

The colony's outward international and Australian cable business, not including Press, for the years 1904 and 1905 was as follows:—

International.

		Number of Messages.	Value. £ s. d.		
1905 ...	...	23,905	37,855	10	5
1904 ...	...	22,508	37,994	12	10

Inc. 1,397 = 6·20 per cent. Dec. 139 2 5 = 0·37 per cent.

Australia.

		Number of Messages.	Value. £ s. d.		
1905 ...	...	66,873	12,916	4	11
1904 ...	...	64,691	12,846	5	2

Inc. 2,182 = 3·37 per cent. Inc. 69 19 9 = 0·54 per cent

There was a total increase of 3,579 messages, and a decrease of £69 2s. 8d. in value.

The forwarded and received cable Press business for the ten years ended the 31st December, 1905, was:—

Year.		Forwarded.			Received.		
		Number of		Value.	Number of		Value.
		Messages.	Words.		Messages.	Words.	
				£ s. d.			£ s. d.
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
1903	...	1,595	159,732	1,235 11 1	5,636	425,824	2,333 10 2
1904	...	1,551	161,094	1,147 8 8	4,488	392,888	2,169 1 3
1905	...	2,226	181,196	1,290 9 3	4,548	398,878	2,254 18 5

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

Sixteen new exchanges were opened during the year, and the number of subscribers increased by 1,910.

The total number of exchanges now numbers 101, made up of 29 central and 72 sub-exchanges.

The total number of connections is 15,333, compared with 13,423 in 1905. They may be classified as follows: Paying, 14,108; free, 296; bureaux, 929.

New connections numbered 2,537, and those given up 627.

The increase in connections is equal to 14·23 per cent.

On the 31st March, 1906, there were 885 miles of telephone-line and 12,798 miles of wire.

The following is a comparative return of telephone-exchange connections for the years 1905-6 and 1904-5:—

Exchange.	Number of Subscribers or Connections:	
	March 31, 1906.	March 31, 1905.
Ashburton	138	130
Auckland	2,036	1,854
Cambridge	42	...
Devonport	37	38
Onehunga	23	...
Blenheim	157	137
Picton	41	...
Christchurch	1,887	1,647
Akaroa	40	40
Doyleston	7	7
Duvauchelle	7	8
Leeston	11	10
Lincoln	6	6
Little River	8	9
Lyttelton	13	8
Rangiora	15	15
Southbridge	5	6
Dannevirke	127	109
Makotuku	1	...
Dunedin	1,848	1,702
Balclutha	33	27
Clinton	11	8
Kaitangata	13	13