

NEW ZEALAND - EGYPT, CYPRUS, PALESTINE, ETC.

The ordinary cable rates between New Zealand and Egypt, Cyprus, Palestine, Abyssinia, Italian Somaliland, Erythrea, Syria, Transjordan, and the Hedjaz were reduced from the 1st May, 1928, by amounts varying from 9d. to 11d. per word. To those of the places named which admit the deferred service the relative rate became automatically applicable. From the 1st May, 1928, the daily letter-telegram service from New Zealand was extended to include Egypt and Palestine, the rate being fixed at approximately a quarter of the ordinary rate.

CABLE TRAFFIC.

The number of cable messages, excluding Press, sent from New Zealand to international offices shows an increase of 5.02 per cent. on the number sent during 1927-28, and the number sent to Australian offices shows a decrease of 0.72 per cent. Messages received from international offices increased by 5.96 per cent., and messages from Australia decreased by 0.21 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 66.5 and 66.07 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. |
| 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                |
| 1928-29  | 217,033   | 66.5                 | 1928-29  | 109,308   | 33.5                 |

Press messages numbering 5,102 were sent via Pacific and 2,381 via Eastern, compared with 4,925 and 2,929 respectively during 1927-28. The number received via Pacific was 9,003 and via Eastern 3,708, compared with 7,731 and 3,266 respectively during the previous year.

The following table shows the total number of each class of message, excluding press, dealt with during 1928-29, as compared with the number dealt with during 1927-28:—

|                                        |    |    |  | 1928-29.   |           | 1927-28.   |           |
|----------------------------------------|----|----|--|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|                                        |    |    |  | Forwarded. | Received. | Forwarded. | Received. |
| Full-rate international cable messages | .. | .. |  | 90,114     | 83,701    | 85,911     | 81,215    |
| Deferred international cable messages  | .. | .. |  | 24,461     | 26,186    | 23,378     | 24,761    |
| Daily letter-telegrams                 | .. | .. |  | 35,215     | 27,353    | 33,921     | 24,622    |
| Week-end telegrams                     | .. | .. |  | 29,609     | 18,875    | 27,608     | 16,727    |
| Australian cable messages              | .. | .. |  | 81,926     | 78,398    | 84,504     | 81,908    |
| Australian night-letter telegrams      | .. | .. |  | 65,016     | 62,199    | 63,507     | 58,991    |
| Totals                                 | .. | .. |  | 326,341    | 296,712   | 318,829    | 288,224   |

(For further statement of cable business see page 44.)

WIRELESS SERVICES.

INTERNATIONAL RADIO-TELEGRAPH CONVENTION, 1927.

An instrument of ratification of the International Radio-telegraph Convention held at Washington, U.S.A., in October, 1927, was signed by His Excellency the Governor-General on the 3rd September, 1928.

The Convention came into operation on the 1st January, 1929, the necessary alterations in operating frequencies and procedure at the various radio-stations, both ashore and afloat, being effected without inconvenience.

The New Zealand regulations for the different classes of radio services are at present under revision, in order to give full effect to the International Convention Regulations.

In consequence of the requirements of the Convention in the matter of minimizing radio transmissions on the frequency of 500 kilocycles (600 metres), which is now reserved for calling and for distress and other urgent signals, the frequency of 375 kilocycles (800 metres) has been assigned to the general traffic service between ships and the coast stations of New Zealand. As an alternative wave, the frequency of 425 kilocycles (705 metres) also is permitted.