SAVINGS-BANKS.

290 post-offices were open for the transaction of savings-bank business at the end of the year.

8 offices were established and one closed.

21,307 new accounts were opened, compared with 20,368 opened in 1887.

16,543 accounts were closed, compared with 15,515 closed during 1887.

The following table gives the total number of post-office savings-bank accounts open on the 31st December, 1888, with classified balances, compared with the number open at the end of 1887:—

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	7,423	988	658	532	187	44	38	23	9,893
Blenheim	1,422	203	127	73	25	5	2	1	1,858
Christchurch	13,399	2,056	1,226	880	277	91	30	29	17,988
Dunedin	10,449	1,580	896	734	219	68	31	15	13,992
Gisborne	538	78	49	16	8	2	1	2	694
Greymouth	1,466	238	161	110	36	7	6	2	2,026
Hokitika	741	102	101	59	25	8	1	..	1,037
Invercargill	2,339	415	227	149	44	15	4	4	3,197
Napier	2,779	439	278	160	47	7	8	3	3,721
Nelson	2,234	285	178	133	39	13	5	2	2,889
New Plymouth.. ..	1,289	226	134	74	32	14	5	6	1,780
Oamaru	1,120	227	133	100	34	7	4	..	1,625
Thames	1,967	268	174	130	32	10	3	2	2,586
Timaru	1,909	329	211	145	34	12	5	6	2,651
Wanganui	2,636	362	196	118	50	8	7	9	3,386
Wellington	10,303	1,990	860	608	171	53	37	17	14,039
Westport	817	132	81	61	19	8	7	1	1,126
Totals, 1888 ..	62,831	9,918	5,690	4,082	1,279	372	194	122	84,488
Totals, 1887 ..	60,043	9,140	5,381	3,631	1,021	266	140	102	79,724

Accounts with balances not exceeding £200 increased in number by 4,326—evidence of a large addition to the savings of the wages-earning class—and those with balances over £200 increased by 438.

The 84,488 open accounts at the end of the year are in the proportion of 1 to every 7·19 of the population.

145,355 deposits, amounting to £1,544,747 7s. 11d., were received during the year, the average amount of each deposit being £10 12s. 6d., compared with £9 12s. 8d. in 1887.

96,204 withdrawals, for £1,387,471 1s. 10d., were made, the average amount of each being £14 8s. 5d. The average in 1887 was £13 2s. 10d.

The deposits exceeded the withdrawals by £157,276 6s. 1d. In 1887 the excess was £129,741 13s. 11d.

The total amount standing at the credit of depositors on the 31st December last was £2,048,441 10s. 9d.

The interest credited depositors during the year was £78,080 6s., compared with £67,363 15s. 3d. in 1887.

The total amount of interest added to depositors' accounts since the Post Office Savings Banks were established in 1867 to the 31st December, 1888, has been £762,586 3s. 1d.

The average cost of each savings-bank transaction, deposit or withdrawal, for the year was 4d., and for the period of the existence of the Post Office Savings Banks, 6d.

The number of new accounts opened during 1888 by means of stamps affixed to cards, the total number of such accounts open, and the amount at credit on the 31st December last, are given in the following table:—

Postal District.	No. of new Accounts opened during 1888.	No. of Accounts open on 31st December, 1888.	Amount at Credit of Accounts open on 31st December, 1888. £ s. d.
Auckland	7 ...	100 ...	63 1 6
Blenheim	14 ...	108 ...	52 2 4
Christchurch	12 ...	587 ...	741 15 5
Dunedin	19 ...	381 ...	100 2 2
Gisborne	1 ...	13 ...	3 7 11
Greymouth	... ...	12 ...	9 19 0
Hokitika	... ...	2 ...	0 14 0
Invercargill	2 ...	29 ...	14 12 9
Napier	... ...	79 ...	36 4 7
Nelson	15 ...	389 ...	653 0 10
New Plymouth... ...	... ...	90 ...	22 18 0
Oamaru	3 ...	93 ...	103 17 7
Thames	18 ...	179 ...	121 2 6
Timaru	2 ...	130 ...	156 4 8
Wanganui	3 ...	55 ...	46 1 6
Wellington	27 ...	375 ...	113 15 8
Westport	4 ...	19 ...	3 18 1
Totals, 1888 ...	127 ...	2,641 ...	£2,242 18 6
Totals, 1887 ...	261 ...	2,828 ...	£2,198 18 10

The number of new accounts has largely decreased, while the increase in the deposits was only £43 19s. 8d.