

The cable, besides bringing a comparatively isolated community and district into closer touch with the rest of New Zealand, will greatly enhance the popularity of Stewart Island as a holiday and tourist resort, and be of considerable benefit to persons visiting the place either on business or pleasure. In addition to its value as a means of connecting Stewart Island with the mainland, the cable will be of great service for defence purposes.

BUSINESS OVER EXISTING CABLES.

The number and value of cable messages forwarded from New Zealand during 1901 are shown in the following statement:—

Destination.	Ordinary.			Press.		
	No. of Messages.	Value.			No. of Messages.	Value.
		£	s.	d.		£ s. d.
International	11,879	32,744	4	4	302	2,011 13 1
New South Wales	29,868	7,336	0	6	1,052	662 6 8
Queensland	1,172	353	18	5	7	1 16 4
South Australia	1,448	476	5	4	...	...
Tasmania	2,023	734	6	4	...	...
Victoria	16,589	4,696	16	2	59	42 15 11
Western Australia	1,980	633	6	6	...	...
Total for 1901	64,959	46,974	17	7	1,420	2,718 12 0
Total for 1900	62,275	55,219	6	1	1,034	1,457 4 5

The colony's outward international and intercolonial cable business, not including Press, for the years 1900 and 1901 was as follows:—

International,—			Messages. Number.		Value. £ s. d.
1901	...	...	11,879	...	32,744 4 4
1900	...	...	11,947	...	42,132 16 11
Decrease	...	68	Decrease	9,388 12 7	or 22·28 per cent.
			or 0·57 per cent.		
Intercolonial,—			Messages. Number.		Value. £ s. d.
1901	...	...	53,080	...	14,230 13 3
1900	...	...	50,328	...	13,086 9 2
Increase	...	2,752	Increase	1,144 4 1	or 8·74 per cent.
			or 5·47 per cent.		

The total increase in 1901 was therefore 2,684 messages, but a decrease of £8,244 8s. 6d. in value.

The forwarded and received cable Press business for the past ten years ended 31st December, 1901, has been:—

Year.	Forwarded.			Received.		
	Number of		Value.	Number of		Value.
	Messages.	Words.		Messages.	Words.	
1892	791	44,263	£ 898 3 9	2,884	197,477	£ 2,796 9 4
1893	796	57,390	504 9 9	2,883	202,170	1,540 17 10
1894	994	103,366	899 4 9	3,033	203,326	1,179 13 7
1895	1,168	68,682	433 13 0	3,926	314,136	1,782 13 5
1896	1,069	92,946	531 4 9	2,946	285,369	1,576 1 3
1897	1,294	128,839	945 4 8	3,665	323,617	1,752 7 5
1898	1,154	133,342	907 7 0	3,599	282,882	1,599 7 0
1899	1,570	182,066	1,800 10 4	3,822	298,218	1,690 12 4
1900	1,034	139,295	1,457 4 5	4,014	333,300	1,878 9 1
1901	1,420	148,400	2,718 12 0	3,989	351,291	1,967 19 3

NOTE.—The intercolonial cable Press rate was reduced from 3d. to 1d. per word on the 1st April, 1893.