

RETURN showing the several Subsidised Mail Steam Services, the Subsidy Payments for the Year 1891, the Dates when established, and the Date on which each terminates.

Service.	Subsidy or Payment.	Duration of Service.		Number of Voyages per Annum.	Mileage for Complete Voyage.	Cost per Mile.
		When established.	When terminated or when terminable.			
	£ s. d.					s. d.
Auckland and San Francisco ..	7,201 2 11	Nov., 1885	Nov., 1892	13	11,916	0 11·16
Direct Steam Service ..	2,420 13 10	Dec., 1884	Dec., 1891	12	23,019	0 2·10
Auckland and Fiji ..	1,690 0 0	June, 1880	..	13	2,334	1 1·37
New Zealand and South Pacific Islands ..	1,200 0 0	June, 1885	..	8	6,992	0 5·15
New Zealand and Chatham Islands ..	200 0 0	..	March, 1893	4	1,050	0 11·43
Auckland and Great Barrier ..	200 0 0	Oct., 1891	Sept., 1892	52	56	1 4·48
Helensville and Matakohē ..	450 0 0	Jan., 1881	Dec., 1892	52	113	0 4·53
Helensville and Dargaville ..				104	170	
Rawene and Omapere ..	290 0 0	Jan., 1889	Dec., 1892	52	34	1 7·12
Rawene and Horeke ..				52	12	
Russell and Opua ..				156	8	
Nelson and Golden Bay ..	150 0 0	..	Dec., 1892	72	130	0 3·85
Hokitika, Bruce Bay, Faringa, Haast River, Okuru, Okarito, and Jackson's Bay ..	400 0 0	Jan., 1886	Dec., 1892	6	280	4 9·14
Westport and Karamea ..	120 0 0	June, 1886	Dec., 1892	13	102	1 9·72
Bluff and Stewart Island ..	225 0 0	July, 1886	Dec., 1892	52	40	2 1·96
Interprovincial Service in connection with San Francisco Line ..	3,000 0 0	Nov., 1886	Nov., 1892	13	..	..
Interprovincial Service in connection with Direct Contract Steamers ..	3,000 0 0	Dec., 1884	Dec., 1891	12	..	..

TELEGRAPHS.

1,968,264 telegrams of all codes were forwarded, an increase of 7,103 over the number forwarded in 1890.

The telegrams forwarded were in the proportion of 3·13 to each head of the population.

The number of ordinary and delayed telegrams forwarded was 1,558,492, of the value of £77,954 6s. 5d. The number dealt with in 1890, was 1,541,499, of the value of £77,168 16s. 8d.

187,623 press telegrams, of the value of £9,590 5s. 6d. were dealt with, a decrease of 5,259 in number, but an increase of £804 17s. 8d. in value, compared with the number and value for 1890. The proportion of press to ordinary and delayed telegrams was as 1 to 8·31, and the average value of each press telegram 1s. 0·27d. compared with 10·93d. in 1890.

The number and value of telegrams of all codes forwarded during the calendar years 1891 and 1890 were as under :—

Ordinary and Delayed Telegrams.				Press Telegrams.				Government Telegrams.			
1891	Number.	£	s. d.	1891	Number.	£	s. d.	1891	Number.	£	s. d.
1891	1,558,492	77,954	6 5	187,623	9,590	5 6	..	222,149	24,840	5 7	..
1890	1,541,499	77,168	16 8	192,882	8,785	7 10	..	226,780	26,070	12 7	..

The telegraph receipts for the financial year ended the 31st March last, including telephone exchange subscriptions, private-wire rents, &c., amounted to £110,163 13s. 11d., compared with £111,786 17s. 10d., a decrease of £1,623 3s. 11d., or 1·45 per cent.

In explanation of the decrease of revenue, it may be stated that the receipts from telegrams show an apparent falling-off of £2,530; the telephone exchange subscriptions, owing to the reduction in the rates, were £1,929 less than the estimate; and the private-wire rents fell off £600.

The expenditure was £114,644 15s. 9d., compared with £104,391 3s. 10d. in 1890–91, an increase of £10,253 11s. 11d. or 9·82 per cent.

Of the increase, about £5,000 may be put down as increments to salaries under the classification, £2,800 on account of additional telegraph material used for repairs, &c., and about £2,000 in connection with the introduction of new telegraph forms.

The total value of the services performed by telegraph for the year, inclusive of £24,840 5s. 7d. for Government telegrams, and £940, fees collected on money-order telegrams, was £142,474 1s. 4d.

There was, therefore, after deducting the expenditure, a credit balance of £27,829 5s. 7d. on the year's transactions, which gave a return of 4·13 per cent. on the capital cost.

30,785 urgent telegrams, of the value of £4,178 11s. 6d., were forwarded, a decrease of 4,882 in number and £571 5s. 10d. in amount, on the figures for 1890.

562,927 delayed telegrams were forwarded, compared with 530,324 in 1890, an increase of 32,603 or 6·15 per cent.

The proportion of delayed to ordinary telegrams was equal to 56·54 per cent., compared with 54·36 per cent. in 1890. The delayed system, apparently, is steadily replacing ordinary telegrams, and, of course, keeping down the receipts.

222,149 Government telegrams, of the value of £24,840 5s. 7d., were forwarded, a decrease of 4,631 in number and £1,230 7s. in amount, compared with the number and value in 1890. The value of telegrams forwarded by each Government department will be found in Table No. 21.