

Office, numbered 56,684, for sums amounting in all to £147,155 2s. 9d. 21,514 money-orders, for £77,219 3s. 6d. from places beyond New Zealand, were paid.

The balance against the colony on foreign money-order account was therefore £69,935 19s. 3d. In 1890 the balance against the colony was £53,243 19s. 5d.

18,800 telegraph money-orders, for £62,407 6s. 5d., were issued, compared with 18,468, for £60,869 9s. 3d., issued in 1890.

The money-order commission received for the year amounted to £9,649 14s. 9d. In 1890 the amount was £8,823 10s.

A direct exchange of money-orders between New Zealand, Hongkong, and Cape Colony respectively has been established. Formerly, orders drawn on these countries were transmitted through the London Office.

From the 1st May last the maximum amount for which a single money-order may be issued in New Zealand for payment in the colony, Australia, or Tasmania, was raised from £10 to £20; a change made reciprocal with Australia and Tasmania.

The rates of commission were fixed at,—

<i>Inland.</i>				s.	d.
For sums not exceeding £5	...	...	...	0	6
Exceeding £5, but not exceeding £10	...	...	...	1	0
Exceeding £10, but not exceeding £15	...	...	...	1	6
Exceeding £15, but not exceeding £20	...	...	...	2	0
<i>Intercolonial.</i>				s.	d.
For sums not exceeding £2	...	...	...	0	6
For sums exceeding £2, but not exceeding £5	...	...	...	1	0
Exceeding £5, but not exceeding £7	...	...	...	1	6
Exceeding £7, but not exceeding £10	...	...	...	2	0
Exceeding £10, but not exceeding £12	...	...	...	2	6
Exceeding £12, but not exceeding £15	...	...	...	3	0
Exceeding £15, but not exceeding £17	...	...	...	3	6
Exceeding £17, but not exceeding £20	...	...	...	4	0

The maximum amount of a telegraph money-order, issued in the colony for payment within the colony, was also raised to £20, and the commission reduced from 4d. to 3d. for each pound or fraction of a pound. The fee of 1s. for telegraphing each order was not changed.

POSTAL NOTES.

The postal-note business continues to increase at a satisfactory rate.

214,334 postal-notes, of the value of £78,808 10s. 1½d., were sold during the year, compared with 184,599 notes, for £69,461 19s. 7d., sold in 1890—an increase of 29,735 in number, and £9,346 10s. 6½d. in amount.

The postal-notes paid numbered 212,645, for £76,865 1s. 6d.

The commission amounted to £1,518 0s. 1½d., an increase of £190 19s. 6½d. over the amount received in 1890.

From the 21st September last the currency of all postal-notes was extended from four to twelve months.

SAVINGS-BANKS.

Fifteen savings-bank offices were opened—namely, Babylon, Dunback, Eltham, Fowler's, Hinds, Hunterville, Kaimata, Kuaotunu, Makaretu, Middlemarch, Nenthorn, Norsewood, Totara Flat, Waipiro Bay, Wellsford.

The number of post-offices open for the transmission of savings-bank business at the end of 1891 was 311.

The number of new accounts opened was 25,131, compared with 23,719 opened in 1890—an increase of 1,412.

17,872 accounts were closed, compared with 17,256 closed in 1890—an increase of 616.

The total number of post-office savings-bank accounts open on the 31st December, 1891, with classified balances, and the number open at the end of 1890, are given in the table below:—

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	9,137	1,336	792	759	276	80	46	30	12,456
Blenheim	1,881	253	157	107	38	16	6	3	2,461
Christchurch	15,482	2,798	1,549	989	291	104	36	38	21,287
Dunedin	12,521	1,917	1,092	802	279	71	37	25	16,744
Gisborne	784	119	73	56	10	6	2	1	1,051
Greymouth	1,616	225	167	124	24	10	3	4	2,173
Hokitika	709	123	93	57	14	6	4	..	1,011
Invercargill	2,977	532	319	207	64	10	6	4	4,119
Napier	3,597	562	367	253	75	18	8	6	4,886
Nelson	2,575	330	230	182	58	15	13	2	3,405
New Plymouth	1,716	301	191	118	40	9	10	2	2,387
Oamaru	1,310	223	180	119	24	6	8	1	1,871
Thames	2,289	314	174	140	41	13	6	5	2,932
Timaru	2,370	391	246	174	48	9	7	2	3,254
Wanganui	3,448	551	310	192	80	15	15	12	4,623
Wellington	12,729	3,010	1,467	809	260	95	50	25	18,445
Westport	936	167	97	82	18	6	4	2	1,312
Totals, 1891	76,077	13,157	7,504	5,170	1,640	489	261	169	104,467
Totals, 1890	71,116	12,160	6,839	4,750	1,502	461	218	162	97,208