

455,746 letters, 472,117 books, and 1,005,784 newspapers were received from, and 500,328 letters, 90,516 books, and 1,409,594 newspapers despatched to, the United Kingdom *via* San Francisco.

The letters received from the United Kingdom by this route show a decrease of 4.10 per cent., the books an increase of 2.31 per cent., and the newspapers a decrease of 0.13 per cent., and the letters despatched to that country show a decrease of 4.35 per cent., the books 3.22 per cent., and the newspapers 3.22 per cent., against the numbers forwarded in 1893. This is due to the London Post Office having made larger use of the Eastern services outward, and New Zealand of the direct steamers homeward.

P and O. and Orient Lines (Federal Mail-services).

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments to P and O. and Orient Lines	2,780	13	5			
Transit charges across Australia ..	117	0	3			
Transit charges across European Continent	507	13	10			
Gratuities (to and from Australia)	1,477	11	9			
				4,882	19	3
Cr.						
Postages collected in the colony ...	2,356	7	7			
Postages from London and foreign offices	882	2	4			
				3,238	9	11
Net loss to the colony ..				£1,644	9	4

The numbers of letters, books, and newspapers conveyed from and to the United Kingdom by the P and O. and Orient packets were Received—415,418 letters, 244,573 books, and 985,284 newspapers, despatched—112,794 letters, 17,480 books, and 90,599 newspapers.

RETURN showing the several Subsidised Mail Sea Services, the Subsidy Payments for the Year 1894, 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 terminable.			
	£ s. d.					s. d.
Auckland and San Francisco	7 500 16 7	Nov., 1885	Nov., 1897	13	11,916	0 11.62
Auckland and Fiji	1 690 0 0	June, 1880	*	13	2,334	1 1.37
Auckland and South Pacific Islands	1,200 0 0	June, 1885	*	12	6,992	0 3.43
Auckland and Great Barrier	250 0 0	Oct., 1891	Dec., 1896	52	56	1 8.60
Helensville and Matakohē	480 0 0	Jan., 1881	Dec., 1896	52	118	0 4.84
Helensville and Dargaville				104	170	
Rawene and Omapere	300 0 0	Jan., 1889	Dec., 1896	52	34	1 6.22
Rawene and Horeke				52	12	
Omapere and Waitapu				52	30	
Russell and Opua	90 0 0	Jan., 1889	Dec., 1896	156	8	1 5.31
Wellington, Ketu Bay, Maud Island, Maori Bay, Homewood, and Havelock	150 0 0	Dec., 1891	Nov., 1896	26	183	0 7.57
Nelson, Motueka, Totaranui, Takaka, and Collingwood	125 0 0		Dec., 1896	52	130	0 4.44
Hokitika, Bruce Bay, Paringa, Haast River, Okuru, Okarito, and Jackson's Bay	400 0 0	Jan., 1886	Dec., 1896	4	280	7 1.71
Westport and Karamea	120 0 0	June, 1886	Dec., 1896	12	102	1 11.53
Lyttelton and Chatham Islands	200 0 0		March, 1896	4	1,050	0 11.43
Bluff and Half-moon Bay	200 0 0	July, 1886	Dec., 1896	52	40	1 11.08
Bluff, Puysegur Point, and Cromarty	270 0 0	April, 1893	March, 1896	12	80	5 7.50
Paterson's Inlet and Half-moon Bay	29 0 0	April, 1892	Dec., 1896	52	12	0 11.15
Half-moon Bay and Port Pegasus	5 0 0	June, 1894	*	10	90	0 1.33
Interprovincial Service in connection with San Francisco Line	3,000 0 0	Nov., 1886	Nov., 1897	13		

* On three months' notice.

The "Wairarapa," which left Sydney on the 24th October last, was wrecked at Great Barrier Island, Auckland, on the night of the 29th, with great loss of life. Her mails comprised 117 bags and two hampers, and contained 11,278 letters, 1,332 packets, 34 parcels, 14,073 newspapers, and 155 registered letters. Of these, 109 bags and the two hampers were recovered. It was possible to deliver the whole of the recovered letters and comparatively few of the newspapers and other printed articles had to be sent to the Dead Letter Office for disposal. The eight bags of mails not recovered included one of letters from Melbourne for Auckland, a Queensland mail for Gisborne, a mail from Perth to Auckland, and five bags of newspapers from Melbourne and Sydney for Auckland. They contained 1,755 letters, 324 packets, 1,414 newspapers, and 20 registered letters.