

floor is occupied by the staffs of the Controller of Money-orders and Savings-banks and the Chief Accountant. Magneta clocks, controlled by two master-clocks, are installed throughout the building. Four electric lifts and Lamson pneumatic carriers are provided. The cost of the building (exclusive of foundations) was £97,000. The furniture for the building was manufactured in the Department's workshops.

A feature in the design of the building is the allegorical group of statuary over the main porch representing the "Girdled Earth," designed by Mr. Alfred Drury, A.R.A., flanked by figures, one representing "Letter-delivery," and the other "Telegraphy."

NEW CHIEF POST-OFFICE, AUCKLAND.

The new chief post-office building at Auckland was opened by the Prime Minister on the 20th November, 1912. The building is in the style of English Renaissance, and has a frontage of 180 ft. by 140 ft. depth. The design somewhat resembles that of the General Post Office. The material used in the construction of the building is Coromandel granite, with Oamaru stone front. On the flat roof there is erected a wireless-telegraph station. The contract price of the building was £95,000.

BUILDINGS.

The other new offices officially opened were: Clive, Kaitangata, Kaiwarawara, Kawakawa, Ohura, Otane, Pleasant Point, Waihou, and Westport.

The following offices were transferred to departmental new buildings: Awakino, Balfour, Granity, Hawea Flat, Kawakawa, Matamata, Murchison, Ohura, Ponsonby, Ravensbourne, Sydenham, Westport, and Whangamomona.

Sites have been purchased at Awanui, Bombay, Brooklyn, Dargaville, Hataitai, Henderson, Island Bay, Khandallah, Kilbirnie, Kimbolton, Middlemarch, Miramar, New Lynn, Ohaupo, Oxford, Raglan, Ross, St. Clair, St. John's, Spring Creek, Takapuna, Waiuku, and Worser Bay.

During the year buildings were erected at Awakino, Balfour, Canvastown, Clive, Hawea Flat, Kaero, Kaitangata, Kaiwarawara, Kawakawa, Matamata, Murchison, Ohura, Opotiki, Otane, Pleasant Point, Ponsonby, Putaruru, Ravensbourne, Sydenham, Takaka (residence), Te Aroha, Waiau (lineman's cottage), Waihou, Westport, Whangamomona.

Contracts have been let for buildings at Gore (restoration of building) and Tokaanu.

Buildings are in course of erection at Kaikohe, Kaitaia, Papakura, Roxburgh, Timaru (clock), Wellington (bulk store).

The post-office at Kimbolton was destroyed by fire on the 13th May, 1913. All records and mail-matter were saved.

The post-office at Okoroire was destroyed by fire on the 30th May, 1912.

On the 22nd February, 1913, the Town of Westport was much shaken by a heavy earthquake, which damaged several buildings. The new post-office was considerably cracked in several places.

Lamson pneumatic carriers have been installed between the old and the new post-office buildings in Auckland City. The tubes are in underground pipes.

MONEY-ORDERS.

During the year there were 40 money-order offices opened and 2 closed, the number remaining open at the end of the year being 742.

666,425 money-orders were issued, for £3,231,349 14s. 6d., as compared with 607,764 for £2,759,393 8s. 5d. for the previous year—an increase of 58,661 in number and £471,956 6s. 1d. in amount.

536,130 money-orders, amounting to £2,870,523 1s. 8d., were paid, as against 483,043 for £2,416,958 15s. 10d., during 1911—an increase of 53,087 orders and £453,564 5s. 10d. in amount.

173,080 orders, for £528,880 5s. 11d., were drawn for payment in places beyond New Zealand.

43,461 orders, for £173,574 2s. 1d., were issued at offices abroad for payment in New Zealand.

The commission received for money-orders amounted to £16,398 16s. 2d., as against £15,307 7s. 7d. for 1911, an increase of £1,091 8s. 7d.

POSTAL NOTES.

Fifty-two offices were opened and 7 closed, leaving 911 postal-note offices at the end of the year.

1,970,643 notes, representing a value of £636,473 0s. 6d., were sold, as against 1,821,566 notes, for £574,979 18s. 6d., sold during the previous year—an increase of 8.18 per cent. in number and 10.69 per cent. in value.

The postal notes paid numbered 1,957,576, of the value of £624,086 12s., as compared with 1,811,096, of the value of £572,112 16s., paid during 1911-12.

The postal-note commission amounted to £9,029 19s., as against £8,329 13s. 2d.—an increase of £700 5s. 10d., or 8.40 per cent.

BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS.

100,661 orders, representing a value of £51,651 19s. 7d., have been sold, and 24,405, for £15,681 1s. 6d., paid. An extended table of the transactions is printed in Table 5. There was an increase of 13.71 per cent. in the number and 13.05 per cent. in the amount of postal orders sold during the year, and 4.16 per cent. in the number paid.