

TELEGRAPH AND TOLL TRAFFIC.

The figures which follow show the position in regard to telegraph and telephone traffic. Fuller information is contained in Table 10.

TOTAL OF ALL CLASSES OF MESSAGES AND VALUE THEREOF.

—	1928-29.	1927-28.	Increase.	Increase per Cent.
Number	17,560,372	16,567,514	992,858	5.65
Value	£851,159*	£805,560	£45,599	5.35

* Includes £3,698 representing the value of franked Government telegrams and urgent marine telegrams.

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

	Number.	Value. £
Ordinary	5,646,947	484,386
Urgent	234,102	22,722
Press	577,327	77,590
Letter	402,517	17,895
Toll communications	10,655,450	442,896
	17,516,343	1,045,489
Less net amount paid to other Administrations on cable and radio messages ..	..	198,028
Net total for paid messages of all codes, 1928-29	17,516,343	847,461
Net total for paid messages of all codes, 1927-28	16,523,004	801,946

UNIVERSAL-BATTERY SYSTEM AT PALMERSTON NORTH.

The universal-battery system of telegraph operation was installed at Palmerston North on the 2nd May, 1928, some 1,500 primary cells being replaced by 160 secondary cells. In consequence a considerable reduction in maintenance costs has been effected and a better and more efficient service obtained.

In connection with the above-mentioned installation, a system was introduced whereby small neighbouring towns having a community of interest are given direct telegraph communication with each other, thus obviating re-transmission by Palmerston North.

MACHINE-PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Machine-printing telegraph circuits continue to function satisfactorily. Several local modifications and improvements have been made which have increased still further the efficiency and reliability of the system.

TOLL COMMUNICATIONS: REDUCTION OF RATE FOR URGENT CALLS BETWEEN 8 P.M. AND 8 A.M.

The rates for urgent toll communications between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. were reduced from the 24th September, 1928, to one-half the urgent rates ruling between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., except that the minimum charge for an urgent call is fixed at 8d. The effect of the change is to make the urgent rate at all times double the rate applicable at the time the call is made.

LISTS OF TOLL STATIONS IN TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES.

In addition to the list of exchanges with which communication may be obtained, each telephone directory will in future contain a list of toll stations in the postal district in which the directory is distributed.

TOLL SERVICE: IMPROVED METHODS OF OPERATION.

The speeding-up the time of completion of toll calls and reducing to a minimum the number of uncompleted calls were given attention during the year.

The system of direct dialling between exchanges, to which reference was made in last year's report, was extended, and resulted in a much speedier toll service being provided between the various exchanges concerned without involving any increase in the toll operating staff.