

use of the cheaper classes of cable message. With the object of placing as liberal an interpretation as possible upon the regulation, the Department communicated with other Administrations, suggesting a number of terms that might reasonably be regarded as exempt from the restriction. As a result, a list of terms exempt from the restriction has been issued. The action taken to clarify the position has been much appreciated by the business community.

WEEK-END LETTER-TELEGRAM SERVICE: EXTENSION TO HOLLAND, ITALY, AND LIBYA.

The week-end letter-telegram service was extended to Holland from the 1st April, 1927. Messages may be written in plain English, Dutch, or French. The rate is 14s. 2d. for twenty words or less, with a charge of 8½d. for each word over twenty words.

From the 5th August, 1927, the week-end letter-telegram service was extended to messages between New Zealand and Italy at a charge of 8½d. a word, with a minimum charge of 14s. 2d.

The week-end letter-telegram service was extended to Libya from the 26th November, 1927. The rate is 16s. 8d. for a message of twenty words or less, and 10d. for each word over twenty words.

DAILY LETTER-TELEGRAM SERVICE: EXTENSION TO BELGIUM.

The daily letter-telegram service was extended to Belgium from the 1st July, 1927. The rate is 15s. for a message of twenty words or less, and 9d. for each word in excess of twenty words.

CABLE TRAFFIC.

The number of cable messages, excluding Press, sent from New Zealand to international offices shows an increase of 2·87 per cent. on the number sent during 1926–27, and the number sent to Australian offices shows a decrease of 2·21 per cent. Messages received from international offices increased by 3·53 per cent., and messages from Australia increased by 0·32 per cent.

The proportion of cable messages sent “via Pacific” was greater than that sent by the same route during the previous year, the percentages being 66·07 and 64·29 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.
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
1927–28	210,662	66·07	1927–28	108,167	33·93

Press messages numbering 4,925 were sent via Pacific and 2,929 via Eastern, compared with 3,090 and 4,183 respectively during 1926–27. The number received via Pacific was 7,731 and via Eastern 3,266, compared with 6,671 and 3,916 respectively.

The following table shows the total number of each class of message, excluding Press, forwarded during 1927–28, as compared with the number forwarded during 1926–27:—

				1927–28.		1926–27.	
				Forwarded.	Received.	Forwarded.	Received.
Full-rate international cable messages	..	..	..	85,911	81,215	82,128	78,498
Deferred international cable messages	..	..	..	23,378	24,761	23,529	23,895
Daily letter-telegrams	..	..	..	33,921	24,622	33,116	24,554
Week-end telegrams	..	..	..	27,608	16,727	27,274	15,352
Australian cable messages	..	..	..	84,504	81,908	89,954	88,527
Australian night-letter telegrams	..	..	..	63,507	58,991	61,405	51,913
Totals	..	..	..	318,829	288,224	317,406	282,739

(For further statement of cable business see page 49.)