

PRESS RATES.

From the 1st April, 1924, the aggregate number of words of Press news permitted to be received by evening newspapers on the day of publication at schedule rate of 1s. 6d. per 100 words or fraction thereof was increased from 1,500 to 2,000.

TELEGRAPH AND TOLL TRAFFIC.

The figures which follow show the position in regard to telegraph and telephone traffic, fuller information is contained in Table 11.

TOTAL OF ALL CLASSES OF MESSAGE AND VALUE THEREOF.

			1924-25.	1923-24.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase per Cent.	Decrease per Cent.
Number	..	..	15,471,950	14,476,866	995,084	..	6.873	..
Value	..	..	£753,520	£705,259	£48,261	..	6.843	..

SCHEDULE OF PAID TELEGRAMS, CABLE MESSAGES, AND TOLL COMMUNICATIONS.

								Number.	Value. £
Ordinary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,827,745	493,288
Urgent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	292,885	30,145
Press	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	461,875	63,601
Night-letter	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	215,473	10,535
Toll communications	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,612,412	344,393
								15,410,390	941,962
Less net amount paid to other Administrations on cable and radio messages								..	192,862
Net total for paid messages of all codes, 1924-25								15,410,390	749,100
Net total for paid messages of all codes, 1923-24								14,407,269	700,329

TABLE SHOWING USE BY THE PUBLIC OF TELEGRAPH AND TOLL SERVICES.

								1924-25.	1923-24.
Number of ordinary telegrams sent per unit of population								4.43	4.38
Number of toll communications per unit of population								6.54	5.81
Number of paid messages, telegrams, or toll communications per unit of population								11.71	10.38
Number of paid telegrams for every 100 letters posted								5.05	5.08

TELEGRAPH AND TOLL-LINE SYSTEMS.

EXTENSIONS.

The machine-printing telegraph system having increased the traffic-carrying capacity of the circuits over which it is operated, and thus obviated the necessity for additional telegraph circuits that would otherwise have been necessary, has enabled the Department to concentrate on the extension of the toll-line system, and much has been done in this direction during the year by rearranging existing circuits and erecting new lines. These improvements, together with the works now authorized, will, it is hoped, relieve to a great extent much of the present congestion on the trunk toll lines.

With a view to providing additional toll circuits between Auckland and Kaitaia, and generally improving the telephone facilities in the North Auckland district, a comprehensive scheme of reconstruction and rearrangement of circuits was undertaken during the year, and the work has been advanced to such a stage that within a few months Kaitaia and Kaikohe will be in direct communication with Auckland. New circuits will also be available between Auckland and Whangarei, and between Whangarei and Dargaville.

EFFECT OF EXTENSION OF HIGH-TENSION LINES.

The extension of high-tension circuits of power-lines throughout the Dominion has had a far-reaching effect on the telegraph and telephone lines, and as a consequence has necessitated during the year the conversion to metallic circuit working of a number of earth-working exchange systems and toll lines. In addition to this, sections of many pole lines have been removed, and a great deal of other protective work has been done.

MACHINE-PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

The multiplex system of telegraphy was advanced a further stage during the year by the installation, on the 12th June, of machine-printing instruments at Dunedin for working terminal with Christchurch. Retransmitters were later installed at Wellington and Christchurch to enable Dunedin to work direct with Auckland and Wellington respectively, and also to provide for full intercommunication between the four chief cities by means of the machine-printing system.