

PARCEL-POST.

The following table shows the total number and the weight of inland, intercolonial, United Kingdom, and foreign parcels posted during the years 1889, 1890, 1891, and 1892:—

Postal Districts.	1889.		1890.		1891.		1892.	
	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.
		lb. oz.		lb. oz.		lb. oz.		lb. oz.
Auckland	19,468	53,351 11	21,882	57,912 10	30,126	74,503 8	31,699	86,125 10
Thames	1,199	3,053 1½	1,491	3,661 8	1,756	4,269 12	1,769	4,385 11
New Plymouth	878	2,341 14	1,007	2,674 3	1,630	3,745 13	1,463	4,903 12
Gisborne	770	1,969 0	938	2,570 6	1,149	2,990 10	1,103	3,310 6
Napier	5,354	13,802 2	6,265	17,075 14	7,707	20,917 7	6,675	20,779 2
Wanganui	3,344	7,862 8	4,035	9,563 8	5,497	12,528 12	4,892	13,352 15
Wellington	20,856	55,910 9	25,893	74,544 2	35,427	106,175 0	32,677	111,365 13
Nelson	3,767	11,013 13½	4,723	13,370 7	5,892	15,366 2	4,574	14,282 5
Westport	868	1,859 14	1,077	2,332 4	1,464	3,268 6	1,276	3,086 13
Greymouth	1,630	4,024 11½	2,509	6,243 13	2,998	7,252 12	2,634	6,710 10
Hokitika	1,182	3,394 5	1,413	3,924 5	1,776	4,622 7	1,705	4,593 12
Blenheim	1,785	4,008 15	1,846	4,357 11	2,058	5,128 15	2,108	5,151 1
Christchurch	17,370	48,403 14	19,383	58,708 4	26,312	74,162 2	23,804	76,804 0
Timaru	1,760	3,807 1	2,013	4,774 8	2,634	5,431 6	2,329	5,665 6
Oamaru	854	1,873 14	859	2,123 3	1,224	2,577 11	872	2,239 0
Dunedin	20,363	57,366 11	22,500	65,329 13	29,995	79,783 0	24,813	76,774 3
Invercargill	3,138	7,722 12½	3,458	7,477 5	4,637	9,911 8	3,656	9,356 8½
Totals	104,586	281,766 13	121,292	336,643 12	162,282	432,635 3	148,049	448,886 15½

The postage collected amounted to £8,165 12s. 1d., compared with £8,267 3s. 11d. collected in 1891.

The number of inland parcels posted was 143,513, compared with 157,465 in 1891.

The decrease in the number of inland parcels posted against the number posted in 1891 was 13,952, or 8·86 per cent., compared with an increase of 33·88 per cent. in 1891 over 1890. This decrease is due to the diversion of lighter parcels to the packet-post, owing to the decrease of postage by the packet-post from 8d. to 4d. per lb.

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 1891 and 1892:—

Country.	Number of Parcels.			
	Received.		Despatched.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
United Kingdom and Foreign Offices, <i>via</i> London	17,115	13,988	3,253	2,961
Victoria	1,649	2,252	1,176	1,111
South Australia	113	156	107	94
Tasmania	76	120	250	278
Queensland	...	125	...	47*
Western Australia	14	13	31	45
Totals	18,967	16,654	4,817	4,536

* From August, 1892.

The declared value of the parcels received from places outside the colony was £25,299 0s. 5d. The Customs duty collected amounted to £4,928 13s. 8d. In 1891 the declared value was £23,385 13s. 7d., and the duty collected £3,835 3s. 11d.

The declared value of parcels despatched to places beyond the colony was £4,296 7s. 3½d., as against £4,193 9s. 11d. in 1891.

FREE OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The estimated value of 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	25,039 9	17,330 10	6,991 7 3	Hokitika	1,496 0	430 0	406 2 0
Thames	2,269 6	2,406 15	645 11 7	Blenheim	2,934 12	9,876 0	947 16 8
New Plymouth	4,460 14	7,000 0	1,306 5 1	Christchurch	12,558 4	11,136 2	3,534 9 4
Gisborne	1,587 8	16,320 0	695 6 8	Timaru	6,026 8	3,624 0	1,667 12 8
Napier	4,106 6	11,648 0	1,289 3 4	Oamaru	1,169 13	1,676 0	339 17 8
Wanganui	6,955 0	8,324 0	1,994 9 4	Dunedin	10,063 1	6,903 0	2,793 13 5
Wellington	126,513 13	213,300 0	37,664 5 5	Invercargill	3,263 0	4,970 8	954 6 2
Nelson	3,002 0	1,320 0	822 13 4				
Westport	1,492 0	906 0	412 19 4				
Greymouth	1,461 0	8,132 0	525 2 8				
Totals	214,398 14	325,303 3	62,996 1 11				

The estimated weight was over 240 tons. The estimated value of the free correspondence for 1891 was £63,579 16s. 4d.