

The following table shows the total number and the weight of inland, intercolonial, United Kingdom, and foreign parcels posted during the years 1889, 1890, and 1891 :—

Postal Districts.	1889.		1890.		1891.	
	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.
		lb. oz.		lb. oz.		lb. oz.
Auckland	19,468	53,351 11	21,882	57,912 10	30,126	74,503 8
Thames	1,199	3,053 1½	1,491	3,661 8	1,756	4,269 12
New Plymouth	878	2,341 14	1,007	2,674 3	1,630	3,745 13
Gisborne	770	1,969 0	938	2,570 6	1,149	2,990 10
Napier	5,354	13,802 2	6,265	17,075 14	7,707	20,917 7
Wanganui	3,344	7,862 8	4,035	9,563 8	5,497	12,528 12
Wellington	20,856	55,910 9	25,893	74,544 2	35,427	106,175 0
Nelson	3,767	11,013 13½	4,723	13,370 7	5,892	15,366 2
Westport	868	1,859 14	1,077	2,332 4	1,464	3,268 6
Greymouth	1,630	4,024 11½	2,509	6,243 13	2,998	7,252 12
Hokitika	1,182	3,394 5	1,413	3,924 5	1,776	4,622 7
Blenheim	1,785	4,008 15	1,846	4,357 11	2,053	5,128 15
Christchurch	17,370	48,403 14	19,383	58,708 4	26,312	74,162 2
Timaru	1,760	3,807 1	2,013	4,774 8	2,634	5,431 6
Oamaru	854	1,873 14	859	2,123 3	1,224	2,577 11
Dunedin	20,363	57,366 11	22,500	65,329 13	29,995	79,783 0
Invercargill	3,138	7,722 12½	3,458	7,477 5	4,637	9,911 8
Totals	104,586	281,766 13	121,292	336,643 12	162,282	432,635 3

The postage collected amounted to £8,267 3s. 11d., compared with £6,822 9s. 7d. collected in 1890.

The number of inland parcels posted was 157,465, compared with 117,613 in 1890.

The increase in the number of inland parcels posted over the number posted in 1890 was no less than 39,852, or 33·88 per cent., compared with an increase of 15·16 per cent. in 1890 over 1889.

The following table shows the number of parcels exchanged with the United Kingdom and foreign countries *via* London, and the Australian Colonies during the years 1890 and 1891 :—

Country.	Number of Parcels.			
	Received.		Despatched.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
United Kingdom and Foreign Offices, <i>via</i> London	13,491	17,115	2,693	3,253
Victoria	1,426	1,649	751	1,176
South Australia	71	113	88	107
Tasmania	45	76	128	250
Western Australia	2	14	19	31
Totals	15,035	18,967	3,679	4,817

The declared value of the parcels received from places outside the colony was £23,385 13s. 7d. The Customs duty collected amounted to £3,835 3s. 11d. In 1890 the declared value was £13,834, and the duty collected £2,375 19s. 3d.

The declared value of the parcels despatched to places beyond the colony was £4,193 9s. 11d., as against £3,831 in 1890.

The rate for intercolonial parcels has been reduced to 8d. for the first pound and 6d. for each additional pound, in the place of 1s. 2d. for the first two pounds and 7d. for every additional pound.

An exchange of parcels has been arranged with Queensland. New South Wales is now the only Australian colony which has not an intercolonial parcel post.

The parcel-post system has also been extended to a number of additional foreign countries, through the intermediary of the London Post Office.

FREE OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The estimated value of the official or free correspondence for the year is given in the statement underneath :—

Postal Districts.	Letters.	Books.	Value.	Postal Districts.	Letters.	Books.	Value.
	lb. oz.	lb. oz.	£ s. d.		lb. oz.	lb. oz.	£ s. d.
Auckland	23,606 9	19,945 8	5,943 16 9	Hokitika	1,560 0	342 0	427 9 8
Thames	2,401 2	2,386 0	713 11 9	Blenheim	3,237 15	8,569 0	1,119 15 8
New Plymouth	4,433 10	6,100 0	1,886 2 2	Christchurch	7,899 15	31,188 10	4,841 5 2
Gisborne	1,379 7	3,990 0	563 3 8	Timaru	5,753 8	3,627 0	1,628 17 11
Napier	3,322 5	7,176 0	1,125 3 0	Oamaru	2,097 0	1,983 0	619 1 10
Wanganui	6,949 8	7,914 0	2,101 1 5	Dunedin	9,056 10	7,402 8	2,636 14 4
Wellington	106,350 2	209,900 0	39,280 4 1	Invercargill	2,619 15	2,501 14	797 16 11
Nelson	3,023 12	1,260 0	845 2 4	Totals	187,053 14	322,925 8	63,579 16 4
Westport	1,680 0	890 0	477 16 4				
Greymouth	1,682 8	7,750 0	572 13 4				