

The colony's outward international and Australian cable business, not including Press, for the years 1901 and 1902 was as follows:—

International.

					Number of Messages.	Value.		
						£	s.	d.
1902	...	...	...	...	14,893	31,766	15	6
1901	...	...	...	...	11,879	32,744	4	4
Inc. 3,014*						Dec.	977	8 10†

* 25·37 per cent.

† 2·98 per cent.

Australia.

					Number of Messages.	Value.		
						£	s.	d.
1902	...	...	...	...	61,964	14,375	16	10
1901	...	...	...	...	53,080	14,230	13	3
Inc. 8,884*						Inc.	145	3 7†

* 16·74 per cent.

† 1·02 per cent.

There was a total increase of 11,898 messages, but a decrease of £832 5s. 3d. in value.

The forwarded and received cable Press business for the past ten years ended 31st December, 1902, has been:—

Year.	Forwarded.			Received.		
	Number of		Value.	Number of		Value.
	Messages.	Words.		Messages.	Words.	
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
1902	1,830	202,968	1,772 8 4	4,443	396,438	2,200 10 6

OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

The following is a comparative return showing the number and amount of old-age pension payments made each month for the two years ended 31st March, 1903:—

Month.	1901-2.		1902-3.	
	Number of Payments.	Amount.	Number of Payments.	Amount.
April	11,900	£ 16,962 19 5	12,295	£ 17,389 3 6
May	12,107	17,207 17 7	12,471	17,647 16 9
June	12,110	17,190 16 11	12,321	17,428 17 10
July	12,220	17,327 17 9	12,481	17,629 8 10
August	12,210	17,276 9 8	12,401	17,523 12 9
September	12,121	17,132 4 6	12,392	17,505 3 8
October	12,256	17,321 8 8	12,453	17,596 19 4
November	12,343	17,446 0 6	12,348	17,441 3 11
December	12,257	17,292 10 2	12,418	17,562 1 0
January	12,296	17,350 5 6	12,325	17,416 4 10
February	12,285	17,333 3 7	12,386	17,507 6 3
March	12,322	17,406 7 1	12,385	17,496 5 2
Totals	146,427	£207,248 1 4	148,676	£210,144 3 10