

MONEY-ORDERS, POSTAL NOTES, AND BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS

In the following table the number and value of money-orders issued, postal notes sold, and British postal orders sold and paid during the year is shown:—

	Number.	Value. £
Money-orders	942,654	10,842,866
Postal notes	2,483,929	1,106,479
British postal orders sold ..	39,573	15,241
British postal orders paid ..	40,986	31,861

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Investments in national savings accounts through the Post Office during the year amounted to £6,133,241, compared with £6,280,060 for the previous year. In addition, £898,878 was saved through trustee savings-banks, against £1,005,363 in 1948. The investments for the year, including £434,687 from the sale of national savings bonds, totalled £7,466,806.

New accounts were opened as follows:—

With the Post Office.		With the Trustee Savings-bank.		Total of New Accounts.
Individual Accounts.	Group Accounts.	Individual Accounts.	Group Accounts.	
6,028	13,136	1,552	2,311	23,027

There were 434 new savings groups established during the year.

(Tables showing (a) the extent of deposits to and withdrawals from national savings accounts for the years 1948 and 1949, and (b) the value of national savings bonds issued and redeemed, appear in the Appendix, Tables Nos. 10 and 11.)

TOTAL SAVINGS IN CUSTODY OF POST OFFICE

The total savings in the custody of the Post Office at the 31st March, 1949, amounted to £205,805,808, summarized as follows:—

	£
Post-office savings-bank accounts (including school savings-bank accounts)	155,112,945
War gratuity savings-bank accounts	11,447,755
National savings investments	34,696,563
National savings bonds	4,467,294
Post Office Investment Certificates	81,251
	<u>£205,805,808</u>

MISCELLANEOUS

BUILDINGS AND LAND

The continuing shortage of materials and labour has retarded progress on the Department's building programme. Many of the projected buildings are urgently required to provide for the extension of telephone services and to meet the requirements of expanding post-office business. The only major work