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POST OFFICE.

FORTY-FOURTH REPORT

OF

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

ON

THE POST OFFICE.

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



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POST OFFICE.

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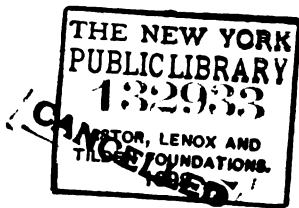
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FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.

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-fourth Annual Report of the Postmaster-General, being an account of the business of the Department for the year ended the 31st of March 1898.

The year has been distinguished by changes in postal and telegraph rates and arrangements, some devised for the special benefit of residents in rural districts, and others for the advantage of the public generally.

My first duty is to record these reforms, which were announced to the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his Budget speech, on the 29th April 1897, and were introduced, as far as possible, on Jubilee Day the 22nd June 1897. They will always be associated in the public mind with the Diamond Jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen.

I. Reduction of postage on Inland Letters :

Weight not exceeding	Old Rate.	New Rate.
1 oz.	1d.	} 1d.
2 oz.	1½d.	
4 oz.	2d.	
6 oz.	2½d.	
8 oz.	3d.	1½d.
		2d.

and so on at the rate of ½d. for each additional 2 oz.

II. Abolition of Inland Sample Post.

The new letter rate being the same as the old rate for patterns and samples, the separate post for those articles ceased to exist, and merchants can send their samples by letter post without the restrictions which applied to the separate post.

III. Reduction of Postage on Inland Parcels:

Old Rate.	New Rate.	For a Weight of
3d.	3d.	1 lb.
4½d.	4d.	2 lbs.
6d.	5d.	3 lbs.
7½d.	6d.	4 lbs.
9d.	7d.	5 lbs.
10½d.	8d.	6 lbs.
1s.	9d.	7 lbs.
1s. 1½d.	10d.	8 lbs.
1s. 3d.	11d.	9 lbs.
1s. 4½d.	1s.	10 lbs.
1s. 6d.	1s.	11 lbs.

IV. Delivery of letters by postmen at every house in the kingdom.

V. Abolition of all charges for delivery of telegrams within three miles of telegraph delivery office, and reduction of portage charges on distances over three miles to 3d. per mile from the delivery office.

VI. Reduction by one half of guarantees for new Telegraph Offices and Money Order Offices.

VII. Free delivery of telegrams at all hours in the Metropolitan District.

Further reference to these great changes will be found in the various sections of this report.

ANNUAL RETURNS OF LETTERS, &c., DELIVERED.

Before giving the estimated numbers of letters, &c., delivered during the year under review, I ought to state that until this year it had been the practice to take returns of letters, at different periods of the year, for one week or for two weeks at each office, but during the year 1897-98 the returns were taken in the same week throughout the Kingdom. Under the old system, therefore, there was no complete return of the whole correspondence passing in any one week through the post. Under the new system, the returns are complete for the single week which has been selected for the purpose.

The third week in October was selected, after careful consideration, because it was supposed that the work of that week represented approximately the ordinary business of the Post Office, which fluctuates considerably at various seasons of the year. But, as the Budget reforms, which came into operation on Jubilee Day, when almost three months of the financial year had passed, led to an increase in the volume of correspondence, it is obvious that a return taken in October cannot represent the average of the whole financial year.

I have therefore assumed that letters and book-packets were posted during the first quarter of the financial year at the same rate as during the previous year, and have calculated the

number for the remaining nine months on the return taken in October.

On this basis, the numbers of postal packets delivered during the year 1897-98 are :—

Appendix,
page 41.

—	Number estimated.	Increase per Cent.	Average Number to each Person.
Letters - - -	2,012,300,000	6·3	50·4
Post Cards - - -	360,400,000	7·1	9·0
Book Packets, Circulars, and Samples - - - }	727,300,000	4·2	18·2
Newspapers - - -	150,900,000	0·2	3·8
Parcels (actual number) -	67,823,000	6·4	1·7
Total - - -	3,318,723,000	5·6	83·1

The number of letters registered in the United Kingdom was 14,213,479, an increase of 5·8 per cent. on the previous year. Of this number 47·6 per cent. passed through the General Post Office, London.

The figures show an increase in the rate of growth under each head save that of Newspapers, the number of which has varied but slightly for some years.

The rate of growth of the letter post has been double that shown last year—6·3 per cent. against an increase of 3·2 per cent. in 1896-97 over 1895-96, and the total number of letters delivered in the country during the year has exceeded the enormous figure of two thousand millions. Letters.

I cannot doubt that this marked increase is due in large measure to the concessions made on Jubilee Day, when the weight allowed to pass for a postage of one penny was raised to four ounces, and the inland sample post was merged in the letter post. With a letter rate so low as 2d. for half a pound and 4d. for a pound, the letter post has tended to supersede the parcel post for light packets.

Postcards have again increased at a more rapid rate than any other class of correspondence, being 7 per cent. more than last year, which showed a growth of 7 per cent. over the previous year. The number of postcards used is almost double the number used 10 years ago, a large proportion being private cards. Post Cards.

Book packets and circulars are estimated to have increased in number at the rate of 4·2 per cent., although for nine months of the year this post was restricted to packets not exceeding 2 ounces in weight, and the figures ceased to include inland samples, which were counted with the book packets and circulars last year. Book Packets and Circulars.

PARCEL POST.

The total number of parcels delivered in the kingdom increased by 6·4 per cent. over last year's figures, which showed an increase of 5·2 per cent. over those for 1895-96.

The parcel post has steadily grown in popularity since its establishment in 1883, and the reduction in the rates of postage for all parcels over 1 lb. in weight, which came into force on Jubilee Day, has accelerated the rate of growth of this post, especially in Scotland and Ireland. This accelerated growth is the more remarkable because a large number of lighter parcels have, as already stated, been attracted to the letter post as being the more rapid and easy mode of transmission. That the heavier parcels have increased in number more rapidly than the lighter ones is shown by the fact that the average postage per parcel for the year fell only $\frac{2}{5}$ ths of a penny, viz., to 5·04d. instead of to 4·82d., as would have been the case if the relative weights of parcels posted had remained the same after Jubilee Day as before. I have also found from the number of receptacles required for the parcel mails since June that there has been an appreciable increase in the average bulk of parcels. In the London Office last February the number of baskets despatched was 13 per cent. larger than in February 1897.

Parcels to and
from places
abroad. 1898-99

The total number of parcels sent to and received from places abroad during the year was 2,075,357, an increase of 10½ per cent. on the number for the previous year. The outward and inward parcels increased in nearly equal proportions. The largest growth has been in the service with France, Germany, Italy, South Africa, and Australasia; while there has been a falling off in the number of parcels exchanged with the West Indies and in those from India. According to the Board of Trade Returns, the value of the goods exported and imported by parcel post during the last two years has been as follows:—

—	1896-97.	1897-98.	Increase.
Exported - -	£ 1,789,834	£ 2,070,417	£ 280,583
Imported - -	998,915	1,122,724	123,809
Total - -	2,788,749	3,193,141	404,392

The total number of Foreign and Colonial parcels insured was 117,545 as against 98,535 in the previous year, an increase of nearly 20 per cent.

THE EXPRESS DELIVERY SERVICE.

There has again been a considerable advance in the number of express services, the total for the year being 551,379 as

compared with 438,126 in 1896-97—an increase of nearly 26 per cent. The increase in 1896-97 over the previous year was 20 per cent., and the business has thus in two years grown by over 50 per cent.

The provincial services, although still forming about 34 per cent. only of the whole number, are showing a more rapid rate of increase than has hitherto been the case, and this is believed to be mainly due to the more frequent recourse being made to the system in the rural districts, where the cost of special delivery over long distances has of late been substantially lessened by the use of bicycles.

The number of ordinary post letters delivered, by arrangement, by special messenger in advance of the postman, reached 251,455 in London last year.

I am glad to have been able recently to effect a further diminution of the charges for express delivery, namely in the weight-charge levied upon packets exceeding 1 lb. in weight. This has now been reduced from 1½d. to 1d. per pound (beyond the first pound). The charge will, moreover, be limited to a maximum of 1s. in future, and it is hoped that these changes will remove to some extent a cause which has tended hitherto to restrict the use of the service for the conveyance of heavy packets.

UNDELIVERED POSTAL PACKETS.

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

Appendix II.,
page 69.

—	Number.	Increase or Decrease.
Letters - - - -	7,699,040	Increase. 1,063,878
Post Cards - - -	1,294,216	Increase. 115,072
Book Packets - - -	11,620,374	Increase. 94,100
Newspapers - - -	534,120	Decrease. 28,364
Parcels - - - -	175,675	Increase. 19,271

It will be observed that the proportion of undelivered book packets is very much greater than the proportion of undelivered letters. This is apparently due to the fact that large numbers of circulars are addressed every year to addresses found in old directories and other similar publications. It is remarkable that the traders of the country should incur considerable loss, and indirectly entail much labour on the Department, by resorting to partially obsolete information for the addresses of those to whom they desire to send their circulars.

The number of letters which could neither be delivered to the addressees nor returned to the senders was 720,172, or 9 per

cent. of the total number of letters dealt with in the Returned Letter Offices.

The value of property in letters opened in those offices was 593,947l. 38,860 letters were posted without address during the year, of which 2,203 contained property to the value of 4,715l. 71,358 ordinary letters and 1,036 ordinary parcels issued from the Returned Letter Offices were registered, under the rules introduced last year, because of the value of their contents.

The number of parcels found in the post without address rose from 8,649 in 1896-97 to 12,143 in 1897-98; and I feel bound once more to appeal to senders of parcels to use greater care in addressing them. It is best to put the address upon the parcel itself, and not to use a paper label, which is liable to become torn. If a label is used the address should be written on the cover of the parcel as well as on the label.

CHANGES IN REGULATIONS.

My department has for some time been pressed by merchants dealing in oil, grease, and colouring powders to relax the rules of the Letter Post and allow them to send samples of their goods in glass receptacles by the ordinary post, such articles having hitherto been transmissible only by Parcel Post both in this country and between this country and places abroad.

The Chambers of Commerce assured me that additional facilities for the cheap transmission of such samples were needed, especially by traders doing business with the Continent and the Colonies, and I consented to the admission of glass, liquids, grease, and colouring powders to the Inland Letter Post and the Foreign and Colonial Sample Post from the 1st March last, on condition that the senders observed certain regulations as to packing which were necessary to secure the safety of the ordinary correspondence carried in the same mails.

I take this opportunity of urging on all who take advantage of this concession to send glass, liquids, and powders by post, the necessity of using strong covers and sufficient packing.

Live Bees.

Another concession which took effect from the same date was to admit live bees in suitable boxes to the Letter or Parcel Post within the United Kingdom and to the Sample Post between this country and places abroad.

Re-direction.

Since the 1st March last any person whose letters have been officially redirected from an old address to his new address for 12 months, has been at liberty to apply for an extension of the privilege on payment of a fee of 1l. 1s. a year. As a rule the period of a year for which removals are kept on record is more than sufficient to admit of all correspondents being informed of the new address, but there are cases of firms and private persons who leave an address which had become widely known, and are unable within a year to secure the use of their

new address by all their correspondents. I have thought it right to provide an arrangement for the renewal of the official record of removal in these cases, a fee being charged to cover the additional trouble imposed on the officers of the Department.

HOME MAILS.

The daily number of letter mails from London to provincial head offices has increased by 35, and the number of mails from provincial head offices to London by 23 during the year. Country Mails.
Appendix,
page 62.

The number of bags of mails received at and despatched from the General Post Office on an ordinary week day reaches the large total of 20,000.

I reported last year the acceleration on the 1st April 1897 of the Mail Service between London and Dublin, which secured an earlier arrival of the Night Mail in Dublin by 40 minutes, and of the Day Mail by 20 minutes, and a later despatch of the Night Mail by 50 minutes and of the Day Mail by 30 minutes. The Irish Mail
Service.

On the following 1st May the improvement was extended to the Irish Provinces, and, generally speaking, the Down Day Mail from Dublin, which works in connection with the Night Mail from England, is now 40 minutes earlier, and the Up Day Mail to Dublin, which works in connection with the Night Mail to England, is now 50 minutes later than formerly, although it has not been possible in every case, and especially on the branch lines, to improve the service to the full extent.

It has, however, been necessary, owing to the later arrival in Dublin of the Day Mails from the Provinces, to postpone by 50 minutes the despatch of the Down Night Mails from Dublin. The later arrival of the Night Mail in the Irish Provinces consequent upon this later departure from Dublin, has not in the majority of cases resulted in a later delivery of letters, but in several of the remoter districts the maintenance of the former hour of delivery has not been practicable, and some curtailment of accommodation has been unavoidable.

Further improvements in the London and Dublin Day Mail Service have been under consideration during the year under review, but the result will more properly be recorded in the history of the current year.

On the 4th May a Mail Service to Alderney was commenced, which is probably unique. Every Tuesday a mail is sent from Southampton to Cherbourg, and transferred in Cherbourg Harbour, without being landed, to a boat running from Cherbourg to Alderney. A Mail from Alderney to Southampton is sent every Tuesday in the same way. Alderney
Mail Service.

RURAL POSTS.

As one of the most important features of the postal history of the year under review is the extension of the rural deliveries, See Appendix
I., page 32.

I have thought it fitting to publish as an Appendix to this Report a history of the rural posts from early times down to the year 1897. I have added, for the purposes of comparison, a statement showing how the same subject is being dealt with in the United States.

The decision of the Government to complete the work of extension which had been in progress for many years, and to give a regular delivery of letters to every house in the kingdom, was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget Speech on the 29th April 1897. The Chancellor explained that the arrangements for this universal delivery would occupy some time, and that it would not be possible to give a daily delivery to the more remote houses.

It was roughly estimated at the time that the total number of letters to be brought into delivery was 16,000,000 a year, but this is now known to have been an under-estimate, and it appears probable that, at the date of the Budget of 1897, a very much larger number of letters were undelivered at the houses to which they were addressed.

Since the Budget my officers have been actively engaged in arranging the extended deliveries, and up to the end of March last I had sanctioned proposals for the delivery of nearly 12,000,000 letters a year,* which formerly were left at post offices or at other houses to be called for by the addressees.

Some members of the public have expressed disappointment that the whole of the extensions were not carried out forthwith like the other Jubilee reforms, but I may point out that it is no easy matter to combine in suitable posts the scattered houses which have until now been excluded because of their remoteness from main roads and villages. Each new service involves local inquiry, and in extending the postmen's visits to houses hitherto unserved, care has to be taken that letters for houses already on the men's routes are not unduly delayed by reason of deviations to new places, and also that the men themselves are not overworked. In fact, every post to which new deliveries are assigned must be separately revised by the Surveying Staff; and it is estimated that between Jubilee Day and the end of the financial year 3,800 sets of rural posts had been established or revised at an average additional cost of 10*l.* each. The work of extension is being actively continued during the current year in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, as well as in England, and the next Report may be expected to record the completion or practical completion of the scheme. In the meanwhile, I am glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging the zealous manner in which the officers of my Surveying Staff have set themselves to carry out this difficult and important undertaking.

* Perhaps I may anticipate next year's report by adding that up to the end of July I had sanctioned proposals for the delivery of 20,000,000 letters a year.

MOTOR VANS FOR CONVEYING MAILS.

Experiments have been made during the year with motor vans driven by oil, steam, and electricity.

An oil motor car, the property of the British Motor Syndicate, was engaged for a week in October for the conveyance of Letter Mails between the General Post Office and the South-Western District Office, and again, a fortnight later, for the conveyance of Parcel Mails for a week between the South-Western District Office and Kingston-on-Thames.

The arrangements with the contractors for the London Van and Cart Services admitted of the temporary transfer of this work, because the contracts, while fixing the rates for the several kinds of vehicles employed, leave the Postmaster-General free to diminish or increase the quantity of work at his pleasure.

For the oil motor car a nominal charge was made of 1*l.* 6*s.* a week, said to be the out-of-pocket expenses of the Syndicate, whereas for the service which the motor car displaced in the first week about 6*l.* would, under the contracts, have been paid; and for the service to Kingston, which it displaced in the second week of trial, there would have been paid the sum of 5*l.* 7*s.* The motor car performed the work in each case with great regularity and in somewhat less time than the horse conveyance ordinarily employed. The experiment was not pursued, as the car was not specially constructed for mail work, and the British Motor Syndicate preferred waiting before making further experiments, until they were in possession of a more suitable car.

The next experiment was with a steam motor car, the property of Messrs. Julius Harvey. The number of parcels for despatch by the London and Brighton Parcel Coach had for some time been considerably in excess of the load which the coach could carry, and the steam motor car was engaged between London and Redhill for six weeks, from the 16th December, for the conveyance of the overflow. The price charged was 7*l.* a week, as compared with an amount ranging from 11*l.* 8*s.* to 14*l.*, the estimated cost of a pair horse van of like capacity. After the expiration of the six weeks the car was taken off and overhauled, and it again worked for a second term of three or more weeks on the same road and at the same rate of payment. An accident occurred on one occasion through a tube giving out, but as a rule the journey between London and Redhill of 24½ miles out, 23½ return, was performed in from 10 to 20 minutes within the time allowed for a horse conveyance.

An electric motor car, the property of the Electrical Vehicle Syndicate was also employed for four weeks on town work. One or two accidents occurred which led to delays, such as the slipping of a rubber tyre and the displacement of a screw, but in other

respects the work was satisfactorily performed. The charge per week was 3*l.* 10*s.* as compared with 6*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* which would have been paid under the London contracts.

So far as the experiments went, they showed that motor cars were likely to prove in the near future a mode of conveyance for letter and parcels mails which would be attended with advantage both as regards speed and economy.

Arrangements have since been made for extended trials in London, on the Redhill route, in the neighbourhood of Reading, and also in Scotland and Ireland. It is confidently hoped that they will show that motors can be permanently used with advantage to the Mail Service.

POSTAL UNION.

Washington
Postal
Congress.

The fifth Congress of the Delegates of the Powers associated in the Universal Postal Union took place at Washington in May and June 1897, for the purpose of discussing a variety of proposals and improvements in the postal communications of the civilised nations of the world. The most conspicuous change was a reduction in the rates payable by any country to any other country for the conveyance of closed mails by land or sea. The land rates of 2 francs a kilogramme for letters and postcards, and 25 centimes a kilogramme for printed papers, &c., were reduced by 5, 10, and 15 per cent. at intervals of two years, and the sea-rate of 15 francs a kilogramme for letters and postcards was reduced at the same intervals to 14, 12, and 10 francs. The general principles of the Union, as laid down and developed at previous Congresses, were maintained; and, while the great aim of the Powers to secure uniformity of rates and postal customs was kept steadily in view, the right of every country to reduce the normal rates by special agreement with other countries or with its colonies was formally recognised. This recognition, of course, facilitates any design for cheapening the postage rates within the British Empire which the Imperial Government may concert with the Governments of British dependencies.

New
adhesions.

The kingdom of Corea and the Orange Free State have recently joined the Postal Union; China undertakes to do so at no distant date; and there is good hope of the early adhesion of the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Rhodesia. With these exceptions, the Union embraces every important part of the civilised world.

Minor postal
reforms.

Among other changes which the Congress effected, I may mention the following:—Unpaid postcards, under the new Convention, will, after the 1st January next, be charged double the postcard rate only, instead of double the letter rate, as at

present. Certain restrictions as to postcards have also been removed, so that, practically, the public will enjoy nearly the same facilities in regard to foreign as to inland cards. The rules as to printed matter, circulars, visiting cards, &c., have in some measure been relaxed; the limit of weight for samples has been raised to 350 grammes throughout the Union; and arrangements have been made for the free circulation throughout the Union—of course, under stringent conditions as to packing—of samples of liquids, glass, powders, and grease.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MAILS.

Although the general reduction of Union transit rates has but an inconsiderable immediate effect on British postal revenue, it was decided on at a time when fresh arrangements were about to be negotiated with the French and Italian Governments for the special service connected with the British mails to and from the East, and clearly had a good effect on the results of those negotiations. Still further reductions than those which had been obtained from those Governments in recent years on the rates paid for this service have been obtained; and the new arrangements now completed will lead to a substantial saving to this country as well as to its Possessions in the East and in Australasia. The one rate which was still being paid on these mails in excess of the Postal Union rate for land transit by ordinary services—namely, the rate of 4 francs per kilogramme paid to the French Post Office for the conveyance of letters and postcards—has been reduced to the normal Union rate of 2 francs; while the Italian Post Office, which was already accepting the actual Union rates, has consented to apply to them the successive percentage deductions which were agreed upon at Washington in the case of ordinary services. The French concession will result in a saving of no less than 8,900*l.* a year, and during the five years covered by the new arrangements the percentages in the Italian case will yield a rebate of over 11,000*l.*, or an average of 2,200*l.* a year. There will be a further rebate during the same period of over 700*l.* on the homeward Australian mails conveyed by ordinary train from Naples.

Transit of
Indian mails.

By the establishment of a mail service to and from New Zealand via Vancouver, to alternate with that via San Francisco, a fortnightly service across the Atlantic and Pacific has been provided.

New Zealand
service via
Vancouver.

The proposed fast mail service to and from Canada, which I mentioned in my last report as having been arranged by the Canadian Government to commence in June 1899, has for the present been abandoned.

Canadian
service.

Dutch mails.

Negotiations have been in progress during the year for the diversion of the mails from this country for the chief cities of the Netherlands from the Dutch service viâ Flushing to the British service viâ Harwich and the Hook of Holland; and the Dutch Post Office have consented to the change, which did not, however, come into operation during the year under review, but on the 1st May of the present year.

Parcel Post.

The Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post has been extended to Peru, viâ France and Germany, and to the Republic of Honduras, viâ Belize.

The transmission of parcels to and from Normandy has been facilitated by the establishment of a service viâ Newhaven and Dieppe, while, by the establishment of a service viâ Holland, parcels for or from North Germany and Denmark have been considerably accelerated. That the latter service responds to a public want is evidenced by a large increase in the total number of parcels sent to Germany and Denmark by all routes.

Parcels can now be sent to and from India viâ France and Italy, thus occupying a week less in transit than those sent the whole distance by sea. The postage on parcels sent by the long sea route has been revised, and in the case of heavy parcels considerable reduction has been effected. Other revisions of postage took place in the case of parcels for the Cameroons and Togo, Mexico, Persia, and Siam.

The facilities of the Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post have been extended by applying to it as far as possible the Express Delivery system, and by an arrangement for enabling the senders of parcels to pay the Customs and other charges arising in the country of destination. The foreign countries already taking part in the Express Delivery Service for parcels at the end of the year under review were Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Holland, Luxemburg, Montenegro, and Switzerland. The only British colony which had accepted the system was Sierra Leone. The arrangement for prepaying Customs duties was adopted during the year for parcels to and from the under-mentioned countries and colonies:—

Foreign Countries.—Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Holland, Italy, Luxemburg, Montenegro, and Switzerland.

British Possessions. — Barbados, Cape Colony, Cyprus, Falkland Islands, Gambia, Grenada, Hong Kong, Lagos, Malta, Mauritius, Natal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Tobago.

The insurance system has been extended to parcels exchanged with Mauritius, viâ Colombo, and with the Austrian Post Offices in Turkey.

MONEY ORDERS.

Appendix,
p. 83.

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

	Number.			Amount.		
	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.
<i>Inland.</i>				£	£	£
Ordinary - - -	7,300,929	7,375,758	5,829*	20,553,868	19,306,401	1,247,467
Telegraph - - -	205,754	160,470	45,284	696,944	528,316	170,628
Government Offices -	1,853,926	1,777,794	76,132	6,241,333	6,085,136	156,197
Total inland - - -	9,429,609	9,314,022	115,587	27,494,145	25,919,853	1,574,292
<i>Foreign and Colonial.</i>						
Issued in the United Kingdom and paid abroad :						
Colonial - - -	137,655	129,171	8,484	483,935	430,414	53,521
Foreign - - -	386,231	355,633	30,598	993,901	896,558	100,343
Total outwards - - -	523,886	484,804	39,082	1,477,836	1,326,972	150,864
Issued abroad and payable in the United Kingdom :				£	£	
Colonial - - -	429,660	443,964	14,304*	1,358,936	1,475,247	116,311*
Foreign - - -	745,103	678,827	66,276	1,783,662	1,530,015	253,647
Total inwards - - -	1,174,763	1,122,791	51,972	3,142,598	3,005,262	137,336
Total Foreign and Colonial Orders - - -	1,698,649	1,607,595	91,054	4,620,434	4,329,234	291,200
Grand total - - -	11,128,258	10,921,617	206,641	32,114,579	30,249,087	1,865,492

* Decrease.

It will be seen that the number of ordinary Inland Orders shows a slight reduction on the number for the previous year. A decrease in the number of Orders for small amounts occurred in the first months of the year under review, but was almost cancelled by the general increase in the later months.

The amount remitted by ordinary Inland Orders shows a marked increase, 1,247,467*l.*, or 6 per cent., which indicates that the public have taken advantage of the reduction of commission for orders of larger amounts.

The use of the telegraph for transmitting money within the United Kingdom has developed rapidly during the year, the increase in the number of orders having been 23 per cent., and in the amount transmitted 32 per cent. The average amount remitted by telegraph money order rose from 3*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* to 3*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*

Telegraph
Money Orders.

Foreign and
Colonial
Money Orders.

There has been a general growth in the Money Order business between this country and places abroad, the apparent decrease shown in the Appendix in money orders from the Colonies being explained by a change in regard to orders from the South African Republic, which were formerly advised through the Cape Post Office, but are now advised to London direct.

Extension of
system.

An exchange of Money Orders has been established with the Virgin Islands, and the service with Germany has been extended to German South-West Africa.

International
Telegraph
Money Orders.

The negotiations for an exchange of International Telegraph Money Orders have been protracted longer than was anticipated, but have now reached an advanced stage.

POSTAL ORDERS.

Appendix,
p. 92.

The number of Postal Orders issued during the year has been 71,380,975, representing 26,014,583*l.*, as against 67,182,998 for 24,826,874*l.* in 1896-7, an increase of 6·2 per cent. in number and 4·8 per cent. in amount.

The largest increase has been in the case of 1*s.* Postal Orders, the number sold being 11·6 per cent. larger than in the previous year. The sale of Postal Orders for 1*s.* 6*d.* has risen by 9·2 per cent., and the lowest percentage of increase is 3·4 per cent., in the case of the Orders for 20*s.*

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

Appendix,
p. 75.

The number of deposits and withdrawals in 1897 was larger than in any previous year, but the total amount deposited fell somewhat short of the total for 1896. The amount withdrawn, while some 5 millions less than the sum deposited, was over 2 millions more than in 1896.

The full figures are given as usual in appendices, but a summary is shown below :—

		£
Amount due to depositors on 31st December		
1896 - - - - -		108,098,641
	£	
13,012,935 deposits - - -	35,757,476	
4,670,483 withdrawals - - -	30,624,995	
Excess of deposits over withdrawals - - -		5,132,481
Add interest for 1897 credited to depositors - - -		2,665,664
Amount due to depositors on 31st December 1897		<u>£115,896,786</u>

1,269,995 accounts were opened and 892,269 accounts closed during 1897, resulting in an addition of 377,726 to the number of depositors; as compared with an addition of 408,438 in

1896, and making, at the 31st December 1897, a total of 7,239,761.

It is of interest to observe the use made of the Savings Bank in each of the three Kingdoms :—

	At 31st December 1897.			
	Number of Depositors.	Total Amount Standing to Credit of Depositors.	Average Amount to Credit of each Depositor.	Proportion of Depositors to Population.
England and Wales	6,612,639	£ 105,255,252	£ s. d. 15 18 4	1 in 4·7
Scotland	304,636	3,935,926	12 18 5	1 in 13·8
Ireland	323,486	6,705,608	20 15 10	1 in 14·1
United Kingdom	7,239,761	115,896,786	16 0 2	1 in 5·5

The average amount to the credit of each depositor in the United Kingdom has increased 5s. 1d. in the year.

The daily average number of deposits made throughout the year was 42,526, as against 41,033 in 1896, and the average amount deposited each day was 116,854*l.*, as against 117,721*l.* in 1896, and 104,490*l.* in 1895. The daily averages of withdrawals were 15,263 and 100,081*l.*, as against 14,180 and 92,497*l.* in 1896. The average amount of each deposit fell from 2*l.* 17s. 5d. in 1896 to 2*l.* 14s. 11d. in 1897, while the average amount of each withdrawal rose from 6*l.* 10s. 5d. in 1896 to 6*l.* 11s. 2d. in 1897. Average daily transactions.]

The greatest number of deposits made on one day was 96,588 on the 30th January 1897, and the largest amount deposited on one day was 316,716*l.* on the 31st December. The greatest number of withdrawal warrants issued on one day was 42,961 on the 21st December 1897, and the largest amount of such warrants was 178,090*l.* on the 15th of the same month. Largest daily transactions.

The withdrawals by telegraph numbered 126,896, of which 117,507 were immediate and 9,389 by return of post. The daily number of such withdrawals was much larger than usual just before and after Jubilee Day, but the largest number of applications dealt with on one day was 1,018 on Christmas Eve. Withdrawals by telegraph.

The total amount transferred from Trustee Savings Banks during 1897 was 72,460*l.* Transfers from Trustee Banks.

The cost of management during 1897, including 12,896*l.* for land and buildings, was 450,938*l.*, i.e., 6·1d. per transaction, compared with 6d. per transaction in 1896. The rate per cent. Average cost of each transaction.

of expenses to capital was 7s. 11½d. in 1896, and 7s. 9½d. in 1897.

Deficit on
business of
the year.

For the second time in the history of the Savings Bank the annual balance sheet has shown a deficiency, the amount for 1897 being 9,231l. 18s. 11d. This deficiency has, of course, been due to the high price of Consols.

Number of
Offices open
for Savings
Bank
business.

On the 31st December 1897 the number of offices open for Savings Bank business was 12,212,* an increase of 345 on the year. Of the total number of offices, 9,911 are in England and Wales, 1,176 in Scotland, and 1,125 in Ireland. A depositor can transact business at any of these offices irrespective of the place at which his account was opened, and an increasing proportion of transactions takes place at offices other than those where the accounts were opened. The percentage of such "cross-entries" has risen from 29 to nearly 36 during the last 10 years.

Accounts of
Societies, &c.

The number of new accounts opened for friendly societies during 1897 was 492, a decrease of 177 on the number in 1896. Charitable and Trade societies to the number of 2,565 opened accounts during the year, and 282 penny banks began to use the Department. There has been a slight decline in the number of stamp forms issued to schools for depositing the children's pence with less trouble to the teachers than is involved in conducting a penny bank. There has been a further increase in the work devolving upon the Department in connection with the payment of the scholarships awarded by the Technical Educational Board of the London County Council, the amount placed to the credit of the Scholars' Savings Bank accounts in 1897 being 22,137l., in 12,964 separate deposits.

A large number of accounts was opened in the summer of last year by gifts to children and workpeople in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Soldiers'
accounts.

Deferred pay of soldiers leaving the Army was received to the amount of 404,815l. in 20,455 deposits, but, as usual, the bulk of the money was quickly withdrawn by the soldiers.

Soldiers serving abroad have deposited through the War Office "Public Accounts," 4,378l. during the year in 1,033 deposits.

Stock Invest-
ment business.

The investments of depositors in Government Stock were 16,935 for 967,142l., and the sales of such stock, 13,769 for 796,486l.; the result being an increase in the amount of stock to the credit of depositors from 6,891,891l. to 7,033,564l. The number of accounts rose by 936 to 69,113.

* It will be observed (page 23) that this number had risen to 12,300 by the 31st March 1898.

The following figures show the amount of Post Office Annuity business in the last five years:—

Immediate Annuities.

Year.	Number of Immediate Annuities Purchased.	Amount		Increase or Decrease per Cent.		
		Of Annuities.	Of Purchase Money.	Number of Immediate Annuities.	Amount of Annuities.	Purchase Money.
		£	£			
1893	1,420	36,746	461,599	—	—	—
1894	1,565	41,495	540,277	Inc. 10·21	Inc. 12·92	Inc. 17·04
1895	1,898	49,816	665,363	„ 21·27	„ 20·05	„ 23·15
1896	2,208	60,965	823,713	„ 16·33	„ 22·38	„ 23·79
1897	2,051	56,237	756,433	Dec. 7·11	Dec. 7·75	Dec. 8·16

Deferred Annuities.

Year.	Number of Deferred Annuity Contracts issued.	Amount of Annuities.	Increase or Decrease.	
			Number of Contracts.	Amount of Annuities.
		£		£
1893	159	3,091	—	—
1894	164	3,772	Increase 5	Increase 681
1895	169	4,038	„ 5	„ 266
1896	202	4,178	„ 33	„ 140
1897	207	4,009	„ 5	Decrease 169

The following table shows the Life Insurance business done during the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Insurances.	Amount Insured.	Increase or Decrease per Cent.	
			Number.	Amount.
		£		
1893	853	44,000	—	—
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
1897	849	48,017	Decrease 30·56	Decrease 26·78

The impetus given to this class of Post Office business in 1896 by the introduction of the new Tables of Premiums was, it will

* Year of special effort among Post Office employés

† Year of new Life Insurance Tables.

be seen, not maintained throughout 1897, but the figures for the latter year compare favourably with those of 1895.

It is noticeable that Insurances payable at 55 years of age are popular, and form 31 per cent. of the total contracts granted during the year.

Applications
from other
countries.

Applications from other countries for information on the working of the Post Office Savings Bank continue to reach me.

Removal of
Central Office
from City to
West End.

On account of the continuous growth of the Savings Bank work and of the consequent increase in the staff, further accommodation is required, which it is both difficult and costly to provide by extending the premises now occupied by the Central Office. There is no necessity for that office to be in the City, and, after a careful enquiry conducted by your Lordships' representatives and my own, a site of over five acres at West Kensington has been chosen on which it is proposed to erect a building sufficiently large to accommodate the whole staff and allow for the growth of business for years to come.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

Number of
telegrams.

Appendix,
p. 72.

During the year 83,029,999 telegrams of all descriptions were sent, showing an increase over the previous year of 3,606,443, or 4·54 per cent.

The ordinary inland telegrams increased by 4·95 per cent., from 65,561,817 to 68,810,786. The increase in 1896-97 over 1895-96 was 998,230, or 1·54 per cent. The total value of inland telegrams was 2,130,973*l.*, as compared with 2,070,045*l.* for the previous year, making the average value 7·43*d.* per telegram, as compared with 7·58*d.*

The number of foreign telegrams transmitted by the Post Office was 6,482,806, an increase of 174,819, or of 2·77 per cent. over the previous year's figures.

6,015,901 telegrams were transmitted at the press rates for newspapers, clubs, &c., an increase of 178,200, or 3·05 per cent. on 1896-97. The average weekly number of words in press telegrams was 13,882,848.

Telegrams on the service of the various Government Departments show a decrease of 8,165, or 2·57 per cent., the total for the year being 308,746, as compared with 316,911 in 1896-97.

1,381,965 telegrams were transmitted under the free message privilege enjoyed by the railway companies, as compared with 1,371,406 for the previous year, the increase being only 76 per cent. The telegrams at reduced rates, which certain railway companies are privileged to send, increased by 7·4 per cent.

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

Class of Telegram.	Number.			Receipts.		
	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase or Decrease.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase or Decrease.
Ordinary Inland - -	68,810,786	65,561,817	+ 3,248,969	£ 2,130,973	£ 2,070,045	+ 60,928
Press (Inland) - -	6,015,901	5,837,701	+ 178,200	133,009	128,823	+ 4,186
Foreign - - -	6,482,806	6,307,987	+ 174,819	316,718	306,528	+10,190
Railway, free - -	1,381,965	1,371,406	+ 10,559	—	—	—
" reduced rate - -	29,795	27,734	+ 2,061	589	541	+ 48
Government, free - -	306,746	316,911	- 8,165	—	—	—
Totals - - -	83,029,999	79,423,550	+ 3,606,448	£ 2,581,280	£ 2,505,937	+ 75,352

The London local telegrams increased by 5·82 per cent., from 7,342,474 to 7,770,010.

The Jubilee Reforms which concern the telegraph service were three :— Jubilee concessions.

(1.) An extension to three miles of the free delivery for telegrams, and a reduction of the portorage charges beyond that distance.

(2.) An amelioration in the conditions of guarantees for new Telegraph offices, the guarantors being relieved of one half the burden of any deficiency ; and

(3.) The free delivery of telegrams at all hours in the Metropolitan District.

The additional direct cost of the extension of the free delivery to three miles was about 15,000*l.* within the year, to which must be added the estimated loss the revenue sustained by the reduced receipts for portorage on telegrams sent beyond the free delivery, namely 37,000*l.*, making a total cost of about 52,000*l.* The gross revenue derived from the additional telegrams (840,000) assumed to be directly the result of the concessions, is estimated at 26,000*l.*

The amelioration in the terms of guarantees has given rise to ademand for additional Telegraph Offices, as will be seen from the following statement of the number of Offices opened under guarantee in the last three years :—

1895-96	-	-	-	186
1896-97	-	-	-	175
1897-98	-	-	-	224

On the 1st October 1897 considerable concessions were made in the charges for Post Office telephone exchange wires and for short lines of private wire, the rates being reduced as shown in the tables below, and the distance, in the case of Exchange wires, being calculated not on the actual length of the circuits but on the radial system with a minimum of half a mile. Telephone Exchange and private wires.

Telephone Exchange Wires.

Old Rates.	Per Annum.	New Rates.	Per Annum.
For a circuit $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in length -	£ 8	Within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile radius of Exchange	£ 8
" " $\frac{1}{2}$ " " -	10	" $\frac{3}{4}$ " "	9
" " $\frac{3}{4}$ " " -	12	" 1 " "	10
" " 1 " " -	14	(Private houses, 1l. less.)	
Beyond a mile, the ordinary rates for short private wires applied. (See below.)		Beyond the mile radius, the ordinary rates for short private wires apply. (See below.)	

Short Private Wires.

	Overhouse and Underground.				Road and Rail.			
	Single Wire.		Double Wire.		Single Wire.		Double Wire.	
	Old Rate, per Mile.	New Rate, per Mile.	Old Rate, per Mile.	New Rate, per Mile.	Old Rate, per Mile.	New Rate, per Mile.	Old Rate, per Mile.	New Rate, per Mile.
	Per Annum.				Per Annum.			
	£ 7	£ 5	£ 9	£ 7	£ 5	£ 4	£ 7	£ 6
London -								
Provinces -	6	4	8	6	4	3	6	5

The charge for telephones was reduced from 2l. 10s. to 2l. per annum, and the charge for ABC instruments from 5l. to 4l. per annum.

Appendix,
p. 94.

The reduction, although it has only been in operation for a short time, has already increased appreciably the demand upon the Department for Exchange and Private Wires. In London, for instance, the number of new private wires from the 1st October 1897 to the 31st March 1898 was more than double the number from the 1st October 1896 to the 31st March 1897. It is satisfactory to state that the revenue from private wires for the year was very little below that for the preceding year, when the old rates were in force, the comparison being as follows:—

	£
1896-97 - - -	135,400
1897-98 - - -	130,100

Trunk tele-
phone lines.

The number of Post Offices open for Trunk Telephone business was 264, an increase over the previous year of 21, and these places were served by approximately 53,526 miles of trunk wire, of which 4,906 were completed and brought into

use during the year. 4,647 miles of wire were also in course of construction, and further additional circuits are now in hand.

Out of the money authorised by Act of Parliament for the purchase and development of the trunk system, the expenditure up to the 31st March 1898 may be put down approximately at 1,198,000*l.*, including the sum of 459,114*l.* paid to the National Telephone Company for their trunk lines. The expenditure during the year has been 127,518*l.*

The system has been extended to—

*Banbury.	*Manningtree.
Banff.	The Isle of Wight.
Bangor.	Peterhead.
Bridlington Quay.	*Rugby.
*Carnarvon.	*Selby.
Cork.	*Southend-on-Sea
*Cromer.	*Tadcaster.
Dudley.	*Tamworth.
Elgin.	*Tavistock.
Inverness.	*Utttoxeter.
*Leatherhead.	Walsall.
*Lichfield.	Ware.
Limerick.	*Witney.

Further extensions are being made to—

Arklow.	*Redruth.
*Bradford (Wilts).	*Rothsay.
*Coldstream.	St. Austell.
*Dunoon.	*Salisbury.
*Hereford.	*Stamford.
*Huntingdon.	Truro.
*Nairn.	Waterford.
*Newquay.	Wexford.
*North Berwick.	*Weybridge.
Penzance.	Wicklow.
*Peterborough.	

In the cases marked with an asterisk the extension has been carried out under guarantee from the National Telephone Company.

The total number of trunk conversations during the year was 5,898,247, and the revenue therefrom 133,974*l.*, giving an average value of 5·45*d.* per conversation. Trunk business of the year.

The total number of telephone operators (women) now employed by the Department is about 660, an approximate increase of 110 during the financial year. Women operators are not employed on night duty.

With the object of establishing communication with the West Indian Colonies and this country, by a line touching only at British Possessions and under British control, your Lordships Bermuda-Jamaica cable.

granted a subsidy to the Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company (now transferred to the Direct West India Company) for a cable from Bermuda to Turks Island and thence to Jamaica. My officers rendered assistance in the negotiations. The laying of the cable was successfully accomplished, and it was opened for traffic on the 1st February. A substantial reduction was at the same time secured in the charges for telegrams from this country.

**Underground
line to
Birmingham.**

Considerable progress has been made with the new underground line from London to Birmingham. The first section, from Cricklewood to Leighton Buzzard, a distance of over 33 miles, has been completed, and additional sections from the General Post Office, London, to Cricklewood, and from Leighton Buzzard to Fenny Stratford, are being rapidly pushed forward. The work has been carried out in a satisfactory manner, and there has been no accident or complaint whilst it has been in progress.

Experiments.

A series of trials was undertaken with the Marconi apparatus with special reference to its adaptability for lighthouse, lightship, and other communications; but although signals were successfully transmitted a certain distance, no practical results have yet been achieved.

By means, however, of the electro-magnetic system, devised by Mr. Preece, permanent communication has been successfully established for the War Department between an outlying island and the mainland, over a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. This communication has replaced a cable which, after being down a short time, was broken, and which, in view of its liability to interruption from the anchors of ships, it was not deemed advisable to incur the expense of repairing.

**Coast com-
munications.**

This Report has for five years recorded the progress made in constructing a system of communication between coastguard and lifeboat stations around the coast for life-saving purposes, in accordance with Sir Edward Birkbeck's Resolution, which was agreed to by the House of Commons on the 26th April 1892. Several important sections of this work have been completed during the year under review, and I am glad to be able to record that the system now extends to about 560 stations, of which about 400 are in England, over 60 in Scotland, and more than 100 in Ireland.

Beyond the coast communication service proper, facilities are given for sending calls for lifeboat aid over the public wires, and in many cases an alarm bell is fixed in the bedroom of one of the Post Office staff for facilitating night calls.

During the year a considerable number of alarm bells were fixed at various points, and about 35 new stations were connected by wire to the system.

The Department has sustained a great loss in the retirement of Mr. H. C. Fischer, C.M.G. (now Sir Henry Fischer), who had acted as Controller of the Central Telegraph Office since the transfer of the Telegraphs to the State in 1870. Mr. Fischer took part in every International Telegraph Conference since that year, and rendered the most valuable assistance in other ways to those responsible for the conduct of the telegraph business of the country. Mr. Fischer.

HER MAJESTY'S JUBILEE.

In connection with the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee special arrangements were made for the transmission of the message which Her Majesty desired to send to the various British Possessions throughout the world, and, with the co-operation of the Cable Companies, the message was transmitted without delay to all quarters of the globe. The first signal was sent personally by Her Majesty from Buckingham Palace to the Central Telegraph Office. Jubilee arrangements.

Special arrangements connected with the organisation of the Jubilee Procession were also made by the engineers of this Department. Seventeen circuits were concentrated on Buckingham Palace for regulating the arrival, departure, and movement of the troops to and from every railway station and the rest camps in Hyde Park, Battersea Park, and Lambeth Palace. St. Paul's Cathedral was placed in communication with the Mansion House, Fishmongers' Hall, and the Tower, for the purpose of enabling the authorities to regulate the Procession, and to give signals for the firing of salutes. The whole of the arrangements were carried out in a satisfactory manner, and reflect credit on all concerned.

At the Central Telegraph Office in London 195,411 telegrams were transmitted on the day previous to the Jubilee Celebrations, this being the highest daily total ever reached at that office.

POST OFFICES AND BUILDINGS.

430 new post offices and 1,231 new pillar and wall letter boxes have been added during the year. Number of offices.

The total number of offices open on the 31st March last was 21,197 and the number of pillar and wall boxes 30,303. 12,300 of the post offices were open for Money Order and Savings Bank business, an increase of 334 on the number a year before, and 8,172 were open for telegraph business, an increase of 268 telegraph offices in the year.

In addition to these telegraph offices, telegraph work was performed for the Post Office at 2,311 railway stations, *i.e.*, at 32 more than at the end of the last financial year.

New Crown Offices have been completed and opened at Battersea, Bridgwater, Cardiff, Ely, Epsom, Whitby, and Seacombe; Sorting Offices at Manchester and Reading; Engineers' Offices at Manchester and Carmarthen. New post offices.

Six Crown Post Offices in the provinces and the Young Street Branch and Sorting Office in London have been enlarged.

Over 30 postal buildings are in course of erection or enlargement, and arrangements are being made for erecting or enlarging 48 others in the provinces and 10 in various parts of the metropolis. These will all belong to the Crown. At 130 towns where the office is provided by the Postmaster additional allowances have been granted to enable them to provide new offices or to enlarge those now occupied.

**Alterations at
G.P.O.**

Large structural alterations have been made in the General Post Office West. Many internal walls have been removed and the accommodation made more suitable for the growing requirements of the Central Telegraph Office, which is located there.

The increase in the volume of letters passing through the Sorting Office at the General Post Office necessitated the removal of the public counter from the east to the west building. The addition of the old counter room to the Sorting Office has afforded a most desirable relief, especially at Christmas, when the correspondence dealt with was unprecedentedly large.

I stated in my last Report that it had become necessary to carry out considerable alterations in the General Post Office East, and after careful enquiry it has been decided to reconstruct the building within the present outer walls. To render this possible, it is necessary to provide for much of the work of the Sorting Office being done elsewhere, and I have during the past year completed certain necessary preliminary arrangements, including the removal of the Money Order Office to Fore Street and the transfer of the Postal Stores to the old Money Order Office. On the site previously occupied by the Postal Stores a commencement has been made in the erection of the Third Section of the Sorting Office at Mount Pleasant, to which the work of the General Post Office East will be removed in sections to admit of the reconstruction of that building being commenced.

**Leases of
Offices held
direct by the
Postmaster-
General.**

During the year arrangements have been made for still further relieving Head Postmasters appointed from within the Service of the expense of providing office accommodation, and in all cases of new appointment the Postmaster has no longer to spend his own money on providing or improving the office. Several offices have already been provided under the new system, and there is reason to think that the cost will be less than if they had been provided by the Postmasters under the old arrangement.

**Expenditure
on sites and
buildings.**

The expenditure out of the Post Office Vote in the acquisition of sites and buildings during the year amounted to 136,000*l.*, of which 82,462*l.* was spent in London. Of this amount, 45,000*l.* represents the cost of the site of the new Savings Bank at West Kensington. On the other hand, the sum of 43,352*l.* has been realised by the sale of the old post offices at Battersea, Cardiff, Leeds, and Wolverhampton.

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 242,374*l.* in Great Britain and 17,332*l.* in Ireland.

Early in the year the Department carried out an arrangement for assisting in the sale of Ordnance Survey maps to the public in rural districts and towns where there are no agents. Indexes and specimen maps are now exhibited at about 700 Post Offices, where orders are taken. The plan has been a distinct success, upwards of 725 orders having already been given in that way, and the number is likely to increase largely as the public become better acquainted with the system.

Sale of
Ordnance
Survey maps.

The experimental use of Lamp Letter Boxes having proved a success, it is being gradually extended.

Lamp Letter
Boxes.

STAFF.

The Staff of the Post Office has increased during the year by 5,410, from 144,700 to 150,110 persons. The permanent Establishment, including all Head and Sub-Postmasters, number 84,309, of whom 13,069 are women; and the non-established staff, many of whom are employed only for a few hours a day, number 65,801, of whom 17,465 are women.

Appendix,
p. 63.

Last year I reported that more than 1,900 soldiers and seamen had received appointments in the Post Office since 1892, and the number has been further increased by 381 during the year under review. In August last the Government decided that the rule should be to offer to soldiers or seamen one half of the vacancies which occur in the classes of Postmen, Porters, and Labourers, the other half being reserved for persons already in the employment of my Department.

This rule, while further increasing the openings for soldiers and seamen, necessarily affects the prospects of Telegraph Messengers, whose chances of being retained in the service as Postmen are reduced, and I have had some difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of Telegraph Messengers. Those messengers for whom there appears to be no prospect of appointment in the service are now required to leave at the age of 16 years, when they are better able to learn other work than at 18. In London the selection of lads to be retained in the service is made by competitive examination at the age of 16, marks at these examinations being given for physical development as well as for educational qualifications.

In connection with the appointment of large numbers of young persons in the Post Office year by year, I have felt it necessary to require an undertaking from each that he or she will reside either at home or with relatives or friends approved by their parents or guardians.

Another change effected during the year has been to throw open the competitions for the majority of the London Clerkships (other than Second Division Clerkships) to all Officers of the Department of good character and within the limits of age.

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.
1888-89 - -	9,715,559	2,120,965	11,845,524	3,424,157	1,275,940	4,700,097	39·68
1889-90 - -	9,721,481	2,364,009	12,085,580	3,359,563	1,382,414	4,741,977	39·24
1890-91 - -	10,088,677	2,456,764	12,545,441	3,600,306	1,506,219	5,106,525	40·70
1891-92 - -	10,451,998	2,545,612	12,997,610	3,897,952	1,635,093	5,533,045	42·57
1892-93 - -	10,600,149	2,526,312	13,126,461	4,190,323	1,717,123	5,907,446	45·01
1893-94 - -	10,734,885	2,579,206	13,314,091	4,446,361	1,804,603	6,250,964	46·93
1894-95 - -	11,025,460	2,646,414	13,671,874	4,597,355	1,833,684	6,431,039	47·03
1895-96 - -	11,759,945	2,879,794	14,639,739	4,734,446	1,895,419	6,629,865	45·28
1896-97 - -	12,146,935	2,967,354	15,114,289	4,927,095	1,969,471	6,896,566	45·62
1897-98 - - (estimated).	12,420,376	3,071,723	15,492,099	5,230,598	2,081,079	7,311,677	47·19

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.
1888-89 - -	6,466,127	2,041,361	8,507,488	3,424,157	1,275,940	4,700,097	55·25
1889-90 - -	6,275,085	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	1,635,093	5,533,045	56·30
1892-93 - -	7,507,645	2,692,904	10,200,639	4,190,323	1,717,123	5,907,446	57·92
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	59·96
1895-96 - -	8,096,272	2,920,341	11,006,613	4,734,446	1,895,419	6,629,865	60·23
1896-97 - -	8,246,356	3,111,810	11,358,166	4,927,095	1,969,471	6,896,566	60·71
1897-98 - - (estimated).	8,689,713	3,341,261	12,070,974	5,230,598	2,081,079	7,311,677	60·57

**Tweedmouth
Committee's
recommendations.**

The protracted inquiry which has been made into the position and prospects of the staff of the Department by the Tweedmouth Committee was concluded in 1896, and the recommendations of the Committee, which were approved by the Treasury, came into effect on the 1st April 1897. They involved an ultimate cost to the public of 308,000*l.* a year; and I am glad

to think in many ways materially improved the pay and conditions under which the staff serve.

Dissatisfaction, however, was expressed by sections of the staff at several of these recommendations, and, at one time, some members of the Telegraphic Service were so ill-advised as to threaten to refuse to work overtime, and thus embarrass the Department.

I took occasion to explain to the staff that the Department retained, and must use in the public interest, the right to call upon any of its servants to perform overtime, and that it was the duty of every officer to give such extra attendance at all times as the circumstances might call for.

I am happy to say that the staff had the good sense to refrain from proceedings which some of the less prudent among them had been so unwise as to advise.

I had much satisfaction in ascertaining, during the weeks in which these incidents took place, that large numbers of its servants, both male and female, were unflinching in their loyalty to the Department, and that many large provincial offices were in a position, not only to carry on their own work, but to place portions of their staff at the disposal of the department for employment in offices where difficulties might arise. The incident, in fact, encourages me to believe that even if the unwise counsels of a part of the staff had been acted on last summer, the telegraphic business of the country—though it would undoubtedly have been inconvenienced—could still have been conducted with perhaps reduced, but considerable efficiency.

In deference to the views which were expressed by several Members of the House of Commons during the course of these proceedings, I undertook, in association with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, to receive a deputation from Members of Parliament, and to hear from them any statements which they might desire to lay before us on the position or prospects of any portion of the staff.

This inquiry convinced Mr. Hanbury and myself that the Tweedmouth Committee had, on the whole, dealt adequately and liberally with the matters brought before them. On some matters, however, and especially on some which had not been expressly before them, and on others which they had left for the consideration of the Department, Mr. Hanbury and I were ultimately able to announce further concessions, entailing an additional cost to the public of 80,000*l*.

Since that time I have declined, and I shall continue to decline, to allow decisions which have been considered by the Tweedmouth Committee and which have been revised by Mr. Hanbury and myself, to be reopened. It is my belief that these decisions have been liberal, but whether they are liberal or not, it is for

the interests of all parties that it should be understood that they are final.

Good conduct stripes.

Under the more liberal distribution of good conduct stripes recommended by the Tweedmouth Committee, 2,364 postmen, &c. received stripes for the first time and 2,623 men who had already received three stripes had additional stripes awarded them. On the 31st March last there were 17,282 men holding from one to six stripes, each stripe carrying 1s. a week extra pay, and representing five years unblemished service.

Holidays.

I am anxious to meet as far as possible the natural desire of my staff to take their holiday during the better months of the year, and arrangements for this purpose have been sanctioned experimentally at a number of large towns in the Provinces.

HEALTH OF THE STAFF.

The Staff under the direct charge of the 574 Medical Officers employed by the Post Office numbered 71,403 men and 7,718 women. The average sick-absence of this Staff per officer employed was 7·6 days for men and 11·3 days for women in 1897, as against 7 days for men and 12·3 days for women in 1896. 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 for the different parts of the Kingdom 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 - -	59	64	12·4	13·4	7·9	10·4
Metropolitan Districts	55	77	14·3	22·5	8·	16·3
Country - -	33	38	19·6	15·	7·2	11·
<i>Scotland</i> - -	32	41	17·3	11·9	7·7	10·5
<i>Ireland</i> - -	37	61	21·2	21·2	8·3	15·8

Scarlet fever was much less prevalent than in 1896, but there were two deaths from that disease, and 21 from typhoid fever. There were no deaths from other zymotic diseases, and no sick absence whatever is reported as being due to small-pox. Influenza was again present throughout the year, and 10 deaths were certified from that cause.

The details are given separately in the two following tables of retirement and death from phthisis (including tuberculosis and hæmoptysis) :—

Statement of Superannuation from Phthisis, &c.

	Number of Super-annuations.		Rate of Super-annuations 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 - - -	13	3	·9	·9	33	31	16	13
Metropolitan Districts	12	1	·9	1·7	29	25	9	7
Country - - -	34	4	·9	1·2	32	21	12	4
<i>Scotland</i> - - -	11	3	1·9	·5	30	30	11	11
<i>Ireland</i> - - -	6	—	1·8	—	33	—	14	—

Statement of Deaths from Phthisis, &c.

	Number of Deaths.		Rate of Deaths per 1,000 of the Staff.		Average Age at Death.		Average Length of Service in Years.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
<i>England—</i>								
Chief Office - - -	18	—	1·3	—	30	—	11	—
Metropolitan Districts	12	1	·9	1·7	34	20	10	4
Country - - -	25	1	·7	·3	31	26	8	2
<i>Scotland</i> - - -	7	1	1·2	1·5	29	21	9	4
<i>Ireland</i> - - -	5	—	1·5	—	28	—	8	—

In Appendix II. (F.) will be found a statement of the diseases Appendix, which have led to deaths and retirements among the Staff under P. 65. official medical charge during the year.

5,628 male and 1,179 female candidates were medically examined before appointment, and 555 males and 84 females were rejected.

155 women received marriage gratuities on retirement in 1897, their average age being 28, and their average service nearly 10 years.

The following are the year's statistics for the whole established Staff:—

Deaths.

	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 - -	47	3	4.2	1.0	36	30	16	12
Metropolitan Districts	16	4	2.1	7.0	33	33	13	11
Provinces - -	101	5	2.5	0.7	38	20	15	4
<i>Scotland</i> - -	28	3	4.3	2.1	36	25	15	2
<i>Ireland</i> - -	21	3	4.1	1.5	35	46	13	10
Total - -	213	18	3.0	1.3	36	33	14.9	7.8

Officers Invalided from the Service.

	Number.	Average Age in Years.	Average Service in Years.
Men - - -	460	40	19
Women - - -	69	32	13

Officers Superannuated at 60 Years or Upwards.

	Number.	Average Age.	Average Service.
Men - - -	275	62	36
Women - - -	11	65	31

FINANCE.

Appendices
P., Q., and R.,
pages 97 to 99.

In recording last year that the business of 1896-97 had resulted in a profit of 3,753,109*l.*, I stated that, having regard to the concessions granted to the public and the advantages given to the staff I could not anticipate an equal profit during the year 1897-98.

The growth of business both on the postal and the telegraph side has been such that I am able to report an increase of 273,441*l.* in the postal revenue and of 104,369*l.* in the telegraph

revenue. The expenditure of the year, however, has been exceptionally swelled by the recommendations of the Tweedmouth Committee, by the Budget Reforms, and by the rapid growth of the business of the Department, and has risen by as much as 712,808*l.* over the previous year.

But, setting expenditure against revenue, the accounts still show a profit of 3,421,125*l.* on the year, if nothing be allowed for interest on the capital created for the purchase of the telegraphs.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords,

Your Lordships' obedient Servant,

NORFOLK.

8th August 1898.

APPENDIX I.

DELIVERY OF LETTERS IN RURAL DISTRICTS.

Up to 1764 the situation, broadly stated, was as follows: the Post Office carried letters to post towns only, but did not undertake to deliver them at the houses of the addressees, and in London only was there a local post, the famous Penny Post, originally founded by Dockwra in 1680, and soon afterwards taken over by the Crown.

In 1764 the advance began; the Postmaster General obtained authority in that year by the Act 5 Geo. III. cap. 25. to set up in any city or town a penny post of the same kind as that which existed in London; in 1774 a decision of the Court of King's Bench established the rule that within the limits of a post town—which limits, however, it was left for the Postmaster General to define—letters should be delivered free of charge; and in 1794, by 34 Geo. III. cap. 17., it was provided that any penny post might be extended beyond the former limit of 10 miles from the town in which it was set up. Such posts were, however, only set up in about half a dozen of the largest towns in the Kingdom, and at that time neither benefited nor were intended to benefit the rural districts.

Thus at the beginning of the present century there were no rural or village posts. Letters were conveyed by post to towns—or rather to towns of any considerable size—and were fetched from thence, by arrangement, on behalf of the people living in the surrounding villages. Probably a village generally employed its own messenger, paying him in some cases a fixed sum as wages and in others a penny or more upon each letter carried. Sometimes—at any rate in later days—a pauper was employed. Wealthy people, with large correspondence, made special arrangements for themselves; and sometimes the Postmasters of the towns undertook, as a private venture, the delivery of the letters in the villages, receiving, for themselves, and not for the Revenue, a fixed sum on each letter.

In some cases, however, villages, or perhaps only small market towns, which were not post towns, received from public funds an "allowance in aid of their post."

The first real effort to carry the post into the villages was made in 1801. By the fifth clause of an Act of that year—41 Geo. III. cap. 7.—the Postmaster General was authorised to make special arrangements with the inhabitants of towns, villages, and places (not being post towns) for the collection and conveyance of their letters, and to take for such service such

sums as might be mutually agreed upon. This was the origin of the posts usually called "fifth-clause posts" or sometimes "convention posts." Another clause of the same Act enabled persons to guarantee posts which otherwise would not pay their expenses.

By April 1803 there were 13 "fifth-clause" posts in operation, showing a total net balance of revenue of 55*l.* 7*s.* As a general rule the charge was a penny for each letter, over and above the ordinary rate of postage if the letter passed through the general post.

The object and utility of these posts were officially described (in 1804) as follows:—

" Posts of this description are established with a view to
 " bring the correspondence of villages in the vicinity of post
 " towns under the control and direction of the Postmaster
 " General, and, by affording convenience, regularity, and
 " responsibility in the delivery and collection of the letters,
 " and by charging equitable and moderate prices over and
 " above the postage to the post town, to bring the inhabitants
 " of such villages into the custom of writing solely by the
 " post, and perhaps a greater number of letters than they
 " did before, so that if the amount of the extra pence should
 " happen to do little more at first than cover the expenses of
 " the first messenger and receiving houses, yet the general
 " revenue is sure to be benefited, and a new establishment is
 " made, which by time and circumstance generally becomes
 " a source of profit also."

To show the nature and importance of the "fifth-clause" posts, one of them may be described which was set up in 1804 between Dartford and Sevenoaks. A postman, at wages of 19*s.* a week, started at 6 a.m. from Dartford (on the Dover road), and walked through Sutton at Hone, Farningham (on the Maidstone road), Otford and Shoreham to Kemsing. At Kemsing he exchanged bags with another postman who left Sevenoaks (on the Hastings road) every morning and walked through Wrotham (below Farningham on the Maidstone road). At all these places receiving offices were established, and the post not only enabled the villages to communicate with each other and with the outside world, but also formed a means of communication between the towns on the Dover and Hastings roads, which before could only communicate through London.

In their agreement for this post, the inhabitants insisted that "franks" and newspapers should pass free; this was reluctantly conceded, but a few years later it was discovered that such a concession would have been inevitable, for there was no legal power to charge franks or newspapers on any "fifth-clause" post.

It was this inability to charge "franks" and newspapers that finally crippled the "fifth-clause" posts. As early as 1808

it was decided by the Postmaster General that "fifth-clause" posts should only be set up for the accommodation of small towns, and that "penny posts," under the earlier Acts already quoted should be granted to villages. By "penny posts" franks and newspapers were liable to charge, and wherever a "penny post" was set up, the Postmaster General had a monopoly; in the case of a "fifth-clause" post he had none.

Under both posts the Postmaster General was obliged to deliver letters at the houses of the addressees within the boundary of the village, but what that boundary was he might himself determine.

From 1808, therefore, down to the establishment of uniform penny postage in 1840, the rural districts obtained their letters in four ways:—(i), by their own unaided effort and expense; (ii), by their own effort, aided by an allowance from the revenue; (iii), by "fifth-clause" posts; (iv), by penny posts, which were constantly increasing in number, some being established under guarantee.

In some cases the sum of twopence was charged on "penny post" letters, but this turned out to be an illegal exaction. In 1838 "the principle of the Post Office was to take the post town as the centre, and that from those post towns penny posts should be established branching out and circulating the correspondence into the various country districts in which those post towns are situated. They have, therefore, been established as penny posts."

At that time there were 52 "fifth-clause" posts in England and Wales, and 1,922 villages in the United Kingdom were served by penny posts. Newspapers had passed free by penny posts since 1836.

The history of the newspaper posts is obscure. In the 17th century, the Country Postmasters, who were innkeepers, and certain clerks in the General Post Office, had the privilege of receiving and sending "gazettes" free of charge, and this was the germ of the privilege of "franking" newspapers which was subsequently enjoyed by certain servants of the Post Office to their great advantage. The "franking" privilege probably led to the legalization in 1825 of the general free transmission of newspapers through the post, though the Parliament which legalized it no doubt found a justification for the concession in the fact that, since the reign of Queen Anne, newspapers had been charged with a stamp duty, and thus already paid toll to the State. The decision of 1836 to allow newspapers to pass free by penny post as well as by the general post was a concession by the Government, of somewhat doubtful legality.

About that time, as is well known, public attention was being drawn to the shortcomings of the Post Office, and the inadequacy of the rural posts did not escape notice.

It was stated in 1838 that "an inspection of the Post Office maps will show that, even in England, where the ramifications

" of the Post Office distribution are more minute than in any other part of the kingdom, there are districts considerably larger than the county of Middlesex into which the postman never enters."

The introduction of uniform penny postage in January 1840 had naturally a serious effect upon the revenue of the rural posts, as the extra penny or other charge made in penny posts, or "fifth-clause" posts, over and above the charge for transmission by general post, ceased at once. The policy of the Government was set forth in a Treasury Minute dated the 13th August 1841. It was held to be obvious that the post could not be extended to every place in the kingdom, "any attempt of the kind," it was said, would certainly "entail an enormous expense on the Post Office, which could only be met by the legislature increasing the general rate of postage." A principle was therefore laid down that "the number of post offices in every district should be somewhat in proportion to the amount of population and extent of surface combined; that is to say, that they should be nearer to one another where the population is dense, but more numerous, as compared with the inhabitants, where the population is scattered." This principle was to be carried out in England and Wales by establishing a post office in each registrar's district where there was not one already. It was, however, distinctly to be understood that there was not necessarily to be a delivery at the houses of the inhabitants. Whether there was or was not to be "any delivery of letters, as well as the extent of such delivery in those places in which it may be established," was to "depend on the number of letters, the density of the population in the neighbourhood of each post office, and other matters, which can only be ascertained by experience, and by a careful examination of the circumstances of each particular place"

The Postmaster General dissented somewhat from this proposal and it was not carried into effect: the Government of Sir R. Peel, which came into office in the following month, took a different view, and decided in June 1843 that the principle on which rural posts should be established should be based simply upon the number of letters for each locality. "All places, the letters for which exceed 100 a week, should be deemed entitled to the privilege of a receiving office and a free delivery of their letters." This rule was put into operation at once. A "delivery" meant a daily delivery.

The extensions between September 1839 and August 1843 were as follows:—

Free deliveries established	-	-	499
„ extended	-	-	88
Additional deliveries authorized	-	-	34
Rural posts established	-	-	180
Guarantee posts established	-	-	89
Receiving offices established	-	-	52

The boundary of the "free delivery" of a town or village under the rule of 1843 was fixed by the Postmaster General in each case.

The number of new posts set up between the 5th June 1843 and the 5th January 1845 was 621, serving 1,942 villages; and in the same period the State assumed liability for 71 posts, serving 82 villages, formerly established under guarantee. These 692 posts were estimated to deliver 7,636,668 letters a year, a little more than 200 letters a week for each post.

The principle laid down in 1843 for the extension of rural posts was followed until 1850. In the summer of that year the whole question was reconsidered. It was then thought that the rule had been "unequal and imperfect in its operation, sometimes establishing a post to the injury of the revenue, and sometimes withholding one where its establishment would be beneficial to the revenue, and further recognizing no intermediate course between the establishment of a daily post and the withholding of a post altogether."

It was therefore decided—and the decision has lasted to the present day—that in future a post should be established when it would pay its way.

A post was to be held to pay its way whenever its cost was covered by a halfpenny on each letter delivered; but it was thought that the number of letters would grow at once, and even double itself, when a post was established; and so it was laid down that, in calculating the number of letters to be delivered, double the actual number arriving for the locality before the establishment of the post might be assumed to be about to arrive afterwards.

The post, subject to the principle that it must pay its way, might be tri-weekly, bi-weekly, or even weekly. This rule was to be applied to daily posts already established under the rule of 1843, which did not pay their expenses, and their frequency was to be reduced; but no post already established was stopped so long as the cost was covered even by calculating the delivered letters at 1*d.* each.

In the case of guaranteed posts the letters were calculated at $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* each.

In 1853 it was further decided that a post less frequent than once a day might be increased in frequency whenever the cost was covered by the "estimated revenue derived from the whole correspondence, calculating the letters at $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* each.

"In treating an application for a second daily post or a day mail, the letters were calculated at $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* each."

During these years the extensions of the free delivery were carefully noted by the Postmaster General. In 1855 he published the following table, "containing the estimated number of letters now delivered free in the rural district round each of the towns enumerated, for which it would formerly have been necessary

" either to send a messenger or to pay a gratuity to the " Postmaster."

Surrounding Rural District.					Letters delivered free every week.
Southampton	-	-	-	-	980
Greenock	-	-	-	-	1,360
Tunbridge Wells	-	-	-	-	1,420
Colchester	-	-	-	-	2,440
Huddersfield	-	-	-	-	2,760
Norwich	-	-	-	-	4,030
Halifax	-	-	-	-	4,680

In 1856 he stated that "it appears by accounts kept since " the commencement of the revision (1851) that " provision has been made for a free delivery of more than " 300,000 letters per week (not to speak of newspapers and " books) which formerly could be obtained only by application " at the office window."

In 1858 the general revision was completed, but a serious effort to effect a delivery of letters at every house was contemplated, and an experiment of such a system was tried in the districts round a few selected towns, but the scheme was ultimately not pursued.

In 1859 it was stated that "about 93 per cent. of the letters, " newspapers, and other postal packets delivered in the United " Kingdom are now conveyed without any charge beyond the " ordinary postage by letter carriers and rural messengers to " the houses of the addressees, and this proportion, great as it " is, is always on the increase."

In 1860 it was found, upon experiment, that the assumption made in 1850, that the establishment of a post would double the number of letters, was not justified. The rule was accordingly altered, and new posts were only to be set up when the cost was covered by a halfpenny on each letter actually arriving.

In 1862 the proportion of letters, &c. delivered to the addressees was estimated to reach 94 per cent., and in 1863 it was recorded that during the last ten years nearly 10,000 places had been for the first time provided with a free delivery.

The Postmaster General went on to say: "There are indeed " but few places not so provided at the present time, and those " few are thinly populated, isolated, and remote. To this let " me add, that in extensions of this kind the cost of the extension is in almost all cases equal to, whilst in many cases it has " exceeded, the revenue derivable from the correspondence at " the time of the extension, and that there is rarely any reason

“ to expect that the extension will produce an appreciable
 “ amount of correspondence. Under a system of uniform
 “ charge, however, the charge, if it be excessive in some, must
 “ be unremunerative in other cases, and it has been my practice
 “ and that of my predecessors to consider the business of the
 “ Post Office as a whole, and to extend the full advantages of
 “ penny postage gradually and cautiously throughout even very
 “ thinly populated parts of the kingdom.”

In 1871 he hoped “ the time is not distant when a free
 “ delivery, at least two or three times a week, will be provided
 “ for every house in the country, however remote.”

The number of guaranteed posts in April 1882 was 44. In that year the question of largely extending the rural posts was considered by Mr. Fawcett, then Postmaster General, and he decided that, in calculating the revenue available to cover the cost of an extension of a post to places where there was none, credit should be given for an increase of correspondence of one-tenth as a probable result, or (as the same thing financially) that the existing correspondence should be reckoned for revenue at $\frac{6}{10}d.$ instead of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ for each letter.

In December 1883 an addition of $1d.$ for each parcel was made to the calculated revenue, and $\frac{1}{2}d.$ for each parcel in considering applications for second deliveries by day mails.

In 1890 it was decided that, in extending deliveries to places entirely unserved, $\frac{3}{4}d.$ might be credited to each letter and $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ to each parcel. In 1891 rural sanitary authorities in England and Wales were authorised by Act of Parliament to guarantee posts, and in 1892 a district committee, or, where the country was not divided, the county council, in Scotland received the same power.

In April 1892 it was decided that “ a second service in the
 “ day might be given, provided that the cost of this second
 “ service does not exceed $\frac{1}{2}d.$ a letter and $1d.$ a parcel
 “ delivered, and provided further that the total cost of the night
 “ and day mail services will still not exceed the revenue from
 “ the whole correspondence delivered on the post, calculated at
 “ $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per letter and $1d.$ per parcel.”

On the 27th May 1892 Sir E. Birkbeck moved in the House of Commons a resolution “ that in the opinion of this House an
 “ extended daily delivery of letters and papers ought to be
 “ granted to those portions of rural districts where such delivery
 “ is not at present in force, and also that an increased number
 “ of savings' banks, money order offices, and telegraph offices
 “ ought to be established.” The resolution was amended by the Government, and passed in the following form : “ That in the
 “ opinion of this House an extended daily delivery of letters
 “ and papers ought, so far as is possible, to be granted to those
 “ portions of rural parishes where such delivery is not at present in force.”

It was thought that the resolution of the House of Commons would probably be largely carried into effect if the rates conceded in 1890, which had not been made generally known until February 1892, were continued, and the work of extending the posts in accordance therewith were vigorously pushed forward; it was estimated at the end of 1892 that there were about 32½ million letters a year undelivered. In the course of the year ended the 31st March 1893, about 7,800,000 letters were brought into free delivery, and the work of extension went on gradually till the day of the Queen's Jubilee in 1897.

ADDENDUM AS TO DELIVERY OF LETTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1794 the United States Post Office was authorised to charge 2 cents for the delivery of letters by postman, in addition to the ordinary postage. In 1861 this charge was reduced to 1 cent. In 1863 the free delivery of letters in large cities was authorised and commenced, and at the same time the provision for charging a delivery fee was abolished. It was, however, revived in 1865, and remained nominally in force until the codification of the United States Postal Laws in 1872, when it disappeared. A Bill to revive the arrangement of charging a fee to pay for the delivery of correspondence passed through Congress in recent years, but did not receive the President's approval.

From 1863 the number of cities in which there is a delivery by postman has gradually increased; and now every town with a population of 10,000, or having a post office with an annual revenue of 10,000 dols., is entitled to have a delivery. The number of such cities was, in 1896, 627.

For some years Congress voted a small sum of money to try the experiment of establishing deliveries in small towns and villages. The experiment was tried in 46 such places, but was after a time abandoned. In 1896 the Post Office had at its disposal 40,000 dols. for trying rural delivery, 10,000 dols. having been voted in that and the three previous years, and not having been expended. Forty-four postmen's routes were laid down, and the reports as to the success of the venture are encouraging. The only serious opposition appears to come from small post offices, which are drained of their business and so lose remuneration. In the present year the appropriation for rural free delivery has been increased to 150,000 dols., and nearly 200 additional routes have been laid down, with every manifestation of popular approval.

One or two examples of private arrangements for delivery are recorded. In the State of Mississippi there is one community (if not more), the members of which annually direct the

postmaster to hand over their correspondence to a certain person whom they select and pay to receive and deliver it. In another case, persons along the route of a mail cart driver pay him 2 dols. per family per annum for carrying their letters to and from a post office. It should be noted that the rural districts of the United States, though without free delivery of letters, are well provided with post offices from which correspondence can be fetched.

APPENDIX II. (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 Stat.	Delivered in England and Wales.				Total in England and Wales.		In Scotland.		In Ireland.		Total in United Kingdom.	
	By Country Offices.	In- crease per cent. per annum.	In London District.	In- crease per cent. per annum.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.
Year 1888-89	840,000,000	1.0	480,500,000	7.0	1,328,500,000	3.1	136,000,000	3.0	96,500,000	2.5	1,558,100,000	3.0
" 1889-90	895,000,000	5.8	516,100,000	7.8	1,413,100,000	6.5	140,300,000	3.2	96,800,000	1.4	1,650,100,000	5.9
" 1890-91	924,400,000	3.3	538,400,000	4.0	1,462,800,000	3.5	143,200,000	2.1	96,900,000	3.1	1,705,800,000	3.4
" 1891-92	965,000,000	4.4	551,000,000	2.4	1,516,100,000	3.7	146,400,000	2.1	105,000,000	5.2	1,767,500,000	3.6
" 1892-93	965,800,000	0.1	568,500,000	2.8	1,535,300,000	1.1	152,300,000	4.0	105,900,000	.9	1,790,500,000	1.3
" 1893-94	973,800,000	0.8	575,000,000	1.6	1,540,400,000	1.1	153,900,000	1.1	108,500,000	2.5	1,811,800,000	1.2
" 1894-95	993,300,000	2.0	593,800,000	11.6	1,592,100,000	50	156,000,000	1.4	112,900,000	4.0	1,770,900,000	dec.
" 1895-96	1,021,300,000	2.8	537,500,000	inc. 5.6	1,558,800,000	inc. 3.1	162,900,000	4.4	112,500,000	dec. .3	1,834,200,000	inc. 3.3
" 1896-97	1,046,300,000	2.7	537,200,000	3.7	1,603,500,000	3.1	168,500,000	3.4	118,000,000	inc. 4.9	1,868,000,000	3.2
" 1897-98	1,120,200,000	6.8	590,900,000	6.0	1,711,200,000	6.5	177,400,000	5.3	125,700,000	4.8	2,012,500,000	6.3

APPENDIX II. (A.)—*continued.*

STATEMENT of the estimated Total NUMBER of LETTERS, POST CARDS, BOOK PACKETS and CIRCULARS, NEWSPAPERS, TELEGRAMS, and PARCELS dealt with, and of the Average Number per Head of the Population for the year ended the 31st March 1898.

— — —	Population.	Letters.		Post Cards.		Book Packets and Circulars.		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	31,140,433	1,711,200,000	55·0	308,000,000	9·9	612,000,000	19·7	116,900,000	3·8	69,961,350	2·2	56,167,000	1·80
Scotland	4,218,279	177,400,000	42·1	38,400,000	8·6	76,900,000	18·2	17,900,000	4·1	8,468,363	2·1	7,282,000	1·71
Ireland	4,551,903	123,700,000	27·2	15,100,000	3·3	37,500,000	8·2	16,900,000	3·7	4,605,256	1·0	4,424,000	·97
Totals	39,910,615	2,012,500,000	50·4	360,400,000	9·0	727,300,000	18·2	150,900,000	3·8	83,029,969	2·1	67,823,000	1·70

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

Letters	59·8	Telegrams	2·4
Post Cards	10·6	Parcels	2·0
Newspapers	4·4		
Book Packets and Circulars	21·4		

APPENDIX II. (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.
1888-89	170,100,000	7·0	21,800,000	2·8	9,300,000	6·9	201,400,000	6·7
1889-90	184,400,000	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	26,800,000	5·5	11,300,000	2·7	244,400,000	1·2
1893-94	209,100,000	1·4	27,400,000	2·2	12,000,000	6·2	248,500,000	1·6
1894-95	271,600,000	29·9 dec.	28,700,000	4·7	12,500,000	4·2	312,800,000	25·9
1895-96	298,300,000	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 dec.	336,500,000	7·0
1897-98	308,900,000	·7	36,400,000	5·8	15,100,000	·7	360,400,000	7·1

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.
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	21,800,000	9·0	441,900,000	7·3
1890-91	411,900,000	8·9	44,600,000	5·9	24,700,000	13·3	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	489,700,000	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	2·9	75,400,000	6·6	39,200,000	12·0 dec.	697,900,000	3·8
1897-98	612,900,000	5·1	76,900,000	2·0	37,500,000	4·3	727,300,000	4·2

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.
1888-89	119,300,000	dec. ·4	16,600,000	dec. ·9	16,000,000	1·3	151,900,000	dec. ·3
1889-90	126,600,000	inc. 6·1	16,700,000	inc. ·6	16,000,000	—	159,300,000	inc. 4·9
1890-91	127,900,000	·9	16,600,000	dec. ·6	16,600,000	3·7	161,000,000	1·1
1891-92	128,800,000	·8	17,000,000	inc. 2·4	17,000,000	2·4	162,800,000	1·1
1892-93	127,800,000	dec. ·8	17,600,000	inc. 3·5	17,400,000	3·3	162,800,000	—
1893-94	129,800,000	inc. 1·6	17,700,000	·6	17,400,000	—	164,900,000	1·3
1894-95	117,500,000	dec. 9·5	17,300,000	dec. 2·3	17,000,000	dec. 2·3	151,800,000	dec. 7·9
1895-96	115,500,000	inc. 1·7	17,300,000	—	16,200,000	4·7	149,000,000	inc. 1·8
1896-97	116,500,000	inc. ·9	17,300,000	—	16,800,000	inc. 3·7	150,600,000	inc. 1·1
1897-98	116,800,000	·3	17,200,000	dec. ·6	16,900,000	·6	150,900,000	·2

APPENDIX II. (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.			Increase per cent.	Number.					
	Number.	Increase per cent.	Number.	Increase per cent.	Number.	Increase per cent.								
1888-89	-	-	6,192,027	5	3,160,334	4.2	9,352,361	1.2	932,223	1.3	716,501	2.6	11,010,085	1.7
1889-90	-	-	6,340,350	2.4	3,328,526	5.3	9,668,876	3.4	972,636	4.3	718,423	.3	11,337,935	3.2
1890-91	-	-	6,394,514	.9	3,238,801	2.6	9,633,318	inc.	1,001,483	3.0	722,396	.6	11,357,197	dec.
1891-92	-	-	6,600,188	3.4	3,083,089	13.7	10,292,877	6.9	1,080,161	3.7	745,330	3.2	12,077,368	inc.
1892-93	-	-	6,538,404	dec.	3,724,240	1.1	10,292,644	dec.	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	1,090,708	2.4	778,594	1.5	11,742,352	dec.
1894-95	-	-	6,485,761	1.5	3,606,333	3.8	10,092,094	2.3	1,080,595	.9	776,575	.002	11,038,264	1.8
1895-96	-	-	6,704,084	3.4	4,446,400	23.3	11,150,484	10.5	1,184,768	8.7	798,708	2.9	13,133,960	9.8
1896-97	-	-	6,919,395	3.2	4,499,423	1.2	11,418,723	2.4	1,204,831	1.9	813,181	1.8	13,438,735	2.3
1897-98	-	-	7,316,040	5.7	4,789,067	6.4	12,105,107	6.0	1,273,541	5.5	834,831	2.7	14,213,479	5.8

APPENDIX II. (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 - - - - -	12,800	48,500	11,900	17,300
France (including Algeria and Tunis) -	201,400	1,202,260	214,700	567,900
Germany - - - - -	175,300	945,700	220,400	564,900
Gibraltar (including Tangier), Malta, and } Cyprus	17,200	218,800	23,400	18,000
Greece - - - - -	3,800	35,700	3,000	6,500
Holland - - - - -	42,800	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 - - - -	9,000	93,500	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 - - - - -	15,000	75,100	13,300	24,200
Switzerland - - - - -	32,200	254,700	31,700	98,000
Turkey (European) - - - - -	8,200	98,700	6,800	8,000
Totals - - - - -	712,400	4,586,700	735,700	1,808,600
ASIA.				
Asiatic Turkey and Persia - - -	4,500	64,700	2,700	4,800
Ceylon - - - - -	9,600	157,800	8,900	25,400
China and Japan - - - - -	18,600	299,100	14,800	29,400
India (including Aden) - - - -	102,100	1,815,200	87,800	274,400
Straits Settlements, Siam, and East Indies -	12,300	219,100	11,100	18,500
Totals - - - - -	148,100	2,555,900	124,700	352,500

APPENDIX II. (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) - }	38,800	503,000	36,400	140,200
East Coast of Africa (British and Portuguese } Possessions) - }	2,600	37,800	2,200	2,500
Egypt -	13,400	183,700	10,300	15,700
Madeira, Canary Islands, and Cape Verd -	3,800	59,400	3,200	1,800
Mauritius, &c. -	2,000	37,500	1,500	4,100
Natal -	9,800	167,900	8,800	46,600
St. Helena and Ascension -	1,000	7,800	500	600
South African Republic -	26,500	283,500	25,400	196,900
West Coast of Africa, &c. -	7,700	110,300	7,000	6,000
Totals -	105,400	1,397,900	95,300	413,400
AMERICA.				
Canada and Newfoundland -	63,600	978,200	44,700	214,500
United States -	287,600	2,270,400	258,000	1,536,600
Mexico and Central American States -	5,700	105,500	3,200	8,500
Brazil -	11,300	147,000	6,500	9,700
Uruguay and Paraguay -	3,200	43,000	800	1,700
Argentine Republic -	10,500	179,000	8,100	13,300
Chili and Bolivia -	5,600	77,000	5,000	9,900
Peru -	2,100	27,700	1,800	1,400
Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela -	2,600	35,900	1,800	2,200
British West Indies (including British } Guiana, British Honduras, Bahamas, and } Bermuda) - }	17,000	296,700	16,700	29,300
Foreign West Indies -	4,700	53,700	2,200	1,800
Falkland Islands -	300	6,900	300	290
Totals -	414,200	4,221,000	349,100	1,829,100
AUSTRALASIA.				
Western Australia -	9,800	162,300	9,400	41,300
South Australia -	7,400	128,100	5,800	41,600
Victoria -	25,600	436,900	21,900	196,700
New South Wales -	25,000	397,000	21,200	156,900
Queensland -	10,600	236,500	7,900	57,300
Tasmania -	3,000	65,600	2,400	14,300
New Zealand -	22,300	470,400	16,900	133,300
Fiji, &c. -	700	19,500	600	1,800
Totals -	104,400	1,916,300	86,100	643,300
GRAND TOTALS -	1,484,500	14,677,500	1,390,900	5,041,900

APPENDIX II. (B.)—continued.

STATEMENT of the NUMBERS of FOREIGN and COLONIAL
31st March 1897 and

Country.	Date of Establishment of Post.	Number of Parcels.			
		Despatched.			
		1896-97.	1897-98.	In- crease.	De- crease.
Aden - - - -	July 1885	1,785	1,764	—	21
Antigua - - - -	Jan. 1886	1,631	1,480	—	151
Argentine Republic - - -	Feb. 1890	2,537	2,807	270	—
Asconsion - - - -	July 1886	200	279	—	11
Austria-Hungary* - - -	June 1886	9,412	9,988	576	—
Bahamas - - - -	Sept. 1887	914	930	16	—
Barbados - - - -	April 1886	4,285	4,161	—	124
Bechuanaland, Orange State, and Transvaal. Frec	Dec. 1889	31,584	32,511	927	—
Belgium - - - -	Jan. 1886	46,118	50,230	4,121	—
Bermuda - - - -	April 1890	2,963	3,934	971	—
Beyrout - - - -	Jan. 1886	741	763	22	—
British Central Africa - -	Aug. 1893	453	630	177	—
British East Africa - - -	April 1891	826	1,264	438	—
British Guiana - - - -	Jan. 1886	5,770	5,538	—	232
British Honduras - - - -	March 1887	519	629	110	—
British North Borneo - - -	Sept. 1887	166	260	74	—
Canada, Dominion of - - -	Aug. 1886	46,233	51,185	4,952	—
Cape Colony - - - -	Dec. 1885	51,107	64,883	13,086	—
Ceylon - - - -	Nov. 1885	10,026	12,064	1,438	—
Chili - - - -	Jan. 1897	133	882	749	—
Colombia, Republic of - - -	March 1888	9,974	9,138	—	836
Constantinople - - - -	Jan. 1886	3,166	3,673	507	—
Costa Rica - - - -	Feb. 1888	2,857	2,002	—	855
Cyprus - - - -	Jan. 1886	1,134	1,374	240	—
Dominica - - - -	Jan. 1886	648	714	66	—
Dutch East Indies - - - -	June 1896	481	710	229	—
Egypt - - - -	July 1885	14,309	17,429	3,120	—
Falkland Islands - - - -	Oct. 1888	774	932	158	—
Fiji - - - -	June 1890	298	346	48	—
France† - - - -	Oct. 1887	193,713	206,189	10,476	—
Germany‡ - - - -	Jan. 1886	224,580	246,430	21,851	—
Gibraltar - - - -	July 1885	11,360	12,710	1,360	—
Grenada - - - -	Oct. 1885	1,357	1,426	69	—
Hawaii - - - -	March 1896	796	1,012	217	—
Holland - - - -	April 1886	42,231	45,981	3,750	—
Hong Kong§ - - - -	Oct. 1885	12,592	13,678	1,086	—
India - - - -	July 1885	87,814	94,943	7,129	—
Italy - - - -	Oct. 1887	53,509	61,415	7,906	—
Jamaica - - - -	Oct. 1885	9,067	8,626	—	471
Japan - - - -	Nov. 1895	1,491	3,629	2,138	—
Labuan - - - -	Dec. 1885	77	83	6	—
Liberia - - - -	July 1893	131	205	74	—
Madeira - - - -	July 1891	882	970	88	—
Malta - - - -	Aug. 1885	15,944	18,645	2,701	—
Carried forward -		909,456	998,451	91,696	2,701

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

† Including parcels for and from the French Possessions, &c.

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

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

APPENDIX II. (B.)—continued.

PARCELS Despatched and Received during the Years ended the 31st March 1898.

Number of Parcels.								Country.
Received.				Totals.				
1896-98.	1897-98.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1896-97.	1897-98.	In-crease.	De-crease.	
1,829	1,807	—	22	3,614	3,571	—	43	Aden.
292	217	—	75	1,923	1,897	—	226	Antigua.
504	487	—	17	3,041	3,294	253	—	Argentine Republic.
71	41	—	30	361	320	—	41	Ascension.
4,061	4,293	202	—	13,503	14,281	778	—	Austria-Hungary.*
228	202	—	26	1,142	1,132	—	10	Bahamas.
1,224	1,269	45	—	5,509	5,480	—	79	Barbados.
—	—	—	—	31,584	32,511	927	—	Bechuanaland, Orange Free State, and Transvaal.
23,552	24,182	1,630	—	68,070	74,421	5,751	—	Belgium.
694	904	210	—	3,657	4,838	1,181	—	Bermuda.
263	194	—	69	1,004	937	—	47	Beyrout.
—	—	—	—	453	630	177	—	British Central Africa.
244	255	11	—	1,070	1,519	449	—	British East Africa.
1,420	1,420	—	70	7,369	6,967	—	302	British Guiana.
141	100	—	41	660	729	69	—	British Honduras.
76	84	8	—	202	344	82	—	British North Borneo.
18,553	21,465	2,912	—	64,786	72,650	7,864	—	Canada, Dominion of.
19,331	22,940	3,618	—	70,528	87,833	17,304	—	Cape Colony.
5,126	5,430	310	—	15,746	17,494	1,748	—	Ceylon.
17	687	620	—	150	1,519	1,369	—	Chili.
286	271	—	15	10,280	9,409	—	851	Colombia, Republic of.
463	563	110	—	3,619	4,236	617	—	Constantinople.
121	71	—	50	2,978	2,073	—	905	Costa Rica.
394	440	56	—	1,518	1,814	296	—	Cyprus.
97	110	13	—	745	824	79	—	Dominica.
—**	—**	—	—	481	710	229	—	Dutch East Indies.
9,054	10,304	1,250	—	23,363	27,733	4,370	—	Egypt.
116	150	32	—	892	1,062	190	—	Falkland Islands.
102	87	—	15	400	433	33	—	Fiji.
162,907	185,125	22,218	—	358,620	391,314	32,694	—	France.†
282,991	312,826	29,835	—	507,560	559,356	51,896	—	Germany.‡
5,583	6,923	1,345	—	16,933	19,638	2,705	—	Gibraltar.
275	531	56	—	1,632	1,767	125	—	Grenada.
163	165	2	—	958	1,177	219	—	Hawaii.
32,481	36,319	3,838	—	74,712	82,800	7,888	—	Holland.
9,474	9,857	383	—	23,066	23,535	1,469	—	Hong Kong.§
72,434	67,454	—	4,970	160,238	162,397	2,159	—	India.
36,511	44,583	6,072	—	92,060	105,998	13,918	—	Italy.
2,346	2,515	—	133	11,445	10,841	—	604	Jamaica.
797	2,960	2,198	—	2,248	6,579	4,331	—	Japan.
67	95	38	—	134	178	44	—	Labuan.
12	5	—	7	143	210	67	—	Liberia.
66	71	5	—	960	1,041	91	—	Madeira.
9,465	10,630	1,165	—	25,409	29,275	3,866	—	Malta.
704,880	777,495	78,175	5,540	1,814,316	1,775,946	164,738	3,108	

‡ Included in figures for Cape Colony.

†† Included in figures for Germany.

** Included in figures for Holland.

APPENDIX II. (B.)—continued.

STATEMENT of the NUMBERS of FOREIGN and COLONIAL
31st March 1897 and

Country.	Date of Establishment of Post.	Number of Parcels.			
		Despatched.			
		1896-97.	1897-98.	In- crease.	De- crease.
	Brought forward -	908,456	908,451	91,696	2,701
Mauritius - . . .	April 1889	1,671	1,788	117	—
Mexico - . . .	April 1890	2,385	3,316	961	—
Montserrat - . . .	Jan. 1886	377	398	21	—
Natal - . . .	June 1887	13,218	16,101	2,883	—
Nevis - . . .	Jan. 1886	194	159	—	35
Newfoundland - . . .	Sept. 1886	2,376	2,393	17	—
New South Wales - . . .	July 1886	16,539	19,330	2,791	—
New Zealand - . . .	Nov. 1888	14,635	16,934	2,299	—
Niger Coast Protectorate - . . .	Dec. 1892	799	935	136	—
Norway - . . .	April 1886	10,931	11,981	1,050	—
Persia - . . .	Jan. 1894	123	162	39	—
Portugal - . . .	Jan. 1883	3,709	4,145	436	—
Queensland - . . .	Feb. 1892	5,268	6,285	1,017	—
Rhodesia - . . .	Jan. 1893	2,473	3,831	1,358	—
St. Helena - . . .	April 1886	845	881	36	—
St. Kitts - . . .	Jan. 1886	992	939	—	53
St. Lucia - . . .	Oct. 1885	1,099	1,163	64	—
St. Pierre and Miquelon - . . .	Aug. 1895	2,424	2,846	422	—
St. Thomas - . . .	Jan. 1888	475	451	—	24
St. Vincent - . . .	Nov. 1885	736	708	—	28
Salvador - . . .	April 1893	604	771	167	—
Samoa and Raratonga - . . .	May 1894	63	79	16	—
Sarawak - . . .	July 1887	303	209	6	—
Seychelles - . . .	April 1890	98	241	143	—
Siam - . . .	Aug. 1890	547	664	117	—
Smyrna - . . .	April 1887	1,373	1,426	53	—
South Australia - . . .	July 1886	4,051	4,906	755	—
Spain - . . .	Sept. 1891	21,146	22,630	1,484	—
Straits Settlements - . . .	Oct. 1885	5,417	6,133	716	—
Sweden - . . .	May 1896	11,654	13,182	1,528	—
Switzerland - . . .	Dec. 1887	42,728	46,483	3,755	—
Tangier - . . .	Jan. 1890	882	1,138	256	—
Tasmania - . . .	Jan. 1887	2,299	2,798	499	—
Tobago - . . .	Oct. 1885	228	214	—	14
Tortola - . . .	Oct. 1886	34	38	4	—
Trinidad - . . .	Oct. 1885	4,280	4,183	—	97
Uruguay - . . .	April 1891	564	507	—	57
Victoria - . . .	July 1886	11,260	13,286	2,026	—
West African Colonies - . . .	Jan. 1888	6,400	7,211	811	—
West Australia - . . .	Jan. 1887	5,979	7,248	1,269	—
Zanzibar - . . .	Jan. 1887	725	520	—	205
Totals -		1,111,280	1,226,904	118,928	3,214
		Net Increase - 115,714			

The postage was reduced in 1896-97 in the case of parcels exchanged with Australasia, Hawaii, Japan, Natal (places other than Durban and the Point), and Seychelles; and in 1897-98 in the case of parcels exchanged with British East Africa, Hong Kong, India, Mexico, Persia, Siam, and Zanzibar.

APPENDIX II. (B.)—continued.

PARCELS Despatched and Received during the Years ended the
the 31st March 1898—continued.

Number of Parcels.								Country.
Received.				Totals.				
1896-97.	1897-98.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1896-97.	1897-98.	In-crease.	De-crease.	
704,860	777,405	78,175	5,540	1,614,316	1,775,946	164,738	3,108	
261	291	30	—	1,932	2,079	147	—	Mauritius.
317	468	151	—	2,672	3,784	1,112	—	Mexico.
85	68	—	17	462	466	4	—	Montserrat.
3,997	4,705	708	—	17,215	20,806	3,591	—	Natal.
31	21	—	10	225	180	—	45	Nevis.
538	523	—	15	2,914	2,916	2	—	Newfoundland.
6,777	8,202	1,425	—	23,316	27,532	4,216	—	New South Wales.
3,696	4,367	669	—	18,333	21,301	2,968	—	New Zealand.
355	469	54	—	1,154	1,344	190	—	Niger Coast Protectorate.
4,853	4,979	146	—	15,784	16,960	1,176	—	Norway.
—	—	—	—	123	162	39	—	Persia.
302	410	108	—	4,011	4,555	544	—	Portugal.
2,082	2,389	307	—	7,350	8,674	1,324	—	Queensland.
—	—	—	—	2,473	3,831	1,358	—	Rhodesia.
198	194	—	4	1,043	1,075	32	—	St. Helena.
130	111	—	19	1,122	1,050	—	72	St. Kitts.
262	262	—	—	1,361	1,425	64	—	St. Lucia.
49	52	3	—	2,473	2,898	425	—	St. Pierre and Miquelon.
92	90	—	2	567	541	—	26	St. Thomas.
153	159	6	—	889	867	—	22	St. Vincent.
37	12	—	25	641	783	142	—	Salvador.
—	—	—	—	63	79	16	—	Samoa and Baratonga.
†—	†—	—	—	203	200	6	—	Sarawak.
453	816	363	—	551	1,057	506	—	Seychelles.
†—	†—	—	—	517	664	117	—	Siam.
428	426	—	2	1,801	1,852	51	—	Smyrna.
1,611	2,028	417	—	5,662	6,834	1,172	—	South Australia.
‡—	‡—	—	—	21,146	22,630	1,484	—	Spain.
4,818	5,506	688	—	10,235	11,639	1,404	—	Straits Settlements.
4,002	4,546	544	—	15,656	17,723	2,072	—	Sweden.
16,036	17,861	1,825	—	58,764	64,344	5,580	—	Switzerland.
‡—	‡—	—	—	982	1,138	256	—	Tangier.
468	514	48	—	2,765	3,312	547	—	Tasmania.
64	41	—	23	292	255	—	37	Tobago.
11	7	—	4	45	45	—	—	Tortola.
1,517	1,521	4	—	5,797	5,704	—	93	Trinidad.
89	77	—	12	653	594	—	69	Uruguay.
4,648	5,341	693	—	15,908	18,627	2,719	—	Victoria.
2,428	2,379	—	49	8,828	9,590	762	—	West African Colonies.
1,470	1,800	330	—	7,449	9,048	1,599	—	West Australia.
320	323	—	197	1,245	843	—	402	Zanzibar.
767,618	848,393	86,694	5,919	1,878,868	2,075,357	200,363	3,374	
Net Increase		80,775				196,489		

* 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 II. (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 1890
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. <i>See "Remarks."</i>	A sufficient number of efficient steam vessels.	Isle 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 1888
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. <i>See "Remarks."</i>	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 a week 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 <i>see "Remarks."</i>	Steam vessels	Southampton, Isle of Wight, and South of England Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.	- - -	- - -	1 Jan. 1874
WYEMOUTH and CHANNEL ISLANDS.	6 days a week	Steam vessels	Great Western Railway Company.	- - -	- - -	1 Aug. 1881
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 II. (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. a cwt. for parcels. 125l. per annum is also paid for transfer of Parcel Mails from the Packets at Liverpool and Douglas. There is a second service on week days during the summer season.
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.
6,000l. 100l. for parcels and 40l. for North Isles Service.	- - -	- - -	1,000l. P.M.G. 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 II. (C).—continued.

Line of Communication.	How often.	Number and Character of Vessels.	Contractors.	Contract or Agreement.		
				Date of Contract.	Terminable.	Service commenced.
ARDROSSAN and ABERN.	Week days	Steam vessel	Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company.	16 Feb. and 25 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.	6 and 17 Oct. 1891,	On 3 months' notice.	1 July 1890
GREENOCK and BELFAST.	Week days	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 PIER) 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	Lochgill and Loch Long Steam Boat 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.	No Contract	- - -	Mar. 1899
GREENOCK and TARBERT (HARRIS).	Once a week	Steam vessel (Dunara Castle).	Martin Orme & Co.	No Contract	- - -	- - -
GREENOCK and DUNVEGAN.	Once a week	Steam vessel (Hebridean).	John McCallum & Co.	No Contract	- - -	- - -
INVERGORDON and CROMARTY.	Week days	Steam vessel	Cromarty Steamship Company.	- - -	On 3 months' notice.	1 Feb. 1894
INVERNESS and FORT AUGUSTUS.	Six days a week	Steam vessels of sufficient number.	David MacBrayne	13 and 19 Jan. 1894.	On 6 months' notice.	17 Oct. 1892
KIRKWALL 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 (Thos. Work, manager).	1 Nov. 1891	On 6 months' notice.	1 Nov. 1891

APPENDIX II. (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.
16,000 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	2,000 <i>l.</i>	Payment includes Parcel Service.
130 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	65 <i>l.</i> *	Payment includes the Parcel Service. * To be recovered by way of liquidated damages and not by penalty.
2,510 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -	850 <i>l.</i> *	This payment includes 190 <i>l.</i> for Parcel Service, and 320 <i>l.</i> (30 <i>l.</i> of this sum for Parcel Service) 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 1896; 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 II. (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
KYLE and PORTREE.	6 days a week	Steam vessels of sufficient number.	David MacBrayne	2 & 11 Jan. 1894.	On 12 months' notice.	1 Apr. 1893
KYLE and STORNOWAY	Once a day, six days a week each way.	Steam vessel	"	1 & 13 June 1893.	On 6 months' notice.	"
LOCH TAY Steamers	Six days a week.	Steam vessels	Marquis of Breadalbane per W. J. Frazer.	- - -	- - -	- - -
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 MacBrayne.	- - -	- - -	1 Apr. 1891
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.	Out. — On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. In. — 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.					
	Tuesdays and Thursdays.					
{ OBAN and LOCHMADDY, calling at Tobermory, Loch Bracadale, Loch Pooltiel, and Dunvegan; And also at Rum and Canna.	Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.	Steam vessel.	"	"	"	"
	Tuesdays and Saturdays.					
{ LOCHMADDY and OBAN, calling at Lochboisdale and Castlebay	Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.	Steam vessel.	"	"	"	"

APPENDIX II. (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.
650l.	At speed of not less than 10 sea miles an hour.	20l. for undue delay or deviation from course.	100l.	" "
3,000l.	At rate of 11 sea miles an hour.	20l. for undue delay or deviation.	1,000l.*	" "
100l. for mails and 4l. for parcels.	- - -	- - -	- - -	No Contract.
53l. 2s. 10d.	- - -	- - -	- - -	"
600l.	Out. 3 hrs. 30 mins. In. 3 hrs. 30 mins.	- - -	300l.	"
65l.	- - -	- - -	- - -	"
555l.	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 12,305l. a year payable under these contracts and the contracts for the Kyle and Stornoway and the Portree and Dunvegan services, 5,716l. is paid by the Post Office, and 6,589l. by the Scottish Office. Payments include Parcel Services.
3,000l.	"	"	"	

APPENDIX II. (C.)—continued.

Line of Communication.	How often.	Number and Character of Vessels.	Contractors.	Contract or Agreement.		
				Date of Contract.	Terminable.	Service commenced.
PORTREE, LOCH-MADDY, and DUN-VEGAN.	Out. — Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. In. — Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.	Steam vessel	David MacBrayne.	1 & 13 June 1893.	On 6 months' notice.	1 Apr. 1893
ROTHESAY and WEMYSS BAY.	Week days -	Steam vessels	Caledonian Steam Packet Company, per Capt. James Williamson.	21 Nov. & 18 Dec. 1893.	"	17 Oct. 1892
SCRABSTER PIER (THURSO) and STROMNESS.	6 days a week	Steam vessels of sufficient number.	North of Scotland and Orkney and Shetland Steam Navigation Company.	21 Feb. & 27 Mar. 1889.	On 6 months' notice.	12 Feb. 1889
STRANRAER and LARNE. (<i>See below.</i>)						
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. }	Week days -	Steam vessel	David MacBrayne	13 & 19 Jan. 1894.	On 6 months' notice.	1 Oct. 1892
{ GREENOCK, ISLAY, and JURA. }						
VIEKIE (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 ARRAH	3 days a week	Steam vessel	Galway Bay Steamboat Co.	- - -	- - -	27 Apr. 1893

NOTES—

- In many cases the service commenced before the formal contract was executed.
- In addition to the payments given in detail above. Letters, &c. are conveyed by Private Ships to and from places 1,435*l.* a year, and the principal payments are as follows:—

For Guernsey, Alderney and Sark Service (special rates)	-	-	-
Glasgow, Greenock, and Londonderry Service	-	-	-
" Waterford and Milford Haven Service	-	-	-
" Douglas (Isle of Man) Season services via Fleetwood and via	-	-	-
" Belfast and Barrow Service	-	-	-
- There are also a number of small miscellaneous fixed payments for conveyance of Home Mails and for forryage in any case 50*l.* a year, which have not been included in the above statement.
- 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, 60*l.* a trip.

APPENDIX II. (C.)—continued.

Payment.	Contract Time.	Deduction for Overtime.	Penalty for General Non-performance.	Remarks.
1,550 <i>l</i> .	At rate of not less than 10 sea miles an hour.	20 <i>l</i> . for undue delay or deviation.	500 <i>l</i> .*	Payment includes Parcel Service. *To be recovered by way of liquidated damages and not by way of penalty.
150 <i>l</i> .	- - -	- - -	75 <i>l</i> .*	Payment includes Parcel Service.
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 710 <i>l</i> . a year.
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	" 280 <i>l</i> . "
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	" 300 <i>l</i> . "
Barrow	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	" 110 <i>l</i> . "
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	55 <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 II. (D.) Foreign and Colonial Packet Service.

Line of Packets.	Contracts.			Payment during the Year 1897-98.	Amount received		Cost borne in respect of Mails despatched from the United Kingdom.
	Com-mencement.	Termination.	Penalties for Overtime.		By Contributions.	By Sea Postage for Mails despatched by Colonies and Foreign Countries.	
EUROPE:				£	£	£	£
Dover and Calais - - -	21 June 1883 -	On 12 months' notice -	5s. for 20 minutes and 6s. for every additional 15 minutes.	25,000	-	-	25,000*
†Newhaven to Dieppe	1 July 1897 -	On 6 months' notice -	-	27½	-	-	27
†Channel Islands and St. Malo and Granville - - -	15 Feb. 1883 -	Do. -	-	43½	-	25	18
†Grimby and Hamburg - - -	16 Apr. 1893 -	Do. -	-	85½	-	381	445
†London to Hamburg - - -	1 Jan. 1886 -	Do. -	-	37½	-	-	37½
†Liverpool and Constantinople and Smyrna - - -	1 Jan. 1886 -	Do. -	-	27½	-	13	15
†United Kingdom and Lisbon - - -	1 Jan. 1889 -	Do. -	-	71½	-	8	63
AMERICA:							
United Kingdom to New York - - -	1 March 1887 -	On 12 months' notice -	-	107,694½	-	8,834	98,860
+ Do. do. - - -	31 March 1880 -	Do. -	-	78½	-	-	78
New York and Bermuda - - -	1 Jan. 1889 -	On 6 months' notice -	-	773½	-	48	725
†Liverpool to Mexico - - -	1 Dec. 1891 -	Do. -	-	130½	-	-	159
United Kingdom and West Indies:							
Portugally Service - - -	1 July 1895 -	30 June 1900 -	25s. for every 24 hours.	80,000	-	17,028	45,530
Additional Non-Contract Service - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
					Antigua - 970 Barbados - 2,160 British Guiana - 3,940 Dominica - 290 Grenada - 590 Jamaica - 5,140 Montserrat - 110 Nevis - 115 St. Kitts - 570 St. Lucia - 370 St. Vincent - 560 Tobago - 390 Tortola - 25 Trinidad - 2,540		

APPENDIX II. (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.
	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	
1896-97	1	16	40	132	164	185	246	152	105	79	48	38	18	20	7	7	2,552	2,262	629
1897-98	1	16	34	124	160	182	244	157	107	82	56	40	17	19	9	8	2,597	2,285	628
Increase	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	3	8	2	—	—	2	1	74	55	—
Decrease	—	—	6	8	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	30	32	1
Net Increase -																		23	
																		35	

APPENDIX II. (F.)

Staff of Officers.

Totals 31 Mar. 1897.	Description of Officers.	England and Wales.		Ireland.		Scotland.		Totals.		Totals 31 Mar. 1898.
		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 Secret- aries (6), Secretary for Ireland and Scotland.	9	—	1	—	1	—	11	—	11
	C.									
81	Higher Division Clerks (Secre- tary's Office) and other. Superior Officers in Metro- politan Offices.	70	1	4	—	4	—	78	1	79
	D.									
16	Surveyors - - - -	10	—	3	—	3	—	16	—	16
	E.									
919	Head Postmasters : Metropolitan - -	11	—	—	—	1	—	702	153	815
	Provinces - - -	538	89	96	31	116	33			
19,404	Sub-Postmasters : Metropolitan - -	704	135	62	80	45	12	14,292	5,420	19,718
	Provinces - - -	10,556	3,692	1,682	835	1,243	672			
	F.									
6,515	Clerks and Superintending Officers : Metropolitan - -	3,044	1,415	138	34	111	36	5,428	1,579	7,007
	Provinces - - -	1,808	77	85	3	242	14			
	G.									
24,642	Counter Clerks, and Tele- graphists, Sorters, Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists, &c. : Metropolitan - -	8,694	2,214	623	99	466	113	19,824	5,900	25,724
	Provinces - - -	8,246	2,056	648	262	1,147	556			
51,880	Carried forward -	33,691	10,279	3,342	1,944	3,370	1,436	40,412	13,059	53,471

APPENDIX II. (F.)—continued.

Staff of Officers—continued.

Totals 31 Mar. 1897.	Description of Officers.	England and Wales.		Ireland.		Scotland.		Totals.		Totals 31 Mar. 1898.
		Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	
51,689	Brought forward -	33,691	10,279	3,342	1,344	3,379	1,436	40,412	13,050	53,471
	H.									
29,583	Postmen, Porters, Mechanics, &c.:									
	Metropolitan - -	7,917	—	344	—	474	—	30,819	10	30,829
	Provinces - - -	17,964	8	1,440	—	2,660	2			
	I.									
63,414	Persons employed in un- established positions, viz., Assistants to Postmasters, Auxiliaries, Boy Messengers, Commissionaires, Copyists, Female Servants, Tele- graph Construction Hands, &c.:									
	Metropolitan - -	10,592	1,528	544	191	390	116	48,336	17,465	65,801
	Provinces - - -	23,791	12,313	4,109	1,621	4,110	1,696			
	J.									
9	Postmasters and Clerks, &c. abroad (under direction of the Postmaster General) and agents in Foreign Countries for collection of postage, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	9
144,700	Totals - -	98,775	24,128	9,779	3,156	11,013	3,250	119,578	30,534	150,110

APPENDIX II. (F).—*continued.***Mortality Table.**

	Number of Deaths during the Twelve Months ended December 31, 1897.									
	Chief Office.		Metro-politan Districts.		Pro-vinces.		Scotland.		Ireland.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
I.—SIMPLE FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASE.										
1. Miasmatic disease :										
Typhus - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid - - - - -	5	1	1	-	5	2	1	-	4	1
Scarlet fever - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza - - - - -	2	-	1	-	4	-	2	-	1	-
Small-pox - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Diarrhœal diseases :										
Simple cholera - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Septic diseases :										
Pyæmia - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
II.—CONSTITUTION DISEASES.										
Cancer - - - - -	2	-	2	-	5	-	1	1	-	-
Phthisis and hæmoptysis - - - - -	18	-	12	1	23	1	6	1	4	-
Tuberculosis - - - - -	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
Rheumatic fever - - - - -	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes - - - - -	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Dropsy - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glandular disease - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
III.—LOCAL DISEASES.										
1. Disease of nervous system :										
Apoplexy - - - - -	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Inflammation of brain - - - - -	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1
Paralysis - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chorea - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Epilepsy - - - - -	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebral tumour and abscess - - - - -	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mental derangement - - - - -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Diseases of circulatory system :										
Angina pectoris - - - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Disease of the heart - - - - -	4	-	-	9	1	-	-	-	3	-
Disease of the blood vessels - - - - -	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Syncope - - - - -	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carried forward - - - - -	45	1	21	3	66	4	15	3	13	2

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

	Number of Deaths during the Twelve Months ended December 31, 1897.									
	Chief Office.		Metro-politan Districts.		Pro-vinces.		Scotland.		Ireland.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Brought forward -	45	1	21	3	66	4	15	3	13	2
3. Diseases of respiratory system :										
Bronchitis -	1	1	4	-	8	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia -	7	-	5	-	19	-	1	-	1	-
Congestion of lungs -	2	2	1	1	3	-	-	-	1	-
Asthma -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laryngitis -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pleurisy -	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Empyæmia -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
4. Diseases of digestive system :										
Stricture of œsophagus -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hæmatemesis -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Enteritis and perityphlitis -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obstruction of bowels -	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Hernia, strangulated -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Peritonitis -	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Disease of liver -	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Other diseases of digestive system.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Diseases of urinary system :										
Bright's disease -	3	1	-	-	4	-	2	-	1	1
Renal calculus -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Stricture -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uræmia -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cystitis -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV.—DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE.										
Operations for cure of disease -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accidents -	2	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	2	-
Drowned -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Suicide -	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
V.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CASES.										
Tumour -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chill -	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pernicious anæmia -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Gangrene -	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Delirium tremens -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fistula -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Not classified {										
Bone disease -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sunstroke -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal hæmorrhage -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purpura hæmorrhagica -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colic -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senility -	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Marasmus -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Causes not stated -	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	1	1	-
Totals -	69	6	40	4	126	4	25	4	21	3

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

	Number of Persons retired during the Twelve Months ended December 31, 1897.									
	Chief Office.		Metro-politan Districts.		Pro-vinces.		Scotland.		Ireland.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Paralysis - - -	3	-	6	-	9	1	-	1	-	-
Vertigo - - -	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Softening of brain - -	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Epilepsy - - -	3	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	1	-
Mental derangement - -	5	1	5	-	15	1	2	-	2	-
Nervous debility - - -	2	2	2	1	14	2	1	1	2	-
Diabetes - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Heart disease - - -	2	3	3	-	11	1	5	-	1	1
Varicose veins - - -	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Phlebitis - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phthisis and Hæmoptysis -	13	3	12	1	34	4	11	3	4	-
Hæmorrhoids - - -	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Chronic bronchitis - - -	3	2	5	-	13	-	-	-	-	-
Pleurisy - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laryngitis - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Asthma - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Liver disease - - -	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Gall stones - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kidney disease - - -	2	-	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Eyesight - - -	4	4	1	1	6	1	-	-	2	-
Deafness - - -	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza - - -	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	-
Hæmatemesis - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Uleer of stomach - - -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Chronic rheumatism and sciatica	5	-	6	1	15	-	3	-	2	-
Gout - - -	2	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	-	-
Cancer - - -	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Uterine disease - - -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Peritonitis and enteritis -	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-
Carried forward -	50	17	52	5	146	14	28	9	17	1

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

	Number of Persons retired during the Twelve Months ended December 31, 1897.									
	Chief Office.		Metro-politan Districts.		Pro-vinces.		Scot-land.		Ireland.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Brought forward - -	50	17	52	5	146	14	28	9	17	1
Cystitis - - -	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1
Strictures - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hysteria - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chronic synovitis - -	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Hip disease - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tumour - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Chronic alcoholism - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Flat feet and weak ankles - -	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Skin disease - - -	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Telegraph cramp - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Writer's cramp - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fistula and abscess - -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Diseased bone - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ingrowing toe-nail - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Accidents - - -	-	-	3	-	3	-	1	-	-	-
Hernia - - -	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Prolapsus ani - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
General debility - - -	3	28	6	1	10	2	3	1	-	-
Senile decay - - -	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Anæmia - - -	-	1	-	2	1	3	-	1	-	-
Syphi lis - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dyspepsia - - -	3	-	1	-	8	-	1	-	-	-
Not stated - - -	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Totals - - -	70	49	66	8	180	19	36	11	20	3

APPENDIX II. (G.)

RETURNED LETTERS, PARCELS, &c.

APPENDIX II. (G.)

Returned Letters, Parcels, &c.

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT showing the Numbers of UNDELIVERED LETTERS and received in the RETURNED LETTER OFFICES; also the Numbers of UNDELIVERED and the Year ended

Returned Letter Office.	Letters received.*		Letters re-issued to corrected Addresses, or returned to the Senders.		Letters returned unopened to Foreign Countries.		Letters which could neither be delivered to the Addressee nor returned to the Senders.	
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.
LONDON - -	2,791,480	3,213,129	2,354,475	2,623,693	167,118	174,991	286,131	414,445
MANCHESTER -	972,132	413,895	300,111	322,816	23,051	13,679	48,239	77,400
LIVERPOOL -	303,550	305,209	250,211	257,701	21,827	16,808	30,795	27,700
BIRMINGHAM -	275,974	311,484	246,024	237,622	12,541	6,752	15,616	17,110
LEEDS - -	237,037	250,863	196,318	211,333	15,247	9,950	25,139	29,580
BRISTOL - -	319,922	353,967	261,983	296,632	18,884	14,611	38,078	47,724
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.	136,927	142,417	112,369	117,878	9,960	7,892	14,576	16,647
NOTTINGHAM -	170,567	199,539	155,980	174,393	8,807	5,566	14,642	19,580
PLYMOUTH -	52,160	57,722	43,347	48,580	4,239	3,978	4,222	5,164
EDINBURGH -	189,628	211,611	165,700	185,025	7,462	8,710	16,223	17,876
GLASGOW - -	144,118	153,903	126,625	134,152	6,963	6,407	10,458	13,344
ABERDEEN -	23,369	25,977	20,233	22,487	1,118	1,005	1,999	2,395
INVERNESS -	14,452	15,215	12,866	13,746	472	541	1,000	923
DUBLIN - -	178,440	194,175	148,300	163,234	5,331	8,857	24,336	22,064
BELFAST - -	51,335	58,159	42,947	48,045	2,985	2,864	5,782	7,250
CORK - -	33,892	32,962	28,082	29,161	3,094	2,826	2,688	945
Totals for Re- turned Letter Offices	5,304,503	5,942,197	4,465,571	4,936,408	309,029	285,527	520,617	730,172
Dealt with in Head Post Offices	1,330,659	1,756,843	1,264,520	1,756,843	—	—	—	—
General Totals of Undelivered Correspondence	6,635,162	7,699,040	5,730,091	6,693,251	309,029	285,527	520,617	730,172
Increase -	1,663,878		963,250		—		199,555	
Decrease -	—		—		23,502		—	

* Inland Patterns and Samples posted previous to 22nd June 1897,

APPENDIX II. (G.)—continued.

Returned Letters, Parcels, &c.—continued.

PARCELS received and disposed of, and the Numbers of Correspondence of other Classes—
POSTAL PACKETS dealt with in HEAD POST OFFICES, in the Year ended 31st March 1897,
31st March 1898.

Post Cards received.		Book Packets received.		Newspapers received.		Parcels received.		Parcels re-issued to the Addressees or returned to the Senders.		Returned Letter Office.
1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	
61,545	79,620	652,614	596,977	219,551	207,500	60,404	67,161	39,909	44,801	LONDON.
18,251	37,278	116,672	104,816	4,873	4,157	6,396	6,844	3,740	4,152	MANCHESTER.
14,298	16,533	78,215	65,591	7,032	6,385	4,569	4,460	2,685	2,532	LIVERPOOL.
55,682	62,051	339,719	341,837	9,424	8,687	4,430	5,492	2,846	3,916	BIRMINGHAM.
4,571	8,520	79,395	57,504	1,997	1,627	4,072	4,275	2,588	2,213	LEEDS.
8,416	10,264	73,435	55,827	3,215	3,105	7,430	7,698	4,274	4,141	BRISTOL.
9,610	9,702	43,814	43,618	1,575	1,439	2,310	2,404	1,331	1,370	NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
9,209	9,481	50,697	43,241	1,206	1,265	3,531	3,782	2,067	2,205	NOTTINGHAM.
851	1,136	8,621	6,406	646	426	1,092	1,153	499	634	PLYMOUTH.
32,561	34,929	174,637	157,208	12,519	11,966	4,434	5,117	3,404	3,938	EDINBURGH.
20,936	19,600	50,971	37,049	6,077	5,694	3,493	3,595	2,946	2,913	GLASGOW.
4,211	4,690	9,675	9,172	770	539	502	587	298	376	ABERDEEN.
334	338	3,168	2,812	332	347	306	323	237	169	INVERNESS.
5,735	1,134	50,535	12,846	13,318	6,563	5,197	6,634	4,189	3,350	DUBLIN.
1,965	1,427	8,898	9,133	3,275	1,580	996	1,050	578	582	BELFAST.
1,004	1,550	4,718	3,825	1,272	1,274	566	656	348	327	CORK.
249,129	296,553	1,746,284	1,547,983	287,064	262,454	109,791	121,231	71,839	77,628	{ Totals for Returned Letter Offices. Dealt with in Head Post Offices.
930,008	995,663	9,779,990	10,072,391	275,398	271,666	46,613	54,444	46,613	54,444	
1,179,137	1,294,216	11,526,274	11,620,374	562,462	534,120	156,404	175,675	118,452	132,072	{ General Totals of Undelivered Correspondence.
115,079	94,100	—	—	—	—	19,271	—	13,620	—	Increase.
—	—	—	—	23,362	—	—	—	—	—	Decrease.

and Foreign Samples, have been included in the total of Letters.

APPENDIX II. (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	2,287,359	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	2,477,008	1,559,854	24,459,775
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	3,042,291	1,736,677	29,411,982
1881-82	14,204,479	12,071,084	26,275,513	3,207,994	1,862,354	31,345,861
1882-83	14,554,015	12,874,707	26,928,722	3,244,202	1,919,102	32,092,026
1883-84	14,920,413	12,086,433	27,606,846	3,299,428	1,936,846	32,843,120
1884-85	15,195,618	12,930,376	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	24,044,877	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	70,839,498
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	40,805,002	26,645,407	66,950,409	8,094,360	4,378,787	79,423,556
1897-98	42,542,109	27,419,241	69,961,350	8,463,393	4,605,256	83,029,999

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 II. (H.)--*continued.***Telegrams—*continued.***

TABLE showing the NUMBER of TELEGRAMS forwarded from TELEGRAPH OFFICES in the UNITED KINGDOM during the Years 1896-97 and 1897-98; and the Increase in each Month of the latter Year over the corresponding Month of the former Year.

Month.	Number of Telegrams.		Increase.
	1897-98.	1896-97.	
April - - -	6,583,304	6,319,774	263,530
May - - -	6,972,607	6,897,118	75,489
June - - -	7,553,988	7,350,985	203,003
July - - -	8,087,813	7,805,519	282,294
August - - -	7,724,690	7,315,655	409,035
September - - -	7,395,673	6,980,714	414,959
October - - -	7,111,487	7,078,438	33,049
November - - -	6,658,165	6,270,212	387,953
December - - -	6,318,194	5,987,985	330,209
January - - -	6,133,897	5,588,366	545,531
February - - -	5,736,420	5,448,922	287,498
March - - -	6,753,761	6,379,868	373,893
	83,029,999	79,423,556	3,606,443

APPENDIX II. (I.)

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.
Year ended 31st March 1889	-	-	£ s. d. 14,870 7 10	£ s. d. 15,118 7 3	£ s. d. 33,414 14 7
" " 1890	-	-	15,495 9 6½	16,355 9 7	36,328 19 1
" " 1891	-	-	15,906 12 10	16,786 7 3	36,380 9 7
" " 1892	-	-	14,595 5 3	17,765 13 8	35,588 18 9
" " 1893	-	-	14,614 10 6½	21,129 18 0	39,520 18 1
" " 1894	-	-	16,897 0 0	23,990 0 2	44,941 12 3
" " 1895	-	-	17,991 14 8	25,451 5 9	47,428 13 1
" " 1896	-	-	17,983 7 1	22,290 19 8	44,045 10 11
" " 1897	-	-	18,474 2 7½	22,727 6 11	44,904 11 6
" " 1898	-	-	16,927 12 6½	20,938 19 6	41,371 3 8

Post Office Savings Banks.

TABLE showing the BUSINESS done during the last TEN YEARS.

Year.	Number of Post Office Savings Banks.	Number of Deposits.	Amount of Deposits.	Average amount of each Deposit.	Interest credited to Depositors.	Number of Withdrawals.	Amount of Withdrawals.	Average amount of each Withdrawal.	Expenses of Management.	Average Cost of each transaction.	Number of accounts opened.	Number of accounts closed.	Number of accounts remaining open at close of the year.	Amount, inclusive of interest, standing to credit of all open accounts at close of the year.	Average amount standing to credit of each open account at close of the year.	Rate per cent. of expenses of Management to total amount standing to credit of Depositors.	Total sum standing to credit of Post Office Savings Banks on books of National Debt Commissioners at close of the year.	Balance in hands of Postmaster-General after making provision for Outstanding Warrants at close of the year.	Estimated value of the Central Savings Bank Premises.	Total value of assets applicable to payment of Depositors at close of the year.	Number, at close of the year, of Old Savings Banks and Post Office Banks combined.	Number, at close of the year, of Depositors in Old Savings Banks and Post Office Banks combined.
1888	9,022	7,540,625*	19,052,220*	2 10 6	1,335,888	2,633,898†	15,802,735†	6 0 0	324,000†	7 10 4	887,460	618,204	4,220,927	58,556,394	13 17 5	11 2	60,800,503	266,071	219,000	61,345,634	9,404	5,800,473
1889	9,353	8,101,120*	19,814,308*	2 8 11	1,443,186	2,757,848†	16,814,208†	6 1 11	336,954†	7 10 4	924,010	637,128	4,507,809	62,999,620	13 19 6	10 8†	61,786,212	253,615	257,000	65,296,827	9,659	6,050,403
1890	9,681	8,776,506*	20,000,002*	2 7 10	1,553,355	2,892,006†	17,908,804†	6 3 10	328,394†	6 10 4	997,283	677,778	4,827,314	67,624,801	14 0 3	9 7†	63,954,764	155,673	263,000	69,376,477	10,005	6,265,096
1891	10,063	8,941,431*	21,334,903*	2 7 9	1,658,148	3,126,231†	19,019,856†	6 1 8	343,614†	6 10 4	992,155	701,071	5,118,395	71,008,002	13 19 10	9 7	72,417,045	173,082	293,000	72,800,927	10,366	6,328,677
1892	10,519	9,478,336*	22,845,031*	2 8 2	1,746,263	3,335,068†	20,346,271†	6 2 0	354,008†	6 10 4	1,066,622	705,701	5,432,316	75,883,079	13 18 3	9 4	78,123,988	176,056	273,000	78,573,044	10,800	6,454,296
1893	11,018	9,898,136*	24,640,024*	2 10 1	1,800,101	3,618,721†	21,761,566†	6 0 3	367,566†	6 10 4	1,067,160	731,267	5,748,239	80,597,041	14 0 5	9 11†	82,837,668	415,073	276,000	83,548,771	11,285	7,219,385
1894	11,823	10,373,651*	30,439,440*	2 15 6	2,015,903	3,863,880†	23,786,027†	6 3 1	414,557†	6 10 4	1,435,259	775,001	6,108,763	89,266,065	14 12 3	9 33†	94,497,364	497,743	312,000	95,307,107	11,580	7,676,709
1895	11,518	11,384,977*	32,078,660*	2 16 4	2,222,545	4,102,059	25,638,206†	6 5 2	414,657†	6 10 4	1,434,336	808,402	6,453,297	97,808,075	15 3 4	8 53†	105,064,203	384,181	336,000	105,784,384	11,763	7,669,826
1896	11,867	12,668,307*	36,258,350*	2 17 5	2,460,645	4,367,594†	28,489,220†	6 10 6	429,657†	6 10 4	1,261,178	832,740	6,862,063	108,048,611	15 15 1	7 11†	119,263,502	7,987	356,000	119,617,516	12,100	8,357,968
1897	12,212	13,012,935*	35,757,476*	2 14 11	2,665,864	4,670,435†	30,624,995†	6 11 2	450,984†	6 10 4	1,269,995	892,269	7,239,761	115,996,786	16 0 2	7 9†	127,914,469	304,850	368,000	128,077,310	12,444	8,706,978

* Including, as well as Ordinary Deposits, (a) Deposits.

* Including, as well as Ordinary Deposits, (a) Deposits for immediate investment in Stock; (b) amounts realised by sale of Stock, and Stock Certificates obtained, the amount, when Stock is sold or a Stock Certificate obtained, being placed to the credit of the Savings Bank Account so as to be dealt with as a withdrawal; (c) Dividends; (d) Deposits for purchase of Annuities and payment of Insurance premiums; and (e) amounts credited to Accounts in respect of sums payable to Annuitants and Insurants and their representatives. Every sum of £100,000, £250,000, £500,000, £750,000, £1,000,000, £1,250,000, £1,500,000, £1,750,000, £2,000,000, £2,250,000, £2,500,000, £2,750,000, £3,000,000, £3,250,000, £3,500,000, £3,750,000, £4,000,000, £4,250,000, £4,500,000, £4,750,000, £5,000,000, £5,250,000, £5,500,000, £5,750,000, £6,000,000, £6,250,000, £6,500,000, £6,750,000, £7,000,000, £7,250,000, £7,500,000, £7,750,000, £8,000,000, £8,250,000, £8,500,000, £8,750,000, £9,000,000, £9,250,000, £9,500,000, £9,750,000, £10,000,000, £10,250,000, £10,500,000, £10,750,000, £11,000,000, £11,250,000, £11,500,000, £11,750,000, £12,000,000, £12,250,000, £12,500,000, £12,750,000, £13,000,000, £13,250,000, £13,500,000, £13,750,000, £14,000,000, £14,250,000, £14,500,000, £14,750,000, £15,000,000, £15,250,000, £15,500,000, £15,750,000, £16,000,000, £16,250,000, £16,500,000, £16,750,000, £17,000,000, £17,250,000, £17,500,000, £17,750,000, £18,000,000, £18,250,000, £18,500,000, £18,750,000, £19,000,000, £19,250,000, £19,500,000, £19,750,000, £20,000,000, £20,250,000, £20,500,000, £20,750,000, £21,000,000, £21,250,000, £21,500,000, £21,750,000, £22,000,000, £22,250,000, £22,500,000, £22,750,000, £23,000,000, £23,250,000, £23,500,000, £23,750,000, £24,000,000, £24,250,000, £24,500,000, £24,750,000, £25,000,000, £25,250,000, £25,500,000, £25,750,000, £26,000,000, £26,250,000, £26,500,000, £26,750,000, £27,000,000, £27,250,000, £27,500,000, £27,750,000, £28,000,000, £28,250,000, £28,500,000, £28,750,000, £29,000,000, £29,250,000, £29,500,000, £29,750,000, £30,000,000, £30,250,000, £30,500,000, £30,750,000, £31,000,000, £31,250,000, £31,500,000, £31,750,000, £32,000,000, £32,250,000, £32,500,000, £32,750,000, £33,000,000, £33,250,000, £33,500,000, £33,750,000, £34,000,000, £34,250,000, £34,500,000, £34,750,000, £35,000,000, £35,250,000, £35,500,000, £35,750,000, £36,000,000, £36,250,000, £36,500,000, £36,750,000, £37,000,000, £37,250,000, £37,500,000, £37,750,000, £38,000,000, £38,250,000, £38,500,000, £38,750,000, £39,000,000, £39,250,000, £39,500,000, £39,750,000, £40,000,000, £40,250,000, £40,500,000, £40,750,000, £41,000,000, £41,250,000, £41,500,000, £41,750,000, £42,000,000, £42,250,000, £42,500,000, £42,750,000, £43,000,000, £43,250,000, £43,500,000, £43,750,000, £44,000,000, £44,250,000, £44,500,000, £44,750,000, £45,000,000, £45,250,000, £45,500,000, £45,750,000, £46,000,000, £46,250,000, £46,500,000, £46,750,000, £47,000,000, £47,250,000, £47,500,000, £47,750,000, £48,000,000, £48,250,000, £48,500,000, £48,750,000, £49,000,000, £49,250,000, £49,500,000, £49,750,000, £50,000,000, £50,250,000, £50,500,000, £50,750,000, £51,000,000, £51,250,000, £51,500,000, £51,750,000, £52,000,000, £52,250,000, £52,500,000, £52,750,000, £53,000,000, £53,250,000, £53,500,000, £53,750,000, £54,000,000, £54,250,000, £54,500,000, £54,750,000, £55,000,000, £55,250,000, £55,500,000, £55,750,000, £56,000,000, £56,250,000, £56,500,000, £56,750,000, £57,000,000, £57,250,000, £57,500,000, £57,750,000, £58,000,000, £58,250,000, £58,500,000, £58,750,000, £59,000,000, £59,250,000, £59,500,000, £59,750,000, £60,000,000, £60,250,000, £60,500,000, £60,750,000, £61,000,000, £61,250,000, £61,500,000, £61,750,000, £62,000,000, £62,250,000, £62,500,000, £62,750,000, £63,000,000, £63,250,000, £63,500,000, £63,750,000, £64,000,000, £64,250,000, £64,500,000, £64,750,000, £65,000,000, £65,250,000, £65,500,000, £65,750,000, £66,000,000, £66,250,000, £66,500,000, £66,750,000, £67,000,000, £67,250,000, £67,500,000, £67,750,000, £68,000,000, £68,250,000, £68,500,000, £68,750,000, £69,000,000, £69,250,000, £69,500,000, £69,750,000, £70,000,000, £70,250,000, £70,500,000, £70,750,000, £71,000,000, £71,250,000, £71,500,000, £71,750,000, £72,000,000, £72,250,000, £72,500,000, £72,750,000, £73,000,000, £73,250,000, £73,500,000, £73,750,000, £74,000,000, £74,250,000, £74,500,000, £74,750,000, £75,000,000, £75,250,000, £75,500,000, £75,750,000, £76,000,000, £76,250,000, £76,500,000, £76,750,000, £77,000,000, £77,250,000, £77,500,000, £77,750,000, £78,000,000, £78,250,000, £78,500,000, £78,750,000, £79,000,000, £79,250,000, £79,500,000, £79,750,000, £80,000,000, £80,250,000, £80,500,000, £80,750,000, £81,000,000, £81,250,000, £81,500,000, £81,750,000, £82,000,000, £82,250,000, £82,500,000, £82,750,000, £83,000,000, £83,250,000, £83,500,000, £

ates, with commission and fees; (c) Withdrawals for purchase of Annuities and payment of Insurance premiums; and (d) Withdrawals consequent on sale of Stock and obtaining Stock Certificates. For particulars, see statements of Government Stock business and annuity and insurance business.

[illegible]

APPENDIX II. (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.	1897.
Total number of depositors	6,108,763	6,453,597	6,862,035	7,239,761
Total number of deposits -	10,973,651	11,384,977	12,638,307	13,012,935
Average amount of each deposit account - -	14 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i>	15 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	15 <i>l.</i> 15 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i>	16 <i>l.</i> 0 <i>s.</i> 2 <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>	2 <i>l.</i> 14 <i>s.</i> 11 <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> 8 <i>d.</i>	6 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> 5 <i>d.</i>	6 <i>l.</i> 11 <i>s.</i> 2 <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	53,500

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.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Amount of Bank of England fees.	Amount of Stock bought.	Average amount of each purchase of Stock.	£ s. d.	Amount of Stock sold.	Average amount of each sale of Stock.	£ s. d.	Amount realised by sale of Stock.	Amount of Stock 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 Stock remaining to the Year.
1888	11,629	8,575	43,321	19,413	11,450	44	36	996,217	2,168	3 6 5	2 0	1,003,164	51 13 6	573,304	50 0 7	572,113	5 100	6,420	23,070	912	127,918	110,878	3,796,611	87 7 7			
1889*	11,261	7,692	46,993	19,766	11,822	27	126	985,322	2,168	3 8 9	0	1,003,308	50 15 3	605,319	50 18 11	535,831	3 450	21,631	18,154	760	171,270	114,400	4,175,034	88 17 1			
1890	14,606	10,536	51,063	22,385	12,066	28	204	1,060,257	2,332	12 6 4	0	1,125,310	50 5 5	590,307	48 17 0	573,108	4 000	37,490	6,819	271	189,109	118,326	4,680,168	91 13 1			
1891	11,516	7,494	55,065	20,841	12,540	28	228	980,283	2,332	9 0 3	17 0	1,025,310	49 3 11	607,637	48 12 2	583,658	3 850	42,774	36,991	438	207,970	131,913	5,067,703	92 7 3			
1892	14,110	8,356	60,839	23,976	13,727	27	300	1,254,306	2,745	7 6 3	14 0	1,264,104	52 14 5	688,385	50 2 11	688,689	3 700	47,417	6,776	124	223,538	142,760	5,590,020	92 0 7			
1893	17,195	8,963	60,131	29,298	15,283	26	427	1,533,027	3,213	13 0 3	2 0	1,544,406	52 14 4	711,468	46 11 1	704,329	3 100	72,960	9,036	540	251,625	160,270	6,364,494	92 1 3			
1894	13,188	11,015	71,304	23,532	13,315	12	159	1,650,575	3,227	8 6 1	7 0	1,625,674	60 1 8	978,001	53 8 0	983,459	1 350	22,774	41,220	976	272,302	183,179	7,028,197	96 11 4			
1895	9,725	12,640	68,949	18,060	19,608	17	164	1,185,720	2,337	0 3 2	0	1,112,568	61 10 0	1,035,980	59 7 2	1,238,491	3 100	27,611	4,477	653	282,009	193,605	6,940,948	100 16 0			
1896	10,175	10,947	68,177	16,972	17,865	15	143	1,065,573	2,602	6 9 1	8 0	967,684	57 4 7	1,107,687	61 15 2	1,225,396	1 400	36,573	10,354	635	275,303	192,184	6,891,591	101 1 9			
1897	9,139	8,963	69,113	16,335	13,769	10	144	1,078,849	2,257	12 3 1	14 0	967,142	57 2 2	796,466	57 16 11	881,927	1 700	38,511	1,710	482	273,502	191,684	7,083,564	101 15 4			

* In 1889, 856 persons holding 69,975 $\frac{1}{2}$ Redemption money under the provisions of the National Debt Redemption Act, 1869, were paid off and 4,014 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount was re-invested free of Commission on the new Government Stocks. In the other years the new Government Stocks, amounting to 246,582 $\frac{1}{2}$, was re-invested in 22 per cent. Consolidated Stock at 98, this being the final operation connected with the Conversion Scheme. The balance of Stock was then increased by 5,072 $\frac{1}{2}$.

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

ANNUITIES AND LIFE INSURANCES.

(I.) TABLE showing the BUSINESS done during the last TEN YEARS.

Year.	ANNUITIES.										LIFE INSURANCES.											
	Immediate.					Deferred.					Contracts entered into.		Receipts.		Payments.							
	Contracts entered into.		Receipts.		Payments.		Contracts entered into.		Receipts.		Payments.		No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.						
	No.	Amount of Annuities.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount of Annuities.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.											
1863	-	395	23,404	£	17,050	£	138	£	2,719	900	10,853	301	£	3,877	580	34,919	£	12,016	14,121	190	£	5,538
1869	-	983	23,361	292,846	17,537	193,140	131	2,858	934	11,464	543	4,097	671	32,532	12,275	15,112	543	7,473				
1890	-	948	21,956	273,578	17,976	206,423	116	2,527	914	14,283	412	4,014	403	25,406	11,799	14,422	196	6,541				
1891	-	963	23,673	296,882	18,195	217,505	142	2,183	959	12,578	475	6,341	529	23,030	11,627	15,073	232	8,551				
1892	-	1,167	28,153	335,723	18,523	230,370	214	4,253	1,966	15,360	478	6,032	1,963	80,307	15,517	16,099	190	7,354				
1893	-	1,420	36,746	461,509	19,314	251,474	150	3,091	1,297	16,148	535	8,070	853	44,000	19,365	17,227	228	9,228				
1894	-	1,565	41,405	540,277	20,418	275,243	164	3,772	1,293	17,202	600	9,130	1,128	56,010	20,107	18,229	291	9,641				
1895	-	1,898	49,816	665,263	21,911	305,712	169	4,033	1,300	23,803	646	8,957	720	38,358	20,903	16,140	290	9,861				
1896	-	2,203	60,965	823,713	23,830	347,126	202	4,178	1,317	25,356	719	8,746	1,223*	65,582	21,264	18,587	431	9,578				
1897	-	2,051	56,237	756,433	26,057	392,285	207	4,009	1,363	24,112	827	10,997	849	46,017	21,512	20,439	321	10,030				

* New Table of Life Insurance Premiums introduced 1st February 1896.

APPENDIX II. (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 1897, and the Number and Amount of Contracts in existence on the 31st December 1897.

	CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO				TOTAL.	
	From 17 April 1865 to 31 December 1896.		From 1 Jan. 1897 to 31 December 1897.			
	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 1897, viz. :—						
Immediate Annuities - -	28,595	560,480 10 0	2,051	56,236 10 4	30,646	616,717 0 4
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - -	808	16,065 9 0	83	1,275 6 0	951	17,340 15 0
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - - -	1,875	40,676 14 6	121	2,734 1 6	1,909	43,410 16 0
Contracts for Sums payable at Death entered into from the commencement of business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1897 - - - - -	17,065	1,037,321 2 8	849	48,916 14 5	17,914	1,135,337 17 1
Contracts for Annuities in existence on the 31st December 1897, viz. :—						
Immediate Annuities - -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	17,747	427,316 4 2
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - - -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	851	14,833 17 6
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - - -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	1,145	24,730 15 0
Contracts for Sums payable at Death, in existence on the 31st December 1897 - - -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	11,210	681,477 13 8

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

RETURN of the BALANCE SHEETS of the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS on the 31st day of December 1897, 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 1897, 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. 1897.		Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year.			
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
2½ per cent. Consols - - -	73,726,858	18 6	83,311,351	0 0	477,863	16 2
2½ per cents. - - - - -	9,079,170	15 8	9,846,619	0 0	53,660	17 3
Local Loans 3 per cent. Stock - -	11,022,690	5 1	12,483,197	0 0	78,177	4 8
2½ per cent. Annuities (1905) - -	100,000	0 0	106,375	0 0	650	2 9
Book Debt, per Act 55 & 56 Vict. c. 26.	10,200,000	0 0	10,200,000	0 0	66,313	17 2
Treasury Bills - - - - -	1,088,300	0 0	1,061,546	0 0	9,015	14 11
Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. Bonds	626,100	0 0	677,753	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	—	
Advance under British Museum (Pur- chase of Land) Act, 1894, 57 & 58 Vict. c. 34, s. 1. }	200,000	0 0	200,000	0 0	1,418	9 6
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) 2,034,348	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) 3,236,105	0 0	—	
Annuity for a term of years granted to repay advances per 32 & 33 Vict. c. 42, payable by Irish Land Com- mission per 44 & 45 Vict. c. 71. }	139,800	0 0	(a) 358,977	0 0	—	
Annuity for a term of years per Na- tional Debt Act, 1884, 47 Vict. c. 2, s. 2. }	35,121	0 0	(a) 192,970	0 0	—	
Annuity for a term of years per 46 Vict. c. 1, s. 2 }	6,398	8 6	(a) 29,476	0 0	—	
Red Sea and India Telegraph Annuity, expiring 4th August 1908 }	3,100	0 0	28,869	0 0	—	
Annuities for terms of years granted to repay advances under Imperial Defence Act, 1883, 51 & 52 Vict. c. 32. }	60,431	16 0	(a) 174,788	0 0	—	
Annuity for a term of years granted to repay an advance under Russian Dutch Loan Act, 1891, 54 & 55 Vict. c. 26. }	35,176	18 0	(a) 277,898	0 0	—	
Annuities for terms of years granted to repay advances under Telegraph Act, 1892, 55 & 56 Vict. c. 59. }	74,660	1 0	(a) 919,862	0 0	—	
Carried forward - - -			125,810,134	0 0	687,100	2 5

(a) Value, inclusive of interest, to 31st December 1897.

(b) Cash value (at the price of Consols on 31st December 1897) of the amount of 2½ per cent. Consols, estimated to have been unreplaced at 31st December 1897, out of the amount of Stock originally cancelled in exchange for these Annuities. Act 54 & 55 Vict. c. 24.

APPENDIX II. (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. 1897.	Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward		125,810,134 0 0	687,100 2 3
Annuities for terms of years granted to repay advances under Public Accounts and Charges Act, 1891, 54 & 55 Vict. c. 24. s. 4.	64,190 16 0	(a) 354,974 0 0	—
Annuity for a term of years granted to repay advances under Barracks Act, 1890, 53 & 54 Vict. c. 25.	13,576 17 0	(a) 146,286 0 0	—
Annuities for terms of years granted to repay advances made under the Pensions Commutation Act, 34 & 35 Vict. c. 36.	45,498 13 0	(a) 199,547 0 0	—
Annuities for terms of years purchased under Indian Army Pension Deficiency Act, 1895, 48 & 49 Vict. c. 67. s. 5 (2), and 59 & 60 Vict. c. 28. s. 37.	84,137 13 4	(a) 477,665 0 0	—
Annuity for a term of years granted to repay an advance under Uganda Railway Act, 1896, 59 & 60 Vict. c. 38.	7,462 15 0	(a) 144,911 0 0	—
Advances under Pensions Commutation Act, 34 & 35 Vict. c. 36., during year ended 31st December 1897, in respect of which an Annuity had not been granted	34,177 0 0	34,177 0 0	679 14 6
		<u>£127,167,694 0 0</u>	<u>687,779 16 11</u>
Add—Value of Securities			127,167,694 0 0
Balance of Deficiency of Interest for Year ending 31 December 1896, not voted at 31 December 1897			2,370 18 2
Cash balance in Bank of England			86,624 13 1
			<u>£ 127,944,469 8 2</u>

(a) Value, inclusive of interest, to 31st December 1897.

National Debt Office,
24th May 1898.G. W. HERVEY,
Comptroller General.

APPENDIX II. (J.)—continued.

Post Office Savings Bank—continued.

BALANCE SHEET.

RETURN of the BALANCE SHEETS of the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS for the Year 1897, 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 1897, 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.
Balance due to Depositors on the 31st December 1897 (including interest)	115,896,786	0 6	Value of Securities according to the average price of the day on 31 Dec. 1897	127,857,844	15 1
Amount of expenses remaining unpaid (partly estimated)	27,249	6 10	Amount of cash in hands of Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt	86,814	13 1
Surplus of assets over Liabilities	12,758,232	11 10	Total Amount in the hands of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt	-	-
			Amount in the hands of Her Majesty's Postmaster-General	451,065	11 8
			Less—Amount required to meet Warrants issued to Depositors but not cashed on 31st December 1897	86,246	0 8
				364,819	11 0
			Value of the Central Savings Bank Premises	-	-
				363,000	0 0
				128,077,318	19 2
				£	s. d.
				522,147,940	9 4
				496,251,154	8 10

Total amount received from Depositors, including interest, to 31st December 1897 - - - - - 522,147,940 9 4
Total amount repaid to Depositors to 31st December 1897 - - - - - 496,251,154 8 10

Number of Transactions.			Number of Accounts.		
Deposits.	Withdrawals.		Opened.	Closed.	Remaining Open.
180,252,804	66,346,254		22,398,191	15,748,450	7,239,761

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 1897 was 255,599,128.

The sums of 126,278, 14s. 11d., 147,116, 16s. 0d., 77,787, 12s. 1d., 125,546, 4s. 11d., 144,878, 3s. 11d., 146,799, 10s. 1d., 123,139, 0s. 1d., 93,794, 10s. 2d., 83,040, 11s. 5d., 64,608, 16s. 11d., 67,007, 13s. 8d., 75,305, 8s. 9d., 72,495, 1s. 8d., 54,050, 9s. 4d., 65,062, 12s. 2d., 51,171, 11s. 2d., 29,921, 8s. 3d., 35,100, 9s. 10d., 3,832, 10s. 3d., and 16,063, 2s. 11d. 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, and 1896 respectively under sec. 14 of the Act 40 Vict. c. 13, being the excess of interest which had accrued during the years 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894 and 1895. In the year 1896 there was a deficiency of 6,162. The sum of 220,200, the cost of the site of the new Savings Bank buildings in Queen Victoria Street, and 141,567, towards the cost of the new building, have been paid for out of the funds of the Post Office Savings Banks.

APPENDIX II. (K.)

Money Orders.

MONEY ORDER BUSINESS in the last TEN YEARS.

Year.	ISLAND ORDERS.				COLONIAL ORDERS.				FOREIGN ORDERS.				GRAND TOTAL.			
	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.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.
1888-89	9,228,183	£ 23,067,049	Decrease. 5.4	33	424,987	£ 1,521,013	7	6	854,547	£ 2,139,390	7.7	6.2	10,507,717	£ 26,619,052	Decrease. 2.2	1.08
1889-90	9,027,750	23,333,417	2.1	1.6	433,102	1,631,016	6.6	7.2	893,292	2,300,872	4.5	3	10,374,144	27,165,906	1.2	2
1890-91	8,864,463	23,897,707	1.8	2.4	463,718	1,638,102	3.4	1.6	927,651	2,312,018	3.8	5	10,290,892	27,967,987	1	2.5
1891-92	8,904,576	24,383,563	Increase. 4	2	479,026	1,656,081	2.3	Decrease. 1	960,428	2,339,964	3.5	3.3	10,346,090	28,429,034	Increase. .8	2
1892-93	8,963,082	24,618,906	6	9	485,886	1,653,330	1.3	1.8	945,050	2,429,812	3.4	1.6	10,443,918	28,683,951	9	8
1893-94	9,027,934	24,575,036	7	1	513,476	1,767,701	6.1	8	981,364	2,379,092	Decrease. 1.2	Decrease. 2.1	10,324,774	28,750,329	7	1
1894-95	9,190,304	24,953,532	1.7	Increase. 1.5	518,362	1,711,518	5	Decrease. 3.1	976,340	2,257,777	5	5	10,683,206	28,923,127	1.5	7
1895-96	9,334,296	25,582,556	1.5	2.5	538,780	1,778,579	4	Increase. 3.9	1,028,881	2,366,902	Increase. 5.1	Increase. 4.7	10,900,963	29,726,817	2	2.7
1896-97	9,314,022	25,919,853	Decrease. 2	1.3	573,135	1,905,961	6.1	7.1	1,031,440	2,428,573	7	2.4	10,921,617	30,249,067	1	1.7
1897-98	9,423,009	27,494,145	Increase. 1.3	6	567,315	£ 1,842,571	Decrease. 1	Decrease. 3.2	1,131,334	3,777,563	9.3	14.6	11,128,258	32,114,579	1.8	6.1

APPENDIX II. (K.)—continued.

Money Orders—continued.

INLAND ORDERS.

INLAND ORDERS.																				
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 popu- lation.	Number.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.	Number of Money Orders issued to each 100 of popu- lation.	Number.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.		
1888-89	7,560,195	19,267,208	3·7	4	26·15	1,079,719	2,422,793	1·7	2·2	26·5	588,280	1,267,548	2·3	4·	12·4	9,228,183	22,957,649	3·4	·33	24·5
1889-90	7,395,352	19,548,374	2·2	1·4	25·2	1,068,457	2,501,572	1·	3·2	26·	563,941	1,288,471	4·	1·2	12·	9,027,750	23,333,417	2·1	1·6	24·
1890-91	7,568,248	20,044,082	1·7	2·5	25·06	1,045,048	2,546,719	2·1	1·8	25·9	551,187	1,300,966	2·2	1·8	11·7	8,964,483	23,897,767	1·8	2·4	23·43
1891-92	7,342,299	20,471,068	1·	2·1	25·	1,021,698	2,573,456	2·2	1·	25·1	542,579	1,339,045	1·5	2·4	11·6	8,906,576	24,381,469	·4	2·	23·3
1892-93	7,301,775	20,558,172	·6	·9	24·9	1,032,082	2,605,839	Increase.	1·	25·2	530,175	1,354,798	·6	1·1	11·6	8,963,082	24,618,809	·6	·9	23·3
1893-94	7,483,054	20,647,160	1·2	·6	24·9	1,008,662	2,564,601	Decrease.	1·	24·4	536,218	1,363,275	·5	·6	11·6	9,027,084	24,575,086	·7	·1	23·3
1894-95	7,058,756	21,040,022	2·3	1·9	25·4	994,834	2,540,507	Increase.	1·3	·5	536,714	1,363,913	·09	·64	11·6	9,190,304	24,953,532	1·7	1·5	23·6
1895-96	7,778,115	21,530,006	1·5	2·3	25·3	1,017,320	2,571,839	Increase.	2·2	4·7	538,801	1,371,391	·4	·5	11·8	9,334,296	25,582,236	1·5	2·5	23·6
1896-97	7,764,314	21,851,293	·08	1·4	25·1	992,426	2,606,671	Decrease.	2·4	·1	537,282	1,401,689	Dec.	2·2	11·8	9,314,022	25,919,853	Dec.	·2	23·4
1897-98	7,914,255	23,211,225	1·6	0·2	25·2	967,740	2,772,746	2·4	3·9	22·7	547,614	1,510,174	Inc.	1·9	7·7	9,429,009	27,464,145	Inc.	1·2	23·5

APPENDIX II. (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 1898.*

	Number.	Amount.
		£
Admiralty, Bills Branch - - -	34,516	116,552
" Greenwich Hospital - - -	4,924	5,821
" Naval Allotments - - -	324,481	476,173
" Pensions - - -	123,839	892,776
Board of Trade, Bankruptcy - - -	67,154	39,985
" Pensions - - -	6,388	5,797
Civil Service Commission - - -	1,957	3,858
Education Office, England - - -	9,101	91,152
" Scotland - - -	360	4,044
India Office - - -	1,718	7,059
Inland Revenue - - -	246,809	675,769
Metropolitan Police - - -	12,923	179,648
Office of Works - - -	8,682	24,213
Science and Art Department - - -	2,863	15,465
War Office - - -	630,113	2,341,145
Excise Duties - - -	369,625	1,308,086
Legacy and Succession - - -	9,087	53,462
Public Works, Ireland - - -	286	323
	1,853,926	6,241,333

* 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 II. (K.)—*continued.*
Money Orders—*continued.*

Year.	ISSUED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.						ISSUED IN THE COLONIES.						TOTAL.			
	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.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.
1888-89	74,085	283,407	9.3	10.7	350,902	1,252,506	6.2	4.7	424,987	1,521,013	7.1	6.1	774,889	2,772,519	7.4	6.1
1889-90	81,717	306,344	10.3	10.6	371,385	1,325,272	5.8	6.1	453,102	1,631,616	6.6	7.2	824,487	2,963,192	6.6	7.2
1890-91	86,191	315,316	5.4	2.9	382,527	1,342,786	3.1	1.3	463,718	1,633,102	3.4	1.6	927,436	3,266,208	3.4	1.6
1891-92	92,554	332,411	7.3	5.4	397,072	1,323,670	1.1	Decrease, 1.4	479,626	1,656,061	2.3	Decrease, 1.1	876,698	3,312,121	2.3	Decrease, 1.1
1892-93	103,181	365,394	11.4	9.9	332,755	1,289,936	Decrease, 1.1	4.1	485,936	1,635,330	1.3	1.3	818,911	3,274,660	1.3	1.3
1893-94	117,425	430,364	13.8	17.7	308,081	1,237,337	Decrease, 3.9	5.3	515,476	1,767,701	Increase, 6.1	8.1	824,487	3,534,361	8.1	8.1
1894-95	123,965	427,288	5.5	Decrease, 7.7	391,607	1,284,530	Decrease, 8.8	3.9	518,562	1,711,818	Decrease, 6.1	3.1	836,169	3,423,639	Decrease, 3.1	Decrease, 3.1
1895-96	127,194	435,820	2.6	Increase, 1.9	412,592	1,342,769	Increase, 4.5	4.5	539,786	1,778,579	4.1	3.9	951,980	3,602,218	4.1	3.9
1896-97	129,171	430,414	1.5	Decrease, 1.2	443,964	1,475,247	7.6	9.8	573,135	1,906,661	6.1	7.1	1,025,116	4,511,879	6.1	7.1
1897-98	137,655	463,936	6.5	Increase, 12.4	420,600	1,356,593	Decrease, 3.2	7.8	567,315	1,842,871	Decrease, 1.1	3.2	987,915	4,359,744	Decrease, 1.1	Decrease, 3.2

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

Year.	FOREIGN ORDERS.									
	ISSUED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.				ISSUED ABROAD.				TOTAL.	
	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.
1888-89	201,457	£ 643,439	6·6	7·6	503,090	£ 1,465,951	8·1	6·	854,547	£ 2,139,390
1889-90	232,108	602,651	8·	7·6	611,184	1,508,241	8·	8·	893,292	2,500,872
1890-91	298,531	720,380	2·2	4·	639,320	1,591,638	4·6	5·5	927,851	2,312,018
1891-92	298,021	746,139	3·3	3·5	662,407	1,642,845	3·6	3·2	960,428	2,389,984
1892-93	301,535	741,470	1·1	Decrease. 6·	692,415	1,688,342	4·5	2·7	993,950	2,429,812
1893-94	317,806	797,377	5·3	Increase. 7·5	663,558	1,580,715	Decrease. 4·1	Decrease. 6·3	981,364	2,378,092
1894-95	322,153	786,883	1·3	Decrease. 1·3	651,187	1,470,804	1·4	6·9	976,340	2,257,777
1895-96	330,088	798,582	2·4	Increase. 1·5	696,793	1,567,420	Increase. 6·5	Increase. 6·5	1,026,931	2,566,002
1896-97	355,633	893,559	7·7	11·8	678,827	1,550,015	Decrease. 2·2	Decrease. 2·3	1,034,460	2,425,573
1897-98	360,331	968,901	8·6	11·2	745,103	1,783,642	Increase. 9·7	Increase. 16·5	1,111,394	2,777,543

APPENDIX II. (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 W. Indies.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Colonies.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Colonies.
1888-89	£ 6,789	68,592	£ 78,063	371,623	£ 74,637	223,048	£ 11,769	108,135	£ 51,521	182,683	£ 23,664	76,372	£ 7,979	221,212	£ 14,315	54,569	£ 268,407	1,252,006
1889-90	7,348	82,529	82,394	356,436	79,850	221,573	14,575	142,550	72,926	150,296	23,474	72,023	9,276	202,064	10,481	96,851	306,344	1,325,273
1890-91	9,325	91,085	87,255	346,387	73,773	215,598	16,780	166,064	70,213	180,645	24,586	70,710	10,019	196,251	18,365	76,198	315,310	1,342,786
1891-92	10,476	92,878	91,322	344,196	83,883	215,723	10,253	184,756	73,025	142,322	25,522	73,630	10,245	200,151	18,685	70,014	332,411	1,323,670
1892-93	12,051	91,119	108,822	254,894	84,417	215,513	23,730	207,179	80,344	127,077	25,062	74,276	10,313	201,666	19,555	58,213	365,394	1,260,936
1893-94	13,377	86,504	148,702	265,831	92,945	215,136	29,326	243,050	84,228	167,933	29,933	78,466	11,863	216,898	20,088	62,879	430,364	1,337,337
1894-95	12,224	95,616	124,692	228,454	102,867	193,274	35,060	279,433	80,405	143,237	30,303	72,088	11,496	207,409	21,156	64,339	427,298	1,284,530
1895-96	13,480	119,300	117,599	223,797	100,071	176,498	40,308	354,556	96,345	152,525	31,585	72,398	12,748	193,973	23,084	70,522	435,880	1,342,739
1896-97	21,152	235,542	112,874	242,083	102,705	168,225	41,241	348,048	82,557	182,764	31,288	70,765	14,095	163,475	24,402	63,315	430,414	1,475,247
1897-98	18,083	164,558	111,906	253,830	107,938	171,722	57,660	290,474	124,696	201,562	32,040	88,802	14,773	156,569	24,836	59,569	463,935	1,385,936

APPENDIX II. (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 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 Hungary.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Hungary.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in the U.K. & D.W.I.
1888-89	1,930	10,486	23,092	44,448	11,760	11,760	2,596	20,263	113,033	146,681	172,895	107,327	41,226	34,634	414	1,441	3,334	2,094	556	19,707
1889-90	13,637	12,007	24,354	42,103	12,417	13,390	3,643	21,123	123,500	151,938	178,295	113,992	46,717	26,125	440	1,637	2,356	2,394	630	6,226
1890-91	13,654	13,456	26,640	44,240	14,482	14,482	3,212	23,432	127,733	153,578	186,217	119,092	52,178	33,702	571	2,093	4,090	2,545	436	4,867
1891-92	7,737	13,735	26,126	48,831	14,312	16,269	3,205	23,341	131,190	161,801	192,007	127,961	50,566	56,337	533	1,334	5,635	3,538	533	5,117
1892-93	20,546	16,773	28,017	49,471	15,311	14,533	3,331	25,617	126,467	156,554	191,345	133,846	45,480	44,680	526	1,212	8,002	4,430	663	5,337
1893-94	26,105	19,869	28,113	50,371	16,062	15,805	4,042	24,406	121,916	154,938	183,708	138,218	36,718	21,163	825	1,054	9,084	5,096	541	4,218
1894-95	27,815	20,259	31,745	49,101	15,134	15,029	4,654	26,241	122,897	157,831	179,458	144,550	38,256	18,707	1,063	1,180	5,844	5,546	392	3,606
1895-96	32,051	24,561	32,924	51,277	15,354	15,354	4,370	26,237	129,064	164,355	178,067	146,108	47,751	21,213	1,084	2,234	5,938	7,757	560	4,084
1896-97	40,644	29,516	34,026	53,426	15,209	16,735	4,738	28,029	137,261	166,080	190,060	148,716	55,157	17,703	1,366	2,080	8,032	7,525	549	6,129
1897-98	52,701	28,961	39,162	56,301	17,193	16,014	5,000	31,563	140,109	161,064	203,781	160,222	9,752	16,999	1,291	2,413	11,445	7,524	625	10,885

APPENDIX II. (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—cont.

Year.	Luxembourg.		Netherlands, and Dutch East Indies.		Norway.		Portugal.		Roumania.		South African Republic.	
	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Luxembourg.	Issued in the U.K.	Issued in Netherlands and Dutch East 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 S.A.R.
1888-89	£ —	£ —	£ 11,637	£ 16,534	£ 26,663	£ 3,142	£ 3,845	£ 4,029	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ —
1889-90	—	—	12,870	19,314	28,506	4,345	5,176	4,498	—	—	—	—
1890-91	—	—	15,008	20,963	27,350	6,176	6,591	3,790	425	1,150	—	—
1891-92	—	—	16,651	23,252	24,632	6,677	2,902	11,145	598	2,302	—	—
1892-93	96	91	18,928	23,522	25,551	7,203	1,735	—†	609	2,985	—	—
1893-94	714	572	19,987	24,971	27,526	8,691	1,190	—	650	4,745	—	—
1894-95	758	617	21,323	27,010	27,774	9,374	967	—	1,065	4,613	—	—
1895-96	656	614	29,390	30,327	28,891	10,551	916	—	1,399	5,643	—	—
1896-97	788	916	42,535	32,525	36,994	11,782	729	—	1,704	5,162	—	—
1897-98	938	1,103	50,616	31,085	44,164	12,501	765	—	2,176	5,077	11,757	235,792

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

APPENDIX II. (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.	Sweden.		Switzerland.		Tunis.		United States.		TOTAL.	
	Issued in the U.K.	£	Issued in the U.K.	£	Issued in the U.K.	£	Issued in the U.K.	£	Issued in the U.K.	Issued Abroad.
1888-89	-	21,234	6,410	28,370	£	19,146	£	170,217	£	648,439
1889-90	-	25,753	7,383	31,273	30	217	1,047,619	180,026	1,060,260	1,495,951
1890-91	-	26,371	8,586	32,045	142	279	1,115,789	181,393	1,107,282	1,508,241
1891-92	-	27,942	8,876	32,756	87	317	196,430	194,324	1,169,499	1,591,638
1892-93	-	27,598	9,904	32,674	124	561	257,170	1,066,306	797,377	1,643,845
1893-94	-	30,664	11,895	32,175	177	540	244,177	952,310	786,883	1,688,342
1894-95	-	29,243	11,892	34,373	45	519	21,873	1,015,187	798,582	1,580,715
1895-96	-	31,783	11,842	36,079	222	475	247,853	973,637	893,558	1,470,894
1896-97	-	37,633	12,496	36,650	204	296	251,965	958,576	993,901	1,567,420
1897-98	-	42,023	14,299	39,161	274	784				1,580,015
										1,783,662

APPENDIX II. (M.)

Official Correspondence.

A STATEMENT showing the WEIGHT of CORRESPONDENCE carried for the following Public Offices, &c., in the Year ended the 31st March 1898.

NAMES OF OFFICES.	Correspondence.			Total Weights.
	Weight in Ounces.			
	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Ireland.	
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Admiralty	3,612,146	—	—	3,612,146
Attorney General	13,179	—	—	13,179
Board of Agriculture	2,471,726	—	—	2,471,726
Board of Trade	2,325,133	—	—	2,325,133
Brussels Exhibition	44,662	—	—	44,662
Chancellor, The Lord	68,202	—	—	68,202
Charity Commissioners	260,242	—	—	260,242
Chelsea Hospital	68,162	—	—	68,162
Chief Secretary, Dublin Castle	144,003	—	535,245	679,248
Civil Service Commissioners	418,362	—	176	418,538
Clerk of the Parliaments	531,561	—	—	531,561
Colonial Office	547,505	—	—	547,505
Congested Districts Board	—	—	245,447	245,447
Constabulary of Ireland	—	—	397,189	397,189
Court of Bankruptcy	—	—	793	793
Courts of Law and Justice, Scotland	—	41,657	—	41,657
Crown and Hanaper	—	—	4,223	4,223
Crown Office	—	50,408	—	50,408
Customs	1,000,307	—	13,590	1,013,897
Emigrants' Information Office	257,607	—	—	257,607
Exchequer and Audit Department	198,730	—	—	198,730
Exchequer Offices in Scotland	—	35,777	—	35,777
Foreign Office	510,484	—	—	510,484
Home Office	1,737,238	4,801	—	1,742,039
House of Commons	478,566	—	—	478,566
Inland Revenue	14,850,464	5,073,184	4,093,771	24,017,419
Irish Fisheries, Inspector of	—	—	161,548	161,548
Irish Land Commission	—	—	742,411	742,411
Loan Fund Board	—	—	14,336	14,336
Local Government Board	3,186,233	105,734	793,272	4,065,239
Local Marine Board	743,804	—	—	743,804
Lord Lieutenant and Private Secretary	—	—	30,323	30,323
Lunacy, Commissioners in	69,233	—	43,538	112,771
Merchant Seamen, Registrar of	571,307	—	—	571,307
Mint, The Royal	11,272	—	—	11,272
National Debt Office	72,961	—	—	72,961
Paris Exhibition	714	—	—	714
Patent Office	1,079,622	—	—	1,079,622
Paymaster General	71,498	—	43,194	114,692
Prisons Board	—	—	280,669	280,669
Privy Council Office	3,030,356	—	—	3,030,356
Public Education	—	51,011	1,163,068	1,214,079
Public Works Loan Board	26,978	—	—	26,978
Record Office	14,712	—	4,336	19,048
Register House	—	35,123	—	35,123
Registrar General	730,490	303,569	392,965	1,427,024
Registrar of Friendly Societies	150,504	13,213	2,212	165,929
Registrar of Petty Sessions, Clerks	—	—	119,535	119,535
Science and Art Department	2,842,414	—	—	2,842,414
Scotch Education Department	488,003	—	—	488,003
Secretary for Scotland	145,022	7,035	—	152,057
Solicitor General	8,454	—	—	8,454
Stationery Office	1,301,519	—	110,815	1,412,334
Supreme Court of Judicature	440,378	—	50,857	500,235
Surveys of the United Kingdom	—	—	233,168	233,168
Treasury	584,549	—	—	584,549
Valuation Office	—	—	143,203	143,203
War Office	4,018,473	23,968	660,733	4,703,194
Woods and Forests, Commissioners of	103,482	—	—	103,482
Works and Buildings, Commissioners of	293,250	—	798,679	1,091,929
TOTALS	49,533,197	5,745,500	11,979,306	66,358,003

APPENDIX II. (N.)

Private Wires and Telephone Exchange Wires.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER OF CONTRACTS, MILES OF WIRE, and INSTRUMENTS, and the Net Additional Rental 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.
1888-89	-	52	171	1,149 0 0	3,595	17,044	9,251	125,222 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	—	3,855	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	10,334	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
1897-98	-	92	4,734	—	3,913	27,114	10,825	130,109 1 7

* 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.

|| The rates for Private Wires and Telephone Exchange Wires were reduced in 1897 and existing rentals were reduced accordingly.

APPENDIX II. (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 42s. each.	At 21s. each.	At 15s. each.	At 10s. 6d. each.	At 7s. 6d. each.			
1886-89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1880-90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1890-91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1891-92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1892-93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1893-94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1894-95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1895-96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1896-97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1897-98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX II. (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.		Game.			Game Keepers at 40s. each.	Total Number.	Revenue.
	At 42s. each.	At 21s. each.	Guns at 10s. each.	Red at 60s.	Blue and Green at 40s.	Occasional at 20s.		
1888-89	-	9,232	25,983	133,206	23,552	2,654	2,895	2,840
1889-90	-	9,234	26,635	137,825	26,012	2,807	3,490	3,068
1890-91	-	9,400	27,207	153,652	27,458	2,884	3,526	3,302
1891-92	-	9,360	27,727	153,965	28,552	3,453	3,751	3,288
1892-93	-	9,166	28,632	157,546	29,604	3,282	4,206	3,553
1893-94	-	9,029	28,673	164,972	32,101	3,108	4,635	3,629
1894-95	-	8,385	28,065	166,712	31,706	3,114	4,388	3,632
1895-96	-	8,406	28,318	161,692	33,488	3,289	5,043	3,746
1896-97	-	7,821	27,767	172,857	36,308	3,406	5,794	3,903
1897-98	-	6,448	26,367	176,006	37,780	3,595	5,894	3,908
								<i>£ s. d.</i>
							1,449,094	894,488 14 0
							1,513,136	908,103 0 6
							1,589,632	948,319 1 0
							1,683,668	965,292 15 0
							1,719,969	1,002,685 15 0
							1,768,424	1,034,215 2 6
							1,857,028	1,089,856 4 6
							1,890,324	1,076,904 8 6
							1,932,708	1,094,423 12 0
							1,956,933	1,085,388 0 0

APPENDIX II. (P.)

Return showing, for each Year from 1888-89, 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.		Superannuations and other non-effective Charges.	Salaries, Wages, &c.	Percentage of Salaries, &c. to Total Revenue.	Conveyance of Mails.		Percentage of Conveyance of Mails to Total Revenue.	Packet Service.	Other Expenditure.					Total Expenditure.
					Purchase.	Erection.				£	£			£	£				
1888-89	9,006,402	390,024	229,073	9,715,559	76,744	68,291	150,923	3,824,157	35.24	1,247,442	12.83	12.83	630,887	731,051	140,682	6,466,127	66.55	3,249,432	3,894,407
1889-90	9,467,165	36,279	218,037	9,721,481	70,900	79,840	183,021	3,359,563	34.55	1,249,821	12.85	12.85	604,342	533,910	142,788	6,275,085	64.54	3,440,396	3,587,136
1890-91	9,843,268	16,297	229,112	10,088,677	23,255	141,622	151,046	3,000,306	35.78	1,273,884	12.62	12.62	706,136	590,079	150,566	6,037,504	65.79	3,451,173	3,615,950
1891-92	10,183,290	15,082	227,026	10,451,908	108,197	160,729	158,329	3,807,952	37.29	1,306,260	12.51	12.51	701,081	625,715	172,224	7,192,487	68.77	3,259,511	3,688,437
1892-93	10,344,353	—	255,796	10,600,149	75,975	150,569	176,533	4,190,825	39.53	1,360,297	12.83	12.83	719,615	654,037	178,896	7,507,645	70.82	3,092,504	3,319,048
1893-94	10,472,876	—	262,069	10,734,885	46,934	171,828	183,412	4,440,361	41.41	1,395,947	13.00	13.00	720,350	624,574	170,311	7,759,712	72.28	2,975,173	3,163,680
1894-95	10,748,014	—	277,446	11,025,460	12,397	175,390	186,919	4,397,355	41.69	1,395,292	12.65	12.65	729,313	677,324	178,464	7,935,344	72.15	3,170,116	3,268,103
1895-96	11,465,370	—	294,575	11,759,945	49,847	170,075	198,386	4,734,446	40.25	1,394,182	11.85	11.85	714,332	625,074	190,980	8,086,272	68.76	3,073,673	3,688,506
1896-97	11,572,656	39,841	250,438	12,144,985	8,842	162,501	207,529	4,927,005	40.56	1,400,621	11.52	11.52	722,385	619,298	197,985	8,246,356	67.94	3,000,579	4,071,922
1897-98 (Estimated)	12,206,604	—	213,682	12,420,286	55,064	132,887	224,904	5,230,898	43.11	1,457,431	11.73	11.73	749,264	638,416	201,849	8,689,713	69.96	3,730,063	3,918,614

APPENDIX II. (Q.)

RETURN showing, for each YEAR from 1888-89, the REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, and NET REVENUE of the POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Year.	REVENUE.			EXPENDITURE.										Percentage of Total Revenue.		Net Revenue.	Net Revenue after deducting Expenditure on Sites, Buildings, and Extensions.	Interest on Stock created for Purchase of Telegraphs.
	Telegraph Receipts.	Extra Receipts.	Estimated Value of Services to other Departments.	Total.	Purchase of Sites and Buildings.	Erection.	Telegraph Extensions.	Superannuations and other Non-Effective Charges.	Salaries, Wages, &c.	Percentage of Salaries to Total Revenue.	Maintenance of the Telegraph System.	Percentage of Main Revenue to Total.	Under Telegraph Vote.	Other Expenditure.	Under other Votes.	Total Expenditure.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1888-89	2,073,107	17,443	33,115	2,123,665	21,061	16,521	86,077	27,130	1,276,940	83.40	402,569	18.40	156,496	35,517	2,041,361	96.54	88,604	353,787
1889-90	2,807,444	20,326	36,326	2,904,096	13,008	42,112	140,131	26,776	1,382,414	58.47	445,566	18.84	102,126	56,953	2,278,986	96.39	85,113	306,016
1890-91	2,394,579	25,804	36,381	2,456,764	4,748	62,340	106,735	26,697	1,506,219	61.30	440,351	17.91	177,879	53,902	2,388,581	97.22	68,183	269,215
1891-92	2,484,098	25,925	35,589	2,545,612	50,171	68,205	156,383	28,689	1,635,093	64.23	418,924	17.63	187,752	60,678	2,635,805	103.54	96,295	298,888
1892-93	2,486,791	—	30,521	2,526,312	24,535	63,274	97,740	33,574	1,717,123	67.96	402,619	19.49	201,368	62,701	2,682,904	106.59	166,682	298,888
1893-94	2,534,264	—	44,942	2,579,206	18,890	48,135	84,144	36,673	1,804,603	62.96	501,474	19.44	195,736	68,440	2,757,645	106.91	178,459	298,888
1894-95	2,598,985	—	47,420	2,646,411	3,915	52,854	74,819	30,791	1,833,684	69.28	500,833	18.92	212,803	61,353	2,798,632	105.35	141,688	298,888
1895-96	2,835,749	—	44,045	2,879,794	15,156	74,574	80,102	42,388	1,885,419	65.81	542,310	18.83	196,782	73,601	2,920,311	101.40	40,517	298,888
1896-97	2,922,449	—	44,905	2,967,354	6,844	87,828	185,414	47,379	1,969,471	66.37	533,419	17.97	204,236	77,201	3,111,910	104.86	144,596	298,888
1897-98 (Estimated)	3,080,352	—	41,371	3,071,723	37,584	55,470	296,389	61,541	2,081,079	67.74	585,520	19.66	221,778	74,860	3,384,261	110.07	369,636	298,888
<div> <div>Deficits.</div> <div> <div>Per Cent.</div> <div>106.59</div> </div> <div> <div>Per Cent.</div> <div>106.91</div> </div> <div> <div>Per Cent.</div> <div>105.35</div> </div> <div> <div>Per Cent.</div> <div>101.40</div> </div> <div> <div>Per Cent.</div> <div>104.86</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Deficits.</div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>18,927</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>10,050</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>129,245</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>135,628</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>46,855</div> </div> </div>																		
<div> <div>Net Revenue.</div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>212,363</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>290,204</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>251,836</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>184,476</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>18,927</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Net Revenue after deducting Expenditure on Sites, Buildings, and Extensions.</div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>353,787</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>306,016</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>269,215</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>298,888</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>298,888</div> </div> </div>																		
<div> <div>Percentage of Total Revenue.</div> <div> <div>Per Cent.</div> <div>96.54</div> </div> <div> <div>Per Cent.</div> <div>96.39</div> </div> <div> <div>Per Cent.</div> <div>97.22</div> </div> <div> <div>Per Cent.</div> <div>103.54</div> </div> <div> <div>Per Cent.</div> <div>106.59</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Interest on Stock created for Purchase of Telegraphs.</div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>353,787</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>306,016</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>269,215</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>298,888</div> </div> <div> <div>£</div> <div>298,888</div> </div> </div>																		

APPENDIX II. (R.)

**Extract from the Finance Accounts for the
Year ended 31st March 1898.**

*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 -	12,596,730	17	6½		
From Postage Stamps sold by Stamp Distributors of Inland Revenue -	265,475	12	11½	12,862,206	10 6
From Postage collected in cash by Country Postmasters -	51,106	1	6½		
From Postage collected in cash in the Metropolis - - -	221,382	0	8½	272,488	2 3½
From Postage collected for credit of Imperial Post Office by Foreign Offices - - -	139,241	13	5		
From Postage collected by Colonial Offices and Postmasters and Agents Abroad - - -	57,249	5	5½	196,490	18 10½
From Commission on Money Orders -	124,264	6	10		
Ditto Postal Orders -	303,927	12	0	428,191	18 10
From Miscellaneous Receipts - -	-	-	-	35,279	16 1½
				18,794,657	6 7½
Payments out of Receipts :					
For Postage, &c., refunded -	13,273	13	4½		
To Inland Revenue Department -	540,040	0	0		
To Railway Companies, &c., on account of Parcel Post - -	694,679	2	6		
For Postage collected for credit of Colonial Offices - - -	114,064	1	11½		
For Postage collected for credit of Foreign Offices - - -	225,906	2	9	1,587,963	0 7
Net Receipts	-	-	£	12,206,694	6 0½
Payments into Exchequer	-	-	-	£12,170,000	0 0

General Post Office, }
June 1898.

JAMES J. CARDIN,
Comptroller and Accountant-General.

APPENDIX II. (R.)—continued.

TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross Receipts :						
For transmission of Telegrams, &c., in						
Cash - - - - -	883,070	3	4½			
For transmission of Telegrams, &c., in						
Stamps - - - - -	2,553,393	1	5½			
				3,436,463	4	10
Payments out of Receipts :						
To Cable Companies, &c., Telegram						
Moneys refunded, &c., &c. - - -	-	-	-	406,111	12	6½
Net Receipts	-	-	£	3,030,351	12	3½
Payments into Exchequer	-	-		£3,010,000	0	0

General Post Office, }
June 1898.

JAMES J. CARDIN,
Comptroller and Accountant General.

APPENDIX II. (S.)

TELEGRAPH STORES.

APPENDIX II. (S.)

Cumulative Account showing the Fluctuations
Balances

	Year ending							
	1888.		1889.		1890.		1891.	
Value of Stores in Depôts at commencement of year.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
	226,786	7 9½	205,364	17 0½	211,542	16 1½	238,865	9 3½
Value of Stores purchased during year, including wages for completing Stores.	142,256	17 10½	142,512	15 8½	173,849	15 7½	190,214	17 5½
Value of Stores returned into Stock under the following Sub-heads:—								
C ² Maintenance - - - -	137,908	5 0½	138,085	3 10½	116,560	10 1½	85,926	16 3½
C ³ Gas, &c. - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
C ¹¹ Maintenance [Ships] - - -	7 15 2½	—	23 3 2	—	16 5 9½	—	26 10 8½	—
O ¹ Extensions - - - -	2,055	3 11	840	5 0½	657	5 2½	618	12 11½
O ² Re-arrangements - - - -	16,083	6 8½	18,710	11 4½	17,274	6 7½	15,143	1 3
O ³ Private Telegraphs - - -	19,550	17 11½	15,174	6 4	12,226	5 8	12,424	19 11
O ⁴ Works executed for Rly. Co.'s, &c. -	663	13 7½	601	14 6	757	7 3½	769	2 6½
O ⁵ Government Deptl. Telegraphs -	285	12 10½	253	12 10½	370	1 1	273	3 11
O ⁶ Coast Communications - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
O ⁸ Works executed for War Office -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
O ⁹ Outlying Lighthouses, &c. - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Losses by default, fire, &c. - - -	—	—	0 2 6	—	4 0 0	—	—	—
E ⁴ Electric lighting of West Chief Offices.	—	—	96	17 6	168	1 0	1 4	—
G ⁶ Fuel and Light - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Extra receipts - - - -	—	—	0 1 3	—	0 0 7	—	1 7 0	—
L Stores (Morse and Wheatstone Paper, &c.).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Postal G ⁸ Incidental Expenses - - -	—	—	2 10 0	—	21 10 0½	—	3 6 10½	—
Postal G ¹³ Incidental Expenses (Ireland) -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Postal A ¹³ Gas and Electric Light - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	28 4 2	—
Postal A ³⁵ Gas and Electric Light (Edinburgh).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Postal E ² Maintenance and Repairs of Buildings (P.O.S.B.).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Postal E ³ Fuel and Light (P.O.S.B.) - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	0 4 4½	—
Postal E ¹⁷ New Buildings and Works (P.O.S.B.).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Postal G ⁶ Supply and Repair of Mail Bags, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	11 12 3½	—
Postal C ⁸ Fuel and Light (Provincial) -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Postal C ¹⁹ Fuel and Light (Scotland) -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Western Highlands and Islands Extension	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
War Office Suspense Account - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telephone Trunk Lines - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sundry Special Works Account - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lightship Communication Account -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - - - -	545,628	0 11½	521,671	1 2½	533,474	5 3	544,307	13 6

APPENDIX II. (S.)

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

March 31st.

1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
<i>£ s. d.</i> 243,403 15 6½	<i>£ s. d.</i> 230,011 6 10	<i>£ s. d.</i> 305,833 3 3½	<i>£ s. d.</i> 317,159 2 0½	<i>£ s. d.</i> 319,864 5 8½	<i>£ s. d.</i> 365,378 10 5
280,287 2 2½	287,353 6 5½	355,558 0 10½	225,792 2 4½	296,395 1 11½	397,512 7 5½
90,516 11 9	101,515 11 8½	110,493 11 5½	75,071 2 3	68,184 0 3	73,206 15 6½
—	3 0 0	—	0 5 3	3 19 4½	—
35 19 7	124 7 3	65 1 0	38 10 2½	18 14 3	71 13 1½
1,111 3 0	1,459 0 10	2,098 17 4½	1,179 13 3½	676 15 6½	794 19 8
13,255 19 7	17,376 1 2	4,999 16 6	5,759 7 10	5,437 16 2½	11,746 7 11
16,678 13 3½	11,211 7 0	9,270 14 2½	6,121 6 9½	7,763 11 1½	7,412 12 3½
1,745 18 0	1,550 13 5½	1,366 13 4	940 0 1	1,344 9 5½	1,181 14 9
796 15 3½	1,296 5 1	1,011 10 11	2,229 10 4½	459 19 7	519 3 2½
—	447 4 0½	1,044 2 3½	350 4 0½	269 6 8	537 17 6
—	—	—	60 9 8½	54 14 8	372 19 7½
—	—	—	—	—	646 9 1½
816 15 9	—	—	0 9 0	—	—
32 19 11½	160 2 4½	33 18 3½	78 14 11	636 19 2	316 0 3½
6 13 2	3 8 7½	34 5 2	127 1 10½	205 15 3½	21 1 0½
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	0 8 4	5 6 3	—	—	—
17 4 10	5 11 6	4 2 9	36 10 1	18 0 10	187 7 11½
—	—	—	—	—	4 2 1
120 0 11½	445 18 2½	473 0 9½	127 1 4	410 0 3½	147 15 3
—	—	—	—	—	0 18 1
—	—	—	—	9 14 7	—
3 11	166 0 3½	192 19 2½	85 14 4	235 15 9½	4 17 6
—	—	—	0 11 11	—	—
140 5 9	20 12 3	—	16 14 10	—	285 11 0
2 13 2	19 2 10	8 18 9	23 12 6	110 17 6½	50 6 7
—	—	21 0 0	179 16 1	253 15 4	3 16 3
194 13 3	16 9 7½	—	1 2 2	0 9 11	17 12 1
—	—	—	350 16 6½	—	—
—	1,491 11 10½	21,716 19 2½	52,302 14 0	15,214 7 3	10,749 5 0
—	—	—	35 8 7½	44 5 5½	5 1 7
—	—	15 10 6	83 4 9	576 19 11	—
649,170 8 0	663,676 7 9½	814,196 12 1½	689,216 7 2½	718,189 16 2½	871,235 4 3½

APPENDIX II. (S.)—continued.

Cumulative Account showing the Fluctuations
Balances in

	Year ending			
	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
Value of Stores issued under the following Sub-heads:—				
C ³ Maintenance - - -	£ 237,192 19 8½	£ 213,678 15 1½	£ 203,917 8 2½	£ 171,023 5 8
C ¹¹ „ [Ships] - - -	700 15 7½	471 8 7	809 14 7½	1,063 13 2½
O ¹ Extensions - - -	7,567 10 2	8,476 4 4	5,808 3 5½	6,986 13 9½
O ² Re-arrangements - - -	49,562 14 10½	52,006 19 4½	51,974 18 3½	65,763 13 7½
O ³ Private Telegraphs - - -	41,892 2 4½	30,739 11 10	23,574 2 7	34,993 6 10½
O ⁴ Works executed for Rly. Co.'s, &c. -	1,941 7 3½	2,131 17 11½	2,207 9 0½	4,912 8 2½
O ⁵ Government Deptl. Telegraphs -	1,212 0 11½	2,159 8 10½	2,193 3 2½	4,239 10 0½
O ⁶ Coast Communications - - -	—	—	—	—
O ⁸ Works executed for the War Office -	—	—	—	—
O ⁹ Outlying Lighthouses, &c. - - -	—	—	—	—
Losses by default, fire, &c. - - -	70 5 2½	30 12 8	31 17 1	53 8 0
E ⁴ Electric Lighting of West Chief Offices -	123 7 7½	64 6 5½	328 16 0	1,579 1 11
F ⁶ Gas and Electric Light - - -	—	—	—	—
G ⁶ Fuel and Light - - -	—	—	4 9 8½	5 12 1½
L Stores (Morse and Wheatstone paper, &c.). - - -	—	—	4 3 4	28 13 4
E ⁵ Water - - -	—	—	—	—
C ⁹ Gas, Water, Fuel, &c. - - -	—	—	—	—
C ¹⁰ Incidental Expenses - - -	—	—	—	—
Postal A ¹³ Gas and Electric Light - -	—	—	1,220 7 4	7,514 9 0½
Postal A ³³ Gas and Electric Light (Edinburgh) -	—	—	—	—
Postal C ⁹ Fuel and Light (Provincial) -	—	—	1 18 4	20 19 5
Postal C ¹⁹ Fuel and Light (Scotland) -	—	—	0 0 7½	—
Postal C ⁷ Incidental Expenses, &c. -	—	—	—	—
Postal E ³ Maintenance of Buildings, &c. (P.O.S.B.). -	—	—	—	—
Postal E ³ Fuel and Light (P.O.S.B.) -	—	—	526 6 4½	864 17 3½
Postal E ¹² Incidental Expenses (P.O.S.B.) -	—	—	—	—
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	1,046 16 11½
Postal G ⁸ Incidental Expenses (Mail Bags, &c.). -	—	0 7 10	839 5 1½	814 4 10
Postal G ¹³ Incidental Expenses (Mail Bags, &c.), Ireland. -	—	—	—	—
Postal G ¹⁷ Incidental Expenses (Mail Bags, &c.), Scotland. -	—	—	—	—
Postal A ⁸ Water, Fire Insurance, &c. -	—	—	—	—
Postal A ¹⁵ Stores - - -	—	—	—	—
War Office Suspense Account - - -	—	—	—	—
Western Highlands and Islands Extension -	—	—	—	—
Telephone Trunk Lines - - -	—	—	—	—
Lightship Communication Account - -	—	—	—	—
Sundry Special Works Account - - -	—	—	1 1 5½	7 13 7½
Value of Stores in Depôts at end of year -	205,364 17 0½	211,542 16 1½	238,865 9 3½	243,463 15 6½
Total - - -	545,623 0 11½	521,671 1 2½	533,474 5 3	544,307 13 6

APPENDIX II. (S.)—continued.

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

March 31st.

1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1907.
<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
196,250 6 9½	200,658 1 4½	208,781 11 3½	170,177 14 1½	103,769 14 11½	182,390 12 4½
1,044 13 8	848 4 7½	909 19 11½	1,001 5 11	971 4 4½	818 9 5½
10,563 8 1	12,916 14 9	17,213 5 3½	15,307 5 9	10,290 2 11	10,016 5 10
131,935 14 6½	38,217 7 5½	22,637 6 8	12,108 7 5½	21,232 4 9	119,383 17 4
37,840 6 5½	21,010 17 1½	20,270 17 9½	14,667 3 1	18,435 13 4½	30,767 3 2
6,120 17 4	7,759 8 10½	5,608 0 9	3,467 11 4½	3,818 9 0	3,140 5 0½
4,804 1 4	7,621 15 1½	5,960 12 2½	2,714 7 4	4,692 7 3	2,729 11 0½
—	12,960 18 11	7,322 8 2	4,265 12 0½	3,965 8 5½	4,490 9 1½
—	—	—	4,760 16 2	6,859 14 8	4,462 16 6
—	—	—	—	—	4,528 10 4
3,261 1 5½	21 3 0	16 5 1½	51 17 10	36 14 0	118 2 4
620 5 9	1,429 5 7	1,766 19 11	1,455 13 9	1,466 9 4	1,408 2 4
—	—	—	—	—	2 9 6
316 16 11	371 2 1½	343 10 7½	334 4 5	2,721 7 5	1,008 11 1½
1 9 8	17 19 5	23 0 2	18 6 2	21 8 0	650 14 2
—	—	—	—	—	1 13 0
2,160 10 5	3,808 5 6½	1,456 12 9½	260 1 8	193 11 9	170 2 10½
—	—	—	—	—	0 3 7½
6,080 11 3½	8,135 7 0½	4,954 3 9½	4,393 14 9	3,842 4 10½	3,602 15 5½
—	—	—	—	—	49 14 10
704 3 2	565 4 8	685 7 11½	461 8 4	7,305 8 1½	1,935 18 1½
35 5 10	102 5 0	2,631 9 4½	1,148 0 3½	646 1 11	121 8 11½
—	—	0 1 4	3 9 7½	2 10 10	3 9 9
—	—	—	15 14 0	26 17 2	—
607 1 2½	1,106 7 3½	803 0 3	1,412 15 0½	715 3 2½	1,149 10 1
—	—	—	—	—	0 18 1
—	—	37 15 0	3 3 8½	—	—
928 0 7½	840 4 4½	2,582 14 5½	2,335 0 0½	1,925 4 2	1,773 16 3½
1,012 0 2½	2,173 10 2½	614 19 5½	269 9 4½	408 17 9	287 1 11
—	—	—	—	—	71 5 1
—	—	—	—	—	2 4 1½
1,208 2 0½	45 13 9	161 2 6½	212 9 3	181 13 8	182 5 11
—	—	8 5 9	—	2 7 8	6 2 2
—	—	8,071 17 4	1 1 8	—	—
4,659 18 5	538 17 7½	—	182 16 8½	269 15 11	544 3 9
—	33,738 14 3½	179,563 0 1½	123,163 16 1½	94,069 16 4	125,326 14 7½
—	—	4,534 1 10½	3,818 16 8½	4,436 10 11	—
6 6 11	5 16 4	—	48 18 9	606 10 0½	1,015 8 6
259,011 6 10	305,883 3 3½	317,159 2 0½	319,864 5 8½	305,378 10 5	369,075 7 6
642,170 8 0	663,676 7 9½	814,196 12 1½	658,216 7 2½	718,189 16 2½	871,235 4 3½

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