

REPORT.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.

The receipts and payments of the Department for the financial year 1917-18 are shown in the following table:—

Item.	Postal.			Telegraph.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Receipts.</i>									
Postages	930,371	14	4½	..	..	..	930,371	14	4½
Money-order and postal-note commission	26,225	16	9	..	..	..	26,225	16	9
Money-order commission received from foreign offices	784	3	1	..	..	..	784	3	1
Private box and bag rents	16,747	11	2	..	..	..	16,747	11	2
Miscellaneous receipts	1,897	16	8½	62,642	8	2½	64,540	4	11
Paid telegrams	..	..	..	454,222	9	0½	454,222	9	0½
Telephone exchanges	..	..	..	344,368	10	0	344,368	10	0
Totals	976,027	2	1	861,233	7	3	1,837,260	9	4
<i>Payments.</i>									
Salaries (classified officers)	243,620	2	3	428,649	0	0	672,269	2	3
Salaries (country Postmasters and telephonists, and contributions to Railway Department)	20,800	0	0	40,345	0	0	61,145	0	0
Conveyance of mails by sea	56,817	2	4	..	..	..	56,817	2	4
Conveyance of inland mails	113,678	16	1	..	..	..	113,678	16	1
Conveyance of mails by railway	80,319	3	5	..	..	..	80,319	3	5
Money-order commission credited to foreign offices	2,301	10	1	..	..	..	2,301	10	1
Maintenance of telegraph and telephone lines	..	..	..	124,379	11	3	124,379	11	3
Miscellaneous	168,218	1	9	210,317	18	5	378,536	0	2
	685,754	15	11	803,691	9	8	1,489,446	5	7
Balance of receipts over payments	290,272	6	2	57,541	17	7	347,814	3	9
Totals	976,027	2	1	861,233	7	3	1,837,260	9	4

The total receipts exceeded those of 1916-17 by £27,943.

The receipts and payments for the ten years ended 31st March, 1918, and for the years 1881-82, 1891-92, and 1901-2, are shown hereunder:—

Year.	Receipts.	Payments.	Balance of Receipts over Payments.
	£	£	£
1881-1882	234,529	233,291	1,238
1891-1892	320,058	268,343	51,715
1901-1902	488,573	465,756	22,817
1908-1909	913,994	807,652	106,342
1909-1910	961,500	858,059	103,441
1910-1911	1,037,265	914,069	123,196
1911-1912	1,087,710	988,911	98,799
1912-1913	1,167,826	1,069,272	98,554
1913-1914	1,269,921	1,173,314	96,607
1914-1915	1,359,059	1,246,850	112,209
1915-1916	1,695,757	1,296,522	399,235
1916-1917	1,809,317	1,370,810	438,507
1917-1918	1,837,260	1,489,446	347,814
Total for ten years	13,139,609	11,214,905	1,924,704

EXPENDITURE.

The regular expenditure has been seriously increased by the abnormal rise in the prices of materials that are absolutely necessary for the upkeep of telegraph and other business. The price of iron wire has gone up some 300 per cent.; mechanics' tools, 75 to 100 per cent.;