

The total amount at credit of depositors increased from £5,809,552 5s. 3d. at the close of the previous year to £6,350,013 9s. 2d. on the 31st December last, representing a sum equal to £8 3s. 3d. per head of the entire population, and £29 17s. 10d. per depositor. Last year the figures were £7 10s. 9d. and £29 8s. 7d. respectively.

The interest credited to depositors since the Post-Office savings-banks were established in 1867 now amounts to £2,346,161 2s. 8d.

The cost of working the savings-banks amounted to 4·39 pence per transaction, or £11,500 for the year.

The cost of management per cent. on total amount at credit of depositors was 0·181 per cent., or 3s. 7d. per £100.

Average number of deposits per day, 1900 ...	...	...	...	1,134
" " " " 1901 ...	...	...	...	1,244
Increase per cent. ...	...	...	...	9·7
Average number of withdrawals per day, 1900 ...	...	...	...	742
" " " " 1901 ...	...	...	...	810
Increase per cent. ...	...	...	...	9·16
Average daily amount deposited, 1900 ...	...	...	£13,628 17s. 1d.	
" " " " 1901 ...	...	...	£15,070 2s. 4d.	
Average " daily amount " withdrawn, 1900 ...	...	...	£12,507 17s. 11d.	
" " " " 1901 ...	...	...	£13,824 3s. 2d.	

TELEGRAPHS.

The total value of the telegraph and telephone business for the year ended the 31st March last, including Government telegrams and miscellaneous telegraph receipts, was £234,984 2s. 2d., as compared with £222,305 8s. 0½d.—an increase of £12,678 14s. 1½d., or 5·7 per cent.

The following is a comparison of the traffic in paid telegrams during the last seven years:—

Number.		Value.	
1895-96 ...	1,899,632	...	£92,289
1896-97 ...	2,285,001	Increase, 20·29 per cent. ...	97,453
1897-98 ...	2,469,415	" 8·07 "	96,537
1898-99 ...	2,717,548	" 10·05 "	101,104
1899-00 ...	3,159,093	" 16·25 "	114,383
1900-01 ...	3,534,444	" 11·88 "	126,382
1901-02 ...	3,850,391	" 8·94 "	141,581
		Increase, 5·60 per cent.	
		Decrease, 0·94 "	
		Increase, 4·73 "	
		" 13·13 "	
		" 10·49 "	
		" 12·03 "	

TELEGRAPH BUSINESS.

Table showing the number of telegrams forwarded, and the revenue derived therefrom, during the four quarters of the financial years 1900-1 and 1901-2 respectively:—

Quarter.	Number of Telegrams forwarded.		Increase per Cent.	Revenue.		Increase per Cent.
	Year ended 31st March, 1901.	Year ended 31st March, 1902.		1900-1.	1901-2.	
June quarter ...	827,137	951,480	15·03	£ 29,359 6 10	£ 34,983 9 5	19·16
September quarter ...	793,385	874,759	10·26	27,905 3 1½	32,333 13 2	15·87
December quarter ...	924,231	980,310	6·07	32,675 14 2½	35,773 9 9	9·48
March quarter ...	989,691	1,043,842	5·47	36,441 10 4	38,490 10 3	5·62
	3,534,444	3,850,391	8·94	126,381 14 6	141,581 2 7	12·03

The number of telegrams of all codes forwarded during last financial year was 4,167,981—an increase of 269,853, or 6·92 per cent., over 1900-1.

The proportion of telegrams per head of population was 5·33, as compared with 5·10 the previous year.

The number of ordinary telegrams forwarded was 3,046,421, of the value of £107,633 2s. 10d., compared with 2,840,426 for £96,186 0s. 6d., in 1900-1—an increase of 205,995 and £11,447 2s. 4d.

The urgent telegrams numbered 164,541 of the value of £10,913 2s. 9d.—an increase of 4,113 in number and £363 15s. 8d. in amount.

328,405 Press telegrams, of the value of £13,878 17s. 1d., were forwarded in 1901-2, as compared with 275,738, valued at £12,291 17s. 4d., forwarded in 1900-1—an increase of 52,667, or 19·1 per cent., in number, and 12·91 per cent. in value.

The value of each Press telegram averaged 10·14d., as against 10·70d. in 1900-1.

The bureau messages numbered 311,024, of the value of £9,195 9s. 4d., as compared with 257,852, of the value of £7,354 9s. 7d.—an increase of 53,172 in number and £1,840 19s. 9d. in amount.