fees received on Immediate and Deferred Annuity Contracts, the Charges on Monthly Allowances being included in the Premium.							
1865	87	£ 2,100	£ 22,738	32	£ 423	45	£ 949	67	£ 1,342	—	£ —	139	£ 1,076	1,105	—	£ —
1866	190	4,327	48,829	280	3,183	72	1,389	297	2,845	8	94	267	3,782	2,888	1	70
1867	268	5,966	65,068	725	8,042	41	704	313	2,302	8	131	328	5,368	3,590	5	318
1868	323	6,396	70,775	1,296	14,112	40	668	310	2,505	16	248	345	6,468	4,192	11	734
1869	352	6,811	74,401	1,805	19,925	45	1,044	385	2,062	10	380	385	7,814	5,044	10	537
1870	306	6,120	67,738	2,529	26,039	57	1,195	514	3,529	9	346	347	9,274	5,877	39†	1,670
1871	360	7,272	81,859	3,125	32,056	56	710	503	2,840	16	854	392	9,891	6,482	69	1,744
1872	1,019†	9,570	97,269	3,737	38,404	58	721	480	2,838	16	618	510	11,659	7,420	64	2,184
1873	1,344†	10,290	105,877	6,257	47,374	55	583	520	3,925	19	1,307	510	13,506	8,279	76	2,516
1874	1,814†	12,259	115,021	9,493	56,898	53	992	533	4,827	19	1,454	622	13,450	8,615	92	3,766
1875	583	7,926	85,781	11,129	63,041	54	768	661	3,545	10	526	421	14,549	9,500	84	3,127

* Prior to the year 1875 the payments consisted of Purchase Money Returned only, as no Annuities were payable till after the lapse of ten years.

† Claims on Surrender value of Life Insurance Contracts commenced in this year.

‡ The exceptional increase during these years arose from Contracts granted on the lives of Masters and Seamen of Mercantile Marine, through the Board of Trade. The circumstances which led to this increase had nearly ceased in 1875.

General Post Office,
June 1876.GEO. CHETWYND,
Receiver and Accountant-General.

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 1875, and the Number and Amount of Contracts in existence on the 31st December 1875.

	CONTRACTS GRANTED.				TOTAL	
	From 17 April 1865 to 31 December 1874.		From 1 January to 31 December 1875.			
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Contracts for Annuities entered into from the commencement of business on 17th April 1865 to 31st December 1875, viz. :—						
Immediate Annuities - -	6,069	71,413 13 4	582	7,926 14 0	6,651	79,340 7 4
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - -	160	2,969 1 6	12	249 0 0	172	3,218 1 6
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - - -	302	5,991 11 0	22	519 17 0	324	6,511 8 0
Contracts for Sums payable at Death entered into from the commencement of business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1875 - - - -	4,478	343,979 10 0	370	32,022 5 1	4,848	376,001 15 1
Contracts for Annuities in existence on the 31st December 1875, viz. :—						
Immediate Annuities - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	5,941	69,578 4 6
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	152	2,765 19 6
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	194	3,764 12 0
Contracts for Sums payable at Death, in existence on the 31st December 1875 - - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	3,858	305,120 3 3

General Post Office,
May 1876.

GEORGE CHETWYND,
Receiver and Accountant-General.

APPENDIX (M.)

Inland Revenue 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 12l. 10s. each.	Horses and Mules at 10s. 6d. each.	Armorial Bearings.		Guns at 10s. each.	Game.			Game Keepers at 40s. each.	Total Number.	Revenue £ s. d.
			At 42s. each.	At 15s. each.			At 42s. each.	At 21s. each.		Red at 60s.	Green at 40s.	Blue at 40s.			
1869	-	473,218	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	473,218	118,304 10 0
1870	-	524,032	32,080	73,171	10	203,351	6,171	10,219	40,742	-	-	-	-	964,323	460,027 16 6
1871	-	552,229	31,887	73,111	10	201,527	5,945	10,303	62,161	-	-	-	-	1,003,038	473,311 15 6
1872	-	573,728	32,978	74,412	10	203,914	5,943	11,090	62,25	-	-	-	-	1,037,608	485,439 9 0
1873	-	615,342	32,980	74,631	8	206,562	5,736	10,752	70,671	-	-	-	-	1,065,938	498,157 0 0
1874	-	635,636	34,094	75,466	8	203,383	5,836	10,945	79,461	4	1	1	-	1,163,207	521,249 14 6
1875	-	755,408	34,964	77,531	-	-	5,741	10,968	86,578	10	-	-	2	1,059,341	498,546 8 0

* The duty on Horse Dealers and Horses and Mules was abolished in the year 1874.

APPENDIX (N.)

Staff of Officers.

At the end of 1875 the Staff of Officers was as follows, as compared with the Staff at the end of 1874.

On 31st of Dec. 1874.			On 31st of Dec. 1875.	
		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	
8		Secretary, financial secretary, assistant secretaries, surveyor general for Scotland, and secretary for Ireland.	6	
22		Other superior officers in the Metropolitan offices, viz. : heads of departments, chief clerks, &c.	22	
15		Surveyors - - - - -	16	
12,961		Postmasters - - - - -	13,226	
2,992		Clerks, &c. - - - - -	3,204	
16,584		Letter carriers, sorters, messengers, &c. -	16,393	
94		Mail guards and porters - - - - -	83	
3		Marine mail officers - - - - -	3	
	32,680			32,954
		(B.) Staff engaged exclusively on telegraph duties, viz.:		
19		Chief engineers and other superior officers -	21	
6,628		Clerks, subordinate engineers, &c. -	6,762	
4,572		Messengers, &c. - - - - -	4,822	
	11,219			11,605
26		II. Postmasters, clerks, letter carriers, &c. in the colonies, the posts of which are under the direction of the Postmaster General.	26	
	26			26
57		III. Agents in foreign countries for collection of postage, &c.	59	
	57			59
	43,982			44,644

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

Year.	Force.		EXPENDITURE.												
	Effective. Telegraph and Savings Bank Officers.	Non-Effective.	Cost of Collection and Delivery, of Management, and of Money Order Business.					Cost of Conveyance of Mails.							
			Salaries, Wages, Pension, Travelling Allowances, Pounds on Sale of Stamp, Commission on Money Order Business, Cost of Uniform Clothing, of Medical Attendance, of Subsidies 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 Pettyage, 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 Jethimus of Buez and Panama and in other Foreign Ports, and Salaries of Admiralty Agents and other Officers in charge of Foreign and Colonial Mails.	Total Cost of Conveyance.		
1866	25,594	1,423	1,368,157	23,254	34,989	182,627	1,609,007	139,868	596,085	21,336	817,467	27,898	1,502,674	3,201,681 (a)	
1867	25,902	1,559	1,421,854	23,684	33,033	236,592	1,715,163	140,069	559,575	22,434	783,845	25,764	1,631,687	3,246,880 (b)	
1868	26,263	1,756	1,440,144	25,000	39,014	214,523	1,718,680	139,553	578,927	18,769	777,097	33,096	1,546,044	3,266,724 (c)	
1869	26,910	1,871	1,455,251	25,000	40,788	115,125	1,686,162	139,316	583,596	17,535	1,056,798	25,322	1,623,065	3,469,227 (d)	
1870	28,078	1,963	1,497,513	47,500	42,561	110,225	1,698,097	138,763	587,296	16,296	908,494	26,290	1,737,768	3,435,865	
1871	28,959	2,064	1,550,793	46,300	45,257	136,072	1,781,422	140,822	595,221	19,911	1,047,044 (e)	26,280	1,820,278	3,610,700	
1872	30,006	2,241	1,681,575	53,200	46,037	164,508	1,960,520	144,576	618,715	19,774	927,763	23,599	1,734,426	3,684,946	
1873	31,085	2,421	1,774,702	66,170	37,272	132,397	2,010,451	147,877	644,179	23,970	944,896	21,306	1,763,228	3,792,679	
1874	31,800	2,494	1,874,438	70,000	37,420	168,855	2,150,713	157,008	649,613	23,865	915,580 (f)	18,454	1,764,500	3,915,313	
1875	32,143	2,591	1,941,704	86,420	42,465	142,581	2,213,470	169,321	666,857	25,426	835,896 (g)	16,923	1,707,421	3,990,891	

(a) Including £73,287 paid under the Post Office Extension Act, the greater portion of which has been charged to Buildings, &c.

(b) Including £183,191 ditto.

(c) Including £108,592 ditto.

(d) Including £17,544 ditto.

(e) For an explanation of this increase see Appendix (P.), Note (f).

(f) This decrease is chiefly attributable to a reduction in the amount of the subsidy payable to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Packet Company, and to the Australian

Colon having taken the service beyond Point de Galle into their own hands, in the year 1874.

(g) This further decrease is attributable to a new and more favourable contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company having commenced at the beginning of the year 1875.

APPENDIX (P.) 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 the Inland Revenue Office.	Total Postal Revenue.	Total Cost of Post Office Service.	Net Revenue.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1866 -	4,311,457	166,430	—	4,477,587	121,780	4,599,667	3,201,881	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	3,266,724	1,416,922 (a)
1869 -	4,472,746	176,480	—	4,649,226	115,349	4,764,575	3,459,227 (b)	1,305,348
1870 -	4,664,512 (c)	184,093	—	4,848,605	80,870	4,929,475	3,455,965	1,463,610
1871 -	4,697,607 (d)	182,140	20,707 (e)	4,900,454	—	4,900,454	3,610,700 (f)	1,289,754 (d)
1872 -	5,012,616	192,904	3,502 (e)	5,208,022	—	5,208,022	3,664,046	1,523,976
1873 -	5,134,816	208,037	5,167 (e)	5,348,040	—	5,348,040	3,792,679	1,555,361
1874 -	5,331,028	215,462	5,116	5,751,600	—	5,751,600	3,915,213	1,836,387
1875 -	5,590,535 (g)	210,197	5,300	5,815,032	—	5,815,032	3,920,891	1,894,141
Average Net Revenue of first Five Years								
Ditto second ditto								
Average Net Revenue of last Five Years								
Ditto								
Average Net Revenue of last Ten Years								
Ditto								

(a) The Public Departments ceased to be charged with postage early in the year 1868. The amount so charged in 1867 was upwards of £20,000.

(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 (O).

(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 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 of the practice (etc.) in regard to then existing recipients of the aid) for the payment of this money into the Exchequer in accordance with the order of 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 £2,360. The unclaimed orders for 1873 are estimated at 3,708. The above sum of 5,167 includes a balance of forfeited orders, viz., 1,666.

(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.

(g) The Postage collected on Australian Correspondence in 1871 was £1,874, which was included in the total revenue for the year 1871, but the Australian Colonies, as part of an arrangement whereby a considerable saving in the cost of the Packet Service was effected, but the Australian Colonies, which credit for the Postage in question was given, were not entered in the books of the Post Office before the year 1875, thus causing the reduction of revenue consequent on the arrangement first to appear in that year.

APPENDIX Q.

Gross and Net Revenue derived from the TELEGRAPH SERVICE since the transfer of the TELEGRAPHS to the Post Office (29th January 1870).

Year ended 31st March.	Gross Revenue from Messages and from Wires rented by Cable Companies.	News Produce and Special Wire Rentals.	Private Wire Rentals.	Miscel- laneous.	Extra Receipts.	Total Revenue collected. (a)	Payments out		Total Telegraph Revenue.	Working Expenses charged to the Telegraph Vote. (c)	Net Revenue.
							To Cable Companies. (b)	For Portage and Message Money refunded.			
1870 - (2 months.)	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ 107,479	£ 5,000	£ 1,719	£ 100,760	£ 62,273	£ 38,487
1871 -	908,351	31,975	16,763	14,128	—	971,217	255,982	17,331	697,934	394,477	303,457
1872 -	1,095,375	39,175	32,578	16,029	—	1,183,157	408,965	22,381	751,611	591,776	159,835
1873 -	1,306,055	43,300	37,817	2,050	11,855	1,401,077	385,684	25,472	989,921	874,946(d)	114,975
1874 -	1,403,793	52,688	42,063	3,626	25,642	1,527,812	416,475	27,871	1,083,466	967,790(e)	115,676
1875 -	1,448,823	58,478	50,849	5,212	13,285	1,576,647	410,770(f)	28,798	1,137,079	1,077,347(g)	59,732
1876 -	1,479,477	58,165	52,884	6,896	26,416	1,623,838	320,868	26,308	1,276,662	1,031,546(h)	245,116

(a) The revenue shown in this Table is the amount actually brought to account in each year.

(b) The payments to Cable Companies represent the sums actually paid in each year.

(c) The working expenses are those shown in the Appropriation Accounts of the Telegraph Vote; and do not include the Telegraph Expenditure incurred by the Office of Works in Ireland during the whole period, nor that incurred by the Office of Works in England since the 1st April 1874.

(d) The expenses of 1872-73 include arrears of pay for 1870 and 1871 amounting to 64,000l.

(e) The expenses of 1873-74 include for the first time the cost of extensions amounting to 31,502l.

(f) Arrears amounting to 30,006l. were paid in this year.

(g) Pensions of redundant officers of Telegraph Companies amounting to 41,695l., were for the first time charged to the Telegraph Vote. Of this amount 24,999l. was for arrears.

(h) From the 1st April 1875 stationery has been provided for in the Vote for the Stationery Office.

L O N D O N :
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.