

The Advances to Settlers Office receipts amounted to £439,590 13s. 4d., and payments to £452,810 2s. 5d.

Fees, &c., were also collected on account of the Audit Office, Hospitals and Charitable Aid, County Councils, Harbourmasters, Alcoholic Liquors Act, Licensing Act, auctioneers' licenses, fishing licenses, industrial schools, Lunacy Department, Miners' Guides, public baths, property-tax, Factories Act, gum-licenses, Education Department, and the Treasury; and an election deposit of £10 was made through the Post Office.

The payments made by the Post Office on behalf of the Treasury were £471,861 8s. 9d.

The gross receipts dealt with during the year were—Departmental, £9,007,021 10s. 8d.; on account of other departments, £1,505,390 0s. 4d. : total, £10,512,411 11s., as compared with £7,644,390 8s. 8d. for the previous year.

The payments were—Departmental, £8,885,376 5s. 10d.; on behalf of other departments—to individuals, £1,226,544 1s. 6d.; to Government accounts, £346,966 1s. 1d. : a total of £10,458,886 8s. 5d., as against £7,529,187 1s. 9d. dealt with the former year.

The gross receipts and payments were therefore £20,971,297 19s. 6d., as compared with £15,173,577 10s. 5d. for 1896.

Deliveries by letter-carriers were established at : Christchurch—Belfast; New Brighton (by subsidised carrier), to include whole of borough and suburbs as far as Christchurch City delivery; Westport—Denniston, twice daily (by subsidised carrier); Harben and Waimangaroa, daily (by subsidised carrier).

Letter-carriers' deliveries were extended at : Auckland—Chief Post-office and suburbs, so as now to include Kingsland, Morningside, Mount Albert, Point Chevalier, and Mount Roskill districts; Whangarei—to include south-west portion of town lying between Waiarohia and Wharoharo Streams; Christchurch—Christchurch Suburbs, to include Bromley district; Lyttelton—to take in whole borough; Greymouth—Chief Post-office, to include the hospital on the south and Shakespeare Road on the east; Napier—Waipawa, to extreme northern boundary of town; Nelson—Chief Post-office, to beyond the bridge, Nile Street East; Thames—Chief Post-office, to take in Moanataiari Creek Road, Waitotahi Creek and Waiokaraka Creek Road, Irishtown, Hill Street, Hape Creek, and Parawai; Wellington—Masterton, to include Kuripuni.

The Thames—Kuranui—Tararua delivery was abolished.

Deliveries were increased in frequency at : Christchurch—Christchurch Suburbs, to twice daily in Waltham and Sydenham districts; Greymouth—in upper part of town from once to twice daily.

The designations of offices were changed as follows : Auckland—Mangawhara to Hinuera; Blenheim—Hocquard's to Te Puru, North-west Bay to Tira-ora; Greymouth—Blackball Mine to Blackball, Upper Blackball to Minerva; Napier—Moss Side to Tarewa; New Plymouth—Palmer Road to Mahoe; Oamaru—Waitaki South to Waitaki; Timaru—Waitaki to Glenavy; Wellington—Makakahi to Konini; Westport—Harben to Waimangaroa Junction.

Names were corrected as follows : Auckland—Harapipi to Harapepe, Mangare to Mangere, Mangare Bridge to Mangere Bridge, Papatoitoe to Papatoetoe, Porooterau to Porootarao, Wairangi to Waerenga, Wangaparaoa to Whangaparaoa, Wangaruru to Whangaruru; Napier—Kuripapanga to Kuripapango; Oamaru—Hakateramea to Hakataramea, Kokoamu to Kokoamo; Thames—Kaiawa to Kaiaua; Wellington—Uruwai to Utuwai.

Fourteen newspapers were registered for transmission by post, and nineteen ceased publication.

Fourteen receiving-boxes were established at : Auckland—Cambridge, 1; Whangarei, 1. Christchurch—City, 1; Belfast, 1; Bromley, 1. Dunedin—City, 2. Napier—Town, 2. Nelson—Town, 1. Oamaru—Town, 1 (reopened). Thames—Waihi, 1; Waitekauri, 1. Wellington—South Karori, 1.

Five receiving-boxes were closed : Auckland—Cambridge, 1. Dunedin—Kaitangata, 1. Thames—Waihi, 1; Waitekauri, 1. Wellington—City, 1.

Seventy-eight post-offices were established (of these nine were reopened offices) and twenty closed :—

Opened.

Ahiarue, Wellington
Allendale, Christchurch
Aparima, Invercargill
Ataahua, Christchurch
Auroa, Wanganui
Awatoto, Napier
Blind River, Blenheim
Courtenay Place, Wellington
Cricklewood, Timaru
Cryer's Landing, Thames
Elaine Bay, Blenheim
Elsthorpe, Napier
Greenvale, Invercargill
Henley West, Dunedin
Highbank, Christchurch
Hikuai, Auckland
Hinemoa, Wellington
Hocquard's, Blenheim
Hopai, Blenheim
Hukanui, Wellington
Inaha, Wanganui
Island Cliff, Oamaru
Kaiparoro, Wellington
Kairanga, Wellington
Komata, Thames
Koru, New Plymouth

Mahau, Blenheim
Mangatu, Auckland
Maratoto, Thames
Maryville, New Plymouth
Matau, New Plymouth
Mawhitiwhiti, Wanganui
Merino Downs, Dunedin
Nireaha, Wellington
North-west Bay, Blenheim
Nydia Bay, Blenheim
Ohui, Auckland
Omarama, Oamaru
Oneroa, Auckland
Opitonui, Auckland
Orari Bridge, Timaru
Oropi, Thames
Otoroa, Auckland
Overdale, Christchurch
Paemako, Auckland
Pahiatus (railway), Wellington
Parkville, Wellington
Peep-o'-Day, Wellington
Piripiri, Wellington
Ponga, Auckland
Puhipuhi, Auckland
Pukepito, Dunedin

Pukeroa, Wanganui
Pukewhau, Thames
Punihu Stream, Wanganui
Putaruru, Auckland
Rewa, Wellington
Rockville, New Plymouth
Rona, Wellington
Rukumoa, Wanganui
Tallaburn, Dunedin
Tallaburn (reopened), Dunedin
Te Oneroa, Invercargill
Te Whaiti, Auckland
Te Wharaki, Thames
Three Springs, Timaru
Tokarahi, Oamaru
Totaratahi, Oamaru
Upper Blackball, Greymouth
Utuwai, Wellington
Waianakarua, Oamaru
Waihakeke, Wellington
Waimaru, Blenheim
Waipatukahu, Thames
Wallaceville, Wellington
Whangaparapara, Auckland
Whetukura, Napier
Wylie's Crossing, Dunedin