

The cost of management in connection with the postal-note scheme so far does not exceed £100 a year. The expenses of inauguration, including cost of engraving, &c., printing, paper, forms, &c., and a twelve months' supply of notes, is under £100, while the note commission for the first year is expected to be over £500.

SAVINGS-BANKS.

Savings-bank business was extended to 20 offices, and the total number of offices open at the end of the year for the transaction of savings-bank business was 260.

20,661 new accounts were opened compared with 20,228 in 1884. 16,421 accounts were closed against 16,447 the preceding year. The number of accounts open on the 31st December last was 69,957, compared with 65,717 at the close of the previous year.

Of the 69,957 open accounts, 52,366 had balances at credit under £20; 8,198 from £20 to £50; 4,926 from £50 to £100; 3,131 from £100 to £200; 889 from £200 to £300; 253 from £300 to £400; 109 from £400 to £500; and 83 over £500.

THE following Table gives the Total Number of Savings-Bank Accounts open on the 31st December, 1885, with Balances at Credit, classified. Also, the Number of Open Accounts compared with the number open at the end of 1884:—

Postal District.	Not exceeding £20.	Over £20 and under £50.	Over £50 and under £100.	Over £100 and under £200.	Over £200 and under £300.	Over £300 and under £400.	Over £400 and under £500.	Over £500.	Total.
Auckland	6,859	1,056	642	452	118	32	24	8	9,191
Blenheim	1,006	186	109	65	12	5	..	..	1,383
Christchurch	11,033	1,788	1,130	713	191	65	20	17	14,957
Dunedin	9,415	1,531	911	611	157	45	16	24	12,710
Gisborne	367	44	34	18	3	2	..	..	468
Greymouth	1,155	180	110	76	17	6	1	2	1,547
Hokitika	687	110	80	50	21	3	..	1	952
Invercargill	1,913	370	190	121	32	7	4	2	2,639
Napier	2,051	374	191	105	29	9	3	3	2,765
Nelson	2,043	275	153	96	35	7	2	1	2,612
New Plymouth	929	172	108	71	17	3	4	3	1,307
Oamaru	955	197	120	81	17	4	..	1	1,375
Thames	1,680	235	154	82	32	6	4	1	2,194
Timaru	1,499	287	186	88	25	1	2	5	2,093
Wanganui	2,049	321	166	85	26	11	4	4	2,666
Wellington	8,121	989	582	379	147	45	22	11	10,296
Westport	604	83	60	38	10	2	3	..	800
Total	52,366	8,198	4,926	3,131	889	253	109	83	69,955
Totals for 1884	48,262	8,352	4,791	3,179	754	225	84	70	65,717

131,373 deposits, amounting to £1,341,001 3s. 2d., were received during the year. Each deposit averaged £10 4s. 1d. In 1884, the average was £9 9s. 11d. 84,832 withdrawals for £1,264,305 8s. 3d. were made, the average of each being £14 18s. The average in 1884 was £14 16s.

The total sum standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December last was £1,638,035 19s. 5d., against £1,499,112 0s. 7d. at the close of 1884—an increase of £138,923 18s. 10d. during 1885.

The deposits exceeded the withdrawals by £76,695 14s. 11d. The difference in favour of deposits in 1884 was £31,978 10s. 5d.

Interest amounting to £62,228 3s. 11d. was credited depositors during the year, compared with £57,381 13s. 7d. in 1884.

The average cost of each Post Office Savings-Bank transaction, deposit or withdrawal, for the year was 4½d.; and for the whole period of the existence of the Post Office Savings-Banks in the colony, 6d.

The total amount of interest paid and credited depositors since the Post Office Savings-Banks were established in February, 1867, to the 31st December, 1885, has been £551,316 12s. 4d.

TELEGRAPHS.

There has been a steady increase of business, to which the opening of new lines and services materially contributed.

1,774,273 telegrams of all codes were transmitted—an increase of 119,968 telegrams, or 7·25 per cent.

1,363,124 ordinary telegrams were forwarded, on which £80,320 11s. 1d. was received. The number sent in 1884 was 1,257,818, of the value of £72,414 5s. 2d. The increase for 1885 was, therefore, 105,306 telegrams, and £7,906 5s. 11d. in amount.

170,282 Press telegrams were dealt with, the receipts from which amounted to £7,597 10s. 10d.—a decrease of 5,358 telegrams and £614 19s. 4d., compared with previous year's figures.

The number and value of the telegrams of the several codes transmitted during the calendar years 1885 and 1884 are given below:—