

MISSING LETTERS.

969 inquiries for letters and 771 for other articles alleged to have been posted and not delivered were made during 1900. In 548 of the inquiries for letters and 441 for other articles—over one-half the total number—the investigations by the department resulted in the missing articles being traced or accounted for. These may be summarised as follows:—

Number of "Traced" Cases.		...	Found to have been
Letters.	Other Articles.		
45	36	...	Missent, misdelivered, or otherwise delayed through fault of Post Office.
37	30	...	Delayed in delivery through fault of addressees.
32	25	...	Not posted.
55	44	...	Posted later than advised; forwarded by slower routes than letters of advice, &c.
101	82	...	Defectively or wrongly addressed.
66	53	...	Mislaid or lost after delivery.
49	40	...	Returned through Dead-letter Office as unclaimed, &c.
163	131	...	Delivered. Reason for inquiry not given, but probably in most cases omission by addressees to acknowledge receipt.
548	441		

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered articles dealt with in 1900, compared with the numbers in 1890, 1898, and 1899, is shown below:—

Postal Districts.	1890.			1898.			1899.			1900.		
	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.	From Places beyond the Colony.	Registered in the Colony.	Totals.
Auckland ..	7,119	34,398	41,517	13,891	94,138	108,029	17,209	105,710	122,919	18,108	101,533	119,641
Thames ..	130	4,781	4,911	289	16,654	16,943	295	18,659	18,954	267	19,912	20,179
New Plymouth ..	341	3,372	3,713	1,031	15,003	16,034	1,246	15,560	16,806	1,310	16,903	18,213
Gisborne ..	118	2,120	2,238	232	5,034	5,266	327	3,868	4,195	421	7,193	7,614
Napier ..	999	10,911	11,910	948	18,853	19,801	1,115	24,024	25,139	1,659	26,685	28,344
Wanganui ..	211	6,060	6,271	1,584	18,569	20,153	1,850	22,929	24,779	2,151	24,980	27,131
Wellington ..	6,129	30,369	36,498	13,107	69,297	82,404	14,340	78,947	93,287	9,513	85,915	95,428
Blenheim ..	92	3,193	3,285	68	4,397	4,465	97	5,471	5,568	116	6,371	6,487
Nelson ..	322	3,430	3,752	709	10,270	10,979	656	12,002	12,658	644	14,726	15,370
Westport ..	112	3,254	3,366	179	7,100	7,279	337	7,713	8,050	354	6,974	7,328
Greymouth ..	102	8,879	8,981	540	7,360	7,900	583	8,497	9,080	680	11,606	12,286
Hokitika ..	95	2,579	2,674	60	3,586	3,646	84	4,363	4,447	94	4,344	4,438
Christchurch ..	3,659	20,404	24,063	5,371	54,528	59,899	5,143	48,169	53,312	5,404	49,049	54,453
Timaru ..	312	3,551	3,863	507	6,737	7,244	1,068	8,130	9,198	1,196	9,973	11,169
Oamaru ..	278	2,505	2,783	170	5,040	5,210	163	7,244	7,407	120	8,880	9,000
Dunedin ..	4,615	19,696	24,311	6,352	33,522	39,874	6,427	39,544	45,971	6,954	44,003	50,957
Invercargill ..	1,740	9,819	11,559	3,357	19,740	23,097	3,431	23,936	27,367	3,352	24,989	28,341
Totals ..	26,374	169,321	195,695	48,395	389,828	438,223	54,371	434,766	489,137	52,343	464,036	516,379

INLAND MAILS.

The mail-services throughout the colony were conducted throughout the year without any serious interruption.

Another mail-sorting car was built at the end of 1900 by the Railway Department for the Post Office, and brought into use on the Christchurch-Culverden line, the extension and increased frequency of mail-traffic on that section having for some time past pointed to the necessity for instituting that further means of despatch in the sorting and delivery of mails.

The number of contracts for inland mails in operation in 1900 was 625.

There are in addition 361 services not under bond.

The length of inland postal routes by road (counted one way only) was 10,137 miles, and the total number of miles travelled 2,510,152, at an average cost of 3·26d. per mile. In 1899 the respective mileages were 9,678 and 2,236,056, and the average cost 3·27d. per mile.

Ordinary trains with mails travelled 2,858,805 miles.

The estimated sum payable to the Railway Department for the conveyance of mails by ordinary trains was £32,951 19s. 6d.

INLAND MAIL-SERVICES.

The following services were established during the year:—

Auckland—

As required: Awanui Post-office and Wharf; Hohoura, landing and shipping mails; Waihopo, landing-service; Whangamarino Post-office—Railway-station.

Daily: Te Awamutu—Hairini.

Thrice weekly: Kaukapakapa—Takekeroa.

Twice weekly: Tangaihi, landing-service; Te Mata—Raglan and Hamilton Road.