

Auckland, Apia, Honolulu, San Francisco.

	Miles.		Days.	Hours.
Auckland to Apia ...	1,583	Through time, at 14 knots ...	18	7
Apia to Honolulu ...	2,262	" 15 " ...	17	3
Honolulu to San Francisco ...	2,080	" 16 " ...	16	2
		" 17 " ...	15	5
	<u>5,925</u>	Stoppages allowed for, 16 hours, as follows:		
		Apia, 4 hours; Honolulu, 12 hours.		

DISTANCES FROM SYDNEY.

<i>Sydney, Fiji, Honolulu, Vancouver.</i>	Miles.	<i>Sydney, Apia, Honolulu, San Francisco.</i>	Miles.
Sydney to Suva ...	1,743	Sydney to Apia ...	2,450
Suva to Honolulu ..	2,780	Apia to Honolulu ...	2,262
Honolulu to Vancouver ...	2,410	Honolulu to San Francisco ...	2,080
Total ...	<u>6,933</u>	Total ...	<u>6,792</u>
Sydney to Vancouver <i>via</i> Wellington, Fiji, and Honolulu ...	7,860	Sydney to San Francisco <i>via</i> Auckland, Apia, and Honolulu ...	7,185

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS on Account of the San Francisco, Peninsular and Oriental, and Orient Mail-services for the Year 1897.

San Francisco Service.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments by weight—									
On mails from New Zealand ...	8,563	17	1						
On mails from the United Kingdom ...	5,538	19	7						
On mails from the Australian Colonies, Fiji, &c.	5,568	16	10						
				19,671	13	6			
Interprovincial service, mail agents, &c. ...				4,009	19	2			
Transit charges { San Francisco to New York ...				4,193	1	8			
{ New York to Queenstown ...				1,822	10	8			
							29,697	5	0
Cr.									
Postages collected in the colony ...				11,060	12	5			
Postages from London... ..				5,538	19	7			
Contributions from non-contracting colonies ...				5,568	16	10			
Penalty imposed for late arrival of s.s. "Zealandia" ...				424	0	0			
							22,592	8	10
Net cost to the colony ...							£7,104	16	2

505,610 letters, 4,157 post-cards, 557,165 books, and 1,186,896 newspapers were received from, and 525,125 letters, 4,316 post-cards, 95,292 books, and 431,210 newspapers despatched to, the United Kingdom *via* San Francisco. The letters received from the United Kingdom by this route show an increase of 5·12, the post-cards 212·79, the books 13·88, and the newspapers 13·87 per cent. The letters despatched to that country show an increase of 1·38, post-cards 201·61, books 6·94, and newspapers 6·94 per cent., as compared with the numbers forwarded in 1896.

Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Lines (Federal Mail-service).

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments to P. and O. and Orient lines ...	3,538	16	8			
Transit charges across Australia ...	305	19	9			
Transit charges across European Continent ...	546	2	6			
Gratuities (to and from Australia) ...	1,775	0	2			
				6,165	19	1
Cr.						
Postages collected in the colony ...	3,097	11	3			
Postages from London and foreign offices ...	1,014	12	3			
				4,112	3	6
Net cost to the colony ...				£2,053	15	7

The number of letters, post-cards, books, and newspapers conveyed from and to the United Kingdom by the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient packets were: Received—463,139 letters, 3,808 post-cards, 294,749 books, and 1,187,424 newspapers; despatched—141,299 letters, 1,161 post-cards, 26,610 books, and 107,781 newspapers.

The average time in which mails were delivered by the San Francisco service was: From Auckland to London, 32·54 days, this average being the same as in 1896; and from London to Auckland 32·62 days, as compared with 34·31 days in the previous year. The shortest delivery was made in 31 days.