

DEPARTMENTAL.

81 new Post Offices were opened, and 3 re-opened during the year, at the following places :—

Broad Bay, Otago	Kaurihore, Auckland	Spring Creek, Marlborough
Adelaide Road, Wellington	Kumara, Westland	St. John's, Wanganui, Wellington
Balcarn, Canterbury	Kumeo Flat, Auckland	Sandie Town, Canterbury
Barrhill, "	Kew, Otago	Selwyn, "
Big Bay, Otago	Lee Stream, Otago	St. Andrews, "
Bright Water, Nelson	Little Grey Junction, Westland	Stirling, Otago
Broadfield, Canterbury	Longbeach, Canterbury	Te Kapu, Hawke's Bay
Clarkville, "	Makeritu, Hawke's Bay	Te Wharua, Auckland
Crofton, Wellington	Matawhero, Auckland	Te Mawhai, Hawke's Bay
Clarendon, Otago	Mauriceville, Wellington	Turiroa, "
Coalgate, Canterbury	Makikihi (re-opened), Canterbury	Upper Waiau Ferry, Nelson
Clark's, Otago	Middlemarsh, Otago	Upper Parnell, Auckland
Dipton, "	Normanby, Taranaki	Upper Waikaia, Otago
Duntroon, "	Ngahinepouri, Auckland	Waitoa, Auckland
Dunrobin, "	Oruru, "	Waitohi Flat, Canterbury
Deep Stream, "	Opaki, Wellington	Washdyke (re-opened), Canterbury
Eketahuna, Wellington	Port Fitzroy, Auckland	West Eyreton, Canterbury
East Oxford, Canterbury	Peel Forest, Canterbury	Whakato, Auckland
Foxhill Station, Nelson	Paterangi, Auckland	White's Point, Nelson
Ferntown, "	Purakanui, Otago	Waihenga, Wellington
Hoteo North, Auckland	Pukeuri, "	Waimangaroa, Nelson
Henley, Otago	Round Hill, "	Warrington, Otago
Highcliffe, "	Red Jack's, Westland	Woodville, Wellington
Hilton, Canterbury	Ruatangata, Auckland	Waiheke, Auckland
Halcombe, Wellington	Ravensbourne, Otago	Waitekauri, "
Horokiki (re-opened), Wellington	Rangitata, Canterbury	Whatipu, "
Kimberley, Canterbury	Sandymount, Otago	Whakataki, Wellington
Katikati, Auckland	Sefton, Canterbury	Whirinaki, Auckland.

The under-noted 8 Post Offices were closed during the year :—

Cape Settlement, Auckland.	Southside, Marlborough.
Flaxbourne, Marlborough.	Spreydon, Canterbury.
Goulard's Ferry, Marlborough.	Takaka, Nelson.
Mount Somers, Canterbury.	Upper Wakefield, Nelson.

708 Post Offices were open on the 31st December, 1876, and the number of officers employed was 855.

The number of Post Offices open in the several postal districts on the 31st December, 1876, compared with the number open in 1875, is shown by the following table :—

Postal Districts.	1876.				1875.			
	Chief and Head Post Offices.	Second-class Post Offices.	Sub-Post Offices.	Totals.	Chief and Head Post Offices.	Second-class Post Offices.	Sub-Post Offices.	Totals.
Auckland	1	2	140	143	1	2	126	129
Thames	1	...	9	10	1	...	8	9
Taranaki	1	...	12	13	1	...	11	12
Hawke's Bay	1	2	39	42	1	2	36	39
Wellington	1	1	60	62	1	1	51	53
Nelson	1	...	25	26	1	...	25	26
Westport	1	...	17	18	1	...	15	16
Marlborough	1	2	12	15	1	2	14	17
Canterbury	1	3	132	136	1	3	119	123
Hokitika	1	...	26	27	1	...	26	27
Greymouth	1	...	19	20	1	...	17	18
Otago	1	2	153	156	1	2	136	139
Southland	1	1	36	38	1	1	35	37
Chatham Islands	1	...	1	2	1	...	1	2
Totals	14	13	681	708	14	13	620	647

The following return of officers of the Postal Department for the years 1875 and 1876 shows to what extent the staff was increased during the year :—

Officers.	1876.	1875.	Officers.	1876.	1875.
Postmaster-General	1	1	Postmasters	13	13
Secretary	1	1	Clerks	86	82
Inspector of Post Offices	1	1	Sub-Postmasters	681	620
Accountant, Money Order and Savings Bank Department	1	1	Letter Carriers	36	33
Clerks in General Post Office	4	4	Messengers	9	6
Clerks in Money Order and Savings Bank Department	4	4	Mail-cart Drivers	2	2
Chief and Head Postmasters	14	14	Shipping Officers	2	1
			Totals	855	783

It is contemplated at an early date to relieve the Chief Postmasters at Wellington and Auckland of the business now performed by them on behalf of the Government Insurance Department. The large proportions which the Insurance business has attained at these offices has made it desirable the change should be made.

The staff of letter carriers at Napier, Christchurch, and Invercargill has been increased by the addition of a carrier to each office, enabling more frequent and extended deliveries to be arranged.

A late-letter box has been affixed to the Guard's van of the trains running between Dunedin and Port Chalmers. It is the intention to extend the use of these "late-letter boxes" to other railway lines.