Money-orders.

Eighteen money-order offices were opened during the year—viz., Lincoln, Campbelltown, Kelso, Makikihi, Pahiatua, Bealey, Cape Foulwind, Richardson, Ashurst, Macrae's Flat, Makatoka, Mauku, Alford Forest, Hanmer Plains, Omapere, Waharoa, Hyde, and Maungakaramea.

Two money-order offices—Mataınata and Barrytown—were closed.

The total number of money-order offices open at the end of the year was 293.

There were issued 159,597 money-orders, for £555,744 13s. 5d., against 155,680, for £547,755 2s. 9d., in 1886, and 188,622, for £581,395 8s. 9d., in 1885. As explained in the last report the falling off in 1886 was mainly due to the increased use made of postal notes.

133,910 orders, for £482,437 17s. 4d. were paid, against 129,242 orders, for £471,185 7s., paid in 1886.

The number of money-orders issued for payment in the United Kingdom, the Australian Colonies, the United States, Canada, &c., as well as on the Continent of Europe, and other foreign places through the London Post Office was 40,488, for £129,549 19s. 8d. There were 15,297 orders, for £56,677 18s. 5d., received from places outside the colony for payment in New Zealand. The balance against the colony on Money-order Account was therefore £72,872 1s. 3d. In 1886 the balance against the colony was £76,316.

There were 16,899 telegraph money-orders issued for £61,389 15s. 1d., against 16,568 orders for £62,048 7s. 10d., in 1886.

The revenue derived from money-order commission was £8,532 10s. 5d.

The exchange of money-orders with foreign countries through the medium of the London Post Office resulted in an increase of 221 orders for the year.

Postal Notes.

The business in postal notes continues to expand in a marked degree.

Of these notes 114,526, of the value of £45,950 17s. 7d., were sold, compared with 83,389, for £34,980 6s. 9d., in 1886.

There were 113,607 postal notes, for £44,835 17s. 6d., paid.

The commission derived from the sale of postal notes amounted to £856 4s. 3d., an increase of £216 0s. 8d. over that for 1886.

Savings-banks.

The number of offices open at the end of the year for the transaction of savings-bank business was 283.

Fourteen offices were established and two were closed.

20,368 new accounts were opened, against 21,671 in 1886; and 15,515 accounts were closed, against 16,757 the previous year.

The following table gives the total number of open savings-bank accounts on the 31st December, 1887, classified according to the balances; and the number of such accounts compared with the number at the end of 1886:—

Postal District.	Not exceeding £20.	Exceeding £20 and up to £50.	Exceeding £50 and up to £100.	Exceeding £100 and up to £200.	Exceeding £200 and up to £300.	Exceeding £300 and up to £400.	Exceeding £400 and up to £500.	Exceeding £500.	Total.
Auckland	7,349	1,043	624	446	141	34	15	21	9,673
Blenheim	1,257	178	108	66	11	3	1	..	1,624
Christchurch	12,985	1,754	1,155	783	225	63	28	23	17,016
Dunedin	10,086	1,607	967	660	167	41	21	14	13,563
Gisborne	501	79	41	23	6	2	2	1	655
Greymouth	1,445	240	149	104	32	7	7	4	1,988
Hokitika	716	109	90	39	23	1	0	1	979
Invercargill	2,229	375	207	118	39	13	4	3	2,988
Napier	2,603	455	211	164	37	6	5	1	3,482
Nelson	2,189	249	177	116	27	13	4	0	2,775
New Plymouth	1,175	187	118	64	26	6	6	6	1,588
Oamaru	1,053	204	125	104	25	5	5	..	1,521
Thames	1,880	237	159	100	28	9	2	1	2,416
Timaru	1,820	327	188	110	28	3	3	4	2,483
Wanganui	2,472	341	186	104	33	11	2	8	3,157
Wellington	9,502	1,624	807	583	154	44	32	14	12,760
Westport	781	131	69	47	19	5	3	1	1,056
Total	60,043	9,140	5,381	3,631	1,021	266	140	102	79,724
Totals for 1886 ..	57,368	8,243	4,852	3,112	883	219	117	77	74,871

The open accounts with balances up to £200 increased by no less than 4,620, while there was a decrease of 233 in the number of accounts with larger balances.

136,197 deposits, amounting to £1,312,151 1s. 5d., were received during the year, the average amount of each deposit being £9 12s. 8d. In 1886 the average was £9 0s. 11d. 89,962 withdrawals for £1,182,409 7s. 6d. were made, the average of each being £13 2s. 10d. The average in 1886 was £14 19s. 8d.

The deposits exceeded the withdrawals by £129,741 13s. 11d., while for the previous year the withdrawals were in excess of the deposits by £87,881 19s. 5d.

This satisfactory state of the Post Office Savings Bank business is being maintained. For the five months ended 31st ultimo the deposits exceeded the withdrawals by no less than