

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered articles dealt with in 1903, compared with the numbers in 1890, 1900, and 1902, is shown below :—

Postal Districts.	1890.			1900.			1902.			1903.		
	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	18,108	101,533	119,641	18,779	120,789	139,518	20,068	121,952	142,020
Thames ..	130	4,781	4,911	267	19,912	20,179	297	20,057	20,354	345	19,034	19,379
New Plymouth ..	341	3,372	3,713	1,310	16,903	18,213	1,890	19,736	21,626	2,150	22,199	24,349
Gisborne ..	118	2,120	2,238	421	7,193	7,614	426	6,651	7,077	337	6,791	7,128
Napier ..	999	10,911	11,910	1,659	26,685	28,344	1,904	26,282	28,186	1,836	26,079	27,915
Wanganui ..	211	6,060	6,271	2,151	24,980	27,131	2,390	33,212	35,602	2,442	30,453	32,895
Wellington ..	6,129	30,369	36,498	9,513	85,915	95,428	15,953	96,336	112,289	17,934	121,729	139,663
Blenheim ..	92	3,193	3,285	116	6,371	6,487	372	7,736	8,108	147	9,182	9,329
Nelson ..	322	3,430	3,752	644	14,726	15,370	1,220	16,919	18,139	1,314	18,043	19,357
Westport ..	112	3,254	3,366	354	6,974	7,328	882	8,431	9,313	926	8,425	9,351
Greymouth ..	102	8,879	8,981	680	11,606	12,286	527	7,955	8,482	957	13,901	14,858
Hokitika ..	95	2,579	2,674	94	4,344	4,438	562	6,643	7,205	536	10,324	10,860
Christchurch ..	3,659	20,404	24,063	5,404	49,049	54,453	6,430	51,215	57,645	7,480	51,623	59,103
Timaru ..	312	3,551	3,863	1,196	9,973	11,169	1,100	13,174	14,274	705	10,496	11,201
Oamaru ..	278	2,505	2,783	120	8,880	9,000	136	6,094	6,230	114	6,171	6,285
Dunedin ..	4,615	19,696	24,311	6,954	44,003	50,957	7,986	53,411	61,397	8,797	53,895	62,692
Invercargill ..	1,740	9,819	11,559	3,352	24,989	28,341	5,580	31,233	36,813	6,700	29,214	35,914
Totals ..	26,374	169,321	195,695	52,343	464,036	516,379	66,434	525,824	592,258	72,788	559,511	632,299

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The estimated volume and value of official and other free correspondence posted during 1903 is given in the statement below :—

District.	Letters.	Packets.	Registered Articles.	Newspapers.
Auckland ..	1,016,860	10,560	14,528	69,385
Thames ..	121,407	2,896	2,240	36,712
New Plymouth ..	143,650	15,100	4,577	62,835
Gisborne ..	43,628	3,643	1,168	18,450
Napier ..	247,364	13,688	1,224	57,730
Wanganui ..	239,681	4,370	7,200	105,732
Wellington ..	1,488,097	587,369	34,832	479,458
Nelson ..	165,750	7,580	6,160	47,594
Westport ..	43,810	697	2,028	32,700
Greymouth ..	75,244	4,502	3,308	57,112
Hokitika ..	42,809	3,780	4,018	32,229
Blenheim ..	53,131	2,190	1,092	25,114
Christchurch ..	653,341	18,993	16,159	129,878
Timaru ..	111,514	3,744	1,240	23,900
Oamaru ..	55,588	1,968	880	32,126
Dunedin ..	743,678	62,511	14,132	222,590
Invercargill ..	304,044	19,276	6,278	81,946
Totals ..	5,549,596	762,867	121,064	1,515,491

The estimated value of official correspondence was £88,742 14s. 11d.

DEAD LETTERS.

The following comparative table shows the number of unclaimed letters, letter-cards, and post-cards dealt with in the Dead Letter Office and by Chief Postmasters during the undermentioned years :—

Manner of Disposal.	1884.	1885.	1887.	1889.	1890.	1895.	1896.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Opened and returned to the writers	68,942	66,592	62,847	62,654	60,540	61,065	63,112	68,872	74,132	76,692	100,036	107,476	107,271
Returned unopened to other countries	9,134	8,115	7,287	6,220	7,779	12,929	7,546	8,899	9,706	9,707	12,251	14,401	18,176
Reissued ..	107	185	96	92	141	199	148	219	178	265	*5,112	†13,373	203
Destroyed ..	3,986	2,872	5,974	4,340	2,660	3,617	4,069	3,368	4,536	4,900	5,705	6,249	9,579
Returned unopened by Chief Postmasters	17,593	19,187	20,185	21,164	21,931	25,980	26,414	33,273	22,915	40,282	44,523	54,285	93,920
Totals ..	99,762	96,951	96,389	94,470	93,051	103,790	101,289	114,631	111,467	131,846	167,627	195,784	229,149

* Including 4,911 troopers' letters.

† Including 13,180 troopers' letters.