

1892.
NEW ZEALAND.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

(REPORT OF THE) FOR THE YEAR 1891.

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

MY LORD,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 5th August, 1892.

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the report on the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year 1891, with the customary statement of revenue and expenditure to the 31st March last.

I have the honour to be

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

J. G. WARD,

Postmaster-General and Electric Telegraph Commissioner.

His Excellency the Governor of New Zealand.

REPORT.

THE year's operations, although resulting in a diminished revenue, disclose a very material increase of business, more particularly in the Post Office branch, as will be seen on perusing the several tables and statements.

The revenue and expenditure for the financial year ended the 31st March, 1892, are given in the following statement:—

REVENUE.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Stamps used for postage (estimated) ..	180,000	0 0	Salaries	157,294	15 3
Money-order and postal-note commission collected in the colony	11,338	17 4	Conveyance of mails by sea	32,086	2 9
Money-order commission received from foreign offices	645	4 3	Conveyance of inland mails	25,153	10 9
Private box and bag fees	4,515	10 0	Conveyance of mails by railway	524	15 0
Postages from foreign offices	3,949	16 9	Money-order commission credited to foreign offices	1,615	5 9
Miscellaneous receipts (Postal)	9,444	19 0	Telegraph extension (Consolidated Fund)	2,999	19 4
Ordinary and Press telegrams	85,242	3 7	Maintenance and repairs to telegraph-lines, and miscellaneous	45,645	17 6
Telephone exchanges	18,571	7 8	Cable subsidies	308	6 8
Miscellaneous receipts (Telegraph) ..	6,350	2 8	Cable repairs	2,714	8 1
				£268,343	1 1
			Balance of revenue over expenditure ..	51,715	0 2
	£320,058	1 3		£320,058	1 3

The revenue decreased £15,271 6s. 2d., or 4·55 per cent. This was mainly due to the loss of revenue from the reduction of the ocean letter-postage to 2½d., and to a sum of £15,697, contributions from the London Post Office and non-contracting colonies, in aid of the San Francisco and Direct mail-services, having been credited to the vote for "Conveyance of Mails by Sea" instead of being treated as revenue as formerly.

The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £51,715 0s. 2d., compared with £72,732 12s. 11d. the previous year.

The expenditure was £5,746 6s. 7d., or 2·19 per cent. more than the previous year.

The combined Post Office and Telegraph revenue was equal to 10s. 1·97d. per head of the population; and the expenditure 8s. 6·26d.

The estimated value of the official correspondence was £63,579 16s. 4d., and that of Government telegrams, £24,840 5s. 7d.—a total of £88,420 1s. 11d. for services performed for departments of the public service without payment. This sum added to the revenue gives