

The following is a comparative return of the telephone-exchange connections for the years 1899-1900 and 1900-1901 :—

Exchange.	No. of Subscribers or Connections :	
	Mar. 31, 1900.	Mar. 31, 1901.
Ashburton	100	106
Auckland	1,134	1,263
Blenheim	75	91
Christchurch	968	1,048
Rangiora	14	13
Dunedin	1,082	1,204
Balclutha	15	16
Kaitangata	6	5
Milton	20	20
Palmerston South	15	15
Port Chalmers	17	19
Waikouaiti	—	8
Feilding	78	98
Gisborne	145	184
Greymouth	94	114
Hawera	91	105
Eltham	9	12
Manaia	9	14
Invercargill	250	278
Bluff	22	23
Edendale	—	5
Gore	58	63
Lumsden	—	14
Mataura	8	9
Otautau	22	24
Riversdale	13	16
Riverton	—	18
Winton	13	17
Woodlands	5	5
Wyndham	—	13
Masterton	81	104
Napier	297	316
Hastings	45	48
Nelson	78	107
New Plymouth	212	230
Inglewood	6	11
Waitara	11	14
Oamaru	127	161
Ngapara	—	1
Pahiatua	—	63
Woodville	—	15
Palmerston North	127	157
Stratford	57	68
Thames	79	78
Timaru	91	123
Wanganui	250	284
Marton	9	25
Wellington	1,417	1,585
Total	<u>7,150</u>	<u>8,210</u>

The connections may be classified as follows: Paying, 7,550; free, 202; bureaux, 458; total, 8,210.

The telephone-exchange receipts amounted to £49,117 0s. 8d.—an increase of £5,813 17s. 10d. as compared with the subscriptions received during the previous year.

The working-expenses and 5 per cent. interest on capital cost for the year amounted to £45,348 9s. 10d.

The following are the particulars of telegraph- and telephone-wires, &c., in the colony on 31st March, 1901 :—

	Telegraph.	Telephone.
Miles of line, 1st April, 1900	6,910	501
" 31st March, 1901	7,249	545
Miles of wire, 1st April, 1900	19,228	6,343
" 31st March, 1901	20,682	6,987
Increase during the year—		
Miles of line	339	44
Miles of wire	1,454	644
Submarine cable, 1st April, 1900	242 knots	8 knots.
" 31st March, 1901	244 knots	11.6 knots.