

24,400 book-packets and circulars were returned to foreign countries, 32,691 were returned to senders through the Dead Letter Office, 20 were reissued, and 20,667 were returned by Chief Post-masters a total of 77,778 book-packets and circulars, against 68,899 in 1893.

635 newspapers were returned to the publishers.

The under-mentioned articles of value were found in letters opened in the Dead Letter Office, and returned to the senders where practicable :—

	£	s.	d.
203 post-office orders	499	15	1
36 bank drafts	4,174	11	5
162 cheques	1,220	4	5
4 dividend warrants	13	13	8
7 promissory notes	201	10	5
Postal-notes	61	2	4
Stamps	22	8	11
Bank-notes	128	0	0
Gold	7	0	0
Silver and copper	2	13	4

Representing a total of .. £6,330 19 7

In addition, 3 gold watches, 7 silver watches, 1 waterbury watch, 3 silver-plated butter knives, 3 gold studs, 3 gold rings, 1 gold ring with stones, 1 hair ring, 1 silver match-box, gold pin and neckties, 2 gold sleeve-links, 2 imitation diamonds, 2 pairs spectacles, 5 silk handkerchiefs, 1 silk handkerchief and seeds, silk handkerchief and photograph, 18 handkerchiefs, 2 silver brooches, 2 gold brooches, 1 bangle, 4 small gold nuggets, 2 pieces greenstone, 2 watch-chains, 1 locket, 1 silver pendant, 1 shell pendant, chain and ring, 1 silver scent bottle, 2 seals gold-mounted, 1 leather purse, 1 pawn ticket, half of £1 note, 1 silk tie, 1 Tattersall's ticket (New-market Handicap), 3 sweep-tickets (2 for 5s., 1 for £1), steerage tickets—1 Sydney to Auckland, 1 Wellington to Timaru, 1 Sydney to Lyttelton, 1 Sydney to Dunedin, N S.S. Company's ticket Paeroa to Auckland, passage ticket San Francisco to Lyttelton, 10 sheets and 1 packet of foreign postage-stamps.

1,173 unclaimed registered letters were dealt with.

1,780 newspapers and 1,136 books and other articles without addresses were received, a considerable number of which were subsequently applied for and delivered.

291 letters were posted without addresses.

5 letters and 1 book with libellous addresses were intercepted.

876 letters were wrongly addressed.

2,938 letters were refused by the addressees.

22 letters were discovered to have been posted with previously-used stamps.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered letters dealt with in 1894, compared with the numbers in 1885, 1890, and 1893, is shown below :—

Postal Districts.	1885.			1890.			1893.			1894.		
	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.
Auckland	5,890	22,124	28,014	7 119	34,398	41,517	8,485	45 795	54,280	11,446	58,032	69,478
Thames	205	2,879	3,084	130	4,781	4,911	223	4,674	4,897	178	5 199	5,377
New Plymouth	675	2,876	3,551	341	3,372	3,713	286	6,425	6,711	360	7 180	7 540
Gisborne	108	922	1,030	118	2,120	2,238	131	7,521	7,652	199	3,319	3,518
Napier	892	5,453	6,345	999	10,911	11 910	895	15,136	16,031	833	16,802	17 135
Wanganui	283	4,500	4,783	211	6,060	6,271	584	11 761	12,345	689	11 753	12,442
Wellington	4,757	19,218	23,975	6,129	30,369	36,498	7,577	47,823	55,400	7 715	50,463	58,178
Nelson	559	2,432	2,991	322	3,430	3,752	330	4,559	4,889	268	5,726	5,994
Westport	45	1,438	1,483	112	3,254	3,366	108	3,481	3,589	129	2,977	3,106
Greymouth	125	2,335	2,960	102	8,879	8,981	389	9,059	9,448	299	6,866	7 165
Hokitika	173	1 907	2,080	95	2,579	2,674	106	3,687	3 793	70	4,060	4,130
Blenheim	181	1 413	1,594	92	3 193	3,285	159	3,357	3,516	101	3,624	3,725
Christchurch	3 717	13,678	17,395	3,659	20,404	24,063	4,544	28,515	33,059	4,480	24 944	29,424
Timaru	440	3 153	3,593	312	3,551	3,863	306	3,994	4,300	186	3,898	4,084
Oamaru	316	1,947	2,263	278	2,505	2 783	257	2,712	2 969	147	2,515	2,662
Dunedin	5,645	12,737	18,382	4,615	19,696	24,311	5,035	23,668	28,703	5,187	23,554	28,741
Invercargill	1,614	6,661	8,275	1,740	9,819	11,559	3,044	16,001	19,045	2,199	14,279	16,478
Totals	25,625	106,173	131 798	26,374	169,321	195,695	32,459	238,168	270,627	34,486	244,691	279,177

INLAND MAIL-SERVICES.

The following are the particulars of the several inland mail-services in operation during the year :—

Performed by coach and mail-cart	260
Performed on horseback	303
Performed on foot	65
Performed by water	40
Performed by railway	84

Total number of services .. 752