

RESTORATION OF WEEK-END CABLE SERVICE.

The week-end cable service via the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company's cables, which was suspended on the 5th August, 1914, was restored to Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State from the 1st November, 1926.

CABLE TRAFFIC.

The number of cable messages, excluding Press, sent from New Zealand to international offices shows an increase of 0·51 per cent. on the number sent during 1925-26, and the number sent to Australian offices shows an increase of 1·22 per cent. Messages received from international offices increased by 1·87 per cent., and messages from Australia decreased by 0·33 per cent.

The proportion of cable messages sent "via Pacific" was less than that sent by the same route during the previous year, the percentages being 64·29 and 65 respectively.

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

PACIFIC.			EASTERN.		
Year.	Messages.	Percentage of Total.	Year	Messages.	Percentage of Total.
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
1925-26	204,586	65	1925-26	110,146	35
1926-27	204,051	64·29	1926-27	113,355	35·71

Press messages numbering 3,090 were sent via Pacific and 4,183 via Eastern, compared with 3,163 and 4,827 respectively during 1925-26. The number received via Pacific was 6,671 and via Eastern 3,916, compared with 5,921 and 4,208 respectively.

The following table shows the total number of each class of message, excluding Press, forwarded during 1926-27, as compared with the number forwarded during 1925-26:—

				1926-27.		1925-26.	
				Forwarded.	Received.	Forwarded.	Received.
Full-rate international cable messages	..	..	..	82,128	78,498	84,074	81,115
Deferred international cable messages	..	..	..	23,529	23,895	21,263	21,642
Daily letter-telegrams	..	..	..	33,116	24,554	31,849	21,086
Week-end telegrams	..	..	..	27,274	15,352	28,020	15,837
Australian cable messages	..	..	..	89,954	88,527	96,266	98,592
Australian night-letter telegrams	..	..	..	61,405	51,913	53,260	42,327
Totals	..	..	..	317,406	282,739	314,732	280,599

(For further statement of the Dominion's cable business see page 39.)

EXTENSIONS TO TOLL AND TELEGRAPH SYSTEMS.

The most important work undertaken during the year in connection with the extension of the toll and telegraph systems was the erection of a new trunk telephone circuit between Christchurch and Seddon. This work was prosecuted vigorously with a view to providing at the earliest possible date a greatly extended range of toll communication both within the South Island itself and between the North and South Islands. In addition to providing a valuable link for communication between Christchurch and Wellington, the erection of this trunk line will render possible a rearrangement of the existing circuits between Christchurch and Blenheim, which will considerably improve the toll facilities between Christchurch and the North Canterbury exchanges.

A considerable number of lines of less general importance were erected during the year. These either gave service to localities which had previously not enjoyed the privileges and convenience of the telephone, or provided relief between places where traffic congestion had been acute. In addition, a great deal of reconstruction work was carried out both for the purposes of improving the stability and increasing the accommodation of pole-lines and for rearranging the circuits so as to increase their earning-power. A number of earth-working circuits were converted to metallic, this course being rendered necessary owing to the erection of high-power electric wires. Altogether the traffic-carrying capacity of the network of toll and telegraph circuits throughout the Dominion was considerably increased during the year.