

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS on Account of the SAN FRANCISCO, PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL, and ORIENT MAIL-SERVICES for the Year 1903.

San Francisco Service.

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments by weight—									
On mails from New Zealand ...	19,366	8	9						
On mails from Fiji ...	45	1	8						
				19,411	10	5			
Interprovincial service, mail agents, &c. ...				5,352	0	10			
Transit charges { San Francisco to New York ...				4,300	7	5			
{ New York to Queenstown ...				1,822	10	9			
							30,886	9	5
CR.									
Postages collected in the colony ...				16,044	18	10			
Contributions from Fiji... ..				45	1	8			
							16,090	0	6
Net cost to the colony							£14,796	8	11

1,190,865 letters and post-cards, 658,840 books, and 1,298,836 newspapers were received from, and 1,254,725 letters and post-cards, 219,919 books, and 860,708 newspapers were despatched to, the United Kingdom *via* San Francisco.

The average time within which mails were delivered by the San Francisco service was—From Auckland to London, 30·22 days, as against 30·61 days in 1902; and from London to Auckland, 30·47 days, as compared with 30·94 days in the previous year. The shortest delivery was made in 28 days.

Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Lines (Federal Mail-service).

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments to P. and O. and Orient lines ...	4,030	12	9			
Transit charges across Australia ...	169	19	0			
Transit charges across Europe ...	411	2	10			
Gratuities (to and from Australia) ...	1,912	5	11			
				6,524	0	6
CR.						
Postages collected in the colony ...	2,155	15	8			
Postages, &c., from London and foreign offices ...	1,402	16	0			
				3,558	11	8
Net cost to the colony				£2,965	8	10

The number of letters and post-cards, books, and newspapers conveyed from and to the United Kingdom by the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient packets were: Received—962,241 letters and post-cards, 429,765 books, and 1,764,478 newspapers; despatched—168,489 letters and post-cards, 23,271 books, and 106,226 newspapers.

The maximum, minimum, and average number of days within which the mails were delivered at and from London and Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin, and Bluff during 1903 by the San Francisco service and by the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient lines was:—

	San Francisco Service.				P. and O. Line.				Orient Line.		
	Max.	Min.	Average.		Max.	Min.	Average.		Max.	Min.	Average.
London to Auckland ..	32	30	30·47	..	42	37	37·62	..	42	37	38·81
Auckland to London ..	33	28	30·22	..	42	37	40·04	..	43	40	41·38
London to Wellington ..	34	31	31·65	..	40	38	38·92	..	41	39	39·46
Wellington to London ..	34	29	31·22	..	44	36	41·04	..	45	37	42·04
London to Dunedin... ..	35	32	32·76	..	40	38	38·94	..	40	39	39·25
Dunedin to London... ..	36	31	33·22	..	43	40	40·79	..	44	40	42·02
London to Bluff	36	33	33·51	..	39	37	38·19	..	39	38	38·50
Bluff to London	37	32	33·97	..	42	39	40·04	..	43	39	41·27