

1888.
NEW ZEALAND.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

(REPORT OF THE), FOR THE YEAR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 6th July, 1888.

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the report on the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year 1887, with the usual statement of revenue and expenditure to the 31st of March last.

H. A. ATKINSON,

Postmaster-General and Electric Telegraph Commissioner.

His Excellency the Governor of New Zealand.

REPORT.

There has been a considerable expansion in the business of the department.

The cash receipts for the financial year were £311,608 19s., being an increase of £5,148 5s. 5d. or 1·68 per cent. over the receipts for 1886–87. The expenditure was £270,635 10s. 10d. compared with £292,292 13s. 8d. expended the preceding year, a decrease of £21,657 2s. 10d., or 7·40 per cent.

The revenue and expenditure for the year are given in the following statement:—

REVENUE.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Stamps used for postage (estimated) ..	157,000	0 0	Salaries	130,095	14 11
Money-order commission collected in the colony	8,507	8 9	Conveyance of mails by sea	66,619	10 10
Money-order commission received from foreign offices	535	12 10	Conveyance of inland mails	27,122	17 6
Private box and bag fees	4,011	10 0	Conveyance of mails by rail	805	5 3
Postage from foreign offices	35,506	13 10	Money-order commission credited to foreign offices	1,244	18 5
Miscellaneous receipts (postal)	2,393	14 0	Maintenance and repairs to telegraph lines, and miscellaneous	44,370	1 5
Ordinary and Press telegrams	83,396	6 0	Cable subsidies	377	2 6
Telephone exchanges	16,881	8 6			
Miscellaneous receipts (telegraph)	3,376	5 1			
			Balance of revenue over expenditure ..	270,635	10 10
				40,973	8 2
	£311,608	19 0		£311,608	19 0

The revenue was £40,973 8s. 2d. in excess of the expenditure. For the previous year the balance in favour of revenue was £14,167 19s. 11d.

But it should be explained that the large balance in favour of revenue for the year was really due to an abnormal decrease in expenditure, more particularly under the head of "Conveyance of Mails by Sea;" and it may be of interest to give the result of a comparison of several of the principal items of last year's receipts and disbursements with those for the previous year.

The ordinary postage increased by £7,500; foreign postage, £7,718 13s. 11d.; telephone exchanges, £1,403 2s. 4d.; and miscellaneous (telegraph), £518 3s.; while in miscellaneous (postal) and ordinary and Press telegrams there was a decrease of £6,366, and £5,581 1s. 10d. respectively. On the expenditure side there was an increase of £908 for salaries; while for conveyance of mails by sea there was the exceptionally large decrease of £18,669 0s. 4d., and on account of maintenance, &c., £3,329 4s. 2d.

Many economies have been carried out during the year. As vacancies in postmasterships occurred by death, resignation, &c., at country offices, where a considerable falling-off in business had taken place, the postal and telegraph duties have been amalgamated with those of the railway, or the telephone substituted for the Morse instrument, and the office transferred to the charge of a local storekeeper or other suitable person, thereby doing away with the services of a special officer.