

earrings, 1 pair greenstone earrings, 2 gold-mounted greenstone charms, 1 gold-mounted greenstone pendant, 5 silver-mounted greenstone pendants, 1 greenstone pendant, 1 silver-mounted greenstone spoon, 1 silver butter-knife with greenstone handle, 1 Railway Servants' Society's pendant, 1 gold tooth-pick, 1 pair gold-rimmed eye-glasses, 1 gold bangle, 1 gold-mounted tusk, 1 small piece of gold, 1 set silver spoons, 1 silver serviette-ring, 1 silver match-box, 1 cut-glass salve-pot with silver lid, 1 red leather purse, 2 books foreign stamps, 4 sheets foreign stamps, 47 packets foreign stamps, 1 certificate of title and memo. of mortgage, 1 gum license, 1 steamer ticket (single, Melbourne to Wellington), 4 feathers for hat, and violin-strings were dealt with.

The number of inland, intercolonial, and international articles received and disposed of during the years 1900 and 1901 was as under :—

	1900.					1901.				
	Letters.	Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Packets.	News-papers.	Letters.	Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Packets.	News-papers.
<i>Inland.</i>										
Returned, delivered, &c., through Dead-letter Office	62,751	2,085	1,704	59,258	798	88,115	1,726	1,360	34,215	1,951
Returned by Chief Postmasters direct ..	36,660	..	3,622	38,514	..	40,909	..	3,614	46,456	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	3,987	142	108	1,453	38,394	4,746	118	86	9,139	42,736
<i>Australian.</i>										
Originally addressed to other States :—										
Returned to writers ..	4,249	..	91	789	..	5,475	..	91	556	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	270	..	6	48	..	291	..	10	34	..
Returned to other States as unclaimed	4,025	39	26	5,814	..	4,969	48	32	3,959	..
<i>International.</i>										
Originally addressed to other countries :—										
Returned to writers ..	5,949	..	128	998	..	8,272	..	109	963	..
Destroyed in accordance with law ..	379	..	8	47	..	439	..	15	45	..
Returned to other countries as unclaimed	5,529	53	35	17,921	..	7,091	67	44	20,719	..
Totals	123,799	2,319	5,728	124,842	39,192	160,307	1,959	5,361	116,086	44,687

MISSING LETTERS.

1,090 inquiries for letters and 861 for other articles alleged to have been posted and not delivered were made during 1901. In 626 of the inquiries for letters and 533 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.

Letters.	Other Articles.	Found to have been
62	53	Missent, misdelivered, or otherwise delayed through fault of Post Office.
20	17	Delayed in delivery through fault of addressees.
34	29	Not posted.
64	55	Posted later than advised; forwarded by slower routes than letters of advice, &c.
114	96	Defectively or wrongly addressed.
61	51	Mislaidd or lost after delivery.
37	32	Returned through Dead-letter Office as unclaimed, &c.
234	200	Delivered. Reason for inquiry not given, but probably in most cases omission by addressees to acknowledge receipt.
626	533	

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered articles dealt with in 1901, compared with the numbers in 1890, 1899, and 1900, is shown below :—

Postal Districts.	1890.			1899.			1900.			1901.		
	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	17,209	105,710	122,919	18,108	101,533	119,641	18,577	117,891	136,468
Thames ..	130	4,781	4,911	295	18,659	18,954	267	19,912	20,179	302	22,768	23,070
New Plymouth ..	341	3,372	3,713	1,246	15,560	16,806	1,310	16,903	18,213	1,498	18,306	19,804
Gisborne ..	118	2,120	2,238	927	3,868	4,195	421	7,193	7,614	421	6,468	6,889
Napier ..	999	10,911	11,910	1,115	24,024	25,139	1,659	26,685	28,344	1,952	28,404	28,356
Wanganui ..	211	6,060	6,271	1,850	22,929	24,779	2,151	24,980	27,131	2,364	32,707	35,071
Wellington ..	6,129	30,369	36,498	14,340	78,947	93,287	9,513	85,915	95,428	13,595	106,859	120,454
Blenheim ..	92	3,193	3,285	97	5,471	5,568	116	6,371	6,487	116	8,071	8,187
Nelson ..	322	3,430	3,752	656	12,002	12,658	644	14,726	15,370	1,018	14,814	15,832
Westport ..	112	3,254	3,366	337	7,713	8,050	354	6,974	7,328	880	8,518	9,398
Greymouth ..	102	8,879	8,981	583	8,497	9,080	680	11,606	12,286	602	13,776	14,378
Hokitika ..	95	2,579	2,674	84	4,363	4,447	94	4,344	4,438	503	6,634	7,137
Christchurch ..	3,659	20,404	24,063	5,143	48,169	53,312	5,404	49,049	54,453	5,690	56,399	62,089
Timaru ..	312	3,551	3,863	1,068	8,130	9,198	1,196	9,973	11,169	1,260	10,736	11,996
Oamaru ..	278	2,505	2,783	163	7,244	7,407	120	8,880	9,000	116	7,815	7,931
Dunedin ..	4,615	19,696	24,311	6,427	39,544	45,971	6,954	44,003	50,957	7,746	53,324	61,070
Invercargill ..	1,740	9,819	11,559	3,431	23,936	27,367	3,352	24,989	28,341	5,107	26,071	31,178
Totals ..	26,374	169,321	195,695	54,371	434,766	489,137	52,343	464,036	516,379	61,747	537,561	599,308