

SALE OF OBSOLETE AND UNSERVICEABLE MATERIAL.

Auctions of obsolete and unserviceable material, including worn-out motor-vehicles from various Departments, were held at Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington.

The total value of property sold on account of the Post and Telegraph Department was £10,831. This sum includes the value of scrap lead, copper wire, and other metals sold by tender.

MARINE INSURANCE FUND.

The value of stores from countries within the Empire and from the United States of America imported under the Marine Insurance Fund was £208,990.

STORES RULES.

Rules relating to the Stores Branch were printed and issued for the guidance of officers concerned in the ordering, receipt, custody, issue, and disposal of stores.

POST OFFICE.

ARTICLES DELIVERED.

The number of articles delivered in the Dominion, including those received from places overseas, during the year 1928, compared with the number in 1927, was as under :—

	1928.	1927.	Increase Per Cent.
Letters	154,922,174	150,112,575	3·20
Post-cards	5,402,400	4,815,581	12·18
Parcels	3,631,800	3,581,632	1·40
All other articles	106,376,061	92,504,917	14·99
	270,332,435	251,014,705	

AVERAGE NUMBER OF LETTERS POSTED PER UNIT OF POPULATION.

1928, 98·66.

NUMBER OF POST-OFFICES IN DOMINION.

Offices opened during the fifteen months ended the 31st March, 1929, 21; offices closed during the fifteen months ended the 31st March, 1929, 79; offices remaining open on 31st March, 1929, 1,897.

UNDELIVERABLE POSTAL PACKETS.

The following is a comparison of letters and other articles (including registered) dealt with as undeliverable during the year 1928, compared with those so dealt with during 1927 :—

Year.	Returned direct to Senders from Chief Offices ("Special Request").	Returned direct to Senders from Dead Letter Office.	Returned to other Administrations from Chief Offices ("Special Request").	Returned to other Administrations from Dead Letter Office.	Destroyed (Senders unknown and Contents of no Value).	Total.
<i>Letters.</i>						
1928..	283,921	280,645	64,781	34,000	29,692	693,039
1927..	306,421	292,897	63,173	44,146	35,542	742,179
<i>Registered Articles (included in above Totals).</i>						
1928..	11,785	9,639	..	961	..	..
1927..	..	9,675	..	946	..	..
<i>Other Articles.</i>						
1928..	260,106	11,317	115,596	3,208	..	390,227
1927..	211,056	8,846	121,599	26,571	..	368,072

The proportion of undeliverable letters to the total number of letters delivered was 0·45 per cent. In 1927 the proportion was 0·49 per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

	1928.	1927.
Letters and letter-cards posted without addresses	13,888	17,289
Letters imperfectly or insufficiently addressed	23,972	25,348
Letters intercepted on account of libellous addresses	66	204
Newspapers received without addresses	8,016	7,613
Other articles received without addresses	5,099	4,485
Newspapers returned to publishers as undeliverable	42,949	41,447
Articles bearing previously used stamps	80	65