

ARTICLES DELIVERED.

During the year 1930 the estimated number of articles delivered in the Dominion, including those received from places overseas, compared with the number in 1929, was as under :—

		1930.	1929.	Increase Per Cent.	Decrease Per Cent.
Letters	..	160,995,793	159,977,587	0·64	..
Post-cards	..	5,242,939	5,244,459	..	0·03
Parcels	..	3,317,841	3,601,476	..	7·87
All other articles	..	108,526,092	105,759,874	2·61	..
Totals	..	278,082,665	274,583,396		

AVERAGE NUMBER OF LETTERS POSTED PER UNIT OF POPULATION.

1930, 101·9.

NUMBER OF POST-OFFICES IN DOMINION.

Small country post-offices continue to be replaced by rural deliveries. Offices opened during the year numbered 13, while offices closed numbered 60. The number of offices remaining open on the 31st March, 1930, was 1,812.

DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

	1930.	1929.
Letters returned to senders in New Zealand	650,546*	622,050
Other articles returned to senders in New Zealand	257,238	270,795
Letters returned to other Administrations	101,480†	90,205
Other articles returned to other Administrations	127,156	120,160
Letters destroyed (senders unknown and contents of no value)	36,413	31,506
Letters and letter-cards posted without addresses	12,148	12,048
Letters imperfectly or insufficiently addressed	20,967	23,122
Letters intercepted addressed to persons and firms on prohibited list	1,681	3,210
Letters intercepted on account of libellous addresses	112	82
Newspapers received without addresses	4,183	5,752
Other articles received without addresses	3,970	4,629
Newspapers returned to publishers as undeliverable	46,346	44,854
Articles bearing previously used stamps	156	80

The proportion of undeliverable letters to the total number of letters delivered was 0·49 per cent. In 1929 the proportion was 0·46 per cent.

MISSING POSTAL PACKETS.

During 1930 the number of inquiries for missing postal packets received by the Department was 6,601. In 3,608 cases, or 54·6 per cent. of the total number, the packets were traced or otherwise accounted for satisfactorily. The position regarding delay in delivery is as follows :—

Sender responsible for delay	..	..	..	..	1,010
Addressee responsible for delay	..	..	..	..	1,129
Post Office responsible for delay	..	..	..	..	382
No delay, or responsibility not fixed	..	..	..	..	1,087

In 2,993 cases the disposal of the packets could not be determined. These cases represent 0·00123 per cent. of the total number of articles posted.

CUSTOMS PARCELS.

The following table shows the declared value of goods received by parcel-post from places abroad and the Customs duty thereon : also the declared value of goods despatched by parcel-post to places abroad. The figures for the years 1930 and 1929 are shown in each case :—

	1930.			1929.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Declared value of received parcels	1,301,121	0	0	1,648,250	0	0
Customs duty	332,793	17	11	372,143	10	8
Declared value of forwarded parcels	78,031	0	0	115,580	0	0

* Including 34,265 registered.

† Including 923 registered.