

The revenue collected from this class of telephone for the year ended 31st March, 1913, was £1,192 5s. 9d.

The charge on full-rate Press telegrams from New Zealand to Great Britain by all routes was reduced on the 10th October, 1912, to 7½d. per word.

By the Country Telephone-lines Act, 1912, power was given to County Councils to borrow money for the purpose of erecting telephone-lines to connect with Government exchanges, and to levy taxation sufficient to ensure payment of interest and redemption of the loan.

From the 1st August, 1912, the amount to be demanded from guarantors of new telephone-lines was reduced from one-half to one-third of the estimated deficiency.

As the public demand for books of embossed telegram forms had almost entirely ceased, they were withdrawn from sale in February, 1913.

At Wellington and Christchurch a trial is being given to the conveyance of telegrams between the principal telegraph-office and the sub-offices by telegraph message-boys mounted on motor-cycles. Previously the messages were transmitted by telegraph or telephone instrument. Both expedition and economy have resulted from the change.

By a rearrangement of wires effected at New Plymouth by the Telegraph Engineer, Wellington, communication between New Plymouth and Auckland has been greatly accelerated.

To give the King-country telephone-communication with offices in the Waikato and with Auckland, a metallic circuit was erected between Taumarunui and Hamilton.

An additional telephone circuit is being erected between Wellington and Palmerston North to cope with the increased business.

A second metallic circuit was erected between Christchurch and Timaru, and by superimposition three telephone circuits between those places have been obtained.

The weather-forecast-telegram system was extended to 200 stations on the 2nd September, 1912.

During July, 1912, telegraphic communication in the South Island was seriously retarded by damage to telegraph-lines through heavy falls of snow. Repairs to the lines over Whale's Back, between Waiau and Kaikoura, were effected by linemen on skis.

A lineman was accidentally killed at Wellington on the 28th May, 1912, through coming into contact with a high-tension electric-light wire and falling off a telephone-pole.

NEW ZEALAND CABLE SERVICE.

There were 374 knots of submarine cable in the Dominion on the 31st March, 1913.

A length of 2.38 knots of cable was laid for the Port Hardy extension at D'Urville Island.

The submarine cables generally gave some trouble during the year. Breaks occurred in one of the Oterangi Bay cables in August, 1912. Repairs were effected, 2,300 yards of new cable being used. On the 6th May, 1913, two Cook Strait cables parted some distance out from Lyall Bay. A fault also occurred in the Foveaux Strait cable.

The Wanganui-Wakapuaka cable developed a fault, and the faulty portion was located and replaced by a new piece of cable.

OCEAN CABLE SERVICES.

The ordinary international telegrams for the year increased by 13.5 per cent., and the intercolonial by 7 per cent.

New Zealand's proportion of the deficit of £40,498 18s. 11d. on the tenth year's working of the Pacific cable, 1911-12, amounted to £4,499 17s. 8d.

The receipts and working-expenses of the Pacific cable for the year ended 31st March, 1913, are estimated as follows:—

	£		£
Traffic revenue	157,000	Annuity and renewals	107,545
Estimated deficit	37,400	Working-expenses	86,855
	<u>£194,400</u>		<u>£194,400</u>

New Zealand's proportion of the loss is stated at £4,156.

The share of ordinary paid business handled by the Pacific cable shows a slight increase on that obtained during the previous year. In 1908 the Pacific proportion was 85 per cent., the Eastern 15 per cent. The 1912-13 figures are: Pacific, 71 per cent.; Eastern, 29 per cent.

The following figures show the total number of ordinary telegrams forwarded for each of the past five years, and the percentages of such business falling to each route:—

Pacific.				E.E.A. & C.			
Year.		Messages.	Percentage of Total.	Year.		Messages.	Percentage of Total.
1908	..	101,724	85	1908	..	18,873	15
1909	..	96,648	83	1909	..	19,812	17
1910	..	87,326	72	1910	..	33,273	28
1911-12	..	89,276	69	1911-12	..	39,374	31
1912-13	..	99,617	71	1912-13	..	40,680	29

During the year New Zealand has given the Pacific route 71.42 per cent. of the ordinary business to Australia, as against 69.48 per cent. last year.

Returns received from London showed that for the first three months of 1913 the average time of transit on New Zealand business over the Pacific cable was only eighty minutes. The station at Auckland now works directly with Suva through repeaters at Norfolk Island, thus reducing by two the number of transmissions between New Zealand and the Mother-country.