

The telegraph and telephone wire in use on the 31st March, 1925—viz., 56,415 miles—is classified as under :—

	Miles.
Used exclusively for telephone toll traffic	4,542
Used exclusively for telegraph traffic	10,803
Used simultaneously and (or) conjointly for telegraph and telephone toll traffic	41,049
Unclassified	21

The total length of wire that may be used for telephone toll traffic is therefore 45,591 miles; the total length that may be used for the transmission of telegrams, 51,852 miles; and the length of telephone toll-lines over which telegrams may be transmitted by telephone, 22,244 miles. The total length of Morse circuit derived from the superimposing of telephone circuits is 11,028 miles, and the total length of telephone toll circuit obtained by forming "phantoms" over physical telephone circuits, 3,874 miles.

NEW ZEALAND SUBMARINE CABLES.

Submarine cable operations during the year included the laying of one mile of cable across the Ohiwa Harbour to form part of the toll-line between Whakatane and Opotiki, and also the laying of half a mile of cable between Turua and Matatoki.

During the year two of the Cook Strait cables (Nos. 2 and 3) and the Wanganui-Wakapuaka (Nelson) cable, developed faults. The fault in each cable was duly located, but, with the exception of No. 2 Cook Strait cable, in which the fault was found to be close inshore, repairs are being deferred until there is sufficient other cable-work in the vicinity to warrant the chartering of a cable-repairing steamer. Other cables which developed faults and which were subsequently repaired during the year are the following: Stewart Island - Bluff (two faults), Ponsonby-Northcote, Tatarariki-Tokatoka, Waiheke-Motuihi, and the Opuia cable.

CABLE TRAFFIC.

The number of cable messages, excluding Press, sent from New Zealand to International offices during the year shows an increase of 13.26 per cent. on the number sent during 1923-24, and the number sent to Australian offices shows an increase of 9.76 per cent. Messages received from International offices increased by 8.89 per cent., and messages from Australia increased by 8.93 per cent.

The proportion of cable messages sent "via Pacific" was less than that sent by the same route the previous year, the percentages being 65.3 and 65.9 respectively.

The following table shows the total number of cable messages, excluding Press, forwarded by each route during each of the past five years, and also the percentage of such traffic falling to each.

PACIFIC.			EASTERN.		
Year.	Messages.	Percentage of Total.	Year.	Messages.	Percentage of Total.
1920-21	159,896	70	1920-21	68,406	30
1921-22	147,781	68	1921-22	69,515	32
1922-23	157,895	67.4	1922-23	76,455	32.6
1923-24	167,922	65.9	1923-24	86,797	34.1
1924-25	185,680	65.3	1924-25	98,571	34.7

Press messages numbering 2,534 were sent via Pacific and 4,369 via Eastern, compared with 2,674 and 4,177 respectively during 1923-24. The number received via Pacific was 6,628 and via Eastern 4,176, compared with 6,817 and 3,483 respectively.

The following table shows the total number of each class of message, excluding Press, forwarded during 1924-25, as compared with the number forwarded during 1923-24 :—

				1924-25.		1923-24.	
				Forwarded.	Received.	Forwarded.	Received.
Full-rate international cable messages	..	..	..	80,381	76,611	79,824	76,454
Deferred international cable messages	..	..	..	17,295	18,196	16,149	17,010
Daily letter-telegrams	..	..	..	27,408	15,579	11,803	6,343
Week-end telegrams	..	..	..	25,549	15,253	25,216	15,568
Australian cable messages	..	..	..	103,147	102,464	121,727	115,937
Australian night-letter telegrams	..	..	..	30,471	23,833	..	..
Totals	..	..	..	284,251	251,936	254,719	231,312