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POST OFFICE.

FORTY-THIRD REPORT

OF

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

ON

THE POST OFFICE.

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



LONDON:

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POST OFFICE.

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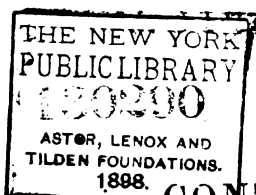
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FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

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

MY LORDS,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordships the Forty-third Annual Report of the Postmaster-General, being an account of the business of the Department for the year ended the 31st of March 1897.

The year now under review is of exceptional interest, as the last complete year of one period of postal development. Already, before this report is published, although not within the year of which it treats, the great changes in postal rates announced—as part of the Budget Scheme—by the Chancellor of the Exchequer have come into operation, and it will be my task next year to trace the effects of these reforms, which mark the commencement of a new epoch in the history of the Post Office.

It is estimated that during the year 1896-97 the following postal packets were delivered in the United Kingdom :—

**Number of postal packets.
See Appendix, pages 43-47.**

	Number estimated.	Increase per cent.	Average Number to each Person.
Letters - - -	1,893,000,000	3·2	47·9
Post Cards - - -	336,500,000	7·0	8·5
Book Packets, Circulars, and Samples - - - }	697,900,000	3·8	17·6
Newspapers - - -	150,600,000	1·1	3·8
Parcels - - -	63,715,000	5·2	1·6
Total - - -	3,141,715,000	3·6	79·4

The number of letters registered in the United Kingdom was 13,438,735.

LETTERS, POST CARDS, AND BOOKS.

The rate of increase in the number of letters is very slightly less than it was last year, when it was 3·6 per cent.; on the other hand, the rate of increase in post cards is considerably greater than last year, when it was 0·6 per cent., and I assume, therefore, that post cards are to a certain extent superseding letters. This is chiefly the case, no doubt, with private post

cards, which are now estimated to be 44 per cent. of the whole number of post cards passing through the post.

The rate of increase in the Book Post is considerably less than it was last year, when it was 9·4 per cent. In the provinces there has been a large increase, but in London there has been an actual decrease of about 3 per cent. This is probably due to the fact that the returns for 1895-96 were abnormally swelled by the flood of circulars which accompanied the revival of business in the City.

THE NEWSPAPER POST.

The Newspaper Post, which last year showed an actual decrease of 1·8, now shows a slight increase.

Considerable attention was attracted to the observations which I made last year upon the Newspaper Post, and I thought it expedient subsequently to present to Parliament a report made by a Departmental Committee upon a project for extending that post. Having regard to that report, I think it impossible to doubt that any attempt to relax the existing rules of the Newspaper Post, with the view of making it a post for periodicals and magazines, would result in making it a halfpenny post for all printed matter; and that such a post in England, like the corresponding post in the United States, would prove ultimately ruinous to the postal revenue. The present Newspaper Post is already conducted at a loss. It has been urged, indeed, that if newsagents can distribute newspapers at a profit, my Department should be able to do the same thing; but it is not always recognised that the Post Office has to undertake a class of business which the newsagents steadily refuse, viz., the distribution of newspapers in the remote rural districts where the postman goes, but where no newsagent would attempt to send his newspapers, and that, while the newsagent receives a commission on the sale of the papers which he distributes, the Post Office is confined by law to charging a halfpenny on every newspaper which it carries, without regard either to its weight or to its price.

THE PARCEL POST.

Appendix,
pages 43-53.

The total number of parcels delivered in the United Kingdom during the year 1896-97 has increased by 5·2 per cent., from 60,527,438 to 63,715,315; of these, 62,947,697 were inland parcels, as against 59,833,018 in 1895-96. The average postage per inland parcel was 5·44*d.*, of which the Post Office share was 2·87*d.* The number of registered parcels has been as follows:—

England and Wales (excluding London)	-	437,451
London	- - -	258,300
Scotland	- - -	50,126
Ireland	- - -	39,053
		<hr/>
Total	- . -	784,990
		<hr/>

The total number of Rail-borne Parcels during the year was 54,876,823, an increase of 5·1 per cent. on last year, whereas the number of Road-borne Parcels was 8,838,492, an increase of 6 per cent. upon last year.

The total number of parcels sent to and received from places abroad during the year was 1,878,868, an increase of 10 per cent. on the previous year. The increase in the number of parcels despatched (1,111,250 as against 1,013,200 in 1895-96) was 9·7 per cent., and of parcels received (767,618 as against 694,420 in 1895-96) was 10·5 per cent. The largest growth has again been in the service with France, Germany, Italy, and South Africa. The value of the goods exported and imported by Parcel Post during the last two years was as follows :—

—	1895-96.	1896-97.	Increase or Decrease.
	£	£	£
Exported - -	1,437,812	1,789,834	Inc. 352,522
Imported - -	1,009,022	998,915	Dec. 10,107
Total - -	2,446,334	2,788,749	Inc. 342,415

The total number of Foreign and Colonial parcels insured was 98,535, as against 73,789 in the previous year.

THE EXPRESS DELIVERY SERVICE.

This service continues to grow in public favour, and, as I am glad to find, is self-supporting and even profitable to the State.

The total number of Express Services performed in the United Kingdom during the past year has been 438,126, as against 363,971 in 1895-96, an increase of more than 20 per cent. There has been practically the same rate of increase in London, where the number has been 294,467, as against 243,751 in 1895-96. The London services thus remain, as they were last year, about 67 per cent. of the whole.

The number of ordinary post letters delivered, by arrangement, by special messenger in advance of the postman, reached 151,190 in London last year, as against 142,018 in 1896-97.

It appears to me that these numbers indicate that the public have not yet thoroughly appreciated the service which the Post Office is prepared to render. In spite of the rapid circulation of the ordinary mails and the increasing use of the telegraph and telephone, I should have supposed that greater use would have been made of the existing facilities for sending Express letters singly by railway. Perhaps, therefore, it may be desirable to point out that a letter can be sent by Express Messenger to any train, forwarded by that train, and met on its arrival at the station of destination by another Messenger ready to deliver it, and thus an easy means of communication of the most rapid kind is provided at moderate expens3.

Provincial
services.

In the Rural Districts, where posts are few and distances long, I should hope that the "Express" system will soon spread more widely; at many offices arrangements have now been made for the delivery of Express Packets at a cheaper rate by the use of bicycles. These are used for distances for which a cab or other special conveyance would, in their absence, be required, and the expense to the sender is thus, in many cases, considerably reduced.

Express
Service with
Foreign
Countries and
Colonies.

I am making arrangements for the extension of the Express Delivery Service to those Foreign Countries and to those of our Colonies which are able to adopt the system.

RETURNED PACKETS.

Undelivered
packets.
Appendix,
page 72.

The numbers of returned packets dealt with in the year were as follows:—

—	Number.	Increase or Decrease.
Letters - - - -	6,559,737	Increase. 228,651
Post Cards - - - -	1,179,137	Increase. 163,132
Book Packets - - - -	11,526,274	Increase. 1,988,177
Newspapers - - - -	562,482	Decrease. 144,522
Patterns and Samples - -	75,425	Increase. 12,656
Parcels - - - -	156,404	Increase. 9,997

I ought perhaps to add that the number of letters which could neither be delivered to the addressees nor returned to the senders, fell in 1896-97 to 7.9 per cent. of the total number of letters dealt with in the Returned Letter Offices; in 1895-96 it was 8.6 per cent. The value of property in letters opened at the Returned Letter Offices was 643,171*l.* in 1896-97, 4,692*l.* being found in letters without any address. The total number of letters without address was 32,696.

Property in
returned
letters.

Parcels with-
out address.

The number of parcels found without address was 8,649. The number of such parcels in 1895-96 was only 6,462; and, in view of the special attention which I drew to this matter last year, I am disappointed to find that the number has so largely increased. I trust that the public will understand that greater care is necessary in tying on the address labels.

Insufficiently
addressed
packets.

While dealing with this subject I think it right to say that, in my opinion, while all reasonable pains should be taken and, as I believe, are taken, to dispose of all postal packets wrongly and insufficiently addressed, it is not right that the ordinary correspondence of the country should be delayed while the staff of the Department are endeavouring to solve the puzzles which are set them by careless and eccentric persons.

CHANGES IN REGULATIONS.

On the 1st February 1897, I was able to rescind certain regulations which were sometimes found to be vexatious to the public.

The absolute prohibition of writing or printing on the front of a postcard, and the rule which required that the right-hand half of the address side of all other postal packets should be kept clear for the address, were replaced by a comprehensive regulation, applicable to post cards and to all other postal packets, that nothing should be written or printed on the address side, which, by inconvenient proximity to the postage stamp, by obscuring the address, or in any other way, would be likely to embarrass my officers in their duty.

Writing and
printing on
address side.

The work of sorting is, of course, often performed in circumstances of great pressure and difficulty, and it is in the interest of the letter-writing public themselves that I ask them to facilitate the work of the Post Office, and venture to point out that there are many less inconvenient and more useful places for advertisement than the address side of an envelope passing through the post.

On the same date, viz., the 1st February 1897, the charge upon an unpaid inland postcard was reduced from twopence to a penny, and the maximum dimensions for inland letters and book-packets were extended to 2 ft. by 1 ft. by 1 ft., and the maximum weight of an inland newspaper packet was limited to 5 lbs.

Unpaid
postcards.
Dimensions of
packets.

Changes were also made in the system of compulsory registration of packets found to contain articles of value. Such packets as were formerly liable to a fee of 8*d.* became liable to a fee of only 4*d.*, or twice the usual registration fee, and it was also decided to register, at a charge of 2*d.*, any packet found open in the post, or opened in the Returned Letter Office, which might contain a postal order in which the name of the payee had not been inserted, an uncrossed cheque, or any other article of value.

Compulsory
registration.

HOME MAILS

The increase in the number of daily Country Mails has been—

To London -	-	-	-	-	42
From London	-	-	-	-	71

Daily Country
Mails, Appen-
dix, page 64.

On the 1st July 1896, I was able to bring into effect an important acceleration of the Night Mail from London (Euston) to Aberdeen. The number of stoppages was reduced and the running speed of the train was increased, with the result that the whole journey was shortened by 85 minutes, and the Mail train leaving Euston at 8.30 p.m. reaches Aberdeen in little more than 11 hours—at 7.35 a.m., instead of 9 a.m. as formerly. The intermediate towns obtained proportionate advantages, 34 minutes

Scotch Mail
Service.

being gained at Carlisle, 32 at Glasgow, 30 at Edinburgh, 58, 59, and 60 minutes at Stirling, Perth, and Dundee respectively.

Corresponding alterations were made in the Mail Service from Carlisle to Ayr, Stranraer, and Belfast; from Stirling (in the Summer) to Oban; from Perth to Inverness, Strone Ferry, Wick, and Thurso; and from Aberdeen to Ballater, Elgin, Fraserburgh, and Peterhead. The general effect, therefore, was to give advantages to practically every part of Scotland.

Irish Mail Service.

The great acceleration of the Irish Mails, though only coming into effect on the 1st April 1897, was of course arranged during the year now under review, and may, therefore, fitly be chronicled here. The new packets mentioned in my last report, driven by twin screws, and providing greatly improved accommodation for Mails and passengers, have realised the speed expected of them, and have in every way proved satisfactory. The time of the voyage has been reduced by half an hour, and the Night Mail trains from Euston to Holyhead and from Holyhead to Euston have also been reduced by half an hour.

In finally settling the time tables for the mail trains, I have met with much difficulty. I have utilised to the full, for the benefit of both mails and passengers, any time that could possibly be saved upon the journeys, but I have been able only in part to meet the suggestions made to me for the alteration of the hours of despatch.

I have found it necessary to defer the despatch of the Down Night Mail to 8.45 p.m., because it is impossible to get the whole of the mail ready for despatch at an earlier hour than 8.30 p.m., and it would be practically impossible to displace the Scotch Mail which starts at this hour, and unsafe to leave a less interval than 15 minutes between that train and the new Irish Mail train. The Irish Mail train, which formerly started at 8.20 p.m., used to wait at Crewe for the subsequent train leaving at 8.30 p.m.

I think it a matter for congratulation that it has been found possible to shorten the night journeys by about an hour and the day journeys by about half an hour each way.

The time tables are as follows :—

	Night Mail.		Day Mail.	
	Former Hours.	Present Hours.	Former Hours.	Present Hours.
<i>Down Journey.</i>				
Euston - - - dep.	P.M. 8.20	P.M. 8.45	A.M. 7.15	A.M. 7.15
Holyhead train arrives and } transfer to packet commences }	A.M. 2.35	A.M. 2.25	P.M. 1.28	P.M. 1.28
Kingstown. Transfer from } packet completed and train } off - - - - - }	6.42	6.	5.55	5.5
Dublin - - - - - arr.	{ 6.54 (Eng.) 6.29 (Irish)	{ 6.14 (Eng.) 5.49 (Irish)	{ 5.47 (Eng.) 5.22 (Irish)	{ 5.17 (Eng.) 4.52 (Irish)

	Night Mail.		Day Mail.	
	Former Hours.	Present Hours.	Former Hours.	Present Hours.
<i>Up Journey.</i>	P.M.	P.M.	A.M.	A.M.
Dublin . . . - dep.	{ 7.10 (Irish) 7.35 (Eng.)	8.0 (Irish) 8.25 (Eng.)	6.40 (Irish) 7.5 (Eng.)	7.10 (Irish) 7.35 (Eng.)
Kingstown . . . - arr.	7.50	8.40	7.20	7.50
Holyhead Pier . . . - dep.	11.52 A.M.	12.12	11.22 P.M.	11.22 P.M.
Euston . . . - arr.	6.15	6.10	5.45	5.45

In comparison with these speeds, it may be interesting to reprint the time tables of the Aberdeen and Holyhead Night Mails when the Queen came to the Throne, just before the general acceleration consequent upon the opening of the Birmingham and Liverpool Railway.

They are as follows :—

London (Bull and Mouth, in St. Martin's-le-Grand).	8.0 p.m.
York	4.54 p.m.
Edinburgh	2.23 p.m.
Aberdeen	6.22 a.m.

Time occupied from London to Aberdeen, 58 hours 22 minutes.

London (Swan-with-two-Necks, in Lad Lane)	8.0 p.m.
Birmingham	7.8 a.m.
Shrewsbury	12.0 noon
Holyhead	10.55 p.m.

Time occupied from London to Holyhead, 26 hours 55 minutes.

The time occupied by the Packet in crossing from Holyhead to Kingstown was about $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours, but—in the teeth of a contrary gale—sometimes reached 20 hours.

The extension of the improved service into the Irish provinces could not be made by the 1st April, because, in deference to the wishes of the House of Commons, I postponed until the present session the final settlement of the time table between London and Dublin.

Irish Provincial Posts.

The Irish provincial towns profit by the acceleration in varying degrees, as will be explained in my next report, but, speaking generally, the full advantage of the acceleration has been given to every important Irish town.

The value of the Mail Service from Ireland via Fleetwood has been enhanced by the establishment of direct bags by this route from various Irish provincial towns. Letters sent by this route reach London in time for the 4.15 p.m. delivery.

Route from Ireland via Fleetwood.

LATE POSTING FOR CONTINENTAL MAILS.

Arrangements have been made for accelerating the despatch of letters posted in the London districts too late for inclusion in the first Day Mail despatch to the Continent.

Such letters, to the extent of over 1,000 a week, which were hitherto held over for the Night Mail, are now included in the second Day Mail despatch at 10.45, and are thus accelerated by about 10 hours.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MAILS.

Eastern,
Australian,
and Canadian
Services.

I mentioned, in my report of last year, two subjects of great Imperial interest, which had been already under the consideration of the Government, but upon which no definite decision had been reached. These were the Eastern and Australian Mail Services, for which tenders had been invited by this Department, and a fast Canadian Packet Service, for which tenders had been invited by the Canadian Government. I have now much pleasure in reporting a satisfactory arrangement for these services, which, I need hardly add, constitute, or will constitute, some of the most important links in the communications of the Empire.

Eastern and
Australian
Service.

In July 1896 I received tenders for the performance, from February 1898, of the Mail Service, via Suez, to and from Australia, India, and the Far East, and referred them, for consideration, to an Inter-Departmental Committee under the presidency of the Rt. Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P., who had been Financial Secretary to the Treasury when the expiring contracts were made. I hold myself much indebted to him for the experience and judgment which he brought to the service of the Committee.

Various questions were raised and considered, and, finally, having obtained the concurrence of the Governments of India and the Australian Colonies, I was able, with your Lordships' assent, to accept the tenders of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and the Orient Steam Navigation Company. The service under the new contracts will be arranged on the lines of the existing service, which has been found to work smoothly and conveniently; but there will be a considerable acceleration, and, at the same time, the cost of the India and China sections of the service will be reduced by upwards of 20,000*l.* a year. The cost of the Australian service will remain unaltered, but the special payments hitherto made for the conveyance of parcel mails, in both directions, on this side of Brindisi, will cease.

Canadian
Service.

As regards the fast Canadian Mail Service, an agreement has been made between the Government of the Dominion and Messrs. Petersen, Tate, and Company, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. These contractors are to provide a weekly service between Great Britain and Canada by four mail steamers of the first class at an average speed of 500 knots a day. Two of the steamers are to be ready by the 31st May 1899, when a fortnightly service is to be commenced, and the other two ships are to be ready a year later.

I understand that the contribution to be made by the mother country towards the cost of the service, when in full operation, is 51,500*l.* a year, and that your Lordships, in making this contribution, have in view not merely the establishment of a fast mail service between this country and Canada, but also the completion by the Governments of the Colonies concerned of the scheme for communication with Australasia via Canada proposed at the Ottawa Colonial Conference of 1894.

The Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post continues to extend. Foreign and
Colonial
Parcel Post. On the 1st October 1896 commenced the service with Japan, via Canada, mentioned in my last report as forthcoming; a direct service has been commenced with Chili; and parcel mails are also sent to Paraguay, Venezuela, the Cape Verd Islands, and Portuguese West Africa. The limit of weight for parcels exchanged with Portugal, Madeira, the Azores, Sweden, and Malta (via France) has been raised from 7 lbs. to 11 lbs. The postage has been revised upon parcels for the Australasian Colonies, the Dutch East Indies, Hawaii, Malta via France, Seychelles, Portugal, Madeira, the Azores, Natal, Sweden, and Montenegro.

The insurance system has been extended to parcels exchanged with Portugal, Madeira, and the Azores. Insured
Foreign
Parcels.

With the assistance of the Board of Customs, arrangements have been made whereby dutiable articles lying in bonded warehouses can be exported by Parcel Post without paying duty.

Russia, I understand, is shortly to adopt the International Parcel Post system. Of the United States—upon which for the past 12 years I and my predecessors have vainly urged such a step—I can only say that I instructed the British Delegates to the Postal Union Congress at Washington to renew my proposals, and it would give me great satisfaction to learn that they had succeeded in procuring their acceptance. Parcel Posts
with Russia
and United
States.

POSTAL UNION.

The Islands of St. Helena and Ascension joined the Postal Union in 1896, and Corea has now agreed to join. The Orange Free State hopes to do so shortly. China also has indicated a desire to join the Union at some future date.

To the Congress held at Washington I delegated Mr. Spencer Walpole, Mr. H. Buxton Forman, and Mr. C. A. King to represent this country; the results of the Congress do not fall within the period covered by this report.

SALE OF ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS.

At the instance of the Board of Agriculture, and in pursuance of the recommendations of a committee sitting under the presidency of Mr. Hayes Fisher, M.P., to consider how the sale of Ordnance Maps could best be promoted, I have arranged to exhibit specimens and indexes and to allow orders for maps to be taken at about 746 post offices.

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL ORDERS.

Appendix,
pages 85-93.

Changes in
1896-97.

I indicated in my report of last year that there was a possibility of changes in the Money Order system. It was found that according to the best estimate which could be framed, the actual cost to the State of issuing and paying any Inland Money Order was not less than 3*d.*, and that the cost of the orders did not vary much as the amount they represented rose. The inevitable conclusion was that, as Money Orders for sums below 1*l.* were issued for 2*d.*, and the whole business was not conducted at a loss, the remitters of larger sums were paying for the facilities given to the remitters of small sums. This did not seem equitable, and I proposed to reduce the commission upon the Money Orders for larger sums. At the same time the commission on Money Orders under 1*l.*, was raised from 2*d.* to 3*d.*, because it was thought that, for such small remittances Postal Orders were always available, and had in fact been designed for the purpose.

I therefore proposed, and your Lordships sanctioned, the following scale of poundage for Inland Orders:—

For an order not exceeding 3 <i>l.</i>	-	-	-	3 <i>d.</i>
„ „ exceeding 3 <i>l.</i> but not exceeding 10 <i>l.</i>				4 <i>d.</i>

This scale came into operation on the 1st February 1897, and it was no doubt on the whole acceptable to the general public. But it appeared that the members of some of the great friendly societies, who had been accustomed to make and receive small payments by Money Orders at a cost of 2*d.*, experienced some loss from the change. To meet their case it was decided to revert to the old charge of 2*d.* for orders under 1*l.*; and the scale, since the 1st May, has stood as follows:—

For orders not exceeding 1 <i>l.</i>	-	-	-	2 <i>d.</i>
„ exceeding 1 <i>l.</i> but not exceeding 3 <i>l.</i>				3 <i>d.</i>
„ „ 3 <i>l.</i> „ „ 10 <i>l.</i>				4 <i>d.</i>

Other changes in the rates for Money Order services, which came into effect on the 1st February 1897, and, as I believe, proved to be popular, were as follows:—

The commission on Foreign and Colonial Money Orders of the higher value was reduced, the new rates being—

				<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
For an order not exceeding 2 <i>l.</i>	-	-	-	0	6
„ „ exceeding 2 <i>l.</i> but not exceeding 6 <i>l.</i>				1	0
„ „ „ 6 <i>l.</i> „ „ 10 <i>l.</i>				1	6

The charges for Telegraph Money Orders, apart from the cost of the telegram, were reduced to the following rates:—

For sums not exceeding 3 <i>l.</i>	-	-	-	4 <i>d.</i>
„ exceeding 3 <i>l.</i> but not exceeding 10 <i>l.</i>				6 <i>d.</i>

The charge for correcting or altering the name of the remitter or payee of an Inland Order was reduced to a fixed sum of 1*d*.

The charge for stopping payment of an Inland Order was fixed at 4*d*., and this fee was made to cover the issue of a new order, if the request for a new order was made at the time of stopping payment.

The charge for issuing duplicate orders or renewing void orders was reduced to 6*d*.

The remitter of a Telegraph Money Order was enabled to direct that it should be delivered at the payee's residence, and that it should be crossed for payment through a bank. In either case the only extra charge is for the addition of the necessary instructions to the telegram of advice.

A penny stamp is no longer required to be affixed to a Money Order when payment is deferred, and payment may be deferred for any period not exceeding 10 days. Formerly, the postponement of payment could only be for the exact period of 10 days.

The Money Order business of the year has been as follows:— Statistics of this year.

MONEY ORDERS.

	Number.			Amount.		
	1896-97.	1895-96.	Increase.	1896-97.	1895-96.	Increase.
<i>Inland.</i>				£	£	£
Ordinary - - -	7,375,758	7,426,831	51,073*	19,306,401	19,030,819	275,582
Telegraph - - -	160,470	153,318	7,152	528,316	515,304	13,012
Government Offices -	1,777,794	1,754,147	23,647	6,085,136	6,036,113	49,023
Total inland - -	9,314,022	9,334,296	20,274*	25,919,853	25,582,236	337,617
<i>Foreign and Colonial.</i>						
Issued in the United Kingdom and paid abroad:						
Colonial - - -	129,171	127,194	1,977	430,414	435,820	5,406*
Foreign - - -	355,683	330,068	25,615	893,558	798,582	94,976
Total outwards -	484,854	457,262	27,592	1,323,972	1,234,402	89,570
<i>Issued abroad and payable in the United Kingdom:</i>				£	£	£
Colonial - - -	448,964	412,592	31,372	1,475,247	1,342,759	132,488
Foreign - - -	678,827	696,793	17,966*	1,530,015	1,567,420	37,405*
Total inwards -	1,127,791	1,109,385	18,406	3,005,262	2,910,179	95,083
Total Foreign and Colonial Orders -	1,607,595	1,566,667	40,928	4,320,234	4,144,581	184,653
Grand total - -	10,921,617	10,900,963	20,654	30,240,087	29,726,817	522,270

* Decrease.

The decrease in the number of Inland ordinary Money Orders is unquestionably due to the raising of the commission on the cheapest orders in February; for, while there was a decrease of 51,073 orders on the whole year ending the 31st March 1897, there had, during the last three quarters of 1896, been an increase of 50,849 orders over the numbers for the last three quarters of 1895. I assume that the business diverted from the Money Order Office must have been transacted mainly by Postal Orders, as I had anticipated would be the case. In spite of the decrease in the number of Money Orders, the total amount of money transmitted by these orders shows nevertheless an increase of 275,582*l.*

The number of Telegraph Money Orders has increased by 4 per cent., and the sum transmitted thereby has risen by 2 per cent. The average amount remitted by Telegraph Money Orders has fallen from 3*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* to 3*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

Foreign and
Colonial
Money Orders
in the year.

There is a slight decrease in the outward Colonial Money Order business, and a larger decrease amounting to 17,966 orders for 37,405*l.*, in the inward Foreign business.

The decrease in the inward foreign business is principally due to the fact that the money remitted from the United States by Money Order, which last year showed a considerable increase, is now little more than the amount transmitted in 1894-95.

Extension of
Money Order
system.

Money Order exchanges have been arranged with the Fiji Islands and the Niger Coast Protectorate; and the Indian Postal Agencies at Bahrain and Mohammerah, in the Persian Gulf, have also been brought within the Money Order system.

Postal Orders.

The number of Postal Orders issued during the year has been 67,182,998, representing 24,826,874*l.*, as against 64,076,377 for 23,896,594*l.* in 1895-96. The number shows an increase of 4.8 per cent., while the amount transmitted shows an increase of 3.9 per cent. The popularity of this cheap and convenient means of remittance shows no signs of waning. I am sometimes asked to add other denominations to those for which Postal Orders are now issued, but your Lordships will readily understand that every addition to the number of denominations involves increased expense.

Foreign
Telegraph
Money Orders.

I am negotiating with Foreign Countries for the exchange of Telegraph Money Orders, and I hope that such exchange may before long come into existence, and prove useful to the public.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The growth of the business of the Post Office Savings Bank during the year 1896 is shown in the following tables :—

Savings Bank Statistics of the year, Appendix, pages 77-84.

Amount due to depositors on 31st December 1895 - - - - -	£ 97,868,975
12,638,307 deposits during 1896 (as against 11,384,977 of 32,078 660 <i>l.</i> in 1895) - - -	£ 36,258,350
4,367,594 withdrawals during 1896 (as against 4,102,059 of 25,698,296 <i>l.</i> in 1895) - - -	28,489,329
Excess of deposits over withdrawals - - -	7,769,021
Add interest for 1896 credited to depositors (as against 2,222,545 <i>l.</i> in 1895) - - -	2,460,645
Amount due to depositors on 31st December 1896	£108,098,641
Number of accounts open on 31st December 1895	6,453,597
Accounts opened in 1896 (as against 1,153,236 opened in 1895)	1,261,178
Accounts closed in 1896 (as against 808,402 closed in 1895)	852,740
Excess of accounts opened (as against an excess of 344,834 in 1895) - - -	408,438
Number of accounts open on 31st December 1896	6,862,035

The daily average number of deposits made throughout the year was 41,033, as against 37,084 in 1895, and the average amount deposited each day was 117,721*l.*, as against 104,490*l.* in 1895. The daily averages of withdrawals were 14,180 and 92,497*l.*, as against 13,361 and 83,707*l.* in 1895. The average amount of each deposit was 2*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* (2*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* in 1895), and of each withdrawal 6*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* (6*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* in 1895). The average sum to the credit of each account open at the end of 1896 was 15*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, as against 15*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* in 1895.

Average daily transactions.

The largest number of deposits made on any one day was 91,571 on the 29th February 1896, and the highest amount deposited was 303,125*l.* on the 31st December. The largest number of withdrawal warrants issued on one day was 40,128 on the 22nd December, and the largest amount of such warrants was 166,285*l.* on the 16th December.

Largest daily transactions.

The number of withdrawals by telegraph and return of post during 1896 was 102,553, as against 78,818 in 1895. The largest number of such withdrawals in one day was 924 on the 24th December.

Withdrawals by telegraph.

Transfers from
trustee banks.

The amount transferred to the Post Office Savings Bank from Trustee Savings Banks in 1896 was 1,161,794*l.* I mentioned in my last report that 773,000*l.* had been transferred in the early part of the year from one bank alone; the balance represents 356,783*l.* transferred from eleven other banks which have been closed, and 32,011*l.* from banks which are still open.

The total increase during the year in the amount of deposits held by the Savings Bank is unparalleled in its history, and fitly marks a year in which the figure of a hundred millions has been reached and passed.

Average cost
of each
transaction.

The average cost of each transaction during 1896 was 6*d.*, and the cost per cent. upon the total amount to the depositor's credit was 7*s.* 11½*d.*, as compared with 6·42*d.* and 8*s.* 5½*d.* in 1895. Notwithstanding this reduction of the rate of working expenses, the rise in the price of Consols has caused some embarrassment, and the whole business, after payment of expenses and of 2½ per cent. interest to depositors, has shown a deficit of 3,791*l.*, which has been voted by Parliament. This is the first year since the establishment of the Savings Bank that any deficit has occurred.

Deficit on
transactions of
the year.

Classification
of accounts.

An effort was made during the past year to determine by what classes of the community the Savings Bank was chiefly used. The method adopted was to record, for a period of three months, the occupations of all new depositors, as furnished by themselves on opening their accounts. Assuming these to be fairly typical of the whole number, the following table has been compiled:—

	Percentage to Total.
Professional	1·55
Official	2·81
Educational	1·01
Commercial	3·88
Agricultural and fishing	1·83
Industrial	18·43
Railway, shipping, and transport	2·96
Tradesmen and their assistants	8·14
Domestic service	8·61
Miscellaneous	0·37
Persons describing themselves as married women, spinsters, widows, and children	50·41
	<hr/> 100·00 <hr/>

Women and children of all ranks, including those so described in the table, are believed to be 60·59 per cent. of the total number of depositors.

An attempt has also been made to classify the accounts open at the end of 1895 according to the amount of the balance due, with the following result:—

	Balances not exceeding 50l.		Balances exceeding 50l. and not exceeding 100l.		Balances exceeding 100l. and not exceeding 150l.	
	No.	Aggregate Amount Due.	No.	Aggregate Amount Due.	No.	Aggregate Amount Due.
Personal accounts . . .	5,811,215	£ 35,043,853	342,620	£ 23,692,578	138,802	£ 10,718,364
Society accounts . . .	16,976	262,339	3,843	274,690	2,108	257,036
Total . . .	5,828,191	35,306,192	346,463	23,967,268	140,910	10,975,400
Percentage to Total . . .	90·8	36·1	5·3	24·5	2·2	17·3

	Balances exceeding 150l. and not exceeding 200l.		Balances exceeding 200l.		Total.	
	No.	Aggregate Amount Due.	No.	Aggregate Amount Due.	No.	Aggregate Amount Due.
Personal accounts . . .	80,659	£ 11,208,100	20,529	£ 4,271,139	6,424,116	£ 82,934,115
Society accounts . . .	1,288	223,881	5,260	2,916,914	29,481	3,934,860
Total . . .	82,233	11,432,071	25,795	7,188,044	6,453,597	97,868,975
Percentage to Total . . .	1·3	14·8	0·4	7·3	—	—

As between the three kingdoms the following later classification on the figures at the end of 1896 is made:—

	Number of Depositors at 31st December 1896.	Proportion of Depositors to Population.	Average Amount to Credit of each Depositor.
England and Wales . . .	6,276,493	1 in 5	£ s. d. 15 14 0
Scotland . . .	283,566	1 in 15	12 0 0
Ireland . . .	301,976	1 in 15	20 7 7
United Kingdom . . .	6,862,035	1 in 6	15 15 1

The number of societies opening accounts last year with the Post Office Savings Bank was 3,328; of these, 669 were registered friendly societies. The number of penny banks was 314—less by 18 than the number which opened accounts in 1895.

Accounts of societies, schools, &c.

Under the arrangement by which the sums awarded as scholarships by the Technical Education Board of the London

County Council are paid into the Savings Bank accounts of the scholars, 364 new accounts were opened in 1896, and 10,949 deposits, amounting to 17,909*l.* 10*s.*, were made. The deferred pay of soldiers leaving the Army was deposited during the year to the extent of 338,801*l.* in 16,901 deposits, as against 359,484*l.* in 17,218 deposits in 1895.

Use of Savings Bank by soldiers.

Under an Army Order issued in March 1896 the use of Military Savings Banks elsewhere than in India ceased for all soldiers subsequently enlisting, and for any soldiers already serving who did not open accounts before the 31st March 1897. Arrangements have therefore been made for facilitating the use of the Post Office Savings Bank by soldiers serving abroad, except in India, where they use the Savings Bank of the Post Office of India as well as the Military Savings Bank.

Stock Investment business.

The Stock Investment business of the Post Office shows, for the second year in succession, an excess of sales over purchases. The investments were 16,912 for 967,834*l.*, and the sales 17,935 for 1,107,637*l.* The total amount of stock standing to the credit of depositors at the end of 1896 was 6,891,891*l.* in 68,177 accounts.

Annuity business.

The following tables show the progress of the Post Office Annuity business in the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Immediate Annuities Purchased.	Amount		Increase per Cent.		
		Of Annuities.	Of Purchase Money.	Number of Immediate Annuities.	Amount of Annuities.	Purchase Money.
1892	1,157	£ 28,155	£ 355,723	—	—	—
1893	1,420	36,746	461,599	22·73	30·51	29·76
1894	1,565	41,495	540,277	10·21	12·92	17·04
1895	1,898	49,816	665,363	21·27	20·05	23·15
1896	2,208	60,965	823,718	16·33	22·38	23·79

Year.	Number of Deferred Annuity Contracts issued.	Amount of Annuities.	Increase or Decrease.	
			Number of Contracts.	Amount of Annuities.
1892	*214	£ 4,258	—	—
1893	159	3,091	Decrease 55	Decrease 1,162
1894	164	3,772	Increase 5	Increase 679
1895	169	4,088	" 5	" 266
1896	202	4,178	" 33	" 140

* Special efforts among Post Office Clerks.

The progress of the Insurance business is as follows:—

Insurance
business.

Year.	Number of Insurances.	Amount Insured.	Increase or Decrease per Cent.	
			Number.	Amount.
		£		
1892	*1,983	80,807	—	—
1893	853	44,000	Decrease 56·98	Decrease 45·21
1894	*1,128	56,010	Increase 32·23	Increase 27·29
1895	720	38,358	Decrease 36·17	Decrease 31·51
1896	1,223	65,582	Increase 69·86	Increase 70·97

* Years of special effort among Post Office employés.

The large increase in Insurance business during the past year is due, no doubt, to the introduction, on the 1st February 1896, of new tables, under which premiums were reduced and Endowment Insurances, formerly payable only at the age of 60, were issued payable at 55 or 65, or sooner in the event of death. Of the 1,194 policies effected between the 1st February and the 31st December, no less than 401 were for payment at the age of 55. Only 29 were for payment at the age of 65.

A history of the Post Office Savings Bank from its first establishment will be found in Appendix I., page 32.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

During the year 79,423,556 telegrams of all descriptions were forwarded, showing an increase of 583,946 or 74 per cent. over the previous year. This number exceeds by two millions the number of letters, other than “franks,” passing through the post in the year in which the Queen came to the throne. Number of telegrams.
Appendix, pages 74-76.

Of these telegrams, 65,561,817 were ordinary inland telegrams (*i.e.*, excluding foreign, press, and free telegrams), showing an increase of 998,230 or 1·54 per cent. The large amount of traffic dealt with in 1895-96 has thus been well maintained.

The total revenue from inland telegrams was 2,070,045*l.*, as compared with 2,046,456*l.* for the previous year, and the average value 7·58*d.* per telegram, as compared with 7·61*d.*

The number of foreign telegrams dealt with by the Department was 6,307,987, showing a decrease of 393,851 or 5·87 per cent., as compared with the previous year. This decrease is believed to be due to a lull in the speculative transactions on Continental Bourses.

The number of foreign telegrams does not represent the whole of the foreign telegraphic business of the United Kingdom; it only shows the number of foreign telegrams transmitted by the Post Office itself, and does not take into account those dealt with by the various cable companies without recourse to the postal telegraphs.

5,837,701 telegrams were transmitted at the press rates for newspapers, clubs, &c., being a decrease, as compared with the previous year, of 77,945 or 1·31 per cent. The average weekly number of words contained in these telegrams was about 13,471,618.

Telegrams sent on behalf of the various Government Departments show an increase of 21,540 or 7·29 per cent., the total for the year being 316,911, as compared with 295,371 for the previous year.

1,371,406 telegrams were transmitted under the free message privilege enjoyed by the railway companies, as compared with 1,338,818 for the previous year, the increase being only 2·43 per cent., as compared with an increase of 27·74 for the previous year.

The telegrams at reduced rates, which certain of the railway companies are entitled to send, increased nearly 14 per cent. The number of such telegrams is, however, comparatively small.

The number of the various kinds of telegrams as compared with the number in the previous year are given in the following table :—

Class of Telegram.	Number.			Receipts.		
	1896-97.	1895-96.	Increase.	1896-97.	1895-96.	Increase.
Ordinary Inland -	65,561,817	64,563,587	998,230	£ 2,070,045	£ 2,044,456	£ 25,589
Press (Inland) -	5,837,701	5,915,646	Dec. 77,945	123,823	124,881	3,942
Foreign -	6,307,987	6,701,833	Dec. 393,851	306,528	331,717	Dec. 25,189
Railway, free -	1,371,406	1,338,818	32,588	—	—	—
„ reduced rate -	27,734	24,350	3,384	541	469	72
Government, free -	316,911	295,371	21,540	—	—	—
Totals -	79,423,556	78,839,610	583,946	2,503,937	2,503,523	2,414

The London local telegrams show an increase of 343,072, or 4·92 per cent., the numbers for the year being 7,342,474 as compared with 6,999,402 in 1895-96.

Telephones.

The transfer of the Trunk lines acquired from the National Telephone Company began on the 4th April 1896, and was carried forward section by section, the final section being taken over on the 6th February last. The arrangements in connection with the transfer involved a great amount of labour, as well as the exercise of much ingenuity.

It is satisfactory to state that the officials of the Company rendered ready and able assistance in overcoming many of the difficulties which from time to time presented themselves.

A work of this magnitude naturally gave rise at the outset to some delay in a few cases in the use of the Trunk wires, but by careful supervision of the working arrangements, and the

erection of additional circuits between points where the necessities of the traffic required them, the causes of delay were gradually removed, and the system is now working smoothly.

186 additional Post Offices have been opened for Trunk Telephone business during the year, making, with those already opened for the purpose, a total of 243.

The mileage of Telephone Trunk wire erected by the Department itself up to the end of the year was 19,620; the mileage transferred from the National Telephone Company was 29,000; making, with the 4,180 miles in the course of construction, a total mileage of 52,800. It is interesting to note that the telegraph system taken over by the State in 1870 from the Telegraph Companies comprised no more than 48,989 miles of wire.

The system now consists of over 880 separate Trunk circuits, which are supplemented by more than 2,000 circuits between Post Offices and the National Telephone Company's Exchanges, giving the Company's Subscribers access to the Trunk system, and the advantage of the Telegraph, Express, and other services.

The following towns have been placed in telephonic communication with the general system during the year, viz. :—

Basingstoke.	Lowestoft.
Bedford.	Luton.
Bridlington.	Manningtree.
Cambridge.	Norwich.
Chesham.	Oxford.
Great Yarmouth.	Shrewsbury.
Leatherhead.	Tamworth.
Lichfield.	Tavistock.

Additional Trunk wires are in course of erection to the under-mentioned places, viz. :—

Banbury.	Limerick.
Bangor.	Isle of Wight.
Carnarvon.	Newmarket.
Cork.	North Berwick.
Elgin.	Selby.
Banff.	Uttoxeter.
Peterhead.	Weybridge.
Inverness.	Witney.

An Act of Parliament was passed in August last (59 & 60 Vict. c. 40) sanctioning an expenditure of 300,000*l.* on the trunk lines in addition to the 1,000,000*l.* authorised under the Telegraph Act, 1892.

Within the last few years the main routes upon which the telegraph lines radiate from London to the various provincial centres have become very crowded, and the rapid expansion of the telephone trunk system has forced upon my attention the

Underground
line to
Birmingham.

question of providing underground lines for telegraph purposes, so as to free the existing overhead routes for the erection of telephone wires. Hitherto the difficulties which have stood in the way from an electrical point of view, and the heavy cost involved, have prevented the matter from reaching a practical stage; but the introduction of a new and cheaper type of cable, with paper and air space insulation, has reduced these difficulties, and your Lordships have now sanctioned the construction of such a line between London and Birmingham. The work is estimated to cost 165,000*l.*, and of this amount 65,000*l.* will be expended during the current year.

Apart, however, from the question of providing room for additional wires, another reason which has led this Department to decide on the construction of an underground line between London and Birmingham is the fact that the country to be traversed by the line is the scene of the storms which are most disastrous to the telegraphs. These storms follow a course which may be roughly described as extending from the Bristol Channel to the Wash. They blow directly across all the main telegraph lines to the north, and thus they affect almost the whole country.

The new line which is now in course of construction will obviate the risk of total interruption, and the whole telegraphic system of the country will thus be rendered more secure.

Coast com-
munications.

Considerable progress has been made towards completing the chain of communication between coastguard and lifeboat stations around the coast of the United Kingdom for life saving purposes.

Numerous gaps have been filled up, inter-communication has been improved and extended, and additional works of considerable magnitude have been undertaken on the Devon, Cornish, and Welsh coasts, on the north-east coast of England, and the coasts of Scotland and Ireland.

A cable has been laid to connect the Smalls Lighthouse with the mainland.

Lightship com-
munication.

The maintenance of the lightship cables is still a matter of some difficulty; but owing to an arrangement entered into with the Trinity House, by which certain members of the crews of the light-vessels have been taught to effect temporary repairs, it is hoped that a visit of the cable ship will not so frequently be required.

The experiments which are being made with a view to ensuring communication with lightships by other means than continuous cables have not as yet been brought to a definite conclusion.

Submarine
cables.

A new submarine cable was successfully laid between Bacton, on the coast of Norfolk, and Borkum Island, in Germany, in May last. The cable, which was laid at the joint expense of the two countries, has afforded a much-needed relief to the telegraphic traffic to and from Germany. It contains four conductors and is about 224 knots in length.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH CONFERENCE AT BUDAPEST.

In June 1896 the Eighth International Telegraph Conference assembled at Budapest to review the regulations and tariffs agreed upon at the conference held in Paris in 1890.

The representatives of this country were Mr. J. C. Lamb, C.B., C.M.G., Mr. H. C. Fischer, C.M.G., and Mr. P. Benton. These gentlemen also represented the Cape Colony, Natal, and New Zealand.

The Convention, embodying the modifications agreed upon by the Conference, was signed on the 22nd July 1896, and the new regulations and tariffs took effect on the 1st July 1897.

One of the principal subjects discussed at the Conference was the official vocabulary for code telegrams. This is a question which has excited much attention in commercial circles in the United Kingdom, and a summary of the leading points at issue is given in Appendix II., page 40.

Another important subject dealt with at the Conference was the equivalent of the franc in local currency. In countries where the cable companies had a free hand, and also in British India, the equivalent of the charges as fixed in francs had from time to time been raised in proportion to each fall in the currency. But in certain other countries the depreciated currency had been taken as the standard both for the collection of the charges and for the settlement of the accounts. This pressed heavily on the companies whose cables afforded communication with the countries in question. The administration, over whose line a message is first despatched, receives, of course, from the sender the whole charge for the telegram, retains its own share, and credits the balance to the administration to whose lines it transfers the message. The second administration acts in the same way towards a third administration, and so on. Thus the companies in question had in certain cases to credit to other administrations on a gold basis large sums for which they had themselves only received credit in depreciated silver. In this way, in the case of certain high-priced traffic, they were called upon not only to transmit a telegram for nothing, but also to incur an actual loss by paying over to another administration more money than they had received. The acceptance of the depreciated currency also involved the collection in many cases of a lower charge in one direction than in the other. It was recognised by the Conference that this anomaly ought to be removed; and it was decided to adopt new regulations imposing on every State an obligation to fix in its currency an equivalent approaching as nearly as possible, the actual value of the franc in gold; to declare this equivalent at the present time; and, in the event of any important fluctuation, to declare from time to time a new equivalent based on the mean course of exchange during the preceding three months. In pursuance of this resolution, several States at once made declarations, raising the equivalent of the franc in their currency from the 1st July 1897, the date from which the new regulations took effect.

The regulations were improved and simplified in many points of detail. Of these modifications the most important was the adoption, in the case of telegrams for extra-European countries, of the more liberal method of counting in force in the case of European telegrams. In virtue of this decision the number of letters allowed to a word in plain language in extra-European telegrams was increased, from the 1st July 1897, from 10 to 15, and the number of figures from three to five.

The loss of revenue through this alteration falls mainly on the Cable Companies who provide communication with distant parts of the world. Throughout the Conference the representatives of those companies showed a disposition to make such concessions as were practicable in favour of the public, and they agreed to several substantial reductions of tariff.

The following is a list of the principal reductions which have been arranged in connexion with the negotiations carried on at Budapest. Some of these reductions took effect from the 1st January 1897, and the remainder came into operation from the 1st July 1897 :—

LIST OF ALTERATIONS IN RATES.

	Rate prior to Conference at Budapest.	Reduced Rate— adopted in some cases from 1st January 1897, in others from 1st July 1897.
European system :—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Azores - - - -	0 10	0 9
Canary Islands - - - -	0 10	0 9
Gibraltar - - - -	0 4½	0 3½
Greece and Greek Islands - - - -	0 7	0 6½
Morocco :		
Tangier - - - -	0 6	0 5
Other places - - - -	0 4	0 3½
Portugal - - - -	0 4½	0 3½
Senegal - - - -	1 6	1 5
Spain - - - -	0 4	0 3½
Tripoli - - - -	1 1	0 8½
Extra-European system :—		
Annam - - - -	5 10	5 3
China :		
All places except Macao (including Hong Kong).	7 0	5 6
Macao - - - -	7 6	5 9
Cochin China - - - -	5 1	4 6
Dutch East Indies :		
Java - - - -	6 0	5 0
Sumatra and other islands - - - -	6 6	5 5
Formosa - - - -	8 0	6 6
Japan :		
Via Vladivostock - - - -	8 0	6 2
Via Hong Kong - - - -	10 8	7 9
Malay Peninsula :		
(Penang, Singapore, Malacca, and Native States) - - - -	From 5 2 to 5 9	4 6

	Rate prior to Conference at Budapest.	Reduced Rate- adopted in some cases from 1st January 1897, in others from 1st July 1897.
Extra-European system—cont.	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Mauritius - - - -	8 9	5 0
Persia (Bushire) - - - -	2 5	1 9
Philippine Islands - - - -	9 0	8 7
Russia in Asia :		
1st Region - - - -	1 8	1 0
2nd Region - - - -	2 7	1 3
Seychelles - - - -	7 3	5 0
Siam :		
<i>Via</i> Moulmein - - - -	4 6	3 10
<i>Via</i> Saigon - - - -	5 7	5 0
Tonquin - - - -	6 3	5 6
West Coast of Africa :		
British Possessions :		
Bathurst - - - -	5 11	4 7
Bonny - - - -	9 8	8 3
Brass - - - -	9 8	7 10
Gold Coast :		
Accra - - - -	8 0	6 3
Other places - - - -	8 2	6 5
Lagos - - - -	8 10	7 1
Sierra Leone - - - -	6 9	5 5
German Possessions :		
Cameroons - - - -	9 10	8 5
Togoland - - - -	8 4	6 6

For the meeting place of the next Conference (in 1901) the choice fell on London, and this choice was accepted by the representatives of this country. The last Conference held here was that of 1879.

Negotiations were opened at the Conference for a direct wire from London to Buda Pest, and they are now proceeding.

PROFIT ON POST AND TELEGRAPH.

I am able, with much satisfaction, to repeat the words of my last report, that "from the financial point of view the past year has been one of unexampled prosperity in the Post Office." I recorded that in 1895-96 the general election and the revival of trade had combined to enable me to realise the unprecedented profit of 3,632,122*l.*; but in 1896-97 the profit of my Department, unaided by a general election, has reached no less a sum than 3,753,109*l.*, the profit on the postal business being 3,893,823*l.*, and the loss on the telegraph being 140,714*l.* I trust that this figure may be regarded as a criterion of the general prosperity of the country. I am much gratified that the condition of the national finances has rendered it possible to devote a large portion of the postal surplus to the reduction of rates and to the improvement of service in rural districts.

Elastic as the postal revenue has proved itself to be in the past, I cannot, of course, anticipate that it will show an equal profit in the ensuing year, having regard alike to the concessions granted to the public and to the advantages given to the staff at the recommendation of the Committee on Post Office Establishments.

POST OFFICES AND BUILDINGS.

Number of
Offices.

347 new post offices and 1,450 new letter boxes have been added during the last year. There are now 29,072 letter boxes and 20,745 post offices in the United Kingdom. Money Order and Savings Bank business is transacted at nearly 12,000 offices, telegraph business is transacted at 7,904, but, in addition, telegraph business is performed for the Post Office at 2,279 railway stations. New telegraph offices have been opened during the past year at 251 post offices and six railway stations.

New Post
Offices.

New Crown Post Offices have been opened during the year at Accrington, Bournemouth, Bromley, East Grinstead, Harrogate, Leeds, Newbury, Southend, Tipton, Tunbridge Wells, Wolverhampton, Rothesay, Portadown, and in various parts of London. At Bangor, Newmarket, Portsmouth, and Leith the offices have been enlarged, and additions have been made to the North-Western District Office and the Branch Office at Victoria Docks, London.

24 offices and a telegraph factory are in course of erection or enlargement, and arrangements are being made for erecting or enlarging 33 other Offices. All these will belong to the Crown. At 143 towns, where the Post Office belongs to the Postmaster, additional allowances have been granted for the provision of new or improved premises.

The second portion of the new buildings of the Post Office Savings Bank has been completed and occupied during the year, and the whole staff is now housed in spacious blocks, which, though divided by Knightrider Street, are practically one building, as they are connected by bridge and tunnel.

The expenditure out of the Post Office Vote on the acquisition of sites and buildings during the year amounted to 31,451*l.*, of which 4,575*l.* was spent in London. The expenditure by the Commissioners of Works and Buildings in Great Britain and Ireland, respectively, on the erection and furnishing of new post offices, and on the maintenance and enlargement of existing post office buildings, amounted to 309,435*l.* in Great Britain and 11,950*l.* in Ireland.

Lamp-post
letter boxes.

I have introduced on a small scale, by way of experiment, the American system of affixing posting boxes to lamp posts. I hope this plan may prove advantageous in places where it is not convenient, or where there is not sufficient business to warrant the erection of a pillar letter box and no suitable wall for a wall letter box, and that it may facilitate the provision of boxes in remote rural districts.

STAFF.

The Staff of the Post Office has increased during the year by 3,894, from 140,806 persons to 144,700. The number on the permanent Establishment (including Head and Sub-Postmasters) has risen by 2,051 to 81,286; in this latter number are included 12,406 women.

Of the 63,414 persons employed *not* on the Establishment the number of women is about 16,900.

The usual tables follow, showing the percentages of wages and salaries to Revenue and Expenditure.

Year.	Total Revenue.			Salaries and Wages.			Percentage of Combined Salaries and Wages to Combined Revenue.
	Postal.	Tele-graph.	Com-bined Totals.	Postal.	Tele-graph.	Com-bined Totals.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	Per cent.
1886-87 - -	9,124,306	1,887,159	11,011,365	3,125,032	1,153,863	4,278,895	38·66
1887-88 - -	9,313,068	1,992,940	11,306,017	3,307,182	1,227,255	4,534,437	40·11
1888-89 - -	9,715,559	2,129,965	11,845,524	3,424,157	1,275,940	4,700,097	39·68
1889-90 - -	9,721,481	2,364,099	12,085,580	3,359,563	1,382,414	4,741,977	39·24
1890-91 - -	10,068,677	2,486,764	12,545,441	3,600,306	1,506,219	5,106,525	40·70
1891-92 - -	10,451,996	2,545,612	12,997,610	3,897,952	1,635,063	5,533,045	43·67
1892-93 - -	10,600,149	2,526,512	13,126,661	4,190,823	1,717,123	5,907,946	45·01
1893-94 - -	10,734,885	2,579,206	13,314,091	4,446,361	1,804,603	6,250,964	46·96
1894-95 - -	11,025,480	2,646,414	13,671,874	4,597,355	1,833,684	6,431,039	47·08
1895-96 - -	11,759,945	2,879,794	14,639,739	4,734,446	1,895,419	6,629,865	45·29
1896-97 - (estimated).	12,146,935	2,967,353	15,114,288	4,926,887	1,969,503	6,896,390	45·62

Year.	Total Expenditure.			Salaries and Wages.			Percentage of Combined Salaries and Wages to Combined Expenditure.
	Postal.	Tele-graph.	Com-bined Totals.	Postal.	Tele-graph.	Com-bined Totals.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	Per cent.
1886-87 - -	6,367,319	2,032,632	8,399,951	3,125,032	1,153,863	4,278,895	50·94
1887-88 - -	6,281,231	1,999,033	8,280,264	3,307,182	1,227,255	4,534,437	54·76
1888-89 - -	6,466,127	2,041,361	8,507,488	3,424,157	1,275,940	4,700,097	55·25
1889-90 - -	6,275,065	2,278,986	8,554,071	3,359,563	1,382,414	4,741,977	55·44
1890-91 - -	6,637,504	2,388,581	9,026,085	3,600,306	1,506,219	5,106,525	56·57
1891-92 - -	7,192,487	2,635,895	9,828,382	3,897,952	1,635,063	5,533,045	56·30
1892-93 - -	7,507,645	2,692,904	10,200,639	4,190,823	1,717,123	5,907,946	57·99
1893-94 - -	7,759,712	2,757,645	10,517,357	4,446,361	1,804,603	6,250,964	59·44
1894-95 - -	7,955,344	2,788,032	10,743,396	4,597,355	1,833,684	6,431,039	59·86
1895-96 - -	8,086,272	2,920,341	11,006,613	4,734,446	1,895,419	6,629,865	60·23
1896-97 - (estimated).	8,253,112	3,108,067	11,361,179	4,926,887	1,969,503	6,896,390	60·70

Employment
of soldiers and
seamen.

During the year, 254 soldiers and seamen have been appointed to established situations in the Post Office, making in all rather more than 1,900 who have received such appointments since 1892. It is estimated that more than 1,500 of these men remain in the service at the present time.

New class of
Girl Clerks.

A new class of "Girl Clerks" has been introduced into the Savings Bank, for the performance of some of the less important clerical duties. Those who prove efficient will be eligible after three years' service to proceed to the rank of "Female Clerks." Others will be given the option of becoming paper sorters.

THE SECRETARIAT.

During the year I have lost the valuable assistance of Mr. Algernon Turnor, C.B., the Financial Secretary, who was unfortunately compelled by illness to retire from the Service, and of Mr. Herbert Joyce, C.B., the Third Secretary of the Post Office.

Upon the services rendered by these two distinguished officers there is little need for me to enlarge; Mr. Turnor's zealous performance of the duties of his office has been for many years as well known to your Lordships as to the Postmaster General. Mr. Joyce by his long experience and ripe judgment was qualified in a unique degree for the position of an official adviser. From the time of his retirement to his death, I was able to command his assistance for the arrangement of the old records of the Department in which he was so deeply interested.

Abolition of
post of
Financial
Secretary.

The post of Financial Secretary has now been abolished, the strictly financial duties of the post having been assigned to the Receiver and Accountant General, who takes the title of Comptroller and Accountant General.

CONDUCT OF THE STAFF.

Good-conduct
stripes.

The number of Post Office Servants holding good-conduct stripes is now about 14,500.

With the conduct of the staff, generally, I have been well satisfied.

Over a thousand of the London Telegraph Messengers, including the various District Drum and Fife Bands, were inspected in battalion in the summer of 1896 by the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, who expressed his opinion that the physical drill had been admirably performed.

THE COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

The Committee appointed by my predecessor on the 10th June 1895, to inquire into the remuneration, prospects, and

condition of employment of any classes of servants of the Post Office, other than the clerical staff in the Chief offices, reported to me on the 15th December last. I am much indebted to the members of the Committee for the zeal and pains with which they pursued their long and arduous inquiry, and for the exhaustive report which they furnished. The composition of the Committee will be within your Lordships' recollection: it consisted of the Right Hon. the Lord Tweedmouth, Lord Privy Seal in the late Administration; Sir Francis Mowatt, K.C.B., Permanent Secretary to the Treasury; Sir Arthur Godley, K.C.B., permanent Under Secretary of State for India; Mr. Spencer Walpole, Secretary to the Post Office; and Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith, Labour Commissioner of the Board of Trade.

Composition
of Committee.

It is with great satisfaction that I have seen the acceptance of the whole scheme proposed by the Committee and recommended by myself, even though the immediate cost to the taxpayers is estimated to be nearly 139,000*l.* a year, and the ultimate cost nearly 275,000*l.* a year.

Acceptance of
recommendations.

I have noticed with pleasure that the Committee acquits the higher officials of the Department of favouritism in the matter of promotion, and of unfairness and undue severity in awarding punishments and in enforcing discipline. I do not imagine it possible that any Postmaster General, knowing the care exercised in such matters, could have supposed for a moment that charges of this kind were well founded, but it is none the less satisfactory that their refutation should be authoritatively placed on record. The Committee add that in so large a service individual cases of favouritism must occur, but they find no want of vigilance in the Heads of the Department to prevent such occurrences, and I am sure that your Lordships may rely upon the continuance of all possible care in this respect.

Department
acquitted of
general
charges.

Again, the Committee reject any general charge of overcrowding post offices or leaving them in an insanitary condition; though they observe that, in some few cases, owing to the rapid development of the work and increase of the staff, matters may not be in all respects satisfactory. Your Lordships are well aware of the constant expenditure upon rebuilding and improving Post Offices, and will readily accept the Committee's view that all possible steps are taken to remedy such cases. The state of the General Post Office (East) is engaging my earnest attention, and no time will be lost in devising and applying the necessary remedies, which must, however, in any case, take considerable time to carry out.

Overcrowding.

The rapid development of Post Office work in recent years has undoubtedly been the cause of many of the difficulties which have arisen in the organisation of the staff. Additional

duties have fallen upon the Department, and it has been necessary to perform them with such force as has been immediately available.

Among the many changes made in the pay and conditions of service of the numerous classes dealt with in the Committee's report, I may mention the following points :—

Overtime pay and attendance.

Overtime, Sunday, and Bank Holiday pay has been assimilated throughout the service; hours of duty are being reconsidered at the various offices with the view of reducing, as far as possible, the strain on the staff caused by such of the so-called "split duties" (or duties involving more than one attendance in the day) as leave insufficient intervals for rest. "Allowances" are generally being abolished, the services of the men being wholly remunerated by their scales of pay.

Scales of pay.

The scales of pay of the great classes of indoor workers in town and country are profoundly modified by the abolition of the system of "classification," whereby each man is enabled to proceed by annual increments to the maximum pay of a combined class, subject only to the operation of an "efficiency bar," which he may not pass without a certificate of good conduct and ability.

Double increments for double qualifications.

Special inducements by way of double increment have been held out to the staff on the postal and telegraph sides of the various offices to learn each other's work, and I hope that the result may be that I may have at my disposal a force qualified to assist in any work in times of emergency. It is needless to point out that this should tend to lighten the temporary strain which must now fall on one or other side of the offices at seasons of pressure, and it may also have the effect of increasing the number of the staff to whom holidays can be granted in the summer months.

Postmen.

The case of the postmen has also received attention. I may mention that many changes have been made in the conditions of the employment of auxiliaries, of whom some now become assistant postmen. Men who work for five hours a day or upwards are now allowed 12 days' holiday, two-thirds of their pay when they are sick, and 15s. a year for boots.

Established postmen, who might formerly have three good-conduct stripes, may now have six stripes—each stripe carrying 1s. a week extra pay, and being granted after 5 years' unblemished service—and they may count their previous auxiliary service as qualifying for stripes, two years' service as an auxiliary being regarded as equivalent to one year's service as an established postman.

HEALTH OF THE STAFF.

The number of Medical Officers employed by the Post Office has been increased during the year to 567, of whom 4 are women. The Staff under their direct charge amounted to 69,502 men and 7,364 women. The average sick-absence of this Staff per officer employed, from all causes, was 7 days for men and 12·3 days for women, as against 9 days for men and 17 days for women in 1895; the percentage of sick absentees to the total force, the average sick absence per sick officer, and the average absence per officer employed, are shown in the subjoined table :—

	Percentage of Sick Absentees to Total Force.		Average Amount of Sick Absence per Sick Officer in Days.		Average Absence per Officer employed in Days.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
<i>England—</i>						
Chief Office - -	64	76	12·7	14·5	8·2	11
Metropolitan Districts - -	55	84	14·3	22·1	7·9	18·9
Country - -	40	56	18	20·7	7·4	11·6
<i>Scotland - -</i>	29	63	23	21·3	7	13·4
<i>Ireland - -</i>	53	81	16·7	22·7	8·9	18·4

Scarlet fever was more prevalent in the United Kingdom, and as many as 194 officers contracted the disease, as against 89 in 1895, and one died from it. From other zymotic diseases there were 17 deaths. Influenza was present throughout the year, and 11 deaths among the staff were due to that disease. Small-pox was less prevalent: the Post Office statistics, however, during the severe epidemic at Gloucester in 1896 are very remarkable. The only two who took the disease out of the whole staff of the Gloucester Post Office were unestablished persons, who had not been re-vaccinated. I think that this fact goes far to establish the propriety of the rule, that all persons entering the service should be required to show evidence of re-vaccination.

The sickness and mortality from phthisis, &c. are shown in the following table :—

Sickness (leading to retirement) from Phthisis (including Tuberculosis and Hæmoptysis).

	Number of Retirements.		Rate of Retirement per 1,000 of the Staff.		Average Age on Retirement in Years.		Average Length of Service in Years.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
<i>England—</i>								
Chief Office - -	9	4	·6	1·3	33	26	16	8
Metropolitan Districts - -	19	1	1·6	1·8	30	32	11	13
Country - -	32	3	·8	·9	80	20	11	3
<i>Scotland - -</i>	8	—	1·5	—	32	—	10	—
<i>Ireland - -</i>	4	—	1·1	—	28	—	8	—

Death from Phthisis.

	Number of Deaths.		Rate of Deaths per 1,000 of the Staff.		Average Age at Death in Years.		Average Length of Service in Years.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
<i>England—</i>								
Chief Office - -	15	1	1·1	·4	32	50	10	2·4
Metropolitan Districts	15	—	1·2	—	31	—	8	—
Country - - -	29	2	·8	·6	34	17	13	—
<i>Scotland</i> - - -	3	2	·5	3·6	32	24	11	1·5
<i>Ireland</i> - - -	5	—	1·1	—	26	—	7	6

The deaths among the whole established Staff throughout the year are shown in the following table :—

	Number of Deaths.		Death Rate per 1,000.		Average Age at Death in Years.		Average Length of Service in Years.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
<i>England—</i>								
Chief Office - -	52	3	4·3	1·0	34	39	14	18
Metropolitan Districts	24	2	3·3	3·6	32	38	13	7
Provinces - - -	106	4	3·8	1·5	38	25	15	6
<i>Scotland</i> - - -	28	2	5·6	2·8	39	26	19	9
<i>Ireland</i> - - -	16	1	4·9	2·5	36	73	16	19
Total - - -	26	12	4·1	1·6	37	35	16	11

The statistics of persons invalided from the Service during 1896-97 are as follows :—

	Number.	Average Age in Years.	Average Service in Years.
Men - - -	389	41	20
Women - - -	64	32	13

In Appendix III. (F.) will be found a statement of the diseases which have led to deaths and retirements among the Staff during the year. This statement, however, necessarily deals only with the cases of persons under official medical charge, and includes,

among them, persons who are not on the established Staff. The totals do not, therefore, tally with those here given, which relate to the whole established Staff, and to that exclusively.

The statistics of persons superannuated at 60 years or upwards are—

—	Number.	Average Age.	Average Service in Years.
Men - - -	129	62	36
Women - - -	5	66	25

The number of women retiring on marriage during 1896–97 is 116, with an average age of 27 and average service of 9 years. During 1896–97, 5,411 male and 787 female candidates were medically examined before appointment, with the result that 409 of the former and 39 of the latter were rejected.

I am satisfied that the Medical Officers, both in London and the Provinces, continue to give every attention and consideration in furthering the welfare of the Staff.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords,

Your Lordships' obedient humble Servant,

NORFOLK.

29 July 1897.

APPENDIX I.

THE HISTORY OF THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The history of the Post Office Savings Bank is commonly held to begin with a speech made by Mr. Whitbread, in the House of Commons, on the 19th February 1807, when moving for leave to bring in his Bill "For Promoting and Encouraging Industry amongst the Labouring Classes of the Community, and the Relief and Regulation of the Criminal and Necessitous Poor."

In his plan he included a proposal which he evidently considered new and startling, for "the establishment of one great national institution in the nature of a bank, for the use and advantage of the labouring classes alone." Deposits were only to be made by a person certified to "subsist principally or alone by the wages of his labour"; they were not to exceed 5*l.* at a time, 20*l.* in one year, or 200*l.* in all; the fund was to be invested in Government Stock by "Commissioners of the Poor's Fund"; the stock was to be credited to the Depositors, and the dividends, as they accrued, were to be carried to their credit and paid over when they reached 10*s.* It was by "the intervention of the Post Office" that the scheme was to be carried into effect; the Postmaster of the place from which the money was sent was to keep a record of each transaction, was to adopt such measures as the Postmaster-General might direct, and was to be paid 1*d.* in the pound.

The Commissioners of the Poor's Fund were also to grant annuities and insurances.

This scheme came to nothing, and more than half a century elapsed before the Post Office Savings bank was founded. During that period proposals for such a Bank were made from various quarters, and at last, in 1859, the efforts of Mr. Sikes, of Huddersfield, to bring some such scheme into operation were supported both by Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sir Rowland Hill, as Secretary to the Post Office.

The plan was, soon after, officially adopted, and the Post Office Savings Bank system was elaborated by Mr. Chetwynd and Mr. Scudamore, two highly placed officers of the Post Office. On the 8th February 1861 the scheme was brought before Parliament, and on 17th May the Post Office Savings Bank Bill became law.

The main features of the system were, that deposits—at whatever Post Office they might be made—might be withdrawn at that or any other Post Office transacting Savings Bank business; that the accounts should be kept at London alone, all money being remitted to and from Head Quarters; that the

whole amount deposited should be handed over to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for Investment in Government Securities ; and that interest on complete pounds at the rate of 2*l.* 10*s.* per cent. should be allowed to depositors.

Deposits were to be of 1*s.* or multiples of 1*s.* ; the limits of deposit for individuals were 30*l.* a year, or 150*l.* in all ; but Friendly Societies might deposit without limit, and Provident and Charitable Societies might deposit within the limits of 100*l.* a year, and 300*l.* in all, or, with the assent of the National Debt Commissioners, beyond those limits.

Operations commenced in September 1861, and at the end of 1862 nearly 180,000 accounts were open, the total balance due to depositors being nearly 1½ millions sterling.

Into various financial questions which from time to time during the succeeding years occupied the attention of Parliament, it is unnecessary here to enter. So far as depositors and the general public are concerned, the history of the Savings Bank for some years is a history of gradual expansion upon the original lines.

The limits of deposit and the general system remained unaltered, but year by year more offices were opened for Savings Bank business, and special efforts were constantly made to meet the special needs of particular classes of people.

The average number of accounts, the average amounts standing to the depositors' credit, and the average number of Savings Bank Offices open were as follows :—

—	Average Number of Accounts.	Average Amount of Deposits.	Average Balance in each Account.	Average Number of Offices.
1863-1868 - - -	663,000	£ 7,000,000	£ s. d. 11 3 5	3,390
1869-1874 - - -	1,373,000	18,000,000	13 5 3	4,498
1875-1880 - - -	1,889,000	29,000,000	15 12 5	5,742

Friendly, Provident, and Charitable Societies, Trade Unions, and Penny Banks kept accounts with the Savings Bank, which rapidly became an important factor in the general development of thrift in the country, not only by the assistance which it rendered to thrifty individuals, but also as the ally of the associations for self-help.

The impetus given to the work of the Savings Bank by Mr. Fawcett, who took office as Postmaster-General in 1880, is a matter of history. It was his constant endeavour, by speech and pamphlet, to make the system familiar and acceptable to all classes of the people.

Under his direction the Annuity and Insurance business of the Post Office became a part of the Savings Bank system, and

the Savings Bank also began to act as agent for persons of small means who might desire to invest in the National Funds.

These branches of the system are best described separately. As regards its ordinary business, the Savings Bank owes to Mr. Fawcett the rapid increase of branch offices in the villages; special attention paid to bodies of navvies and workmen at their places of employment; and, above all, the arrangement for making small deposits by slips of postage stamps.

This arrangement came into operation in September 1880; its object, which it has well fulfilled, being the satisfaction of the demand for a minimum limit of deposit lower than the shilling prescribed by Parliament.

Limited at first to certain counties, the system in less than three months extended over the whole country, and by the end of March 1881 it was estimated that more than 576,000 slips had been received, and that more than 223,000 new accounts had been opened thereby.

In 1887 another Act of Parliament was passed relating to the Savings Bank. The limits of deposit were not enlarged, nor was any great and conspicuous change made in the general system, but the Postmaster-General obtained power to offer certain facilities for the transfer of money from one account to another, for the easier disposal of the funds of deceased depositors, and in various ways for the convenience of the customers of the Bank.

It is no slight testimony to the skill of the able men who drew the original regulations of 1861, that these regulations remained unchanged, in spite of the vast expansion of the Bank, until a new code was prepared under the Act of 1887.

The average statistics from 1880 to 1890 are as follows:—

				Average Number of Accounts.	Average Amount of Deposits.	Average Balance in each Account.	Average Number of Offices.
					£	£ s. d.	
1881-1885	-	-	-	3,088,000	42,000,000	13 11 3	7,348
1886-1890	-	-	-	4,248,000	59,000,000	13 16 10	9,025

In July 1891 was passed another Act of Parliament, by which the maximum amount which might be deposited was raised from 150*l.* to 200*l.* inclusive of interest. The annual limit remained at 30*l.*, but it was provided that, irrespective of that limit, depositors might replace in the bank the amount of any one withdrawal made in the same year. The object of this provision was to avoid curtailing the saving power of a person who might be driven by emergency to make an inroad upon his store, but who might, nevertheless, when the emergency had passed, find himself none the poorer and able to replace the money withdrawn.

The Act provided also that where on any account the principal and interest together exceeded 200*l.*, interest should cease only on the amount in excess of 200*l.*, whereas previously, interest ceased altogether when it had brought the balance of an account up to 200*l.*

The next striking development of the Savings Bank arose out of the Free Education Act, passed in September 1891. The Government of the day desired that advantage should be taken of the opportunity to inculcate upon parents and children alike a lesson of thrift—that they should save the school pence which they were no longer bound to pay. The Education Department and the Postmaster-General worked in concert to realise this end. School managers were urged to press the matter upon all concerned, special stamp slips were prepared and issued, managers were supplied on credit with stocks of stamps to be sold to the children, and clerks from the nearest Post Offices attended at schools to open accounts and receive deposits. The arrangement began in January 1892; about 1,400 schools adopted the scheme at once, and three years later this number had risen to 3,000. A sum of nearly 14,000*l.* was estimated to have been deposited in schools in five months, and about 40,000*l.* in the first year. It is a matter for regret—though not, perhaps, for surprise—that, as recorded in the report for 1895, the movement for the promotion of thrift in elementary schools, which spread so fast and so far, has now shown signs of having spent its force.

Concurrently with the spread of the stamp-slip system in the schools, the extension of School Penny Banks, connected intimately with the Savings Bank, was a conspicuous result of the effort to turn into profitable channels the pence which no longer paid school fees.

In December 1893 another Act of Parliament extended the annual limits of deposit from 30*l.* to 50*l.* The maximum of 200*l.* remained unchanged, but it was provided that any accumulations accruing after that amount had been reached should be invested in Government Stock unless the Depositor gave instructions to the contrary.

In December 1893 arrangements were made for the use of the telegraph for the withdrawal of money from the Savings Bank.

Postmasters-General had hesitated long before sanctioning this new departure. It was known that the system was in force abroad, and it was recognised that there might be, and doubtless were, cases in this country where the possibility of withdrawing money without delay might be all-important, and might save a depositor from debt and distress. But, on the other hand, it was strongly held that the cause of thrift was sometimes served by interposing a delay between a sudden desire to spend and its realisation; and it was also held to be essential to maintain a marked distinction between a bank of deposit for savings and a bank for keeping current accounts.

On the whole, the balance of opinion was in favour of the change, and two new methods of withdrawal were provided.

A depositor might telegraph for his money and have his warrant sent to him by return of post, or he might telegraph for his money and have it paid to him in an hour or two on the authority of a telegram from the Savings Bank to the Postmaster. The first method cost the depositor about 9*d.*, the second cost him about 1*s.* 3*d.* for the transaction.

In the first eight months of the new system 21,000 depositors used it, and in the year 1896 the numbers have been as follows:—

Withdrawals by return of post	-	8,000
" telegram	-	94,500

The recent statistics of the Savings Bank have been as follows:—

—			Average Number of Accounts.	Average Amount of Deposits.	Average Balance in each Account.	Average Number of Offices.
1891-94	-	-	5,607,000	£ 79,000,000	£ s. d. 14 2 11	10,730
1895	-	-	6,454,000	98,000,000	15 3 4	11,518
1896	-	-	6,866,000	108,000,000	15 14 11	11,867

The average annual figures of the stamp-slip deposits have been—

			£
1881-1885	-	-	1,369,000 slips for 68,000
1886-1890	-	-	1,183,000 „ 59,000
1891-1895	-	-	1,618,000 „ 86,000
1896	-	-	1,741,000 „ 95,000

These figures speak eloquently of the popularity of the Savings Bank and of the place which it has taken in the social economy of the nation. It has no doubt absorbed many of the old Trustee Savings Banks, but the deposits of the Trustee Banks exceed to-day by no less than 6,000,000*l.* the deposits which were in their care in 1861, when the Post Office entered the field as their rival.

The Post Office has met the wants of a class which the Trustee Banks could not have reached. They might serve the townsman of fixed abode, but not the people of remote villages, or of no settled home. These are the classes whose convenience can only be met by a bank which has its branches everywhere, and which can carry on at any branch a business which it undertook at any other.

Fraud, default, and accident have not been altogether absent from the history of the Savings Bank; it would have been idle

to expect that it would escape them; but depositors, of course, have not suffered, and the State, which holds them harmless, has lost but 10,000*l.*, or .00125 per cent., out of the 800,000,000*l.* passing by deposit and withdrawal through the thousands of branches of the Savings Bank.

A feature of the Savings Bank system, which is comparatively little known, is its code of simple laws and regulations for the settlement of disputes as to the ownership of deposited money and the disposal of the estate of depositors who have died intestate.

Parliament has provided that in Savings Bank matters an award by the Registrar of Friendly Societies shall be final, and has thus saved depositors from the costs and delays of litigation; it has also provided that a mere nomination, properly executed, shall, up to 100*l.*, be an adequate testamentary disposition of money in the Savings Bank. It has been the endeavour of Postmasters-General to supplement these main provisions by regulations dealing with the varied irregularities of title which must occur in dealing with the property of so many millions of the poorer classes, and to simplify forms without abandoning the principles of law.

On the financial position of the Bank there is little that can usefully be said here. For every year until 1896 a profit accrued to the State after the Bank had paid its expenses and 2½ per cent. interest to its depositors; now the appreciation of Consols has brought about a change, and the annual balance-sheet shows a loss.

The Post Office has done its best, by economical working, to minimise the difficulty, and the average cost of each transaction, which was originally nearly 7*d.*, has been brought down to 6*d.*

INVESTMENTS IN GOVERNMENT STOCK.

The action of the Post Office Savings Bank in purchasing Government Stock for its depositors dates from the 22nd November 1880, having been authorised by an Act of that year. Mr. Fawcett described the operation of the Act as follows:—

“Any person desiring to invest any sum between 10*l.* and 100*l.* in Government Stock, can do so through the agency of a savings bank at a trifling expense, varying from 9*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*, and have the dividends collected free of further charge. The purchase can be effected either by transferring money from the depositor's account, or by means of a sum specially deposited for immediate investment.”

By the end of the year more than 127,000*l.* stock stood to the credit of savings bank depositors. The total amount of stock which might be held by one person under this system was 300*l.*

By regulations made under the Savings Bank Act of 1887, and coming into force in September 1888, the minimum amount of stock which could be purchased was reduced to one shilling, and it was also provided that any one who had purchased stock through the Savings Bank might, if he so desired, have it transferred to his own name at the Bank of England.

In December 1893 an Act of Parliament raised the limits of investment to 200*l.* in one year and 500*l.* in all, and the Savings Bank was empowered to invest in stock—unless the depositor gave instructions to the contrary—any accumulation of ordinary deposits above the limit of 200*l.*

The average annual statistics of this business are as follows:—

Year.	Investments.	Sales.	Stock remaining at the End of the Year.
1881-85	14,000	5,000	£ 1,554,000
1886-90	19,000	11,000	3,776,000
1891-95	23,000	16,000	6,206,000
1896	17,000	18,000	6,892,000

The average amount of each investment was 62*l.* in 1895 and 57*l.* in 1896; the average amount of each sale was 59*l.* in 1895 and 62*l.* in 1896.

It is obvious that the extension of the functions of the Savings Bank in this direction must have been checked by the appreciation of Consols, but the foregoing figures show that it has at least assisted many persons of small means to acquire a "stake in the country."

ANNUITIES AND INSURANCES.

The Act to enable persons to insure their lives and purchase annuities through the Post Office was passed in 1864. The business was then unconnected with the Savings Bank. Lives between 16 and 60 years of age were insured and the amounts were from 20*l.* to 100*l.* Annuities from 4*l.* to 50*l.*, immediate or deferred, were granted at the age of 10 years or upwards. Premiums and purchase money were paid at fixed intervals.

This Act came into operation at selected towns in England and Wales on the 17th April 1865, and the system remained unaltered until the 3rd June 1884.

In this period of 19 years 7,064 policies of insurance were effected, representing a yearly average of 372 policies amounting to 79*l.* each.

The contracts for immediate annuities numbered 13,472 or 705 a year, and there were 978 contracts for deferred annuities.

The amount of the immediate annuities granted was 187,117*l.*, and of the deferred annuities 19,938*l.*, but a part of the latter never came into payment, as the purchasers desired to be relieved of their bargains.

A new system was prescribed by Act of Parliament in 1882, after inquiry by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and it is indissolubly connected with Mr. Fawcett's name. Its merit consisted chiefly in linking the annuity and insurance business with the Post Office Savings Bank, so that the payments for annuities and insurances are made through the deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank.

No special visit to a Post Office is necessary when a payment is due; all that is required is that the depositor should give a written order that a certain sum—it may be a few shillings a week, or it may be as little as a penny a week—should be devoted to the payment of premiums on a policy of life insurance or to the purchase of an annuity. The order once given, no further trouble need be taken. It will be acted upon as long as there stands to the depositor's account enough money to carry out the instructions contained in the order.

It was further provided that, for persons between 14 and 65, the limits of insurance should be from 5*l.* to 100*l.*, and that sums of money might be insured payable at the age of 60 or at the expiration of terms of years. For annuities the minimum was reduced to 1*l.*, and the maximum was raised to 100*l.* The restriction to "selected" towns was of course abolished, as the business was to be done everywhere through the Post Office Savings Bank, and all its Branches were available.

Owing to the necessity for preparing new tables, this system did not actually come into operation until the 3rd June 1884; from that time to the 1st February 1896 the system remained without material alteration, though it was slightly affected by legislation in 1887 and 1893. In February 1896 new life insurance tables came into operation with reduced annual rates, and with provision for payment of sums insured at various ages as desired.

The number of immediate annuities granted in 1896 was 2,208 for 60,965*l.*, as compared with 770 for 14,141*l.* in 1883; the number of deferred annuities was 202 for 4,178*l.*, as compared with 104 for 2,120*l.* in 1883; and the number of insurances was 1,223 for 65,582*l.*, as compared with 256 for 20,600*l.* in 1883.

The growth of the life insurance and annuity business has been slow as compared with the rapid growth of the Post Office Savings Bank; but as Mr. Fawcett's desire was only to establish a simple and economical system under which poor people could insure their lives and purchase annuities, he may be said to have succeeded in his work. The premiums charged by the Post Office Savings Bank are now lower than those charged either by the insurance companies or the industrial societies.

One means by which the business might be increased has not been tried, viz., the employment of canvassers, but such employment was discountenanced by the Select Committee of 1882.

APPENDIX II.

OFFICIAL VOCABULARY FOR CODE TELEGRAMS.

There has always been a tendency on the part of code-makers (owing to the desire (1) to obtain as many code expressions as possible and (2) to adapt codes to a definite system) to make use of manufactured expressions instead of real words; and, if unchecked, this tendency would end in a large use of mere arbitrary combinations of letters (*i.e.* letter-cypher)—a result which is most undesirable in view of the fact that such combinations are difficult to transmit.

The administrations have thus been obliged to adopt restrictive regulations. At one time words in a large number of languages were admitted, and code-makers who had coined words having the appearance of, say, Italian or German, would threaten, when their attention was called to the regulations, to use Illyrian, Croatian, or Turkish. Proper names were also admitted as code words, and these were still more difficult to check. A certain firm tendered to one of the cable companies a code which, they said, consisted entirely of names of Polish villages not to be found in any gazetteer, and they challenged the company to disprove their assertion. This state of things could not possibly be maintained; and in 1879 the languages for code words were, by common consent, reduced to eight, viz., English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, and Latin. At the same time the use of proper names as code words was prohibited.

These measures palliated but did not remove the evil. Elaborate codes were prepared purporting to be in Latin, which in reality consisted of Latin roots with terminations unknown to any Latin grammar, and often in reality taken from Italian or Spanish. The difficulty of applying an effective check in eight languages even led to the manufacture of codes consisting of groups of consonants arranged in a preconcerted order and connected by vowels so as to have the appearance of actual words. The prevalence of such abuses led to disputes resulting in delay and trouble both to the administrations and to the public.

These circumstances gave rise to the proposal to compile an official vocabulary, to contain a standard list from which there need be no appeal. The idea of an official vocabulary commended itself to many of the Continental Administrations. The cable companies also were strongly in favour of the idea, and it was welcomed by many representatives of commerce, including some of the principal Chambers of the United Kingdom. This feeling found expression in a proposal at the International Telegraph Conference at Berlin in 1885. The

proposal was not adopted. But in the interval before the Conference of Paris in 1890 the difficulties arising from the absence of a recognised standard became increasingly manifest, and it was decided that an official vocabulary should be compiled by the International Telegraph Bureau. From the point of view of the Administrations, the vocabulary would obviously be most advantageous. But it was felt that the restriction of code to a limited selection of words might encounter opposition on the part of the public. It was accordingly resolved to proceed tentatively. The vocabulary was in the first instance only to become obligatory in the "European" system, in which little code is used. Moreover, it was only to become compulsory for that system after three years from the date of publication. The date for compulsory use being thus postponed till the 1st January 1898, there was an opportunity of reconsidering the question at the Conference of Budapest in 1896.

The publication of the vocabulary in October 1894 aroused, especially in this country, considerable criticism, which, if somewhat exaggerated, was by no means groundless. The vocabulary professed not merely to form a standard list of code words, but to maintain a sufficient degree of dissimilarity to admit of any word in the collection being used without any risk of confusion with any other word. Unfortunately, the requisite dissimilarity was not observed. Many of the words were dangerously alike, so that while the vocabulary greatly restricted the former freedom of selection, it offered no guarantee of accuracy. It was incomplete without being correct.

The British delegates urged these views at the Conference of Budapest, and ultimately, after great difficulty, an arrangement was arrived at on the following basis :—

1. The decision of the Paris Conference, under which the vocabulary would have become compulsory for European telegrams from the 1st January 1898 to be rescinded.
2. An enlarged vocabulary to be prepared by the International Bureau.
3. The new vocabulary to become compulsory, for Extra-European as well as for European telegrams, but not until a date to be fixed by a future conference. The next conference will not take place before 1901. The new vocabulary will be entirely different from the existing one. It will not profess to have any regard to dissimilarity between the words. The selection, for the code-using public, of words sufficiently dissimilar will now be left to professional experts. The new official vocabulary will only serve the primary purpose of a standard collection or dictionary of legitimate code words. With the view of making the collection as

complete as possible, the International Bureau has offered to include in it all legitimate words in existing codes which are submitted for insertion. By this means the public are enabled to provide against the necessity for any alteration of their codes, so far as they contain legitimate words, in the event of a future conference confirming the decision to make the use of the new vocabulary compulsory.

APPENDIX III. (A.)

Letters delivered.

ESTIMATED NUMBER of Letters delivered in the United Kingdom in each of the last Ten Years, and the increase per cent. per annum. Also the average number to each person.

Financial Year ending March 31st.	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.	In- crease per cent. per annum	In London District.	In- crease per cent. per annum											
Year 1887-88	838,000,000	4.6	443,900,000	2.2	1,286,900,000	3.8	46	182,100,000	2.3	33	83,300,000	2.5	1,512,500,000	3.6	41
" 1888-89	846,000,000	1.0	480,500,000	7.0	1,326,500,000	3.1	46	186,000,000	3.0	34	96,500,000	2.5	1,558,100,000	3.0	43
" 1889-90	895,000,000	5.8	518,100,000	7.8	1,413,100,000	6.5	46	140,300,000	3.2	34	96,500,000	1.4	1,650,100,000	5.9	43
" 1890-91	924,400,000	3.3	538,400,000	4.0	1,462,800,000	3.5	50	143,200,000	2.1	36	99,800,000	3.1	1,705,900,000	3.4	45
" 1891-92	965,000,000	4.4	551,000,000	2.4	1,516,100,000	3.7	52	146,400,000	2.1	36	103,000,000	5.2	1,767,500,000	3.6	43
" 1892-93	965,800,000	0.1	566,500,000	2.8	1,532,300,000	1.1	52	152,300,000	4.0	37	103,000,000	.9	1,790,500,000	1.3	47
" 1893-94	973,800,000	0.8	575,800,000	1.6	1,549,400,000	1.1	52	153,900,000	1.1	38	108,500,000	2.5	1,811,800,000	1.2	47
" 1894-95	993,300,000	2.0	598,800,000	dec. 11.6	1,592,100,000	dec. 3.1	50	156,000,000	1.4	38	112,500,000	4.0	1,770,900,000	dec. 2.3	46
" 1895-96	1,021,300,000	2.8	537,500,000	inc. 5.6	1,553,800,000	inc. 3.8	51	163,900,000	4.4	39	112,500,000	dec. 3.3	1,834,200,000	inc. 5.6	47
" 1896-97	1,040,300,000	2.7	537,200,000	3.7	1,603,500,000	3.1	52	168,500,000	3.4	40	113,000,000	4.9	1,863,000,000	3.2	48

APPENDIX III. (A.)—*continued.*

STATEMENT of the estimated Total NUMBER of LETTERS, POST CARDS, BOOK PACKETS, CIRCULARS, and SAMPLES, NEWSPAPERS, TELEGRAMS, and PARCELS dealt with, and of the Average Number per Head of the Population for the year ended the 31st March 1897.

	Population.	Letters.		Post Cards.		Book Packets, Circulars, and Samples.		Newspapers.		Telegrams.		Parcels.	
		Total No.	No. per Head of Population.	Total No.	No. per Head of Population.	Total No.	No. per Head of Population.	Total No.	No. per Head of Population.	Total No.	No. per Head of Population.	Total No.	No. per Head of Population.
England and Wales	30,801,569	1,603,500,000	52·2	286,900,000	9·3	683,300,000	18·9	116,500,000	3·8	66,950,409	2·2	52,741,000	1·71
Scotland	4,186,549	165,500,000	40·2	34,400,000	8·2	75,400,000	18·0	17,300,000	4·1	8,084,360	1·9	6,802,000	1·63
Ireland	4,561,384	118,000,000	25·9	16,200,000	3·5	39,200,000	8·6	16,800,000	3·7	4,378,787	1·0	4,173,000	·91
Totals	39,549,722	1,888,000,000	47·9	386,500,000	8·5	897,900,000	17·6	150,600,000	3·8	79,423,566	2·0	63,715,000	1·61

Note.—Of the total yearly number of Letters, Book Packets, Post Cards, Circulars, and Samples, Newspapers, Telegrams, and Parcels, the percentage of each is as follows :—

Letters	58·8	Book Packets, Circulars, and Samples	21·7	Telegrams	2·4
Post Cards	10·4	Newspapers	4·7	Parcels	2·0

APPENDIX III. (A.)—continued.

Parcel Post.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of PARCELS DELIVERED in the UNITED KINGDOM and the REVENUE derived from the PARCEL POST during the last TEN YEARS.

NUMBER OF PARCELS DELIVERED.										REVENUE.			
Year.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		United Kingdom.		Postage.		Average Postage per Parcel.		
	Number.	Increase per Cent. per Annum.	Number.	Increase per Cent. per Annum.	Number.	Increase per Cent. per Annum.	Number.	Increase per Cent. per Annum.	Gross Amount.	55 per Cent. borne on Railway Parcels paid to Railway Companies.	Post Office Share.	Gross.	Post Office Share.
1887-88	30,364,000	11·5	3,882,000	13·2	2,480,000	18·4	36,723,000	11·8	£ 811,764	£ 401,296	£ 410,469	d. 5·30	d. 2·68
1888-89	32,713,000	7·7	4,146,000	6·8	2,781,000	9·9	39,598,000	7·8	878,547	433,307	445,240	5·33	3·69
1889-90	35,369,000	8·1	4,528,000	9·3	2,865,000	8·2	42,833,000	8·2	952,113	463,807	483,306	5·33	3·70
1890-91	38,225,000	8·1	4,879,000	7·7	3,184,000	7·8	46,283,000	8·0	1,035,773	469,913	535,860	5·37	3·77
1891-92	40,763,000	6·7	5,223,000	7·1	3,370,000	5·8	49,373,000	6·6	1,109,664	530,076	579,578	5·39	3·83
1892-93	43,293,000	6·2	5,534,000	5·9	3,543,000	5·1	52,370,000	6·1	1,175,509	563,600	613,909	5·38	3·80
1893-94	44,559,000	3·9	5,822,000	5·2	3,653,000	3·0	54,054,000	3·1	1,214,235	590,739	633,497	5·39	3·81
1894-95	47,216,000	5·9	6,062,000	4·4	3,838,000	5·0	57,133,000	5·7	1,295,367	611,465	673,903	5·38	3·83
1895-96	49,979,000	5·8	6,510,000	7·0	4,038,000	5·2	60,527,000	5·9	1,372,577	648,825	723,753	5·44	3·86
1896-97	52,741,000	5·5	6,902,000	4·5	4,172,000	3·3	63,715,000	5·2	1,446,126	681,819	763,307	5·44	3·87

APPENDIX III. (A.)—continued.

Post Cards, Book Packets, Samples, and Newspapers.

ESTIMATED NUMBER of POST CARDS delivered in the UNITED KINGDOM in each of the last Ten Years, and the increase per cent. per annum.

Year.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		United Kingdom.	
	Number.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Number.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Number.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Number.	Increase per cent. per annum.
1887-88	158,900,000	5·0	21,200,000	3·9	8,700,000	3·6	188,800,000	4·9
1888-89	170,100,000	7·0	21,800,000	2·8	9,300,000	6·9	201,400,000	6·7
1889-90	184,100,000	8·4	22,900,000	5·0	9,800,000	5·4	217,100,000	7·8
1890-91	195,000,000	5·7	24,000,000	4·8	10,700,000	9·2	229,700,000	5·8
1891-92	205,200,000	5·2	25,400,000	5·8	11,000,000	2·8	241,600,000	5·2
1892-93	206,300,000	·5	26,900,000	5·5	11,300,000	2·7	244,500,000	1·2
1893-94	200,100,000	1·4	27,400,000	2·2	12,000,000	6·2	248,500,000	1·6
1894-95	271,600,000	29·0 dec.	28,700,000	4·7	12,500,000	4·2	312,800,000	25·9
1895-96	268,300,000	1·2 inc.	32,200,000	12·2	14,000,000	12·0	314,500,000	·6
1896-97	286,900,000	6·9	34,400,000	6·8	15,200,000	8·6	336,500,000	7·0

ESTIMATED NUMBER of BOOK PACKETS, CIRCULARS, and SAMPLES delivered in the UNITED KINGDOM in each of the last Ten Years, and the increase per cent. per annum.

Year.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		United Kingdom.	
	Number.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Number.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Number.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Number.	Increase per cent. per annum.
1887-88	331,600,000	6·3	33,900,000	·5	10,000,000	4·4	389,500,000	5·6
1888-89	351,700,000	6·1	40,600,000	4·4	19,700,000	3·7	412,000,000	5·8
1889-90	378,200,000	7·5	42,100,000	3·7	21,600,000	9·6	441,900,000	7·3
1890-91	411,900,000	8·9	44,600,000	5·9	24,700,000	14·3	481,200,000	8·9
1891-92	425,000,000	3·2	45,300,000	1·6	25,000,000	1·2	495,300,000	2·9
1892-93	456,100,000	7·3	51,200,000	13·0	27,900,000	11·6	535,200,000	8·1
1893-94	459,700,000	7·4	56,200,000	9·8	28,400,000	1·9	574,300,000	7·3
1894-95	522,500,000	6·7	60,800,000	8·2	31,300,000	10·2	614,600,000	7·0
1895-96	566,600,000	8·4	70,700,000	16·3	35,000,000	11·8	672,300,000	9·4
1896-97	583,300,000	2·3	75,400,000	6·6	33,200,000	12·0	697,900,000	3·8

ESTIMATED NUMBER of NEWSPAPERS delivered in the UNITED KINGDOM in each of the last Ten Years, and the increase per cent. per annum.

Year.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		United Kingdom.	
	Number.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Number.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Number.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Number.	Increase per cent. per annum.
1887-88	119,800,000	1·7 dec.	16,700,000	1·8	15,800,000	3·7 dec.	152,300,000	·8
1888-89	110,300,000	·4 inc.	16,600,000	·6	16,000,000	1·3 inc.	151,900,000	·3
1889-90	126,600,000	6·1	16,700,000	·6	16,000,000	—	159,300,000	4·9
1890-91	127,300,000	·0	16,600,000	·6	16,600,000	3·7	161,000,000	1·1
1891-92	128,800,000	·8	17,000,000	2·4	17,000,000	2·4	162,800,000	1·1
1892-93	127,800,000	·8 inc.	17,600,000	3·5	17,400,000	2·3	162,800,000	—
1893-94	129,800,000	1·6 dec.	17,700,000	·6	17,400,000	—	164,900,000	1·3
1894-95	117,500,000	9·5	17,300,000	2·3	17,000,000	2·3	151,800,000	7·9
1895-96	15,500,000	1·7 inc.	17,300,000	—	16,200,000	4·7	149,000,000	1·8
1896-97	116,300,000	·9	17,300,000	—	16,800,000	3·7	150,600,000	1·1

APPENDIX III. (A.)—continued.

Registered Letters.

STATEMENT showing the Number of Letters Registered by the Public in the United Kingdom in each of the last Ten Years and the increase per cent. per annum.

YEAR.	ENGLAND AND WALES.						SCOTLAND.		IRELAND.		TOTAL for UNITED KINGDOM.	
	Country Offices.		London District.		Total.		Number.	Increase per cent.	Number.	Increase per cent.	Number.	Increase per cent.
	Number.	Increase per cent.	Number.	Increase per cent.	Number.	Increase per cent.						
1887-88	6,183,888	dec. 2	3,032,389	2.1	9,196,257.	1.4	920,035	dec. 1.0	603,410	dec. 1.5	10,814,722	.3
1888-89	6,192,027	inc. 6	3,160,334	4.2	9,352,301	1.2	932,223	inc. 1.3	716,401	2.6	11,001,085	1.7
1889-90	6,340,350	2.4	3,326,526	5.3	9,666,876	3.4	972,636	4.3	718,433	.3	11,327,635	3.2
1890-91	6,394,514	.9	3,238,914	2.6	9,633,318	dec. .3	1,001,483	3.0	722,396	.6	11,327,197	dec. .006
1891-92	6,600,188	3.4	3,683,689	inc. 13.7	10,292,877	6.9	1,030,161	3.7	745,330	3.2	12,077,368	inc. 6.3
1892-93	6,568,404	dec. .6	3,724,240	1.1	10,292,644	dec. .002	1,074,108	3.4	765,292	2.7	12,132,144	.4
1893-94	6,392,212	2.6	3,473,748	6.7	9,865,960	4.1	1,096,798	2.4	776,394	1.5	11,742,352	dec. 3.2
1894-95	6,483,761	inc. 1.5	3,606,333	inc. 3.8	10,092,094	inc. 2.3	1,089,595	dec. .9	776,375	inc. .002	11,968,264	1.8
1895-96	6,705,084	3.4	4,446,400	23.3	11,150,484	10.5	1,184,768	8.7	768,708	2.9	13,133,960	9.8
1896-97	6,919,295	3.2	4,509,428	1.2	11,418,723	2.4	1,206,831	1.9	813,181	1.8	13,438,735	2.3

APPENDIX III. (B.)

ESTIMATE of the WEIGHT of LETTERS and POST CARDS, and of
with FOREIGN COUNTRIES and BRITISH COLONIES, based mainly on
of the Universal Postal

Country or Colony.	Despatched from the United Kingdom.		Destined for the United Kingdom.	
	Letters and Postcards.	Circulars, Book Packets, Patterns, News- papers.	Letters and Postcards.	Circulars, Book Packets, Patterns, News- papers.
EUROPE.				
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Austria-Hungary -	25,000	197,200	21,900	51,400
Belgium and Luxemburg -	51,600	240,500	47,800	102,600
Denmark -	12,900	48,500	11,900	17,300
France (including Algeria and Tunis) -	201,400	1,202,200	214,700	567,200
Germany -	175,300	948,700	220,400	564,900
Gibraltar (including Tangier), Malta, and } Cyprus	16,800	213,600	23,300	18,000
Greece -	3,700	35,300	3,000	6,500
Holland -	42,900	173,800	47,700	115,100
Italy -	44,600	443,600	33,100	94,800
Norway -	17,500	81,500	9,400	18,400
Portugal and Azores -	9,100	93,700	7,700	10,900
Roumania and Balkan States -	4,700	50,300	3,300	8,000
Russia -	30,300	228,100	19,700	61,100
Spain -	21,000	198,800	19,900	36,200
Sweden -	16,000	75,100	13,300	24,200
Switzerland -	32,200	254,700	31,700	93,000
Turkey (European) -	8,000	97,000	6,800	8,000
Totals -	711,800	4,579,600	735,600	1,803,600
ASIA.				
Asiatic Turkey and Persia -	4,100	56,200	2,500	8,400
Ceylon -	9,600	141,200	9,100	21,200
China and Japan -	18,700	270,400	14,900	28,700
India (including Aden and Zanzibar) -	96,300	1,561,200	83,900	259,400
Straits Settlements, Siam, and East Indies -	11,200	193,700	10,100	17,900
Totals -	139,900	2,222,700	120,400	335,600

APPENDIX III. (B.)

OTHER ARTICLES exchanged annually by the UNITED KINGDOM
the results of Statistics taken triennially under the provisions
Union Convention.

Country or Colony.	Despatched from the United Kingdom.		Destined for the United Kingdom.	
	Letters and Postcards.	Circulars, Book Packets, Patterns, News- papers.	Letters and Postcards.	Circulars, Book Packets, Patterns, News- papers.
AFRICA.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Cape Colony and Interior States (except South African Republic)	38,500	507,100	36,400	140,200
East Coast of Africa (British and Portuguese Possessions)	900	14,700	700	900
Egypt	10,700	136,500	10,300	30,000
Madeira, Canary Islands, and Cape Verd	3,200	24,500	2,500	2,100
Mauritius, &c	2,100	37,200	2,000	4,600
Natal	9,500	166,900	8,300	46,100
St. Helena and Ascension	600	6,900	300	300
South African Republic	26,500	233,500	25,400	186,900
West Coast of Africa	6,200	66,300	6,100	3,000
Totals	98,200	1,248,600	92,000	423,700
AMERICA.				
Canada and Newfoundland	64,100	903,800	44,600	214,400
United States	277,800	2,163,400	258,000	1,536,600
Mexico and Central American States	5,600	100,700	3,100	7,400
Brazil	11,800	129,200	6,400	12,100
Uruguay and Paraguay	2,700	33,800	1,600	2,100
Argentine Republic	8,900	173,800	9,800	20,300
Chili and Bolivia	5,400	62,100	5,800	11,100
Peru	2,300	30,500	2,200	1,900
Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela	3,000	27,000	1,400	1,300
British West Indies (including British Guiana, British Honduras, Bahamas, and Bermuda)	18,400	233,800	16,500	27,000
Foreign West Indies	4,800	54,500	2,400	2,900
Falkland Islands	300	6,000	300	200
Totals	405,100	3,979,300	352,100	1,837,300
AUSTRALASIA.				
Western Australia	7,100	120,600	6,100	23,700
South Australia	6,800	127,900	5,600	36,800
Victoria	25,300	423,900	22,900	196,000
New South Wales	24,000	377,800	21,000	153,100
Queensland	10,400	216,400	8,200	55,600
Tasmania	2,900	63,300	2,500	14,100
New Zealand	21,600	466,200	16,900	133,700
Fiji, &c.	700	14,800	600	1,600
Totals	98,800	1,810,700	83,700	613,600
GRAND TOTALS	1,453,800	13,840,900	1,368,600	5,013,800

APPENDIX III. (B.)—*continued.*STATEMENT of the NUMBERS of FOREIGN and COLONIAL
31st March 1896 and

Country.	Date of Establishment of Post.	Number of Parcels.			
		Despatched.			
		1895-96.	1896-97.	In-crease.	De-crease.
Aden - - - -	July 1885	1,551	1,785	234	—
Antigua - - -	Jan. 1886	1,758	1,631	—	127
Argentine Republic - -	Feb. 1890	1,977	2,537	560	—
Ascension - - -	July 1886	384	200	—	94
Austria-Hungary* - -	June 1886	13,258	9,412	—	3,846
Bahamas - - -	Sept. 1887	962	914	—	48
Barbados - - -	April 1886	4,050	4,285	235	—
Bechuanaland, Orange Free State, and Transvaal.	Dec. 1889	22,558	31,584	8,726	—
Belgium - - -	Jan. 1886	42,593	46,118	3,525	—
Bermuda - - -	April 1890	3,068	2,963	—	105
Beyrout - - -	Jan. 1886	640	741	101	—
British Central Africa -	Aug. 1893	403	453	45	—
British East Africa - -	April 1891	473	826	353	—
British Guiana - - -	Jan. 1886	5,771	5,770	—	1
British Honduras - - -	March 1887	519	519	—	—
British North Borneo -	Sept. 1887	138	186	48	—
Canada, Dominion of, -	Aug. 1886	42,430	46,233	3,803	—
Cape Colony - - -	Dec. 1885	39,280	51,197	11,908	—
Ceylon - - -	Nov. 1885	9,451	10,626	1,175	—
Chili - - -	Jan. 1897	—	133	133	—
Colombia, Republic of -	March 1888	6,859	9,974	3,115	—
Constantinople - - -	Jan. 1886	3,455	3,166	—	289
Costa Rica - - -	Feb. 1888	2,515	2,857	342	—
Cyprus - - -	Jan. 1890	989	1,134	145	—
Dominica - - -	Jan. 1886	693	648	—	45
Dutch East Indies - -	June 1896	—	481	481	—
Egypt - - -	July 1885	11,693	14,309	2,616	—
Falkland Islands - -	Oct. 1888	848	774	—	74
Fiji - - -	June 1890	269	298	29	—
France† - - -	Oct. 1887	183,799	193,713	11,914	—
Germany‡ - - -	Jan. 1886	203,948	224,569	20,621	—
Gibraltar - - -	July 1885	10,002	11,350	1,348	—
Grenada - - -	Oct. 1885	1,200	1,357	157	—
Hawaii - - -	March 1895	433	795	392	—
Holland - - -	April 1886	39,519	42,231	2,412	—
Hong Kong§ - - -	Oct. 1885	11,831	12,592	761	—
India - - -	July 1885	83,819	87,814	3,995	—
Italy - - -	Oct. 1887	48,291	53,569	5,278	—
Jamaica - - -	Oct. 1885	9,003	9,097	94	—
Japan - - -	Nov. 1895	203	1,401	1,288	—
Labuan - - -	Dec. 1885	54	77	23	—
Liberia - - -	July 1893	140	131	—	9
Madeira - - -	July 1891	717	882	165	—
Malta - - -	Aug. 1885	15,713	15,044	231	—
Carried forward -		827,981	909,456	86,163	4,638

* Including parcels for and from Bulgaria, Roumania, and Servia.

† Including parcels for and from the French Possessions.

‡ Including parcels for and from Eastern Europe, German Possessions, &c.

§ Including parcels for and from China and the China Fleet.

APPENDIX III. (B.)—continued.

PARCELS Despatched and Received during the Years ended the
the 31st March 1897.

Number of Parcels.								Country.
Received.				Totals.				
1895-96.	1896-97.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1895-96.	1896-97.	In-crease.	De-crease.	
1,835	1,829	—	6	3,396	3,614	228	—	Aden.
335	292	—	43	2,093	1,923	—	170	Antigua.
613	504	—	109	2,590	3,041	451	—	Argentine Republic.
85	71	—	14	469	361	—	108	Ascension.
5,610	4,091	—	1,553	18,907	13,503	—	5,404	Austria-Hungary.*
235	228	—	7	1,197	1,142	—	55	Bahamas.
1,112	1,224	112	—	5,163	5,509	347	—	Barbados.
—	—	—	—	22,358	31,584	8,726	—	Bechuanaland, Orange Free State, and Transvaal.
19,976	22,552	2,576	—	62,569	68,670	6,101	—	Belgium.
745	694	—	51	3,913	3,657	—	156	Bermuda.
225	263	38	—	945	1,004	139	—	Beirut.
—	—	—	—	408	453	45	—	British Central Africa.
163	244	81	—	636	1,070	434	—	British East Africa.
1,464	1,499	35	—	7,235	7,269	34	—	British Guiana.
81	141	60	—	690	690	60	—	British Honduras.
77	76	—	1	215	262	47	—	British North Borneo.
16,666	18,553	1,887	—	59,096	64,786	5,690	—	Canada, Dominion of.
16,449	19,331	2,882	—	55,738	70,528	14,790	—	Cape Colony.
4,908	5,120	212	—	14,359	15,746	1,387	—	Ceylon.
—	17	17	—	—	150	150	—	Chili.
172	236	114	—	7,031	10,260	3,229	—	Colombia, Republic of.
507	453	—	54	3,962	3,619	—	343	Constantinople.
103	121	18	—	2,618	2,978	360	—	Costa Rica.
313	384	71	—	1,302	1,518	216	—	Cyprus.
110	97	—	13	803	745	—	58	Dominica.
—**	—**	—	—	—	481	481	—	Dutch East Indies.
8,356	9,054	698	—	20,040	23,363	3,314	—	Egypt.
183	118	—	65	1,031	892	—	139	Falkland Islands.
85	102	17	—	354	400	46	—	Fiji.
153,956	162,907	8,951	—	337,755	358,620	20,865	—	France.†
246,509	282,991	36,682	—	450,257	507,560	57,303	—	Germany.‡
5,251	5,583	332	—	15,253	16,933	1,680	—	Gibraltar.
296	275	—	11	1,496	1,632	146	—	Grenada.
150	163	13	—	643	958	315	—	Hawaii.
29,268	32,461	3,213	—	69,087	74,712	5,625	—	Holland.
8,691	9,474	783	—	20,522	22,066	1,544	—	Hong Kong.§
72,735	72,424	—	311	156,554	160,238	3,684	—	India.
30,003	38,511	8,508	—	78,299	92,080	13,781	—	Italy.
2,213	2,348	135	—	11,216	11,446	220	—	Jamaica.
—††	757	757	—	203	2,248	2,045	—	Japan.
61	57	—	4	115	131	19	—	Labuan.
7	13	5	—	147	143	—	4	Liberia.
73	68	—	5	790	950	160	—	Madeira.
9,885	9,465	—	420	25,598	25,409	—	189	Malta.
632,340	704,860	68,192	2,672	1,467,271	1,614,316	153,071	6,626	

|| Included in figures for Cape Colony.
†† Included in figures for Germany.
** Included in figures for Holland.

APPENDIX III. (B.)—continued.

STATEMENT of the NUMBERS of FOREIGN and COLONIAL
31st March 1896 and

Country.	Date of Establishment of Post.	Number of Parcels.			
		Despatched.			
		1895-96.	1896-97.	In- crease.	De- crease.
	Brought forward -	827,981	909,456	86,163	4,638
Mauritius -	April 1889	1,430	1,671	241	—
Mexico -	April 1890	2,017	2,355	338	—
Montserrat -	Jan. 1886	481	377	—	104
Natal -	June 1887	10,984	13,218	2,254	—
Nevis -	Jan. 1886	190	194	4	—
Newfoundland -	Sept. 1886	2,469	2,376	—	83
New South Wales -	July 1886	14,471	16,539	2,068	—
New Zealand -	Nov. 1888	13,754	14,635	881	—
Niger Coast Protectorate	Dec. 1892	713	799	86	—
Norway -	April 1886	10,133	10,931	823	—
Persia -	Jan. 1894	113	123	10	—
Portugal -	Jan. 1883	3,140	3,709	569	—
Queensland -	Feb. 1892	4,786	5,268	482	—
Rhodesia -	Jan. 1893	2,304	2,473	169	—
St. Helena -	April 1886	844	845	1	—
St. Kitts -	Jan. 1886	1,075	993	—	83
St. Lucia -	Oct. 1885	1,089	1,099	60	—
St. Pierre and Miquelon	Aug. 1895	827	2,424	1,597	—
St. Thomas -	Jan. 1888	409	475	66	—
St. Vincent -	Nov. 1885	816	736	—	80
Salvador -	April 1893	388	604	216	—
Samoa and Raratonga -	May 1894	63	63	—	—
Sarawak -	July 1887	173	203	30	—
Seychelles -	April 1890	119	98	—	21
Siam -	Aug. 1890	553	517	—	6
Smyrna -	April 1887	1,197	1,373	176	—
South Australia -	July 1886	3,798	4,061	263	—
Spain -	Sept. 1891	21,753	21,146	—	607
Straits Settlements -	Oct. 1885	5,147	5,417	270	—
Sweden -	May 1886	10,694	11,654	960	—
Switzerland -	Dec. 1887	38,793	42,723	3,935	—
Tangier -	Jan. 1890	1,284	882	—	402
Tasmania -	Jun. 1887	2,138	2,299	161	—
Tobago -	Oct. 1885	232	223	—	4
Tortola -	Oct. 1886	40	34	—	6
Trinidad -	Oct. 1885	4,267	4,280	13	—
Uruguay -	April 1891	632	564	—	88
Victoria -	July 1886	10,445	11,290	815	—
West African Colonies -	Jan. 1888	6,606	6,400	—	206
West Australia -	Jan. 1887	4,374	5,979	1,605	—
Zanzibar -	Jan. 1887	595	725	130	—
Totals -		1,013,200	1,111,250	104,381	6,331
		Net Increase - 98,050			

The postage was reduced in 1895-96 in the case of parcels exchanged with the Argentine Republic and Canada; and in 1896-97 in the case of parcels exchanged with Australasia, Hawaii, Japan, Natal (places other than Durban and the Point), and Seychelles.

APPENDIX III. (B.)—continued.

PARCELS Despatched and Received during the Years ended the
the 31st March 1997—continued.

Number of Parcels.								Country.
Received.				Totals.				
1896-96.	1896-97.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1896-96.	1896-97.	In-crease.	De-crease.	
639,340	704,860	68,192	2,672	1,467,271	1,614,316	153,671	6,626	
216	261	45	—	1,646	1,932	286	—	Mauritius.
204	317	113	—	2,221	2,672	451	—	Mexico.
79	85	6	—	560	462	—	98	Montserrat.
3,143	3,997	854	—	14,107	17,215	3,108	—	Natal.
30	31	1	—	220	225	5	—	Nevis.
530	538	8	—	2,969	2,914	—	75	Newfoundland.
5,718	6,777	1,059	—	20,189	23,316	3,127	—	New South Wales.
3,384	3,698	314	—	17,133	18,333	1,195	—	New Zealand.
363	355	—	38	1,106	1,154	48	—	Niger Coast Protectorate.
4,518	4,833	315	—	14,641	15,784	1,143	—	Norway.
—	—	—	—	113	123	10	—	Persia.
289	302	13	—	3,429	4,011	582	—	Portugal.
2,080	2,082	52	—	6,816	7,350	534	—	Queensland.
—	—	—	—	2,304	2,473	169	—	Rhodesia.
197	196	1	—	1,041	1,043	2	—	St. Helena.
174	130	—	44	1,249	1,122	—	127	St. Kitts.
209	262	53	—	1,248	1,361	113	—	St. Lucia.
11	49	38	—	838	2,473	1,635	—	St. Pierre and Miquelon.
84	92	8	—	493	567	74	—	St. Thomas.
214	153	—	61	1,030	889	—	141	St. Vincent.
18	37	19	—	406	641	235	—	Salvador.
—	—	—	—	63	63	—	—	Samoa and Raratonga.
—	—	—	—	173	203	30	—	Sarawak.
64	453	389	—	183	551	368	—	Seychelles.
—	—	—	—	553	547	—	6	Siam.
351	428	77	—	1,548	1,801	253	—	Smyrna.
1,482	1,611	129	—	5,280	5,682	382	—	South Australia.
—	—	—	—	21,753	21,146	—	607	Spain.
4,260	4,818	549	—	9,416	10,235	819	—	Straits Settlements.
3,553	4,002	449	—	14,247	15,656	1,409	—	Sweden.
14,356	16,036	1,680	—	53,149	58,764	5,615	—	Switzerland.
—	—	—	—	1,284	982	—	402	Tangier.
639	466	—	164	2,768	2,765	—	3	Tasmania.
55	64	9	—	287	292	5	—	Tobago.
7	11	4	—	47	45	—	2	Tortola.
1,329	1,517	297	—	5,487	5,797	310	—	Trinidad.
123	89	—	33	774	653	—	121	Uruguay.
4,178	4,648	470	—	14,623	15,908	1,285	—	Victoria.
2,489	2,428	—	61	9,008	8,823	—	270	West African Colonies.
588	1,470	882	—	4,963	7,449	2,487	—	West Australia.
275	520	245	—	870	1,245	375	—	Zanzibar.
694,480	797,618	78,271	3,073	1,707,620	1,878,568	179,726	8,478	
Net Increase		73,198				171,248		

* Included in figures for India.

† Included in figures for Straits Settlements.

‡ Included in figures for France.

§ Included in figures for Gibraltar.

|| Included in figures for Cape Colony.

** Included in figures for New Zealand.

APPENDIX III. (C.)

Abstract of Contracts or Agreements for

Line of Communication.	How often.	Number and Character of Vessels.	Contractors.	Contract or Agreement.		
				Date of Contract.	Terminable.	Service commenced.
FALMOUTH and PERCUL.	Daily - -	Steam vessel	St. Mawes Steam Tug and Passenger Company.	- - -	- - -	10 Aug. 1892
FLEETWOOD and BELFAST.	Week days -	Steam vessels	North Lancashire Steam Navigation Company (but payment made through Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company).	28 Jan. 1891	On 6 months' notice.	1 July 1889
HOLYHEAD and KINGSTOWN.	Twice a day -	Four Mail Packets specially built and maintained for the service	City of Dublin Steam Packet Company.	1 July 1895	31 Mar. 1917 or on 12 months' notice after 31 Mar. 1916.	1 Apr. 1897
LIVERPOOL and DOUGLAS (ISLE of MAN).	Once on week days.	A sufficient number of efficient steam vessels.	Ile of Man Steam Packet Company.	17 Jan. 1883	On 6 months' notice.	- - -
LUNDY ISLAND and INSTOW.	Once a week -	Sailing boat	Captain Dark -	- - -	- - -	1 May 1883
PENZANCE and SCILLY	Three times a week in summer. Twice a week in winter.	Steam vessel	West Cornwall Steamship Company.	31 July 1874	On 6 months' notice.	1 Feb. 1874
PORTSMOUTH and RYDE.	Once daily, with the Night Mails. See "Remarks."	Steam vessels	London, Brighton, and South Coast, and London and South - Western Railway Companies.	10 Nov. 1891	On 6 months' notice.	1 July 1890
SCILLY, St. MARTIN's and St. AGNES.	Three times in summer, twice in winter.	Steam launch	Mr. J. Banfield, Jr.	- - -	- - -	1 March 1896
SOUTHAMPTON and CHANNEL ISLANDS.	Once on week days.	Steam vessels	London and South-Western Railway Company.	- - -	On 6 months' notice.	- - -
SOUTHAMPTON and COWES.	Once on week days, but see "Remarks."	Steam vessels	Southampton, Isle of Wight, and South of England Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.	- - -	- - -	1 Jan. 1874
WYRMOUTH and CHANNEL ISLANDS.	6 days a week	Steam vessels	Great Western Railway Company.	- - -	- - -	1 Aug. 1891
SCOTLAND.						
ABERDEEN and LERWICK.	Five days a week in summer. Three days a week in winter.	Steam vessels of sufficient number.	North of Scotland and Orkney and Shetland Steam Navigation Company.	June 1892	On 6 months' notice.	1 June 1891
LERWICK, WHALSAY, and NORTH ISLES.	Thrice a week	Steam vessel	Do.			

APPENDIX III. (C.)

the Conveyance of Home Mails by Sea.

Payment.	Contract Time.	Deduction for Overtime.	Penalty for General Non-performance.	Remarks.
60l.	—	—	—	—
1,000l.	- - -	- - -	- - -	The Department has the general use of the Company's vessels.
100,000l. to 31 Mar. 1917. 80,000l. after that date.	Outward journey (including transfer on both sides of the Channel), Sh. 37m. Inward journey (including transfer), Sh. 32m.	1l. 14s. per minute	If on any occasion vessel is not ready, penalty of 100l., and 10l. per hour for every hour beyond stipulated time before vessel starts.	The payment is subject to a reduction of 2,000l. in respect of the receipts from passenger traffic. It includes payment for parcel services.
4,500l.	14 nautical miles an hour in summer; 12 in winter.	- - -	If on any occasion vessel is not ready P.M.G. may employ another vessel, and charge cost to the Contractors.	Separate payment at rate of 3s. 6 cwt. for parcels. 125l. per annum is also paid for transfer of Parcel Mails from the Packets at Liverpool and Douglas.
52l. 10s.	—	—	—	—
*500l. and 150l. for parcels.	No time fixed	- - -	If on any occasion vessel is not ready, P.M.G. may employ a pilot boat and special messenger at the expense of the Contractors.	*From 1st Sept. 1893. Payment for parcels fixed under separate Contract. General conditions similar to those under the old Contract. More frequent service provided by the Company in summer.
1,400l. (including payment for parcels).	25 minutes each trip.	- - -	200l.	The Department has also the general use of the Company's vessels which are constantly plying between the two places.
100l.	- - -	- - -	- - -	No Contract.
6,500l.	- - -	- - -	- - -	No Contract.
170l.	- - -	- - -	- - -	No Contract. The Post Office has the general use of the Company's vessels.
200l.	- - -	- - -	- - -	No Contract. The Post Office has the general use of the Company's vessels. This is a supplementary service to the one from Southampton.
8,000l. 100l. for parcels and 40l. for North Isles Service.	- - -	- - -	P.M.G. 1,000l. to charter another vessel at Contractors' expense.	3,140l. of this sum is paid by the Post Office, and 3,000l. by the Scottish Office.

APPENDIX III. (C.)—continued.

Line of Communication.	How often.	Number and Character of Vessels.	Contractors.	Contract or Agreement.		
				Date of Contract.	Terminable.	Service commenced.
ARDROSSAN and ARRAH.	Week days -	Steam vessel	Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company.	March 1892	On 6 months' notice.	1 Dec. 1891
FOULA and WALLS (SHETLAND).	Once a fortnight (Oct. to Mar.). Once a week (Apr. to Sept.).	Sailing vessel.	M. Manson and L. Gray.	19 Mar. 1896	On 6 months' notice.	1 Apr. 1896
GLASGOW and CAMPBELTOWN.	Week days -	Steam vessels	Campbeltown and Glasgow Steam Packet Company.	Oct. 1891	On 3 months' notice.	1 July 1890
GREENOCK and BELFAST.	Week days } Twice a week }	Steam vessels of sufficient number.	Sir John Burns, Bart.	21, 22, 24, and 25 August 1893.	On 12 months' notice.	1 Aug. 1893
ARDROSSAN and BELFAST.						
GREENOCK and LONDONDERRY.	Twice a week					
GREENOCK (PRINCE'S PIKE) and ROTHERSAY.	Week days -	Steam vessel	Glasgow and South-Western Railway Co.	24 Oct. and 3 Nov. 1893.	On 6 months' notice.	17 Oct. 1892
GREENOCK and ROTHERSAY.	Week days -	Steam vessel	David MacBrayne	13 and 19 Jan. 1894.	On 6 months' notice.	17 Oct. 1892
GREENOCK and ARDRISHAIG.						
GREENOCK and LOCHGOILHEAD.	Week days -	Steam vessel	Lochgoil and Loch Long Steam Packet Company.	6 and 7 June and 13 July 1892.	On 6 months' notice.	1 Feb. 1892
GREENOCK and KILMUN.	Twice on week days.	Steam vessel	Capt. Jas. Williamson, for Caledonian Steam Packet Company.	- - -	- - -	Mar. 1899 NoContract.
GREENOCK and TARBERT (HARRIS).	Once a week -	Steam vessel (Dunara Castle).	Martin Orme & Co.	- - -	- - -	NoContract
GREENOCK and DUNVEGAN.	Once a week -	Steam vessel (Hebridean).	John McCallum & Co.	- - -	- - -	NoContract
INVERGORDON and CROMARTY.	Week days -	Steam vessel	Cromarty Steamship Company.	- - -	On 3 months' notice.	1 Feb. 1894
INVERNESS and FORT AUGUSTUS.	Week days -	Steam vessels of sufficient number.	David MacBrayne	13 and 19 Jan. 1894.	On 6 months' notice.	17 Oct. 1892
KIRK WALL and NORTH ISLES.	Twice a week for 9 months, and three times a week for 3 months.	Steam vessels of sufficient number.	Orkney Steam Navigation Company, per Thos. Work.	1 Nov. 1891	On 6 months' notice.	1 Nov. 1891

APPENDIX III. (C.)—*continued.*

Payment.	Contract Time.	Deduction for Overtime.	Penalty for General Non-performance.	Remarks.
400 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	200 <i>l.</i>	
78 <i>l.</i> (2 <i>l.</i> a trip.)	- - - - -	- - - - -	25 <i>l.</i>	
650 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	150 <i>l.</i>	The Department has also the general use of these steamers, as run by the Company for their own traffic purposes. The payment includes Parcel Service.
10,000 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	2,000 <i>l.</i>	Payment includes Parcel Service.
190 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	65 <i>l.</i>	Payment includes the Parcel Service.
2,510 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	850 <i>l.</i>	This payment includes 190 <i>l.</i> for Parcel Service, and 320 <i>l.</i> for the general use of all Mr. MacBrayne's steamers running to and from the Clyde.
270 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	100 <i>l.</i>	The Department has general use of all this Company's steamers as run by them for traffic purposes. The payment includes the Parcel Service.
125 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	-	Payment includes the Parcel Service.
500 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	-	Temporary arrangement, for one year ending 31st March 1898; half of the subsidy to be paid by the Post Office, and half by the Scottish Office.
50 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	25 <i>l.</i>	Payment includes Parcel Service.
210 <i>l.</i> and 25 <i>l.</i> for Parcel Service.	—	—	—	—
340 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	-	Payment includes Parcel Service.

APPENDIX III. (C.)—*continued.*

Line of Communication.	How often.	Number and Character of Vessels.	Contractors.	Contract or Agreement.		
				Date of Contract.	Terminable.	Service commenced.
KIRK WALL and BALFOUR.	Five days a week.	Steam vessel	John Reid	28 Dec. 1894 & 8 Jan. 1895.	On 3 months' notice.	1 Oct. 1894
LOCH TAY Steamers	Six days a week.	Steam vessels	Marquis of Breadalbane per W. J. Fraser.	- - -	- - -	- - -
MALLAIG and INVERIE (FORT WILLIAM).	Three days a week.	Sailing vessel.	John Michie	- - -	On 6 months' notice	10 Sept. 1893
{ OBAN and FORT WILLIAM.	Once a day, six days a week.	Steam vessels of sufficient number.	David Mac-Brayne.	- - -	- - -	1 Apr. 1892
{ OBAN and FORT WILLIAM (Parcels).	Once a day, six days a week.	Steam vessels of sufficient number.	"	- - -	- - -	1 Aug. 1894
OBAN and TOBERMORY.	Once a day, six days a week.	Steam vessel	"	1 & 13 June 1893.	On 6 months' notice.	1 Apr. 1893
OBAN and West of MULL, calling at Croggan, Tobermory, Kilchoan, Coll, Tiree, Iona (on outward voyage) and Bunessan.	<i>Out.</i> —On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. <i>In.</i> —On Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.	Steam vessel	"	"	"	"
{ OBAN and DUNVEGAN, calling at Tobermory, Castlebay, Lochboisdale, and Lochmaddy.	Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.	Steam vessel.	"	"	"	"
{ DUNVEGAN and OBAN, calling at Loch Pooltiel, and Loch Bracadale and Tobermory; And also at Canna and Rum.	Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.					
{ OBAN and LOCHMADDY, calling at Tobermory, Loch Bracadale, Loch Pooltiel, and Dunvegan; And also at Rum and Canna.	Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.					
{ LOCHMADDY and OBAN, calling at Lochboisdale and Castlebay.	Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.	Steam vessel.	"	"	"	"
{ PORTEE, LOCHMADDY, and DUNVEGAN.	<i>Out.</i> —Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. <i>In.</i> —Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.					
STROME FERRY and STORNOWAY.	Once a day, six days a week each way.	Steam vessel	"	"	"	"

APPENDIX III. (C.)—continued.

Payment.	Contract Time.	Deduction for Overtime.	Penalty for General Non-performance.	Remarks.
46l.	At rate of not less than 8 sea miles an hour.	- - -	20l.	Payment includes Parcel Service.
100l. and 4l. for parcels.	- - -	- - -	- - -	No Contract.
52l. 2s. 10d.	- - -	- - -	- - -	"
699l.	Out. 3 hrs. 30 mins. In. 3 hrs. 30 mins.	- - -	300l.	"
63l.	- - -	- - -	- - -	"
535l.	At rate of 10 sea miles an hour.	20l. for undue delay or deviation.	200l.*	*To be recovered by way of liquidated damages, and not by way of penalty.
1,200l.	"	"	500l.*	
3,000l.	At rate of not less than 11 sea miles an hour.	"	1,000l.*	Of the total sum of 12,306l. a year payable under these contracts, 5,716l. is paid by the Post Office, and 6,589l. by the Scottish Office. Payments include Parcel Services.
3,000l.	"	"	"	
1,550l.	At rate of not less than 10 sea miles an hour.	"	500l.*	
3,000l.	At rate of 11 sea miles an hour.	"	1,000l.*	

APPENDIX III. (C).—continued.

Line of Communication.	How often.	Number and Character of Vessels.	Contractors.	Contract or Agreement.		
				Date of Contract.	Terminable.	Service commenced.
ROTHESAY and WEMYSS BAY.	Week days	Steam vessels	Caledonian Steam Packet Company.	21 Nov. & 18 Dec. 1893.	On 6 months' notice.	17 Oct. 1892
STRANRAER and LARNE. (See below.)						
STROME FERRY and PORTREE.	6 days a week	Steam vessels of sufficient number.	David MacBrayne	2 & 11 Jan. 1894.	On 12 months' notice.	1 Apr. 1893
SCRABSTER PIER and (THURSO) STROMNESS.	6 days a week	Steam vessels of sufficient number.	North of Scotland and Orkney and Shetland Steam Navigation Company.	21 Feb. & 27 Mar. 1890.	On 6 months' notice.	12 Feb. 1889
STROMNESS and SOUTH ISLES.	4 days a week	Steam vessel	R. Garden	14 April & 5 May 1896.	On 6 months' notice.	1 Mar. 1896
{ TARBERT, ISLAY, and JURA. GREENOCK, ISLAY, and JURA. }	Week days	Steam vessel	David MacBrayne	13 & 19 Jan. 1894.	On 6 months' notice.	1 Oct. 1892
VIRKIE (SHETLAND) and FAIR ISLE.	Once a fortnight.	Sailing vessel.	John Bruce, Junr.	- - -	- - -	1 Nov. 1883
WEMYSS BAY and MILLPORT.	Thrice on week days in summer and twice in winter.	Steam vessel	Caledonian Railway Co.	In general agreement with the Co.		
IRELAND.						
LARNE and STRANRAER.	Week days	2 steam vessels with accommodation for sorting Mails.	Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Committee.	22 Dec. 1892	On 12 months' notice.	1 Sept. 1891
GALWAY AND ABBAN	3 days a week	Steam vessel	Galway Bay Steamboat Co.	- - -	- - -	27 Apr. 1893

NOTES—

1. In many cases the service commenced before the formal contract was executed.
2. In addition to the payments given in detail above, Letters, &c. are conveyed by Private Ships to and from places 1,700l. a year, and the principal payments are as follows—
 For Guernsey, Alderney and Sark Service (special rates) - - -
 " Glasgow, Greenock, and Londonderry Service - - -
 " Waterford and Millford Haven Service - - -
 " Douglas (Isle of Man) Season services via Fleetwood and via Belfast and Barrow Service - - -
3. There are also a number of small miscellaneous fixed payments for conveyance of Home Mails and for ferryage in any case 50l. a year, which have not been included in the above statement.
4. For the conveyance of Outward American Mails on Saturday by train from Euston to Holyhead and thence by Homeward American Mails by steamer from Dublin to Holyhead when required, 60l. a trip.

APPENDIX III. (C.)—*continued.*

Payment.	Contract Time.	Deduction for Overtime.	Penalty for General Non-performance.	Remarks.
150 <i>l.</i>	- " -	- " -	75 <i>l.</i>	Payment includes Parcel Service.
630 <i>l.</i>	At speed of not less than 10 sea miles an hour.	20 <i>l.</i> for undue delay or deviation from course.	100 <i>l.</i>	" "
2,000 <i>l.</i>	Vessels to be capable of steaming 12 knots an hour.	20 <i>l.</i> for undue delay or deviation from course.	200 <i>l.</i> P.M.G. to charter another vessel at Contractor's expense.	" "
180 <i>l.</i>	- " -	10 <i>l.</i> for ditto.	50 <i>l.</i>	130 <i>l.</i> paid by Post Office and 50 <i>l.</i> by Scottish Office. Payment includes Parcel Service.
900 <i>l.</i>	- " -	20 <i>l.</i> for ditto.	350 <i>l.</i>	Payment includes Parcel Service.
180 <i>l.</i>	- " -	- " -	- " -	No Contract. Payment is made up thus: 60 <i>l.</i> for service from 1 April to 31 October, and 10 <i>l.</i> per trip for the other 5 months.
—	—	—	—	—
13,500 <i>l.</i>	- " -	- " -	- " -	This amount includes also payment for Railway Services between Carlisle and Stranraer, Larne and Belfast, and Larne and Derry.
60 <i>l.</i>	—	—	—	—

in the United Kingdom for a certain fixed payment of 2*s.* 6*d.* per 100. The total amount paid at present is about

-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	about 840 <i>l.</i> a year.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" 280 <i>l.</i> "
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" 340 <i>l.</i> "
Barrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" 130 <i>l.</i> "
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" 53 <i>l.</i> "

(including various payments for the conveyance of Mails in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland), not exceeding steamer to Dublin, the London and North-Western Railway Company receives 3,650*l.* a year; and for the conveyance of

APPENDIX III. (D.) Foreign and Colonial Packet Service.

Line of Packets.	Contracts.		Payment.	Penalties or Overtime.	Contributions towards the Cost of the Service.	Estimated Receipts for Sea Postage.	Estimated British Loss on the Sea Service.
	Com- mencement.	Termination.					
AUSTRALIA :			£			£	£
Brindisi or Naples and Adelaide	1 Feb. 1888 -	31 January 1898 -	170,000 {	100% for every 24 hours.	South Australia } 75,000% Victoria } New South Wales }	5,400	89,600
Aden and Brisbane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vancouver and Australasian Ports	-	Colonial Contracts	-	-	-	-	-
San Francisco and New Zealand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BRAZIL, RIVER PLATE, and CHILI:							
Fortnightly Service from Southampton	1 Sept. 1876 -	On 6 months' notice	-	-	-	-	-
* Do. do.	1 Sept. 1889 -	Do.	(a) 8,564	-	-	-	-
Fortnightly Service from Liverpool	1 July 1878 -	Do.	(a) 216	-	-	-	-
CANADA and CHINA -	7 April 1891 -	6 April 1901	(a) 17,581	-	-	-	-
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE and NATAL -	Contracts with	Colonial Governments	60,000	100% for every 12 hours.	{ Canada 15,000% Admiralty 7,500% }	1,900	35,900
* Natal -	17 June 1887 -	On 6 months' notice	(a) 877	-	-	-	Nil.
EAST INDIES and CHINA -	1 Feb. 1888 -	31 January 1898	285,000 {	200% for every 12 hours late at Brindisi, in other cases 100%.	{ India, 60,000% Ceylon, 1,400% Straits Settlements, 8,000% Hong Kong, 6,000% }	29,970	164,900
* Do. do.	1 May 1885 -	On 6 months' notice	(a) 3,770 {	-	-	-	-
EAST COAST OF AFRICA:							
Aden and Zanzibar	5 Nov. 1892 -	On 12 months' notice	9,000	5% for 20 minutes and 5% for every additional 15 minutes.	-	100	9,900
EUROPE:							
Dover and Calais -	21 June 1883 -	On 12 months' notice	25,000 {	-	-	-	-
* Do. do.	1 Oct. 1887 -	30 September 1896	(a) 2,025	-	-	-	-

•Channel Islands and St. Malo and } Grainville	15 Feb. 1883	On 6 months' notice	-	(a)	42	-	-	-	-	42	Nil.
•Grimsby and Hamburg	16 Apr. 1883	Do.	-	(a)	701	-	-	-	-	701	Nil.
•Liverpool and Constantinople and } Smyrna	1 Jan. 1886	Do.	-	(a)	43	-	-	-	-	43	Nil.
•London to Hamburg	1 Jan. 1886	Do.	-	(a)	338	-	-	-	-	338	Nil.
•United Kingdom and Lisbon	1 Jan. 1888	Do.	-	(a)	66	-	-	-	-	66	Nil.
NORTH AMERICA:											
United Kingdom to New York	1 March 1887	On 12 months' notice	-	(a)	100,478	-	-	-	-	37,378	62,500
• Do. do.	31 March 1880	Do.	-	(a)	70	-	-	-	-	70	Nil.
New York and Bermuda	1 Jan. 1889	On 6 months' notice	-	(a)	720	-	-	-	-	120	600
•Liverpool to Mexico	1 Dec. 1891	Do.	-	(a)	152	-	-	-	-	152	Nil.
PANAMA to VALPARAISO	1 July 1878	Do.	-	(a)	5,850	-	-	-	-	2,550	3,300
ST. HELENA and ASCENSION	1 Oct. 1803	Do.	-	-	3,900	-	-	-	-	300	3,600
WEST INDIES:											
Portnightly Service	1 July 1895	30 June 1900	-	-	80,000	25¢. for every 24 hours.	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Services: Non-Contract Service	-	-	-	(a)	190	-	-	-	-	10,000	46,700
Turk's Islands (Colonial Contract)	27 Oct. 1888	On 6 months' notice	-	(b)	250	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST COAST OF AFRICA											
• Do. do.	Indefinite	-	-	(a)	15,017	-	-	-	-	4,550	11,500
• Do. do.	1 Jan. 1888	On 6 months' notice	-	(a)	453	-	-	-	-	-	-

(a) The payments in these cases depend upon the weight of mails conveyed by the Packets.

(b) These sums represent the Imperial share of the cost of the Services.

• These Contracts are for Parcel Mails only.

APPENDIX III. (E.)

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of POST TOWNS in ENGLAND and WALES, including the CHANNEL ISLANDS and ISLE OF MAN, arranged in CLASSES according to the number of MAILS they receive *from*, and despatch *to*, LONDON.

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.		Aggregate No. of Mails.		Total No. of Post Towns in England and Wales.
	To London.		To London.		To London.		To London.		To London.		To London.		To London.		To London.		To London.		
	From London.		From London.		From London.		From London.		From London.		From London.		From London.		From London.		From London.		
1896-96	1	14	54	151	184	182	233	153	90	68	43	36	20	19	5	7	2,461	2,220	630
1896-97	1	16	40	132	164	185	246	152	105	79	46	38	18	20	7	7	2,553	2,262	629
Increase	—	2	—	—	—	3	13	—	15	10	5	2	—	1	2	—	173	80	—
Decrease	—	—	14	19	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	102	38	—
Net Increase -																	71	43	

APPENDIX III. (F.)

Staff of Officers.

Totals 31 Mar. 1896.	Description of Officers.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		Totals.		Totals 31 Mar. 1897.
		Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	
	A.									
1	Postmaster General - -	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	B.									
11	Secretary, Second Secretary, Comptroller and Accountant General, Assistant Secre- taries (6), Secretary for Scotland, and for Ireland.	9	—	1	—	1	—	11	—	11
	C.									
83	Higher Division Clerks (Secre- tary's Office) and other Superior Officers in Metro- politan Offices.	73	—	4	—	4	—	81	—	81
	D.									
16	Surveyors - - - - -	10	—	3	—	3	—	16	—	16
	E.									
924	Head Postmasters : Metropolitan - -	11	—	1	—	—	—	702	157	919
	Provinces - - -	537	92	117	34	96	31			
19,188	Sub-Postmasters : Metropolitan - -	701	141	40	8	66	76	14,153	5,251	19,404
	Provinces - - -	10,407	3,588	1,233	642	1,698	796			
	F.									
5,733	Clerks and Superintending Officers : Metropolitan - -	2,892	1,307	144	36	175	31	5,159	1,456	6,615
	Provinces - - -	1,644	68	219	12	85	2			
	G									
25,176	Sorters, Counter Clerks, and Telegraphists, Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists, &c. : Metropolitan - -	8,384	2,057	414	113	870	99	19,110	5,532	6,642
	Provinces - - -	7,971	2,500	1,126	521	645	242			
51,132	Carried forward -	32,640	9,753	3,310	1,366	3,343	1,277	39,293	12,391	51,689

APPENDIX III. (F.)—continued.

Staff of Officers—continued.

Totals 31 Mar. 1896.	Description of Officers.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		Totals.		Totals 31 Mar. 1897.
		Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	
51,132	Brought forward -	32,640	9,753	3,310	1,366	3,343	1,277	39,293	12,396	51,689
	H.									
28,004	Postmen, Porters, Mechanics, &c.:									
	Metropolitan - -	7,779	—	423	—	264	—	29,578	10	29,588
	Provinces - - -	17,159	8	2,534	2	1,417	—			
	I.									
61,571	Persons employed in un- established positions, viz., Copyists, Assistants to Post- masters, Auxiliary Postmen, Boy Messengers, Telegraph Messengers, Telegraph Con- struction Hands, Commis- sionaires, Female Servants, &c.:									
	Metropolitan - -	9,788	1,508	376	125	538	187	16,500	16,914	33,414
	Provinces - - -	27,828	11,780	3,931	1,683	3,980	1,649			
	J.									
9	Postmasters and Clerks, &c. abroad (under direction of Postmaster General) and agents in Foreign Countries for collection of postage, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	9
140,806	Totals - -	97,194	23,049	10,576	3,158	9,601	3,113	115,380	29,320	144,700

APPENDIX III. (F.)—continued.

Mortality Table.

	Number of Deaths in 1896-97.									
	Chief Office.		Districts.		Provinces.		Scotland.		Ireland.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
I.—SIMPLE FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASE.										
1. Miasmatic disease :										
Typhus - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid - - - -	3	1	4	-	6	-	-	-	1	-
Scarlet fever - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria - - -	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza - - -	2	-	1	-	5	-	2	-	1	-
Small-pox - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Diarrhoeal diseases :										
Simple cholera - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Septic diseases :										
Pyæmia - - - -	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
II.—CONSTITUTION DISEASES.										
Cancer - - - -	1	-	1	1	3	-	-	1	-	-
Phthisis and hæmoptysis	15	1	14	-	25	2	3	2	4	-
Tuberculosis - - -	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	1	-
Rheumatic fever - -	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes - - - -	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Dropsy - - - -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glandular disease - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
III.—LOCAL DISEASES.										
1. Disease of nervous system :										
Apoplexy - - -	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Inflammation of brain	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Paralysis - - -	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Chorea - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Epilepsy - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Cerebral tumour and abscess	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mental derangement	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
2. Diseases of circulatory system :										
Disease of the heart -	5	-	2	-	10	-	2	-	2	-
Disease of the blood vessels	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syncope - - - -	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Carried forward -	31	2	27	1	68	3	11	3	10	-

APPENDIX III. (F.)—continued.
Mortality Table—continued.

	Number of Deaths in 1896-97.									
	Chief Office.		Districts.		Provinces.		Scotland.		Ireland.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Brought forward -	31	2	27	1	68	3	11	3	10	-
3. Diseases of respiratory system :										
Bronchitis - - -	4	-	1	1	4	-	1	-	1	-
Pneumonia - - -	3	1	5	-	17	1	2	-	3	-
Congestion of lungs - -	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Asthma - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pleurisy - - - -	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Empyema - - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
4. Diseases of digestive system :										
Ulcer of stomach - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hæmatemesis - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Enteritis and perityphlitis -	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obstruction of bowels - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Hernia, strangulated - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peritonitis - - - -	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Disease of liver - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Diseases of urinary system :										
Bright's disease - - -	5	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	3	-
Renal calculus - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stricture - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uræmia - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
IV.--DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE.										
Operations for cure of disease -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accidents - - - -	1	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	1	-
Drowned - - - -	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-
Suicide - - - -	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
V.-ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CASES.										
Tumour - - - -	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Chill - - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pernicious anæmia - - -	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Gangrene - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delirium tremens - - -	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Fistula - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not classified {										
Bone disease - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sunstroke - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal hæmorrhage - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purpura hæmorrhagica -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colic - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senility - - - -	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Marasmus - - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Causes not stated - - -	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Totals -	52	3	37	3	119	6	22	3	20	-

APPENDIX III. (F.)—*continued.*

Table giving Causes of Retirement from the Service.

	Number of Persons retired in 1896-97.									
	Chief Office.		Metro-politan Districts.		Pro-vinces.		Scotland.		Ireland.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Paralysis - - -	1	-	6	-	5	-	1	-	-	-
Vertigo - - -	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Softening of brain - -	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Epilepsy - - -	1	-	4	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
Mental derangement - -	6	-	5	1	12	1	1	-	2	-
Nervous debility - -	4	9	3	2	10	1	-	1	-	-
Diabetes - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Heart disease - - -	5	2	4	-	5	1	2	-	2	-
Varicose veins - - -	3	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-
Phlebitis - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Phthisis and Hæmoptysis -	9	4	19	1	31	3	7	-	4	-
Hæmorrhoids - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chronic bronchitis - -	2	-	6	-	7	-	-	-	4	-
Pleurisy - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asthma - - -	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
Liver disease - - -	2	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Kidney disease - - -	5	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Eyesight - - -	3	2	2	1	3	-	2	-	4	-
Deafness - - -	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Influenza - - -	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Hæmatemesis - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach - - -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Chronic rheumatism and sciatica	2	-	12	1	13	-	-	-	2	1
Gout - - -	3	-	2	-	7	-	-	-	1	-
Cancer - - -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Uterine disease - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peritonitis - - -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cystitis - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Strictures - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carried forward -	52	19	72	7	116	9	15	1	23	1

APPENDIX III. (F.)—*continued.***Table giving Causes of Retirement from the Service—*continued.***

	Number of Persons retired in 1896-97.									
	Chief Office.		Metro-politan Districts.		Pro-vinces.		Scot-land.		Ireland.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Brought forward - -	52	19	72	7	116	9	15	1	23	1
Hysteria - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chronic Synovitis - -	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Tumour - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chronic alcoholism - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Flat feet and weak ankles -	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Skin disease - - -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Telegraph cramp - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Writer's cramp - - -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fistula and abscess - -	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Diseased bone - - -	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ingrowing toe-nail - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accidents - - -	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Hernia - - -	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
General debility - - -	5	6	3	-	4	-	1	1	-	-
Senile decay - - -	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anæmia - - -	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-
Syphilis - - -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dyspepsia - - -	1	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
Not stated - - -	-	-	1	-	9	-	1	-	-	-
Totals - - -	70	26	85	8	143	12	20	4	28	2

APPENDIX III. (G.)

RETURNED LETTERS, PARCELS, &c.

APPENDIX III. (G.)

Returned Letters, Parcels, &c.

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT showing the Numbers of UNDELIVERED LETTERS and PARCELS received OFFICES; also the Numbers of UNDELIVERED POSTAL PACKETS dealt with in HEAD

Returned Letter Office.	Letters received.		Letters re-issued to corrected Addresses.		Letters returned to the Senders.		Letters returned unopened to Foreign Countries.		Letters which could neither be delivered to the Addressee nor returned to the Senders.	
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
LONDON - -	2,724,989	2,787,724	21,501	26,180	2,241,046	2,328,296	154,109	167,118	307,733	266,131
MANCHESTER -	365,271	371,401	8,855	12,907	294,481	287,504	18,204	23,051	43,731	46,239
LIVERPOOL -	312,746	302,833	15,738	14,801	257,452	235,410	19,854	21,827	19,702	30,793
BIRMINGHAM -	259,423	274,181	4,646	4,278	228,213	241,746	10,906	12,541	15,966	15,616
LEEDS - -	211,831	236,704	5,976	6,175	174,084	190,143	11,633	15,247	20,138	25,189
BRISTOL - -	308,707	319,545	7,178	6,547	239,743	255,436	16,395	18,884	45,391	38,678
NEWCASTLE-ON- TYNE.	157,789	136,905	2,635	3,450	129,282	106,919	9,099	9,960	16,773	14,576
NOTTINGHAM -	174,021	179,429	3,983	5,277	141,595	150,703	8,065	8,807	20,378	14,642
PLYMOUTH -	50,601	51,808	842	926	41,139	42,421	4,582	4,239	4,038	4,222
EDINBURGH -	185,426	189,420	12,286	12,422	150,018	153,278	7,336	7,492	14,886	16,228
GLASGOW - -	141,774	143,946	18,870	21,647	*106,613	104,978	7,232	6,863	*9,059	10,458
ABERDEEN -	23,315	23,360	712	706	19,680	19,527	1,038	1,118	1,885	1,999
INVERNESS -	15,592	14,426	283	578	13,461	12,388	455	472	1,393	1,068
DUBLIN - -	184,920	177,067	8,006	9,270	148,260	139,030	9,676	5,331	18,976	24,336
BELFAST - -	66,620	51,714	2,575	3,361	57,084	39,586	3,053	2,985	3,908	5,782
CORK - -	35,595	33,864	1,619	1,646	27,255	26,436	3,896	3,094	2,823	2,688
Totals for Re- turned Letter Offices - -	5,218,620	5,295,217	115,705	129,871	*4,276,906	4,336,700	285,237	309,029	*548,772	520,617
Dealt with in Head Post Offices - -	1,112,466	1,264,520	—	—	1,112,466	1,264,520	—	—	—	—
General Totals of Undelivered Correspondence	6,331,086	6,559,737	115,705	129,871	*5,389,372	5,601,220	285,237	309,029	*548,772	520,617
Increase -	228,651		14,166		216,848		23,792		—	
Decrease -	—		—		—		—		26,155	

* By clerical errors, these figures were

APPENDIX III (G.)—*continued.***Returned Letters, Parcels, &c.—*continued.***

and disposed of, and the Numbers of Correspondence of other Classes received in the RETURNED LETTER POST OFFICES, in the Year ended 31st March 1896, and the Year ended 31st March 1897.

Post Cards received.		Book Packets received.		Newspapers received.		Patterns and Samples received.		Parcels received.		Parcels re-issued to the Addressees or returned to the Senders.		Returned Letter Office.
1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	
57,290	61,546	679,519	652,614	238,293	219,551	4,074	3,756	56,041	60,404	*36,830	39,909	LONDON.
16,964	18,261	126,522	116,672	7,733	4,873	545	731	6,072	6,306	4,060	3,740	MANCHESTER.
36,866	14,296	318,191	78,215	13,259	7,082	781	717	4,371	4,569	2,857	2,685	LIVERPOOL.
46,100	55,682	299,658	339,719	11,962	9,424	1,647	1,793	3,972	4,430	2,741	2,846	BIRMINGHAM.
5,806	4,571	96,066	79,895	2,408	1,997	270	333	3,669	4,072	2,484	2,588	LEEDS.
4,957	8,416	133,913	73,435	2,419	3,215	420	377	6,786	7,430	4,146	4,274	BRISTOL.
7,401	9,610	41,135	43,814	1,961	1,575	53	22	2,364	2,310	1,334	1,331	NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
6,435	9,209	53,312	50,697	1,404	1,808	413	138	3,078	3,531	1,945	2,067	NOTTINGHAM.
1,217	851	19,015	8,621	738	646	265	352	967	1,092	585	490	PLYMOUTH.
30,768	32,591	199,252	174,637	13,564	12,519	161	206	5,501	4,434	4,328	3,404	EDINBURGH.
41,972	30,866	195,869	50,971	14,962	6,077	188	172	3,590	3,493	3,086	2,546	GLASGOW.
7,536	4,211	14,409	9,675	805	770	15	19	438	502	287	298	ABERDEEN.
234	334	3,843	3,168	358	332	90	26	383	396	311	237	INVERNESS.
3,720	5,735	28,696	50,535	16,237	13,318	50	473	4,615	5,197	3,243	4,189	DUBLIN.
1,914	1,955	17,100	8,896	2,374	3,275	325	121	1,065	969	667	573	BELFAST.
1,485	1,004	7,869	4,718	907	1,272	115	28	603	566	335	348	CORK.
27,339	249,129	2,227,394	1,744,284	329,459	287,084	9,412	9,286	103,515	109,791	*69,259	71,839	Totals for Returned Letter Offices. Dealt with in Head Post Offices.
725,606	930,008	7,310,703	9,779,900	377,545	275,396	53,357	66,139	42,892	46,613	42,892	46,613	
1,016,946	1,179,137	9,538,097	11,526,274	707,004	562,482	62,769	75,425	146,407	156,404	*112,151	118,452	General Totals of Undelivered Correspondence.
163,133	1,968,177	—	—	—	—	12,656	—	9,997	—	6,301	—	Increase.
—	—	—	144,522	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Decrease.

wrongly stated in the report for last year.

APPENDIX III. (H.)

Telegrams.

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

Year.	Number of Telegrams.					
	England and Wales.			Scotland.	Ireland.	TOTAL.
	Provinces.	London.	Total.			
1870-71	5,299,882	2,863,821	8,163,703	1,080,189	606,285	9,850,177
1871-72	6,594,590	3,612,772	10,207,362	1,388,434	878,000	12,473,796
1872-73	8,022,151	4,577,015	12,599,166	1,761,298	1,175,316	15,535,780
1873-74	9,233,854	5,254,547	14,488,401	2,009,893	1,323,236	17,821,530
1874-75	10,124,661	5,652,033	15,776,694	2,132,787	1,343,639	19,253,120
1875-76	10,883,282	6,350,714	17,233,996	2,287,859	1,452,180	20,973,535
1876-77	11,232,704	6,561,930	17,794,634	2,402,347	1,529,162	21,726,143
1877-78	11,392,098	6,700,504	18,092,602	2,490,776	1,588,489	22,171,867
1878-79	11,592,899	8,830,019	20,422,918	2,477,003	1,559,854	24,453,775
1879-80	12,392,996	9,854,566	22,247,562	2,704,574	1,595,001	26,547,137
1880-81	13,456,555	11,176,459	24,633,014	3,042,391	1,736,677	29,411,982
1881-82	14,204,479	12,071,034	26,275,513	3,207,994	1,862,354	31,345,861
1882-83	14,554,015	12,374,707	26,928,722	3,244,302	1,919,102	32,092,026
1883-84	14,920,418	12,686,433	27,606,846	3,299,428	1,936,846	32,843,120
1884-85	15,195,618	12,930,876	28,125,994	3,257,546	1,894,919	33,278,459
1885-86	18,029,008	15,081,433	33,110,441	3,812,173	2,223,669	39,146,283
1886-87	24,044,077	18,276,108	42,320,185	5,106,774	2,816,680	50,243,639
1887-88	26,052,717	18,872,553	44,925,270	5,430,624	3,047,531	53,403,425
1888-89	28,269,130	20,263,539	48,532,669	5,991,223	3,241,455	57,765,347
1889-90	30,873,953	21,562,826	52,436,779	6,545,654	3,420,966	62,403,359
1890-91	32,827,055	22,831,033	55,658,088	7,077,388	3,673,735	66,409,211
1891-92	34,854,867	23,911,238	58,766,105	7,155,180	3,764,195	69,685,480
1892-93	35,382,090	23,554,094	58,936,184	7,100,514	3,871,150	69,907,848
1893-94	36,129,876	23,501,876	59,631,752	7,279,894	3,987,852	70,899,498
1894-95	36,098,807	24,117,901	60,216,708	7,334,094	4,038,262	71,589,064
1895-96	39,411,356	27,025,193	66,436,549	8,095,581	4,307,480	78,839,610
1896-97	40,305,002	26,645,407	66,950,409	8,094,360	4,378,787	79,423,556

The figures for each year since 1877-78 include the number of certain Press Telegrams not previously included in these Returns.

Prior to 1883-84 the returns were made to the end of the last complete week in the year. Since that time they are in each case to the last day of the year inclusive.

On the 1st October 1885 the minimum charge for an inland telegram was reduced from one shilling to sixpence.

APPENDIX III. (H.)--*continued.***Telegrams—continued.**

TABLE showing the NUMBER of TELEGRAMS forwarded from TELEGRAPH OFFICES in the UNITED KINGDOM during the Years 1895-96 and 1896-97; and the Increase or Decrease in each Month of the latter Year over the corresponding Month of the former Year.

Month.	Number of Telegrams.		Increase or Decrease.
	1896-97.	1895-96.	
April - - -	6,319,774	6,347,436	- 27,662
May - - -	6,897,118	7,228,886	- 331,768
June - - -	7,350,985	6,691,431	+ 659,554
July - - -	7,805,519	7,941,447	- 135,928
August - - -	7,315,655	7,664,392	- 348,737
September - - -	6,980,714	6,934,029	+ 46,685
October - - -	7,078,438	7,080,762	- 2,324
November - - -	6,270,212	6,296,645	- 26,433
December - - -	5,987,985	5,588,443	+ 399,542
January - - -	5,588,366	5,655,415	- 67,049
February - - -	5,448,922	5,405,701	+ 43,221
March - - -	6,379,868	6,005,623	+ 374,245
	79,423,556	78,839,610	+ 583,946

APPENDIX III. (L.)

TABLE showing the VALUE of WORK PERFORMED by the POST OFFICE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT for other GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS in the last Ten Years.

Period.	Inland Telegrams.		Wire Rentals, &c.		Salaries.		Work executed.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Year ended 31st March 1888	-	-	13,140	18 0	14,350	7 11	3,069	14 11	30,584	5 11
" " 1889	-	-	14,870	7 10	15,118	7 3	3,357	9 10	33,414	14 7
" " 1890	-	-	15,495	9 6½	16,355	9 7	3,851	2 7	35,328	19 1
" " 1891	-	-	15,906	12 10	16,786	7 3	3,610	16 7	36,380	9 7
" " 1892	-	-	14,595	5 3	17,765	13 8	3,206	14 2	35,588	18 9
" " 1893	-	-	14,614	10 6½	21,129	18 0	3,708	19 1	39,520	18 1
" " 1894	-	-	16,897	0 0	23,990	0 2	4,042	13 5	44,941	12 3
" " 1895	-	-	17,991	14 8	25,451	5 9	3,967	2 9	47,428	13 1
" " 1896	-	-	17,983	7 1	22,290	19 8	3,674	9 8	44,045	10 11
" " 1897	-	-	18,474	2 7½	22,727	6 11	3,570	5 9½	44,904	11 6

APPENDIX III. (J.)—*continued.***Post Office Savings Banks—*continued.***

TABLE showing the under-mentioned particulars of the BUSINESS for each YEAR since the passing of the SAVINGS BANK ACT, 1893, in continuation of PARLIAMENTARY PAPER No. 362 of 1896.

	Year ending 31st December.		
	1894.	1895.	1896.
Total number of depositors - -	6,108,763	6,453,597	6,862,035
Total number of deposits - - -	10,973,651	11,384,977	12,638,307
Average amount of each deposit account	14 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i>	15 <i>l.</i> 8 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	15 <i>l.</i> 15 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i>
Average sum paid in - - -	2 <i>l.</i> 15 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>l.</i> 16 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>l.</i> 17 <i>s.</i> 5 <i>d.</i>
Average sum drawn out - - -	6 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i>	6 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i>	6 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> 5 <i>d.</i>
Total number of persons who have deposited in single sums the entire amount allowed to be deposited in each year - - -	35,850	48,500	54,700

APPENDIX III. (J.)--continued. Post Office Savings Banks--continued.

GOVERNMENT STOCK.
TABLE showing the Business done during the last Ten Years.

Year.	Number of Stock Accounts opened.	Number of Stock Accounts closed.	Number of Stock Accounts remaining open at close of the Year.	Number of Investments.	Number of Sales.	Number of Stock Certificates obtained.	Number of Transfers to the Bank of England.	Amount of Money invested.	Amount of Commission.	Amount of Bank of England fees.	Amount of Stock bought.	Average amount of each purchase of Stock.	Amount of Stock sold.	Average amount of each sale of Stock.	Amount realised by sale of Stock.	Amount of Block Certificates obtained.	Amount of Transfers to the Bank of England.	Amount of Stock transferred from old Savings Banks.	Amount of Stock transferred to old Savings Banks.	Number of Dividends credited to Stockholders.	Amount of Dividends credited to Stockholders.	Amount of Stock remaining to credit of Stockholders at close of the Year.	Average amount of each Block Account at close of the Year.
1887	10,689	5,704	40,270	18,504	10,216	50	1	927,614	1,917	1 0	915,047	50 5 4	465,785	45 6 7	469,656	5,500	—	2,430	1,027	74,748	91,169	3,354,106	2 1 4
1888	11,692	8,575	43,324	19,413	11,459	44	36	996,217	2,168	2 6	1,003,164	51 3 6	573,304	50 0 7	572,113	5,100	6,420	23,079	912	127,918*	110,878	3,783,611	87 7 7
1889†	11,261	7,592	46,983	19,766	11,888	27	126	985,322	2,168	8 3	1,003,388	50 15 3	605,359	50 18 11	585,631	3,450	21,931	18,154	760	171,270	114,400	4,175,631	88 17 1
1890	14,606	10,536	51,063	22,385	12,006	28	294	1,040,257	2,332	12 6	1,125,310	50 5 5	560,907	48 17 0	573,168	4,000	37,490	6,819	271	189,109	118,326	4,680,163‡	91 13 1
1891	11,516	7,494	55,083	20,541	12,500	28	258	980,233	2,332	9 0	1,025,310	49 3 11	607,637	48 12 2	583,638	3,850	52,778	36,991	438	207,970	131,913	5,087,766	92 7 3
1892	14,110	8,356	60,889	23,076	13,727	27	360	1,234,308	2,745	7 0	1,264,104	52 14 5	696,385	50 2 11	688,689	3,700	67,417	9,776	124	223,588	112,760	5,430,020	92 0 7
1893	17,195	8,903	69,131	29,293	15,283	26	427	1,533,027	3,218	13 0	1,444,106	53 14 4	711,468	46 11 1	704,329	3,100	73,960	9,693	540	251,655	160,270	6,381,494	92 1 3
1894	13,188	11,015	71,304	23,532	16,315	12	159	1,650,875	3,227	8 6	1,625,674	60 1 6	978,091	53 8 0	963,459	3,350	23,774	41,320	970	279,302	183,179	7,028,197	96 11 4
1895	9,725	12,060	68,949	18,090	19,606	17	164	1,183,730	2,837	0 3	1,112,568	61 10 0	1,163,697	59 7 2	1,236,491	3,100	27,911	4,477	633	282,069	193,005	6,940,946	100 16 0
1896	10,175	10,947	68,177	16,912	17,965	8	143	1,065,573	2,692	6 9	967,884	57 4 7	1,107,637	61 15 2	1,223,366	1,400	26,573	110,354	635	275,303	192,134	6,891,691	101 1 9

* Dividends on 3 per cent. Stock converted paid quarterly instead of half yearly.

† In 1889, 866 persons holding 59,975½ Redemption money under the provisions of the National Debt Redemption Act, 1889, were paid off and £104,100 the amount was re-invested free of Commission in one or other of the new Government Stocks.

‡ In April 1896 the rate of Redemption money, amounting to 246,532½, was re-invested in 2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock at 98 this being the final operation connected with the Conversion Scheme. The balance of Stock was thus increased by 5,972½.

APPENDIX III. (J.)—*continued.*Post Office Savings Bank—*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 1896, and the Number and Amount of Contracts in existence on the 31st December 1896.

	CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO				TOTAL.	
	From 17 April 1865 to 31 December 1895.		From 1 Jan. 1896 to 31 December 1896.			
	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 1896, viz. :—						
Immediate Annuities - -	26,387	499,515 10 10	2,208	60,964 19 2	28,595	560,480 10 0
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - -	822	14,607 1 6	76	1,458 7 6	898	16,065 9 0
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - - - -	1,749	37,956 14 6	126	2,720 0 0	1,875	40,676 14 6
Contracts for Sums payable at Death entered into from the commencement of business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1896 - - - - -	15,842	1,021,738 14 4	1,223	65,582 8 4	17,065	1,087,321 2 8
Contracts for Annuities in existence on the 31st December 1896, viz. :—						
Immediate Annuities - -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	16,310	384,987 8 10
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	775	13,764 11 6
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - - -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	1,061	23,352 13 6
Contracts for Sums payable at Death, in existence on the 31st December 1896 - - -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	10,783	656,460 14 1

APPENDIX III. (J.)—*continued*.Post Office Savings Bank—*continued*.

RETURN of the BALANCE SHEETS of the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS on the 31st day of December 1896, showing the balance due to Depositors, the estimated amount of expenses remaining unpaid, the value of Securities according to the average price of the day on 31st December 1896, the amount of cash in hand and Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the year, and the surplus or deficiency of Funds to meet Liabilities (so far as relates to the National Debt Office).

Securities standing in the Names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt on account of the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS FUND.			Value of Securities at price of 31 Dec. 1896.	Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year.
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
2½ per cent. Consols - - - -	67,299,534	4 0	75,123,105	0 0
2½ per cents. - - - - -	9,079,170	15 8	9,601,223	0 0
Local Loans 3 per cent. Stock - -	11,017,690	5 1	12,298,467	0 0
2½ per cent. Annuities (1905) - -	100,000	0 0	106,625	0 0
Book Debt, per Act 53 & 56 Vict. c. 20.	10,200,000	0 0	10,200,000	0 0
Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. Bonds	429,500	0 0	462,786	0 0
Advances per 43 Vict. c. 4., 43 & 44 Vict. c. 14., and 45 & 46 Vict. c. 62., repayable by Irish Land Commission per 44 & 45 Vict. c. 71.	850,000	0 0	850,000	0 0
Advances under British Museum (Purchase of Land) Act, 1894, 57 & 58 Vict. c. 34, s. 1 -	200,000	0 0	200,000	0
Annuity for a term of years in lieu of annuities converted per National Debt Act, 1883, 46 & 47 Vict. c. 54, s. 5, and National Debt Act, 1885, 48 & 49 Vict. c. 43.	321,918	0 0	(a) 2,314,201	0 0
Annuities for terms of years in lieu of Stock cancelled per National Debt Act, 1883, 46 & 47 Vict. c. 54, National Debt Act, 1885, 48 & 49 Vict. c. 43., and National Debt and Local Loans Act, 1887, 50 & 51 Vict. c. 16.	699,322	0 0	(a & b) 3,803,702	0 0
Annuity for a term of years granted to repay advances per 32 & 33 Vict. c. 42., payable by Irish Land Commission per 44 & 45 Vict. c. 71.	138,800	0 0	(a) 491,975	0 0
Annuity for a term of years per National Debt Act, 1894, 47 Vict. c. 2, s. 2.	35,121	0 0	(a) 221,958	0 0
Annuity for a term of years per 40 Vict. c. 1, s. 2 -	6,398	8 6	(a) 34,826	0 0
Red Sea and India Telegraph Annuity, expiring 4th August 1903 -	3,100	0 0	28,675	0 0
Annuities for terms of years granted to repay advances under Imperial Defence Act, 1893, 51 & 52 Vict. c. 32.	60,431	16 0	(a) 229,690	0 0
Annuity for a term of years granted to repay an advance under Russian Dutch Loan Act, 1891, 54 & 55 Vict. c. 29.	35,176	18 0	(a) 304,456	0 0
Annuities for terms of years granted to repay advances under Telegraph Act, 1892, 55 & 56 Vict. c. 59.	30,046	3 0	(a) 385,012	0 0
Annuities for terms of years granted to repay advances under Public Accounts and Charges Act, 1891, 54 & 55 Vict. c. 24, s. 4.	60,305	10 0	(a) 380,080	0 0
Carried forward - - -			117,027,711	0 0
				685,931 12 6

(a) Value, inclusive of interest, to 31st December 1896.

(b) Cash value (at the price of Consols on 31st December 1896) of the amount of 2½ per cent. Consols, estimated to have been unreplaced at 31st December 1896, out of the amount of Stock originally called in exchange for these Annuities. Act 54 & 55 Vict. c. 24.

APPENDIX III. (J.)—*continued.***Post Office Savings Bank.**—*continued.*

Securities standing in the Names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt on account of the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS FUND.	Value of Securities at price of 31 Dec. 1896.		Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Brought forward -			117,027,711	0 0
Annuity for a term of years granted to repay advances under Barracks Act, 1890, 53 & 54 Vict. c. 25.	13,570	17 0	(a) 155,371	0 0
Annuities for terms of years granted to repay advances made under the Pensions Commutation Act, 34 & 35 Vict. c. 38.	40,252	13 0	(a) 193,138	0 0
Annuities for terms of years purchased under Indian Army Pension Deficiency Act, 1895, 48 & 49 Vict. c. 87, s. 5 (2), and 59 & 60 Vict. c. 28, s. 37.	41,668	18 8	(a) 207,381	0 0
Advances under Pensions Commutation Act, 31 & 35 Vict. c. 36, during year ended 31st December 1896, in respect of which an Annuity had not been granted.	43,914	5 6	43,914	0 0
Advances under Public Accounts and Charges Act, 1891, 54 & 55 Vict. c. 24, s. 4, during year ended 31st December 1896, in respect of which an Annuity had not been granted.	27,000	0 0	27,000	0 0
Advances under Telegraph Act, 1892, 55 & 56 Vict. c. 59, during year ended 31st December 1896, in respect of which an Annuity had not been granted.	575,661	3 7	575,664	0 0
Advance under Uganda Railway Act, 1896, 59 & 60 Vict. c. 33, during year ended 31st December 1896, in respect of which an Annuity had not been granted.	147,000	0 0	147,000	0 0
			£118,377,179	0 0
				645,558 0 6
Add value of Securities -	-	-	118,377,179	0 0
Cash balance in Bank of England -	-	-	246,765	5 5
			£119,269,502	5 11

(a) Value, inclusive of interest, to 31st December 1896.

National Debt Office,
21st May 1897.G. W. HERVEY,
Comptroller General.

APPENDIX III. (J.)—continued.

Post Office Savings Bank—continued.

BALANCE SHEET.

RETURN of the BALANCE SHEETS of the Post Office Savings Banks for the Year 1896, showing the Balance due to Depositors, the Amount of Expenses remaining Unpaid, the Value of Securities according to the average price of the day on 31st December 1896, Amount of Cash in Hand and Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year, &c., and the Surplus of Assets over Liabilities.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balance due to Depositors on the 31st December 1896 (including interest) -	108,068,640	14 10	Value of Securities according to the average price of the day on 31 Dec. 1896 -	119,023,737	0 6		
Amount of expenses remaining unpaid (partly estimated) -	32,493	4 5	Amount of cash in hands of Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt -	246,765	5 5		
Surplus of assets over Liabilities -	11,496,388	15 11	Total Amount in the hands of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt -	-	-	119,560,502	5 11
			Deduct—Amount required to meet Warrants issued to Depositors but not cashed on 31st December 1896 -	90,945	1 3		
			Less—Amount in the hands of Her Majesty's Postmaster-General -	82,357	10 5	7,987	10 9
			Value of the Central Savings Bank Premises -	-	-	119,531,514	15 3
						354,000	0 0
						119,517,514	15 3

Total amount received from Depositors, including interest, to 31st December 1896 - - - - - £ 483,754,799 15 11
 Total amount repaid to Depositors to 31st December 1896 - - - - - 375,628,189 15 11

Number of Transactions.		Number of Accounts.	
Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Opened.	Closed.
176,930,059	61,675,751	21,718,196	14,856,101
			Remaining Open.
			6,567,035

The total number of transactions, i.e., Deposits and Withdrawals, from the commencement of Post Office Savings Bank business to the end of the year 1896 was 237,915,710.
 The sums of 126,879*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, 147,116*l.* 12*s.* 0*d.*, 77,787*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, 125,348*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, 144,879*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, 145,799*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, 123,189*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, 93,792*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, 93,040*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, 11*d.*, 67,011*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, 78,868*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, 72,465*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, 58,180*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, 46,662*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, 51,171*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, 21,922*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, 33,107*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, 3,884*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, and 16,883*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* have been paid into the Exchequer out of the funds of the Post Office Savings Banks in the years 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897 respectively under sec. 14 of the Act 40 Vict. c. 18, being the excess of interest which had accrued during the years 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897. The sum of 219,932*l.*, the cost of the site of the new Savings Bank buildings in Queen Victoria Street, and 129,030*l.* towards the cost of the new building, have been paid for out of the funds of the Post Office Savings Banks.

APPENDIX III. (K.)

Money Orders.

MONEY ORDER BUSINESS in the last TEN YEARS.

Year.	INLAND ORDERS			COLONIAL ORDERS.			FOREIGN ORDERS.			GRAND TOTAL.		
	Number.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Number.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Number.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Number.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.
1887-88	9,552,777	£ 22,891,676	Decrease. 2.1	387,970	£ 1,438,338	9.5	793,746	£ 2,014,112	15.5	10,744,493	£ 24,354,126	Decrease. .63
1888-89	9,228,183	23,957,649	3.4	424,987	1,521,013	7.	854,547	2,139,390	7.7	10,507,717	24,618,063	2.3
1889-90	9,027,750	23,335,417	1.6	453,102	1,631,616	6.6	893,592	2,200,872	4.5	10,374,144	27,185,906	1.3
1890-91	8,964,453	23,397,767	2.4	468,718	1,658,102	3.4	927,651	2,312,018	8.8	10,260,823	27,967,987	1.
1891-92	8,904,576	24,385,589	Increase. .4	479,626	1,656,061	2.3	960,428	2,359,984	3.5	10,344,630	28,429,634	Increase. .8
1892-93	8,963,032	24,618,809	.6	495,936	1,635,330	1.3	963,960	2,439,812	3.4	10,442,918	28,653,361	.9
1893-94	9,027,934	24,575,686	Decrease. .1	515,476	1,767,701	6.1	981,364	2,378,092	Decrease. 1.2	10,524,774	28,720,329	.7
1894-95	9,100,304	24,963,532	Increase. 1.5	518,562	1,711,818	.5	976,340	2,257,777	.5	10,685,206	29,923,127	1.5
1895-96	9,354,296	25,582,256	2.5	539,786	1,776,579	4.	1,023,831	2,360,002	Increase. 5.1	10,900,963	29,796,317	3.
1896-97	9,514,022	25,919,853	Decrease. .2	573,135	1,905,061	6.1	1,034,460	2,423,573	.7	10,921,617	30,249,087	.1

APPENDIX III. (K.)—continued.

Money Orders—continued.

Year.	ENGLAND AND WALES.				SCOTLAND.				IRELAND.				UNITED KINGDOM.						
	Number.	Amount. £	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.	Number of Money Orders issued to each 100 of population.	Number.	Amount. £.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.	Number.	Amount. £	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.	Number of Money Orders issued to each 100 of population.	
1887-88	7,851,990	19,289,306	D'cr. 2·7	2·2	27·4	1,068,611	2,369,442	1·7	7·3	27·2	602,176	1,222,928	1·5	4·	9,552,777	22,881,676	2·1	2·8	25·5
1888-89	7,560,195	19,267,308	3·7	D'cr. 4	26·15	1,079,719	2,422,705	1·7	2·2	26·5	538,269	1,267,548	2·3	4·	9,228,183	22,937,649	3·4	·83	24·5
1889-90	7,395,362	19,648,374	2·2	1·4	25·2	1,068,487	2,501,572	1·	3·2	26·	563,941	1,283,471	4·	1·2	9,027,750	23,333,417	2·1	1·6	24·
1890-91	7,578,248	20,044,082	D'cr. 1·7	2·5	25·06	1,045,048	2,546,719	2·1	1·8	25·9	551,187	1,306,066	2·2	1·8	8,864,483	23,807,767	1·8	2·4	23·43
1891-92	7,942,590	20,471,668	1·	2·1	25·	1,021,698	2,573,156	2·2	1·	25·1	542,579	1,339,045	1·5	2·4	8,906,576	24,383,569	Increase. 4·	2·	23·3
1892-93	7,391,775	20,653,172	6·	D'cr. 4	24·9	1,032,082	2,605,839	1·	1·2	25·2	539,175	1,354,798	·6	1·1	8,903,032	24,618,809	·6	·9	23·3
1893-94	7,483,054	20,847,160	1·2	·65	24·9	1,008,662	2,564,601	2·2	1·5	24·4	536,218	1,368,275	·5	·6	9,027,481	24,575,086	·7	D'cr. 1	23·3
1894-95	7,658,766	21,040,022	2·3	1·9	25·4	994,834	2,549,597	1·3	·5	23·9	536,714	1,369,913	·69	·64	9,190,304	24,953,532	Increase. 1·7	1·5	23·6
1895-96	7,778,115	21,539,006	1·5	2·3	25·3	1,017,320	2,571,839	2·2	4·7	24·2	538,861	1,371,391	·4	·5	9,334,296	25,582,236	1·5	2·5	23·6
1896-97	7,784,544	21,831,923	·08	1·4	25·1	992,426	2,606,671	2·4	·1	23·5	537,252	1,401,889	Dec. 2·	2·2	9,314,622	25,919,853	·2	1·3	23·4

APPENDIX III. (K.)—*continued.***Money Orders—*continued.***

A STATEMENT showing the NUMBER and AMOUNT of MONEY ORDERS issued by and for other GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, and the METROPOLITAN POLICE, during the year ended 31st March 1897.*

	Number.	Amount.
		£
Admiralty, Bills Branch - - -	33,919	115,619
" Greenwich Hospital - - -	4,683	5,448
" Naval Allotments - - -	239,705	377,153
" Pensions - - -	120,602	868,555
Board of Trade, Bankruptcy - - -	71,801	43,503
" Pensions - - -	7,191	6,564
Civil Service Commission - - -	964	3,931
Education Office, England - - -	8,534	87,538
" Scotland - - -	383	4,263
India Office - - -	1,897	8,049
Inland Revenue - - -	259,246	635,480
Metropolitan Police - - -	11,812	162,310
Office of Works - - -	9,876	26,226
Science and Art Department - - -	2,855	16,089
War Office - - -	627,579	2,347,510
Excise Duties - - -	367,382	1,325,843
Legacy and Succession - - -	9,222	51,027
Public Works, Ireland - - -	143	78
	1,777,794	6,085,136

* No payment for the services rendered is received from any of the Government Departments, except the India Office, which pays two-thirds commission. The Metropolitan Police also pays two-thirds commission.

APPENDIX III. (K.)—continued.
Money Orders—continued.

Year.	ISSUED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.						ISSUED IN THE COLONIES.						TOTAL.			
	Increase per cent. on Number.			Increase per cent. on Amount.			Increase per cent. on Number.			Increase per cent. on Amount.			Number.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.
	Number.	Amount.	11.	10.	9.	8.	Number.	Amount.	9.	8.	7.	6.				
1887-88	67,768	242,344	11.	10.	10.	9.	330,902	1,106,994	9.	8.			387,970	1,458,338	9.	8.
1888-89	74,085	268,407	9.	10.	10.	9.	360,902	1,252,606	6.	4.			424,987	1,521,013	7.	6.
1889-90	81,717	306,344	10.	10.	10.	9.	371,385	1,321,872	5.	6.			453,102	1,631,616	6.	7.
1890-91	86,191	315,316	5.	9.	9.	8.	383,527	1,342,786	8.	1.			468,718	1,683,102	3.	1.
1891-92	92,554	332,411	7.	5.	5.	4.	387,072	1,323,670	1.	Decrease.			479,628	1,656,081	2.	Decrease.
1892-93	103,181	365,894	11.	9.	9.	8.	393,755	1,500,936	Decrease.	4.			482,936	1,635,330	1.	1.
1893-94	117,425	430,364	13.	17.	17.	15.	398,061	1,537,337	Increase.	Increase.			513,476	1,767,701	6.	8.
1894-95	123,965	427,288	5.	Decrease.	Decrease.	17.	394,607	1,524,530	Decrease.	Decrease.			513,562	1,711,818	5.	Decrease.
1895-96	127,194	436,890	2.	1.	1.	19.	412,692	1,542,769	Increase.	Increase.			539,786	1,778,579	4.	3.
1896-97	129,171	430,414	1.	Decrease.	Decrease.	1.	443,964	1,471,547	7.	9.			573,135	1,906,061	6.	7.

APPENDIX III. (K.)—continued.

Money Orders—continued.

TABLE showing the AMOUNT (to the nearest Pound) of MONEY ORDER TRANSACTIONS between the UNITED KINGDOM and the COLONIES in each of the past Ten Years.

Year.	Africa, South and West.		Australia.		British America.		Cape Colony.		India.		New Zealand.		West Indies.		Other Colonies and Packet Agencies.		TOTAL.	
	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Africa.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Australia.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in America.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Cape Colony.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in India.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in New Zealand.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in the W. Indies.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in the Colonies.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in the Colonies.
1887-88	£ 4,544	£ 74,129	£ 79,927	£ 340,500	£ 66,310	£ 199,512	£ 11,108	£ 86,703	£ 31,694	£ 138,240	£ 24,385	£ 82,681	£ 8,161	£ 206,648	£ 15,915	£ 61,721	£ 242,344	£ 1,196,904
1888-89	6,789	68,982	79,003	371,628	74,637	223,048	11,709	103,135	51,321	132,633	23,634	75,373	7,079	221,212	14,315	54,589	263,407	1,252,006
1889-90	7,348	82,529	82,364	356,426	79,859	231,573	14,676	142,450	72,920	150,296	23,474	72,923	9,276	202,064	16,481	96,831	306,344	1,325,272
1890-91	9,325	91,935	87,355	346,337	73,773	215,598	16,780	165,064	70,213	180,645	24,536	70,710	10,019	196,251	18,365	76,196	315,310	1,342,786
1891-92	10,476	92,878	91,322	344,196	83,883	215,723	19,253	184,756	73,025	142,322	23,522	73,630	10,245	200,151	18,683	70,014	332,411	1,323,670
1892-93	12,051	91,119	103,322	294,894	84,417	215,513	23,730	207,179	86,344	127,077	25,062	74,276	10,813	201,066	19,553	58,212	365,394	1,269,936
1893-94	13,377	86,504	146,702	265,881	92,845	215,136	29,258	243,650	84,228	167,033	29,003	78,466	11,863	216,888	29,088	62,879	430,364	1,337,337
1894-95	12,224	95,646	124,692	226,434	102,887	193,274	35,060	279,433	89,406	143,257	30,303	72,688	11,496	207,409	21,160	64,389	427,238	1,281,530
1895-96	13,480	119,300	117,560	222,797	100,671	176,498	40,308	331,276	96,345	152,525	31,585	72,888	12,748	193,973	29,084	70,523	435,820	1,342,739
1896-97	21,152	235,542	112,874	342,063	102,705	163,225	41,341	348,048	82,337	182,764	31,288	70,785	14,005	163,475	24,402	63,315	430,414	1,475,247

APPENDIX III. (K.)—continued.

Money Orders—continued.

TABLE showing the AMOUNT (to the nearest Pound) of MONEY ORDER TRANSACTIONS between the UNITED KINGDOM and FOREIGN COUNTRIES in each of the past Ten Years.

Year.	Austria.		Belgium.		Denmark.		Egypt.		France.		Germany.		Italy.		Japan.		Hungary.		Iceland and Danish W. Indies.	
	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Austria.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Belgium.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Denmark.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Egypt.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in France.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Germany.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Italy.	Issued in Japan.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Hungary.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Iceland.	Issued in Danish W. Indies.
1887-88	9,583	10,656	23,898	38,249	10,640	9,609	3,307	23,029	111,036	130,204	169,109	105,858	38,238	76,094	303	1,334	2,251	1,628	103	8,530
1888-89	10,036	10,686	28,992	44,448	11,878	11,780	2,906	20,268	113,033	146,631	172,995	107,327	41,226	34,634	414	1,441	3,324	2,094	556	19,767
1889-90	13,637	12,007	24,854	42,103	13,390	12,447	3,643	21,123	125,500	151,933	178,295	113,992	46,717	26,125	449	1,637	2,556	2,394	680	6,326
1890-91	15,254	13,458	26,640	44,240	14,482	11,755	3,212	23,482	127,733	153,378	186,217	110,092	52,178	35,702	371	2,692	4,090	2,545	436	4,867
1891-92	17,737	13,735	26,126	48,834	16,289	14,312	3,265	25,341	131,169	164,861	192,097	127,904	50,566	56,357	562	1,534	5,635	3,538	533	5,117
1892-93	20,446	16,778	28,017	49,471	15,311	14,585	3,551	25,617	128,487	156,554	191,345	133,846	45,430	44,899	526	1,212	8,002	4,436	665	5,537
1893-94	26,105	19,869	28,113	50,371	16,062	15,805	4,042	28,405	121,916	154,938	183,708	138,218	36,718	21,168	825	1,054	9,084	5,093	551	4,298
1894-95	27,715	20,259	31,745	49,101	15,194	15,029	4,654	26,241	122,597	157,831	179,958	144,550	38,256	16,707	1,063	1,180	5,844	5,546	392	3,608
1895-96	32,054	24,561	32,404	51,277	15,562	15,354	4,379	26,337	129,064	164,355	178,087	146,108	47,751	21,213	1,084	2,254	5,838	7,757	569	4,084
1896-97	40,084	26,516	34,026	53,126	16,565	15,209	4,738	28,929	137,261	160,080	190,090	148,716	55,157	17,703	1,366	2,060	8,062	7,525	549	6,129

APPENDIX III. (K.)—continued.

Money Orders—continued.

TABLE showing the AMOUNT (to the nearest Pound) of MONEY ORDER TRANSACTIONS between the UNITED KINGDOM and FOREIGN COUNTRIES in each of the past Ten Years—continued.

Year.	Luxemburg.		Netherlands, and Dutch E. Indies.		Norway.		Portugal.		Roumania.		Sweden.		Switzerland.		Tunis.		United States.		TOTAL.	
	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Lux-emburg.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Netherlands and Dutch E. Indies.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Norway.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Portugal.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Roumania.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Sweden.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Switzerland.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Tunis.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in U.S.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued Abroad.
1887-88	—	—	£ 10,638	£ 16,819	£ 22,461	£ 2,974	£ 4,142	£ 3,415	£ —	£ —	£ 15,449	£ 6,625	£ 28,417	£ 18,047	£ —	£ —	£ 148,410	£ 956,003	£ 598,238	£ 1,415,874
1888-89	—	—	11,637	16,534	26,663	3,142	3,845	4,029	—	—	21,234	6,410	28,370	19,146	—	—	170,217	1,047,619	643,439	1,495,981
1889-90	—	—	12,879	19,314	28,506	4,346	6,176	4,498	—	—	25,753	7,383	31,273	22,212	30	217	180,026	1,060,260	692,631	1,508,241
1890-91	—	—	15,008	20,963	27,350	6,176	6,391	3,790	425	1,150	26,371	8,586	32,045	21,685	142	279	181,393	1,115,789	720,380	1,591,638
1891-92	—	—	16,651	23,252	24,632	6,677	2,902	11,145	598	2,302	27,042	8,876	32,766	22,402	87	317	196,430	1,107,282	746,139	1,643,845
1892-93	96	91	18,938	25,522	25,551	7,203	1,735	—†	609	2,983	27,508	9,904	32,674	21,842	124	561	104,224	1,109,469	741,470	1,688,342
1893-94	714	572	19,987	24,971	27,526	8,691	1,190	—	650	4,745	30,664	11,895	32,175	23,743	177	540	257,170	1,066,306	797,377	1,880,715
1894-95	758	617	21,323	27,010	27,774	9,374	967	—	1,065	4,613	29,243	11,892	34,373	24,509	45	519	244,177	952,310	786,883	1,470,894
1895-96	656	614	29,390	30,327	28,891	10,651	916	—	1,399	5,643	31,783	11,842	36,079	26,512	222	475	21,873	1,015,187	798,582	1,567,420
1896-97	768	916	42,535	32,525	36,894	11,782	729	—	1,704	5,162	37,683	12,406	36,850	26,908	204	296	247,853	973,637	893,558	1,580,015

† The issue of Money Orders in Portugal on the United Kingdom is suspended.

APPENDIX III. (L.)

Postal Orders.

TABLE showing the NUMBER and VALUE of POSTAL ORDERS issued to the PUBLIC from the commencement on the 1st January 1881 to the 31st March 1897.

NUMBER OF EACH CLASS OF POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED.																				TOTAL.	
																				Number.	Value.
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		
Quarter ended 31st March 1881.	62,589	48,994	—	62,041	—	—	—	—	124,147	40,381	122,745	—	17,553	31,736	11,001	126,312	646,989	292,160	10 0		
1881-2	462,823	362,094	—	437,096	—	—	—	—	853,306	292,020	868,736	—	110,691	292,665	60,611	911,978	4,462,920	2,006,917	19 0		
1882-3	948,678	739,105	—	825,108	—	—	—	—	1,468,520	440,229	1,350,096	—	181,832	318,769	97,343	1,606,454	7,860,328	3,451,234	0 6		
1883-4	1,700,453	1,307,774	—	1,383,656	—	—	—	—	2,164,178	676,168	1,870,963	—	266,745	444,657	143,184	2,318,773	12,286,550	5,028,663	9 0		
1884-5	1,407,937	1,003,609	922,180	1,371,127	796,733	406,848	844,565	319,530	3,036,913	1,025,384	2,916,248	394,789	—	1,127,985	—	4,943,267	25,760,316	10,788,946	2 6		
1885-6	1,694,491	1,089,449	1,831,461	1,581,502	1,843,562	703,036	1,407,125	565,831	3,997,290	1,146,139	3,974,602	694,880	—	1,325,839	—	5,891,525	31,006,711	12,968,839	19 6		
1886-7	2,225,587	1,471,775	1,900,340	1,907,100	1,691,524	912,717	1,920,346	742,332	4,795,124	1,376,281	4,538,659	894,960	—	1,490,517	—	6,596,463	36,386,147	14,496,869	19 6		
1887-8	2,559,701	1,772,774	2,288,881	2,169,338	1,985,946	1,064,598	2,260,050	889,704	5,511,549	1,607,113	5,049,738	1,090,775	—	1,635,049	—	7,154,169	40,292,321	16,112,079	15 0		
1888-9	2,866,289	2,047,563	2,593,854	2,427,739	2,181,063	1,240,596	2,539,021	1,005,489	6,046,886	1,804,163	5,514,832	1,284,698	—	1,795,111	—	8,443,034	48,941,765	19,178,367	8 0		
1889-90	3,266,008	2,338,828	2,951,140	2,690,614	2,415,301	1,361,083	3,348,712	1,367,115	7,620,070	2,378,597	6,901,891	1,656,370	—	2,064,181	—	8,980,821	52,059,545	20,568,750	0 6		
1890-91	3,699,150	2,631,736	3,340,251	2,998,441	2,646,301	1,525,144	3,080,649	1,494,194	8,101,497	2,523,813	7,124,315	1,764,128	—	2,174,989	—	9,117,156	56,990,668	21,845,153	10 6		
1891-92	4,016,124	2,924,441	3,535,118	3,297,246	2,844,011	1,654,188	3,360,323	1,552,221	8,300,544	2,656,717	7,315,946	1,850,005	—	2,216,308	—	9,155,927	57,252,839	21,768,783	4 0		
1892-93	5,580,891	3,272,642	3,947,271	3,631,580	3,142,482	1,872,973	3,894,072	1,673,483	8,924,330	2,841,397	7,004,988	1,978,193	—	2,361,452	—	9,410,103	63,651,078	22,769,282	11 0		
1893-94	4,478,011	3,536,495	4,301,678	3,930,679	3,356,712	1,967,239	4,063,074	1,775,253	9,321,088	3,016,918	8,062,140	2,111,300	—	2,426,046	—	9,854,301	64,076,377	23,496,594	7 6		
1894-95	5,218,479	3,780,579	4,567,886	4,278,216	3,518,392	2,121,855	4,298,867	1,902,063	9,764,529	3,147,525	8,278,075	2,221,929	—	2,587,509	—	10,119,047	67,182,998	24,896,874	4 6		
1895-96	5,530,333	4,036,730	4,833,092	4,506,810	3,701,354	2,247,202	4,298,867	1,902,063	9,764,529	3,147,525	8,278,075	2,221,929	—	2,587,509	—	10,119,047	67,182,998	24,896,874	4 6		
1896-97	50,485,521	35,746,576	40,706,402	40,834,296	32,666,742	1,508,138	37,869,075	15,553,124	91,906,897	29,061,781	88,869,540	15,737,763	628,710	21,887,108	339,707	106,075,890	590,253,370	245,297,316	7 6		

RATES OF POUNDAGE.																																																																																																														
										1d.	2d.	3d.	4d.	5d.	6d.	7d.	8d.	9d.	10d.	11d.	12d.	13d.	14d.	15d.	16d.	17d.	18d.	19d.	20d.	21d.	22d.	23d.	24d.	25d.	26d.	27d.	28d.	29d.	30d.	31d.	32d.	33d.	34d.	35d.	36d.	37d.	38d.	39d.	40d.	41d.	42d.	43d.	44d.	45d.	46d.	47d.	48d.	49d.	50d.	51d.	52d.	53d.	54d.	55d.	56d.	57d.	58d.	59d.	60d.	61d.	62d.	63d.	64d.	65d.	66d.	67d.	68d.	69d.	70d.	71d.	72d.	73d.	74d.	75d.	76d.	77d.	78d.	79d.	80d.	81d.	82d.	83d.	84d.	85d.	86d.	87d.	88d.	89d.	90d.	91d.	92d.	93d.	94d.	95d.	96d.	97d.	98d.	99d.	100d.	
To 31st May 1884.	Poundage.										1d.	2d.	3d.	4d.	5d.	6d.	7d.	8d.	9d.	10d.	11d.	12d.	13d.	14d.	15d.	16d.	17d.	18d.	19d.	20d.	21d.	22d.	23d.	24d.	25d.	26d.	27d.	28d.	29d.	30d.	31d.	32d.	33d.	34d.	35d.	36d.	37d.	38d.	39d.	40d.	41d.	42d.	43d.	44d.	45d.	46d.	47d.	48d.	49d.	50d.	51d.	52d.	53d.	54d.	55d.	56d.	57d.	58d.	59d.	60d.	61d.	62d.	63d.	64d.	65d.	66d.	67d.	68d.	69d.	70d.	71d.	72d.	73d.	74d.	75d.	76d.	77d.	78d.	79d.	80d.	81d.	82d.	83d.	84d.	85d.	86d.	87d.	88d.	89d.	90d.	91d.	92d.	93d.	94d.	95d.	96d.	97d.	98d.	99d.	100d.
From 1st June 1884	Poundage.										1d.	2d.	3d.	4d.	5d.	6d.	7d.	8d.	9d.	10d.	11d.	12d.	13d.	14d.	15d.	16d.	17d.	18d.	19d.	20d.	21d.	22d.	23d.	24d.	25d.	26d.	27d.	28d.	29d.	30d.	31d.	32d.	33d.	34d.	35d.	36d.	37d.	38d.	39d.	40d.	41d.	42d.	43d.	44d.	45d.	46d.	47d.	48d.	49d.	50d.	51d.	52d.	53d.	54d.	55d.	56d.	57d.	58d.	59d.	60d.	61d.	62d.	63d.	64d.	65d.	66d.	67d.	68d.	69d.	70d.	71d.	72d.	73d.	74d.	75d.	76d.	77d.	78d.	79d.	80d.	81d.	82d.	83d.	84d.	85d.	86d.	87d.	88d.	89d.	90d.	91d.	92d.	93d.	94d.	95d.	96d.	97d.	98d.	99d.	100d.

RATES OF POUNDAGE.

To 31st May 1884.	Poundage.																1d.		2d.													
—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.															
Amount of Order	1	0	1	6	2	0	2	6	3	0	3	6	4	0	4	6	5	0	7	6	10	0	10	6	12	6	15	0	17	6	20	0
From 1st June 1884	Poundage.																1d.		—													
																	—		11d.		—											

Postal Orders for the sums of 12s. 6d. and 17s. 6d. were abolished on the 31st May 1884.
Postal Orders for the sums of 2s. 3s. 4s. 5s. 6s. 7s. 8s. 9s. 10s. 11s. 12s. 13s. 14s. 15s. 16s. 17s. 18s. 19s. 20s. 21s. 22s. 23s. 24s. 25s. 26s. 27s. 28s. 29s. 30s. 31s. 32s. 33s. 34s. 35s. 36s. 37s. 38s. 39s. 40s. 41s. 42s. 43s. 44s. 45s. 46s. 47s. 48s. 49s. 50s. 51s. 52s. 53s. 54s. 55s. 56s. 57s. 58s. 59s. 60s. 61s. 62s. 63s. 64s. 65s. 66s. 67s. 68s. 69s. 70s. 71s. 72s. 73s. 74s. 75s. 76s. 77s. 78s. 79s. 80s. 81s. 82s. 83s. 84s. 85s. 86s. 87s. 88s. 89s. 90s. 91s. 92s. 93s. 94s. 95s. 96s. 97s. 98s. 99s. 100s. 101s. 102s. 103s. 104s. 105s. 106s. 107s. 108s. 109s. 110s. 111s. 112s. 113s. 114s. 115s. 116s. 117s. 118s. 119s. 120s. 121s. 122s. 123s. 124s. 125s. 126s. 127s. 128s. 129s. 130s. 131s. 132s. 133s. 134s. 135s. 136s. 137s. 138s. 139s. 140s. 141s. 142s. 143s. 144s. 145s. 146s. 147s. 148s. 149s. 150s. 151s. 152s. 153s. 154s. 155s. 156s. 157s. 158s. 159s. 160s. 161s. 162s. 163s. 164s. 165s. 166s. 167s. 168s. 169s. 170s. 171s. 172s. 173s. 174s. 175s. 176s. 177s. 178s. 179s. 180s. 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APPENDIX III. (M.)

Official Correspondence.

A STATEMENT showing the WEIGHT of CORRESPONDENCE carried for the following Public Offices, &c., in the Year ended the 31st March 1897.

NAMES OF OFFICES.	Correspondence.			Total Weights.
	Weight in Ounces.			
	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Ireland.	
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Admiralty	3,243,180	—	—	3,243,180
Attorney General	11,036	—	—	11,036
Board of Agriculture	1,810,255	—	—	1,810,255
Board of Trade	2,173,068	—	—	2,173,068
Brussels Exhibition	24,345	—	—	24,345
Chancellor, The Lord	53,432	—	—	53,432
Charity Commissioners	270,308	—	—	270,308
Chelsea Hospital	60,028	—	—	60,028
Chicago Exhibition	36,053	—	—	36,053
Chief Secretary, Dublin Castle	154,203	—	577,508	731,711
Civil Service Commissioners	338,468	—	2,650	341,118
Clerk of the Parliaments	489,614	—	—	489,614
Colonial Office	684,965	—	—	684,965
Congested Districts Board	—	—	196,475	196,475
Constabulary of Ireland	—	—	448,840	448,840
Courts of Law and Justice, Scotland	—	45,029	—	45,029
Crown and Hanaper	—	—	5,334	5,334
Crown Office	—	58,200	—	58,200
Customs	1,039,032	—	9,629	1,039,061
Emigrants' Information Office	153,410	—	—	153,410
Exchequer and Audit Department	143,262	—	—	143,262
Exchequer Offices in Scotland	—	32,032	—	32,032
Foreign Office	453,422	—	—	453,422
Home Office	1,769,188	7,050	—	1,776,238
House of Commons	374,008	—	—	374,008
Inland Revenue	14,404,690	5,077,382	3,583,979	23,066,051
Irish Fisheries, Inspector of	—	—	166,077	166,077
Irish Land Commission	—	—	526,108	526,108
Loan Fund Board	—	—	42,532	42,532
Local Government Board	3,146,922	93,912	781,607	4,021,841
Local Marine Board	774,005	—	—	774,005
Lord Lieutenant and Private Secretary	—	—	32,176	32,176
Lunacy, Commissioners in	73,826	—	48,405	122,231
Merchant Seamen, Registrar of	538,911	—	—	538,911
Mint, The Royal	8,827	—	—	8,827
National Debt Office	82,130	—	—	82,130
Patent Office	1,067,603	—	—	1,067,603
Paymaster General	66,423	—	39,963	106,391
Prisons Board	—	—	297,403	297,403
Privy Council Office	2,750,614	—	—	2,750,614
Public Education	—	60,975	1,009,499	1,130,474
Public Works Loan Board	21,884	—	—	21,884
Record Office	13,132	—	4,681	17,813
Register House	—	135,767	—	135,767
Registrar General	1,097,485	314,866	353,168	1,765,519
Registrar of Friendly Societies	163,340	17,001	2,584	182,925
Registrar of Petty Sessions, Clerks	—	—	122,834	122,834
Science and Art Department	2,818,245	—	—	2,818,245
Scotch Education Department	437,602	—	—	437,602
Secretary for Scotland	136,600	7,437	—	144,037
Solicitor General	3,420	—	—	3,420
Stationery Office	2,246,712	—	92,224	2,338,936
Supreme Court of Judicature	414,431	—	50,507	465,238
Surveys of the United Kingdom	—	—	196,396	196,396
Treasury	573,245	—	—	573,245
Valuation Office	—	—	128,450	128,450
War Office	4,005,668	28,054	612,883	4,646,510
Woods and Forests, Commissioners of	100,870	—	—	100,870
Works and Buildings, Commissioners of	256,154	—	749,015	1,005,169
TOTALS	49,474,421	5,877,705	10,141,292	64,463,418

APPENDIX III. (N.)

Private Wires.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of PRIVATE WIRE CONTRACTS, MILES of WIRE, and INSTRUMENTS, and the Net Additional Rentals in each of the last 10 Financial Years.

Financial Year.	Net Increase in each Financial Year.				Totals at end of each Financial Year.			
	Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments and Batteries.	Rentals. £ s. d.	Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments and Batteries.	Rentals.* £ s. d.
1887-88	-	43	301	1,304 9 7	8,543	16,873	9,161	124,073 1 6
1888-89	-	52	171	1,149 0 0	3,595	17,044	9,251	125,322 1 6
1889-90	-	89	167	1,695 15 10	3,684	17,211	9,332	126,917 17 4
1890-91	-	21	2,834	12,518 15 8	3,705	20,045	9,449	139,436 13 0
1891-92	-	150	2,121	† —	8,855	22,166	9,992	133,257 10 11
1892-93	-	† —	662	3,555 15 10	†3,809	22,828	10,188	136,813 6 9
1893-94	-	† —	275	1,955 16 11	†3,705	23,103	10,234	138,769 3 8
1894-95	-	4	106	1,318 9 9	3,709	23,209	10,341	140,087 13 5
1895-96	-	122	—	—	3,831	21,581	10,385	\$134,312 3 0
1896-97	-	—	799	1,067 3 0	3,821	22,380	10,401	135,379 6 0

* These amounts include rentals for certain lines leased to Cable Companies.

† The rates for Private Wires were reduced in 1891, consequent on the expiry of telephone patents, and existing rentals were reduced accordingly.

‡ The decrease is due to the abolition of Rentals for Telephone Trunk Lines, and the substitution of a system of payment per conversation.

§ The decrease is due to certain lines leased by Cable Companies having been given up, and to the receipts for Telephone Trunk Lines being no longer brought to account as rental.

APPENDIX III. (O.)

Inland Revenue Licenses.

NUMBER and DESCRIPTION of LICENSES issued by the POST OFFICE during the last Ten Years.

Year.	Brewers.		Dogs.		Male Servants at 15s. each.	Carriages.					
	At 9s. each.	At 4s. each.	At 7s. 6d. each.	At 42s. each.		At 21s. each.	At 15s. each.	At 10s. 6d. each.	At 7s. 6d. each.		
1887-88	-	-	-	19,172	783,731	107,571	78,283	252	212,160	-	1,025
1888-89	-	-	-	18,374	824,984	109,747	41,873	46,947	197,142	-	1,338
1889-90	-	-	-	17,346	882,717	113,037	31,404	57,670	199,330	295	1,319
1890-91	-	-	-	15,981	924,176	116,674	29,521	57,856	207,463	353	1,463
1891-92	-	-	-	14,323	975,500	117,997	29,079	56,202	208,438	331	1,565
1892-93	-	-	-	13,553	1,042,865	119,073	28,679	56,707	216,225	295	1,462
1893-94	-	-	-	11,656	1,105,007	118,683	27,946	55,055	217,738	256	1,438
1894-95	-	-	-	11,573	1,182,500	114,513	26,207	52,161	214,468	335	1,720
1895-96	-	-	-	10,870	1,205,615	117,176	26,294	53,945	232,505	360	1,860
1896-97	-	-	-	9,962	1,238,921	113,968	24,763	51,603	229,685	330	1,639

APPENDIX III. (O.)—continued.

Inland Revenue Licenses—continued.

NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF LICENSES issued by the Post OFFICE during the last Ten Years—continued.

Year.	Armorial Bearings.		Guns at 10s. each.	Game.			Game Keepers at 40s. each.	Total Number.	Revenue.
	At 42s. each.	At 21s. each.		Red at 60s.	Blue and Green at 40s.	Occasional at 20s.			
1897-98	-	9,146	25,083	23,475	2,464	3,084	2,507	1,407,776	£ 901,322 13 0
1898-99	-	9,232	25,083	23,552	2,624	2,885	2,860	1,440,694	894,483 14 0
1899-00	-	9,234	26,635	26,012	2,807	3,480	3,088	1,518,136	908,163 0 0
1900-01	-	9,400	27,207	27,458	2,884	3,520	3,302	1,588,632	943,319 1 0
1901-02	-	9,360	27,727	28,552	3,453	3,751	3,288	1,633,668	965,202 15 0
1902-03	-	9,166	28,632	29,604	3,232	4,206	3,553	1,710,860	1,002,687 15 0
1903-04	-	9,029	28,672	32,101	3,108	4,636	3,629	1,788,424	1,034,215 2 0
1904-05	-	8,385	28,055	31,708	3,114	4,388	3,632	1,827,028	1,038,856 4 0
1905-06	-	8,406	28,318	33,488	3,289	5,043	3,746	1,896,824	1,078,994 8 0
1906-07	-	7,821	27,767	36,308	3,406	5,794	3,903	1,932,708	1,094,423 12 0

APPENDIX III. (P.)

RETURN showing, for each YEAR from 1887-88, the REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, and NET REVENUE of the POST OFFICE.

Year.	REVENUE.				EXPENDITURE.										Percentage of Total Expenditure to Total Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue after deducting Expenditure on Sites and Buildings from Total Expenditure.	
	Postal Receipts.	Extra Receipts.	Estimated Value of Services to other Departments.	Total.	Sites and Buildings.		Superannuation.	Salaries, Wages, &c.	Percentage of Salaries, &c. to Total Revenue.	Conveyance of Mails.	Percentage of Mails to Total Revenue.	Packet Service.	Other Expenditure.					Total Expenditure.
					Purchase.	Erection.							Under Office Vote.	Under other Votes.				
1887-88	8,697,085	394,521	220,462	9,313,003	58,676	47,479	148,750	3,307,182	35.51	1,540,500	13.52	098,172	030,897	142,519	6,281,231	67.44	3,081,537	3,185,992
1888-89	9,090,462	390,024	229,073	9,715,559	76,744	68,201	150,923	3,424,197	35.24	1,247,442	12.83	036,887	721,051	140,632	6,466,127	66.55	3,249,432	3,394,467
1889-90	9,467,165	36,279	218,037	9,721,481	70,900	79,840	153,921	3,359,563	34.53	1,240,821	12.85	064,342	553,910	142,783	6,275,063	64.54	3,446,396	3,597,136
1890-91	9,843,268	16,297	220,112	10,089,677	23,255	141,522	131,046	3,600,306	35.78	1,273,894	12.62	706,130	590,979	150,566	6,637,504	65.79	3,451,173	3,616,950
1891-92	10,193,290	15,682	227,026	10,431,998	103,197	169,729	153,320	3,897,932	37.29	1,308,290	12.61	701,081	625,715	172,224	7,102,487	69.77	3,259,511	3,598,487
1892-93	10,344,353	—	255,796	10,600,149	75,975	150,569	176,533	4,190,923	39.53	1,360,297	12.83	719,615	634,937	178,906	7,507,645	70.82	3,092,504	3,319,048
1893-94	10,472,976	—	262,000	10,734,985	46,934	171,823	183,412	4,446,361	41.41	1,393,917	13.00	720,350	624,374	170,311	7,739,712	72.28	2,975,173	3,183,980
1894-95	10,743,014	—	277,446	11,025,460	12,597	175,380	195,919	4,507,355	41.69	1,395,232	12.65	729,813	677,524	178,464	7,935,344	72.15	3,070,116	3,225,103
1895-96	11,405,370	—	284,373	11,731,915	49,847	170,073	199,386	4,734,446	40.25	1,394,192	11.85	714,332	625,074	199,080	8,066,272	68.70	3,673,673	3,893,595
1896-97 (Estimated)	11,875,856	39,841	230,433	12,146,935	10,339	165,698	207,678	4,926,887	40.56	1,400,016	11.52	722,685	620,976	196,933	8,233,112	67.94	3,693,923	4,069,890

APPENDIX III. (Q.)

RETURN showing, for each YEAR from 1887-88, the REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, and NET REVENUE of the POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Year.	REVENUE.				EXPENDITURE.										Percentage of Total Expenditure to Total Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue after deducting Expenditure on Sites, Buildings, and Extensions, from Total Expenditure.	Interest on Stock created for Purchase of Telegraphs.
	Telegraph Receipts.	Extra Receipts.	Estimated Value of Services to other Departments.	Total.	Purchase.	Erection.	Telegraph Extension.	Superannuation.	Salaries, Wages, &c.	Percentage of Salaries to Total Revenue.	Maintenance of the Telegraph System.	Percentage of Main Revenue.	Other Expenditure.					
													Sites and Buildings.	Telegraph Extension.				
1887-88	1,944,528	17,837	30,594	1,992,940	27,802	11,062	90,062	25,007	1,227,255	61.57	401,707	20.31	153,422	59,628	1,969,033	1,969,033	123,843	326,417
1888-89	2,079,107	17,443	33,415	2,129,965	21,081	16,521	86,077	27,130	1,275,940	59.90	402,589	19.00	156,406	55,517	2,041,361	2,041,361	212,263	353,787
1889-90	2,807,444	20,326	38,329	2,954,099	13,908	42,112	140,131	26,776	1,392,414	53.47	445,566	19.84	162,126	54,953	2,273,986	2,273,986	88,604	306,016
1890-91	2,394,579	25,804	37,331	2,456,764	4,548	63,740	100,735	29,607	1,506,219	61.30	440,351	17.91	177,579	53,902	2,388,531	2,388,531	85,113	290,264
1891-92	2,484,079	25,925	35,580	2,546,612	50,171	63,205	156,333	29,689	1,635,093	64.23	443,924	17.63	187,752	60,678	2,635,805	2,635,805	184,476	298,888
1892-93	2,486,791	—	39,521	2,526,312	24,595	63,274	97,740	33,374	1,717,123	67.96	409,619	19.49	201,368	62,701	2,692,994	2,692,994	19,927	298,888
1893-94	2,531,264	—	44,042	2,579,206	19,300	43,135	84,144	36,673	1,904,603	69.96	501,474	19.44	195,736	68,400	2,757,645	2,757,645	178,450	298,888
1894-95	2,598,985	—	47,429	2,646,414	3,915	32,834	74,819	39,791	1,933,634	69.23	500,833	19.02	212,903	69,353	2,788,052	2,788,052	141,659	298,888
1895-96	2,835,740	—	44,045	2,879,784	15,156	74,374	80,102	42,389	1,865,419	65.81	512,319	19.83	196,792	73,601	2,990,341	2,990,341	129,285	298,888
1896-97 (Estimated)	2,922,440	—	44,004	2,967,353	7,343	84,214	185,415	47,298	1,980,503	66.37	533,388	17.97	203,290	77,646	3,108,067	3,108,067	110,774	298,888

APPENDIX III. (R.)

**Extract from the Finance Accounts for the
Year ended 31st March 1897.**

*Inserted by desire of the Select Committee on Estimates, Revenue
Departments.*

**DETAILED STATEMENT of the GROSS RECEIPTS and NET
PRODUCE of the REVENUE.**

POST OFFICE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross Receipts :						
From Postage Stamps sold by Postmasters in the United Kingdom -	12,339,397	19	1½			
From Postage Stamps sold by Stamp Distributors of Inland Revenue -	261,283	2	1½			
				12,600,681	1	2½
From Postage collected in cash by Country Postmasters -	11,251	0	8			
From Postage collected in cash in the Metropolis -	180,483	4	0½			
				191,734	4	8½
From Postage collected for credit of Imperial Post Office by Foreign Offices -	76,950	6	6			
From Postage collected by Colonial Offices and Postmasters and Agents Abroad -	63,413	16	8			
				140,364	3	2
From Commission on Money Orders -	134,776	4	1½			
Ditto Postal Orders -	287,499	4	6			
				422,275	8	7½
From Miscellaneous Receipts -	-	-	-	35,148	19	8½
				18,390,203	17	5
Payments out of Receipts :						
For Postage, &c., refunded -	18,667	13	9½			
To Inland Revenue Department -	535,320	0	0			
To Railway Companies, &c., on account of Parcel Post -	694,055	0	5			
For Postage collected for credit of Colonial Offices -	103,915	18	6½			
For Postage collected for credit of Foreign Offices -	161,588	18	11			
				1,513,547	11	8½
Net Receipts	-	-	£	11,876,656	5	8½
Payments into Exchequer	-	-	-	£11,860,000	0	0

General Post Office, }
June 1897.

JAMES J. CARDIN,
Comptroller and Accountant-General.

APPENDIX III. (R.)—*continued.*

TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross Receipts :						
For transmission of Telegrams, &c., in						
Cash	799,140	9	2½			
For transmission of Telegrams, &c., in						
Stamps	2,488,470	12	6			
				3,287,611	1	8½
Payments out of Receipts :						
To Cable Companies, &c., Telegram						
Moneys refunded, &c., &c.	-	-	-	365,162	3	3½
Net Receipts	-	-	£	2,922,448	18	5
Payments into Exchequer	-	-		£2,910,000	0	0

General Post Office, }
June 1897.

JAMES J. CARDIN,
Comptroller and Accountant General.

APPENDIX III. (S.)

Cumulative Account showing the Fluctuations
Balances

	Year ending			
	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Value of Stores in Depôts at commencement of year	£ 212,183 10 1½	£ 236,786 7 9½	£ 206,364 17 0½	£ 211,542 16 1½
Value of Stores purchased during year, including wages for completing Stores	146,498 5 4	142,256 17 10½	142,512 15 8½	173,849 15 7½
Value of Stores returned into Stock under the following Sub-heads:—				
C ² Maintenance - - - -	115,468 16 8½	137,908 5 0½	138,065 3 10½	116,566 10 1½
C ³ Gas, &c. - - - -	—	—	—	—
C ¹¹ Maintenance [Ships] - - -	3 9 3½	7 15 2½	28 3 2	16 5 9½
O ¹ Extensions - - - -	375 14 6½	2,085 3 11	840 5 0½	657 5 2½
O ² Re-arrangements - - - -	18,917 6 8½	16,083 6 8½	18,710 11 4½	17,274 6 7½
O ³ Private Telegraphs - - -	13,120 14 1½	19,550 17 11½	15,174 6 4	12,226 5 8
O ⁴ Works executed for Ely. Co.'s, &c. -	607 9 2½	963 13 7½	601 14 6	757 7 3½
O ⁵ Government Dept ^l . Telegraphs -	153 3 8½	285 12 10½	253 12 10½	370 1 1
O ⁶ Coast Communications - - -	—	—	—	—
O ⁶ Works executed for War Office -	—	—	—	—
Losses by default, fire, &c. - - -	—	—	0 2 6	4 0 0
E ⁴ Electric lighting of West Chief Offices - - - -	—	—	98 17 6	188 1 0
G ⁴ Fuel and Light - - - -	—	—	—	—
Extra receipts - - - -	—	—	0 1 3	0 0 7
L Stores (Morse and Wheatstone Paper, &c.) - - - -	—	—	—	—
Postal G ⁶ Incidental Expenses - - -	—	—	2 10 0	21 10 0½
Postal A ¹³ Gas and Electric Light - -	—	—	—	—
Postal E ² Maintenance and Repairs of Buildings (P.O.S.B.) - - - -	—	—	—	—
Postal E ³ Fuel and Light (P.O.S.B.) - -	—	—	—	—
Postal E ¹⁷ New Buildings and Works (P.O.S.B.) - - - -	—	—	—	—
Postal G ⁶ Supply and Repair of Mail Bags, &c. - - - -	—	—	—	—
Postal C ⁶ Fuel and Light (Provincial) -	—	—	—	—
Postal C ⁶ Fuel and Light (Scotland) -	—	—	—	—
Western Highlands and Islands Extension -	—	—	—	—
War Office Suspense Account - - -	—	—	—	—
Telephone Trunk Lines - - - -	—	—	—	—
Sundry Special Works Account - - -	—	—	—	—
Lightship Communication Account -	—	—	—	—
Total - - - -	507,328 9 0½	545,628 0 11½	521,671 1 2½	533,474 5 3

APPENDIX III. (S.)

in the Consumption of Telegraph Stores, and the
in Depôts.

March 31st.

1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
239,865 9 3½	243,403 15 6½	239,011 6 10	305,833 3 3½	317,159 2 0½	319,884 5 8½
190,314 17 5½	230,237 2 2½	287,353 6 5½	355,558 0 10½	225,792 2 4½	296,385 1 11½
85,926 16 2½	90,516 11 9	101,515 11 8½	110,493 11 5½	75,071 2 3	63,784 0 3
—	—	3 0 0	—	0 5 3	3 19 4½
26 10 2½	35 19 7	124 7 3	65 1 0	38 10 2½	18 14 3
618 12 11½	1,111 3 0	1,459 0 10	2,098 17 4½	1,179 13 3½	676 15 6½
15,143 1 3	13,255 18 7	17,376 1 2	4,999 16 6	5,759 7 10	5,437 16 2½
12,424 19 11	16,678 13 3½	11,211 7 0	9,270 14 2½	6,121 6 9½	7,763 11 1½
768 2 6½	1,745 19 0	1,550 13 5½	1,360 13 4	940 0 1	1,314 9 5½
273 3 11	796 15 3½	1,296 5 1	1,011 10 11	2,229 10 4½	459 19 7
—	—	447 4 0½	1,044 2 3½	350 4 0½	269 6 8
—	—	—	—	60 9 8½	54 14 8
—	816 15 9	—	—	0 9 0	—
1 4 0	32 19 11½	160 2 4½	32 18 5½	78 14 11	676 19 2
—	6 13 2	3 8 7½	34 5 2	127 1 10½	205 15 3½
1 7 0	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	0 8 4	5 6 3	—	—
3 6 10½	17 4 10	5 11 6	4 2 9	36 10 1	18 0 10
28 4 2	120 0 11½	445 16 2½	473 0 9½	127 1 4	410 0 3½
—	—	—	—	—	9 14 7
0 4 4½	7 3 11	166 0 3½	192 19 2½	85 14 4	235 15 9½
—	—	—	—	0 11 11	—
11 12 8½	140 5 9	20 12 3	—	16 14 10	—
—	2 13 2	18 2 10	8 18 9	28 12 6	110 17 6½
—	—	—	21 0 0	179 16 1	253 15 4
—	194 13 3	16 9 7½	—	1 2 2	0 9 11
—	—	—	—	350 16 6½	—
—	—	1,491 11 10½	21,716 19 2½	52,362 14 0	15,214 7 3
—	—	—	—	35 8 7½	44 5 5½
—	—	—	15 10 6	83 4 9	576 19 11
544,307 13 6	649,170 8 0	663,676 7 9½	814,198 12 1½	688,216 7 2½	718,139 16 2½

APPENDIX III. (S.)—continued.

Cumulative Account showing the Fluctuations
Balances in

	Year ending			
	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Value of Stores issued under the following Sub-heads:—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
C ³ Maintenance - - -	196,094 6 7	237,192 19 8½	213,678 15 1½	203,917 8 2½
C ¹¹ „ [Ships] - - -	519 2 6½	700 15 7½	471 3 7	809 14 7½
O ¹ Extensions - - -	6,409 4 0½	7,567 10 2	8,476 4 4	5,808 3 5½
O ² Re-arrangements - - -	51,569 16 8½	49,562 14 10½	52,006 19 4½	51,974 18 3½
O ³ Private Telegraphs - - -	21,103 12 4½	41,892 2 4½	30,739 11 10	23,574 2 7
O ⁴ Works executed for Ely. Co.'s, &c. -	1,623 18 7	1,041 7 3½	2,131 17 11½	2,207 9 0½
O ⁵ Government Deptl. Telegraphs -	1,823 6 2½	1,212 0 11½	2,150 8 10½	2,193 3 2½
O ⁶ Coast Communications - - -	—	—	—	—
O ⁸ Works executed for the War Office	—	—	—	—
Losses by default, fire, &c. - - -	224 6 8½	70 5 2½	30 12 8	31 17 1
E ⁴ Electric Lighting of West Chief Offices - - -	1,175 8 0	123 7 7½	64 6 5½	328 16 0
G ⁶ Fuel and Light - - -	—	—	—	4 9 8½
L Stores (Morse and Wheatstone paper, &c.) - - -	—	—	—	4 3 4
C ⁹ Gas, Water, Fuel, &c. - - -	—	—	—	—
Postal A ¹³ Gas and Electric Light - - -	—	—	—	1,220 7 4
Postal C ⁵ Fuel and Light (Provincial) -	—	—	—	1 18 4
Postal C ⁷ Incidental Expenses, &c. -	—	—	—	—
Postal E ² Maintenance of Buildings, &c. (P.O.S.B.) - - -	—	—	—	—
Postal E ⁵ Fuel and Light (P.O.S.B.) -	—	—	—	526 6 4½
Postal E ¹⁷ New Buildings (P.O.S.B.) -	—	—	—	—
Postal G ⁶ Supply and repair of Mail Bags, &c. - - -	—	—	368 7 0½	1,145 11 3
Postal G ⁸ Incidental Expenses (Mail Bags, &c.) - - -	—	—	0 7 10	859 5 1½
Postal C ¹⁹ Fuel and Light (Scotland) -	—	—	—	0 0 7½
Postal A ⁸ Water, Fire Insurance, &c. -	—	—	—	—
Postal A ¹² Stores - - -	—	—	—	—
War Office Suspense Account - - -	—	—	—	—
Western Highlands and Islands Extension	—	—	—	—
Telephone Trunk Lines - - -	—	—	—	—
Lightship Communication Account - -	—	—	—	—
Sundry Special Works Account - - -	—	—	—	1 1 5½
Value of Stores in Depôts at end of year -	226,786 7 9½	203,364 17 0½	211,542 16 1½	238,865 9 3½
Total - - -	507,328 9 6½	545,623 0 11½	521,671 1 2½	533,474 5 3

APPENDIX III. (S.)—continued.

in the Consumption of Telegraph Stores, and the
Dépôts—continued.

March 31st.

1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
<i>£ s. d.</i> 171,023 5 8	<i>£ s. d.</i> 196,250 6 9½	<i>£ s. d.</i> 200,658 1 4½	<i>£ s. d.</i> 208,781 11 3½	<i>£ s. d.</i> 170,177 14 1½	<i>£ s. d.</i> 163,769 14 11½
1,965 13 2½	1,044 12 8	848 4 7½	909 19 11½	1,001 5 11	971 4 4½
6,906 13 9½	10,563 8 1	12,916 14 9	17,218 5 3½	15,307 5 9	10,290 2 11
65,708 13 7½	131,935 14 6½	38,217 7 5½	22,637 6 8	12,108 7 5½	21,232 4 9
34,903 6 10½	37,840 6 5½	21,910 17 1½	20,279 17 9½	14,067 3 1	18,435 13 4½
4,912 8 2½	6,120 17 4	7,759 8 10½	5,606 0 9	3,467 11 4½	3,818 9 0
4,339 10 0½	4,804 1 4	7,621 15 1½	5,960 12 2½	2,714 7 4	4,692 7 3
—	—	12,960 18 11	7,322 8 2	4,265 12 0½	3,865 8 5½
—	—	—	—	4,760 16 2	6,859 14 8
53 8 0	3,261 1 5½	21 3 0	16 5 2½	53 17 10	36 14 0
1,579 1 11	620 5 9	1,429 5 7	1,706 19 11	1,455 13 9	1,466 9 4
5 12 1½	316 16 11	371 2 1½	343 10 7½	334 4 5	2,721 7 5
28 18 4	1 9 8	17 19 5	23 0 2	18 6 2	21 8 0
—	2,160 10 5	3,808 5 6½	1,456 12 9½	260 1 8	193 11 9
7,514 9 0½	6,060 11 3½	8,135 7 0½	4,954 3 9½	4,383 14 9	3,842 4 10½
20 19 5	704 3 2	565 4 8	685 7 11½	461 8 4	7,305 8 1½
—	—	—	0 1 4	3 9 7½	2 10 10
—	—	—	—	15 14 0	26 17 2
864 17 3½	607 1 2½	1,106 7 3½	803 0 3	1,412 15 0½	715 3 2½
—	—	—	37 15- 0	3 3 8½	—
1,046 16 11½	928 0 7½	840 4 4½	2,582 14 5½	2,333 0 0½	1,92 4 2
814 4 10	1,012 0 2½	2,173 10 2½	614 19 5½	269 9 4½	408 10 9
—	35 5 10	102 5 0	2,631 9 4½	1,148 0 3½	646 1 11
—	1,208 2 0½	45 13 9	161 2 6½	212 9 3	181 13 8
—	—	—	8 5 9	—	2 7 8
—	—	—	8,071 17 4	1 1 8	—
—	4,659 18 5	538 17 7½	—	192 16 8½	268 15 11
—	—	35,738 14 3½	179,583 0 1½	123,163 16 1½	94,068 16 4
—	—	—	4,534 1 10½	3,818 16 8½	4,436 10 11
7 13 7½	6 6 11	5 16 4	—	48 18 9	606 10 0½
243,403 15 6½	239,011 6 10	305,883 3 3½	317,159 2 0½	319,864 5 8½	365,378 10 5
544,307 13 6	649,170 8 0	638,974 7 9½	814,196 12 1½	688,216 7 2½	718,189 16 2½

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