

DEAD LETTERS.

The number of unclaimed letters received and disposed of during the under-mentioned years is shown in the following table:—

Manner of Disposal.	1875.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
Opened and returned to the writers ..	39,051	60,977	52,038	53,507	69,452	68,942	66,592
Returned unopened to other countries	10,321	10,503	9,372	8,539	8,143	9,134	8,115
Reissued	78	240	159	54	67	107	185
Destroyed	6,081	5,135	3,969	6,189	3,302	3,986	2,872
Returned unopened by Chief Postmasters	..	11,160	12,810	14,378	15,833	17,593	19,187
Totals	55,531	88,015	78,348	82,667	96,797	99,762	96,951

The unclaimed letters dealt with show a decrease of 2·82 per cent. compared with the number disposed of in the previous year.

9,442 book-packets and circulars were returned to foreign countries, 5,171 were returned to the senders through the Dead Letter Office, and 8,571 were returned by Chief Postmasters: a total of 23,184 book-packets and circulars, against 17,132 in 1884.

The under-mentioned articles of value were found enclosed in letters opened in the Dead Letter Office, and returned to the senders where practicable:—

	£	s.	d.
159 money orders	..	..	..
39 bank drafts	..	..	..
108 cheques	..	..	..
5 promissory notes	..	..	..
Stamps	..	..	..
Bank notes	..	..	..
Gold	..	..	..
Silver and copper	..	..	..

Representing a total of £5,243 11 8½

In addition, 5 gold rings, 9 gold rings set with precious stones, 2 sets of gold shirt studs and sleeve-links, 1 sleeve-link, 1 gold scarf pin set with amethyst, 1 gold locket, 1 gilt watch-guard, 1 packet of gold dust, 4 silver hunting watches, 1 silver Geneva watch, 1 silver watch with silver chain and locket attached, 1 silver watch with silver chain, 2 silver brooches, 1 silver bracelet, 1 silver ring, and 1 New Zealand war medal.

4,204 unclaimed registered letters were dealt with.

30 letters detained for postage were received, 20 of which were subsequently forwarded.

558 newspapers and 293 books and other articles without addresses were also received: of these, 50 were delivered, and 83 book-packets forwarded to London and other countries for return to the senders.

98 letters were posted without addresses.

11 letters with libellous addresses were intercepted.

164 letters were imperfectly and wrongly addressed.

2,490 letters were refused by the addressees.

4 letters were posted with previously-used stamps.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered letters dealt with, compared with the numbers in 1882, 1883, and 1884, is shown below:—

Postal Districts.	1882.			1883.			1884.			1885.		
	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.
Auckland ..	4,642	15,459	20,101	4,964	15,831	20,795	5,803	19,852	25,655	5,890	22,124	28,014
Thames ..	161	1,136	1,297	292	3,337	3,629	217	2,913	3,130	205	2,879	3,084
New Plymouth ..	507	2,589	3,096	401	2,738	3,139	560	3,266	3,826	675	2,876	3,551
Gisborne ..	130	745	875	155	1,024	1,179	141	903	1,044	108	922	1,030
Napier ..	921	4,141	5,062	973	4,574	5,547	1,037	4,518	5,555	892	5,453	6,345
Wanganui ..	439	4,771	5,210	522	4,845	5,367	316	4,898	5,214	283	4,500	4,783
Wellington ..	3,137	15,147	18,284	3,252	16,945	20,197	3,654	18,250	21,904	4,757	19,218	23,975
Nelson ..	805	2,581	3,386	988	2,707	3,695	969	3,065	4,034	559	2,432	2,991
Westport ..	106	809	915	80	1,014	1,094	61	1,290	1,351	45	1,438	1,483
Greymouth ..	187	1,999	2,186	194	2,106	2,300	133	1,911	2,044	125	2,835	2,960
Hokitika ..	220	1,700	1,920	174	1,662	1,836	185	1,333	1,518	173	1,907	2,080
Blenheim ..	215	1,286	1,501	209	1,319	1,528	112	1,397	1,509	181	1,413	1,594
Christchurch ..	4,271	13,677	17,948	4,256	13,678	17,934	4,429	17,297	21,726	3,717	13,678	17,395
Timaru ..	512	2,853	3,365	506	2,865	3,371	341	3,311	3,652	440	3,153	3,593
Oamaru ..	271	1,712	1,983	277	1,985	2,262	228	1,633	1,866	316	1,947	2,263
Dunedin ..	4,217	13,344	17,561	4,425	12,353	16,778	4,677	12,192	16,869	5,645	12,737	18,382
Invercargill ..	1,484	5,100	6,584	1,230	5,837	7,067	1,456	7,649	9,105	1,614	6,661	8,275
Totals ..	22,225	39,049	111,274	22,898	94,825	117,723	24,319	105,683	130,002	25,625	106,173	131,798