

1899.
NEW ZEALAND.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

(REPORT OF THE) FOR THE YEAR 1898.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

MY LORD,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 13th July, 1899.

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the Report of the Post and Telegraph Department for the year 1898, with the usual statement of revenue and expenditure to the 31st March last.

I have the honour to be

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

R. J. SEDDON,

Postmaster-General and Electric Telegraph Commissioner.

His Excellency the Governor of New Zealand.

REPORT.

THE remarkable growth of the business of the department during the past few years has been well maintained. The rate of increase of letters, books, and newspapers was slightly less than in the previous year, while the rate of increase of letter-cards and post-cards was greater, letter-cards having increased no less than 21·19 per cent., and post-cards 10·30 per cent. Telegrams, which in 1897 increased at the rate of 8·07 per cent. in number and decreased 0·94 in value, showed in 1898 a gratifying increase of 10·05 in number and 4·73 in value.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1899:—

REVENUE.

	Postal.			Telegraph.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Stamps used for postage (estimated)	255,000	0	0	..	..	..	255,000	0	0
Money-order and postal-note commission	17,677	19	2	..	..	..	17,677	19	2
Money-order commission received from foreign offices	586	8	8	..	..	..	586	8	8
Private box and bag fees	5,631	0	0	..	..	..	5,631	0	0
Miscellaneous receipts	21,580	5	8	4,471	13	8	26,051	19	4
Paid telegrams	..	..	..	101,104	12	4	101,104	12	4
Telephone exchanges	..	..	..	39,718	7	7	39,718	7	7
	300,475	13	6	145,294	13	7	445,770	7	1
Balance of expenditure over revenue (Telegraph)	..	..	..	29,286	2	10	..	..	..
	£300,475	13	6	£174,580	16	5	£445,770	7	1

EXPENDITURE.

Salaries	89,225	1	2	136,142	1	8	225,367	2	10
Conveyance of mails by sea	50,706	13	2	..	..	..	50,706	13	2
Conveyance of inland mails	35,790	16	7	..	..	..	35,790	16	7
Conveyance of mails by railway	17,067	18	10	..	..	..	17,067	18	10
Money-order commission credited to foreign offices	1,676	15	0	..	..	..	1,676	15	0
Maintenance of telegraph-lines	..	..	..	15,300	2	5	15,300	2	5
Miscellaneous	21,149	7	4	21,710	12	5	42,859	19	9
Telegraph cable subsidies	..	..	..	1,427	19	11	1,427	19	11
	215,616	12	1	174,580	16	5	390,197	8	6
Balance of revenue over expenditure (Postal)	84,859	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
" " (combined department)	..	..	..	..	..	..	55,572	18	7
	£300,475	13	6	£174,580	16	5	£445,770	7	1