

The several subsidised sea mail-services, the subsidy-payments for the year 1903-4, the dates when established, and the date on which each terminates are shown as follows :—

Service.	Annual Subsidy or Payment.	Duration of Service.		Number of Voyages per Annum.	Mileage for Complete Voyage.	Cost per Mile.
		When established.	When terminated or terminable.			
	£ s. d.					s. d.
Auckland and San Francisco ..	1,690 0 0	April, 1871	Nov., 1906	17	5,925	3 2.22 ^(a)
Auckland and Fiji ..	1,200 0 0	June, 1880	..	13	2,334	1 1.37
Auckland and South Pacific islands ..	60 0 0	June, 1885	..	12	6,992	0 3.43
Auckland and Devonport ..	250 0 0	Aug., 1863	Dec., 1906	939	6	0 2.56
Auckland and Great Barrier ..	100 0 0	Oct., 1891	Dec., 1906	52	120	0 9.62
Dargaville and Tangiteroria ..	150 0 0	Nov., 1893	Dec., 1906	52	46	0 10.03
Helensville and Matakoho ..	450 0 0	Jan., 1881	Dec., 1906	52	118	0 5.87
Helensville and Dargaville ..	500 0 0 ^(b)	Jan., 1881	Dec., 1906	104	170	0 6.11
Horeke, Kohukohu, Rawene, Koutu, Rangi Point, and Opononi ..	147 0 0 ^(c)	Jan., 1889	Dec., 1906	52	48	1 10.40
Russell and Opuā ..	102 0 0	Jan., 1889	Dec., 1906	156	16	0 9.81
Whangaroa and Totara North ..	25 0 0	Jan., 1891	Dec., 1903	52	2	..
Whangaroa (all boating in harbour) ..	44 0 0	..	Dec., 1906	(as required)	..	..
Wellington, Ketu Bay, Homewood, Maori Bay (and other offices), and Havelock ..	365 0 0	Dec., 1891	Dec., 1906	26	183	1 6.41
Wellington and Motueka ..	700 0 0 ^(d)	Nov., 1902	Dec., 1906	43	210	1 0.62
Havelock and Bulwer ..	125 0 0	Jan., 1904	Dec., 1906	26	64	1 6.03
Nelson, Motueka, Totaranui, Takaka, and Collingwood ..	100 0 0 ^(e)	..	Dec., 1906	52	130	0 4.44
Nelson and Croixelles ..	50 0 0	Jan., 1904	Dec., 1906	52	44	0 5.24
Westport and Karamea ..	400 0 0	June, 1886	Dec., 1904	36	102	1 8.62
Westport and Little Wanganui ..	500 0 0 ^(f)	Jan., 1895	Dec., 1904	12	82	..
Hokitika, Okarito, Bruce Bay, Paringa, Haast, Okura, and Jackson's Bay ..	600 0 0	Jan., 1886	Dec., 1906	6	384	5 2.50
Lyttelton and Chatham Islands (including Pitt Island) ^(g) ..	300 0 0	..	Mar., 1904	6	1,050	0 11.43
Bluff and Half-moon Bay ..	245 0 0	July, 1886	Dec., 1906	52	48	1 11.56
Bluff and Ruapuke Island ..	36 0 0	Sept., 1903	Sept., 1904	52	26	0 6.39
Bluff and Te Oneroa ..	300 0 0 ^(h)	April, 1893	April, 1904	12	208	2 4.85
Interprovincial service in connection with San Francisco line ..	4,576 0 0 ⁽ⁱ⁾	Nov., 1886	Nov., 1906	17	..	..
	4,076 0 0 ^(k)					

(a) On basis of payment for outward voyage, which alone is controlled by New Zealand.

(b) Subsidy increased by £50 from 1st January, 1904.

(c) Subsidy reduced by £86 from 1st January, 1904.

(d) Subsidy reduced to £700 for both services from 1st January, 1904.

(e) Subsidy reduced by £25 from 1st January, 1904; frequency increased to twice weekly, and Motueka not included.

(f) Subsidy increased by £100 from 1st January, 1904.

(g) Service renewed from March, 1904.

(h) Subsidy to be paid in moieties by the Marine and the Post and Telegraph Departments. Renewed from April, 1904.

(i) From 1st April to 9th November, 1903.

(k) From 10th November, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.

TELEGRAPHS.

The total value of the telegraph and telephone business for the year ended the 31st March last, including miscellaneous telegraph receipts and Government telegrams, was £261,941 6s. 6½d., as compared with £248,934 19s. 4d. for the previous year—an increase of £13,006 7s. 2½d., or 5.22 per cent.

The received cable Press increased; but the cable Press forwarded shows a falling-off compared with the previous year, which was an eventful one.

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

	Number.		Value.	
1895-96 ...	1,899,632		£92,289	
1896-97 ...	2,285,001	Increase, 20.29 per cent.	97,453	Increase, 5.60 per cent.
1897-98 ...	2,469,415	" 8.07	96,537	Decrease, 0.94
1898-99 ...	2,717,548	" 10.05	101,104	Increase, 4.73
1899-00 ...	3,159,093	" 16.25	114,383	" 13.13
1900-1 ...	3,534,444	" 11.88	126,382	" 10.49
1901-2 ...	3,850,391	" 8.94	141,581	" 12.03
1902-3 ...	4,271,218	" 10.93	153,338	" 8.30
1903-4 ...	4,671,904	" 9.38	162,498	" 5.97