



COLONY OF NATAL.

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**REPORT**

OF THE

**POSTMASTER-GENERAL**

AND

**GENERAL MANAGER OF TELEGRAPHS**

FOR

THE YEAR 1896.

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# REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND GENERAL MANAGER OF TELEGRAPH FOR THE YEAR 1896.

THE HONOURABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

I have the honour to submit my report on the Post and Telegraph Offices for the year 1896. My last report dealt with the six months ending on the 31st of December, 1895, and I have therefore made comparisons, for the sake of convenience, with the figures of the financial year from the 1st of July, 1894, to the 30th of June, 1895.

I forward the usual returns.

## POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

1. The total earnings of the Department for the year were £66,950 10s. 0d, and the total expenditure amounted to £45,284 0s. 7d, showing a balance in favour of the Department of £21,666 9s. 5d. If, however, the Department had paid claims for the conveyance of correspondence over other Countries' lines, based on the returns taken in May under the regulations of the Universal Postal Union, this amount would have been reduced by about £4,000. These claims not having been received payment had not been made at the close of the year. Even allowing for this amount the credit balance is a large one—the largest since a postal system was established in Natal. The favourable result is chiefly due to the discontinuance during the year of the subsidies to the Castle and Union Steamship Companies for the conveyance of mails between England and Natal.

2. The receipts from postage stamps, postage, and surcharges amounted to £50,972 18s. 6d. as compared with £52,411 5s. 4d. during 1894-95, but the latter amount included a sum of over £13,000 received from the United Kingdom for transit charges—accounted for under postage—though only about £5,000 of it really belonged to the year 1894-95. From Fees of Office the receipts were £2,786 5s. 2d. as against £2,301 18s. 9d. The approximate value of official correspondence dealt with was £8,275 3s. 0d. as against £4,925 2s. 2d., and the receipts from newspapers conveyed unstamped within the Colony would have been £4,371 17s. 11d. had postage been charged, as compared with £2,985 13s. 8d. The changes under other heads were unimportant.

3. As regards Expenditure there were considerable increases under the heads of "Salaries" and "Miscellaneous;" a large decrease under "Mails," and a small decrease under "Contingent and other Expenses." The payment on account of "Rent" was the same.

4. The total number of articles delivered by the Department during the year was 9,841,466. This is the largest number of articles yet delivered by the Department during any year. The increase is distributed over all classes of matter. For the year ending on the 30th of June, 1895, the total numbers of articles delivered was 6,907,320. The total number of articles registered at all offices during the year was 105,446.

5. There was again a decided increase in Money order business as the following comparative statement will show:—

	No.	Issued.	No.	Paid.
		Amount.		Amount.
Year 1894-95	31,172.	£92,536 1s. 7d.	26,906.	£79,092 15s. 1d.
Year 1896	38,829.	£115,126 0s. 11d.	32,573.	£103,652 1s. 9d.

6. There was also an increase in foreign parcels traffic, 3,945 parcels having been despatched to England and foreign Countries as against 3,151, and 12,851 having been received from abroad for delivery as compared with 9,870.

7. The Customs dues collected by the Post Office on behalf of the Collector of Customs on foreign parcels reaching the Colony amounted to £2,932 15s. 0d.

8. The Postmasters of Pietermaritzburg and Durban, acting as Agents of the Collector of Customs, collected during the year £90 8s. 9d. and £379 18s. 4d., respectively, on articles reaching the Colony by letter post and on parcels received from the adjoining states.

# 1896 REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

9. During the year the Returned Letter Branch re-issued 28,349 non-deliverable articles.
10. Seventeen Postal Drafts were issued during the year. Of these six were honoured.
11. Postal agencies were opened during the course of the year at Durslade, Harburg, Tiddelrest, Ndwedwe, Vlaklaagte, Rockvale, and East End (Pietermaritzburg.)
12. On the 31st of December there were open for the transaction of business

139 Post offices,  
44 Ordinary agencies,  
17 Agencies at railway stations.

13. On the same date the number of persons employed by the Department was 428.

✓ 14. In February an arrangement was made with the shipping companies to relieve them of the conveyance of the English-Natal mail from Capetown to Durban, they undertaking to allow to this Department from the subsidies to be paid to them the amount charged by the Cape Colony, the Orange Free State, and the South African Republic for conveyance of the mail through those territories. The first mail to be brought overland under this arrangement was that which reached Capetown by the "Norham Castle" on the 26th of February.

15. In order to expedite delivery it was decided to bring forward by special train from Elandsfontein the English mail which reached Capetown on the 18th of March, and to employ special trains, when necessary, thereafter. I forward a statement giving the time of arrival of the mail steamer at Capetown weekly during the year, and the time of arrival of the mail at Pietermaritzburg and Durban. The service is not yet what it might be, but I am hopeful of being able shortly to arrange for a quicker service.

✓ 16. Notice was given on the 1st of February to terminate the ocean mail contracts with the Castle Mail Packets and Union Steamship Companies six months from that date—i.e. on the 31st of July. Since the 1st of August the outward English mail has been forwarded overland to Capetown, and thence by the Cape Colony ocean service in terms of the International Postal Convention. The Orange Free State Government, though not yet subscribing to the Universal Postal Union, agreed to accept payment for the conveyance of the Natal mail through its territory at union rates.

✓ 17. In order to avoid delay to correspondence arriving by the English mail for up-country places it was decided to put on a sorting-van for the treatment on the railway beyond Charlestown of all mail matter received from overseas for places other than Pietermaritzburg and Durban. A van was fitted and supplied by the Railway Department, and, after arrangement with the Transvaal post office and the Netherlands Railway Company, was brought into use on Saturday, the 18th of July, the country portion of the mail ex "Roslin Castle" which reached Capetown on the previous Wednesday being the first mail matter to be dealt with. The work in the van is performed by two Clerks and two Stampers, and is got well out of hand by the time Charlestown is reached.

✓ 18. The parcel rate to and from the United Kingdom and all places in the Colony was made 9d. per lb. from the 16th of November, 1896. It had for some time previously been 9d. per lb. to and from Durban and the Point, and 1s. to and from all other places. When a lower rate was introduced to and from Durban and the Point the argument in its favour was that in the case of Durban and the Point no land carriage had to be provided on the Natal side. At first this argument was regarded pretty generally as very sound, but, after a while, it was in some way discovered to be bad in principle that there should be two rates to and from the Colony, and the Department was pressed to adopt a general rate of 9d. A reduction to 9d. to and from places outside Durban and the Point would have been made at an earlier time, but that it was desired to ascertain whether a parcel service overland could not be arranged, and it was considered desirable to make no alteration in regard to the existing rates until it was known whether, if an overland service could be arranged, a general rate of less than, or even so low as, 1s. could be afforded. It was found, ultimately, that the cost of overland conveyance, and customs transit duties, would be heavy, and would not permit of a moderate rate of charge, and it was therefore decided to continue the through service by sea.

✓ 19. On the 1st of November the rates to and from the Cape Colony for letters and postcards were made as follows:—

For a letter, per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	...	...	...	1d.
For a single postcard	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
For a reply postcard	...	...	...	1d.

# REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

- ✓ 20. The free transmission from Editor to Editor of "Newspaper exchanges" was arranged to and from the Cape Colony from the 1st of November, and to and from the Orange Free State and the South African Republic from the 1st of December.
- ✓ 21. A Convention for the interchange of Postal Drafts was concluded with the Cape Colony and came into force on the 1st of March.
- ✓ 22. Regulations were introduced for the conveyance of loose letters by train from station to station on the 1st of July. The system appears to meet public convenience, and, so far, it has worked in a satisfactory manner.
23. An agreement was entered into with the British South Africa Company for the collection in the country of destination of postage underpaid in the country of origin upon correspondence passing between Natal and Rhodesia. There had been misapprehension in Natal as to the rates of postage payable on postal articles for Rhodesia, and many letters, &c., had had to be returned to the senders on account of their being insufficiently prepaid.
- ✓ 24. Owing to the rebellion in Rhodesia postal communication with that territory was very irregular for the greater part of the year. The Beira route was utilized for correspondence for the north-eastern parts of the country, and it is still being used for correspondence for Umtali. The Mafeking route has been re-opened, but, so far, no information has been received of the re-opening of the Pietersburg route.
25. There were several alterations in the terms of post-cart contracts during the year. A new contract was entered into on the 1st of January for the Umzimkulu-Harding service at a subsidy, £50 per annum higher than the previous one. The Dundee-Nondweni service was reduced on the 1st of March from one of six to one of three times a week in each direction. This step was due to a falling away of business at Nondweni. The subsidy for the service is £600 a year, half of the amount being paid by Natal and half by Zululand. The Verulam-Lower Tugela contract was terminated on the 30th of September by notice from the Contractor. Tenders were called for, and a new contract was entered into at a subsidy of £1,800 per annum. The Isipingo-Umzinto contract was also terminated by notice from the Contractor. The new contract entered into was for £1,000 per annum as against £700 under the old contract. On the 1st of October the post-cart service between Lower Tugela and Eshowe, which had been one of six times a week in each direction, was reduced to one of three times a week in each direction. There is, however, a carrier service three times a week each way, so that there is still communication six times a week.
26. Owing to an increase in the weight of mails on several carrier routes, and to the opening of a number of offices in country districts a good many extra native runners had to be employed.
27. The removal of the staff of the Engineer of Public Works to the new Colonial Office buildings admitted of four additional rooms in this building being placed at the disposal of the Department in September. Three of these are being used by my own staff which had previously been much inconvenienced for want of space. The fourth is being used as a letter-carriers' room. Though much needed relief has been given the accommodation is still far from what it should be, and the question of providing a suitable Post and Telegraph office in Pietermaritzburg will, sooner or later, have to be faced.
- ✓ 28. On the 16th of September a house-to-house delivery was established at the Point and Addington. Three additional carriers were attached to the Durban office for this purpose. The three men are conveyed to and from their deliveries by tram-car.
29. The post-card regulations were altered on the 15th of October to admit of an insufficiently paid card being charged double the deficient postage instead of being treated as an unpaid letter as was formerly the case.
30. In accordance with the regulations of the Universal Postal Union the triennial returns on which to base accounts for transit charges for the years 1895, 1896, and 1897 were taken during the first twenty-eight days of May.
31. On Monday, the 17th of February, the native runner from Wenen to Mount Moriah while crossing the Bushman's River was carried down the stream, which was swollen from the rainfall. He lost his mail-bag and escaped himself with some difficulty. The mail-bag which contained no registered matter was recovered later in the day, and the contents, after having been dried, were sent forward to the addressees by the next day's mail.

## REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued*).

32. The s.s. "Saxon," which sailed from Durban on the night of the 25th of January having mails on board for Delagoa Bay, Inhambane, Beira, Mozambique, and Quilimane, was wrecked some distance from Delagoa Bay, early on the morning of Tuesday, the 28th of January, and the mails were lost.

33. A fire occurred at the postal agency at Umtamvuna, Alfred County, on the night of the 10th of June, when all postal property and such correspondence as was on hand were burnt.

34. The Greytown office was forcibly entered during the night of the 25th of May, but nothing was taken or interfered with except a few pence which had been left in a drawer by the Postmaster.

35. The Charlestown office was broken into on the night of the 1st of December, but nothing was taken.

36. Payment of several money orders was obtained fraudulently at Ladysmith in the early part of the year by some person—presumably a native—forging the signatures of the payees—also natives. Full enquiry was made, but neither the Department nor the Police could find any trace of the criminal. Since this unfortunate experience it has been deemed necessary to adopt more strict precautions when delivering letters or paying money orders to natives, though some little inconvenience to those concerned may occasionally result.

37. A registered letter was lost between the Stanger and Umhlali offices in January. An exhaustive enquiry was made by the Department and the Police, but the letter, I regret to say, was not recovered.

38. A junior clerk employed at one of the out-stations was prosecuted in the course of the year for an act of fraud, and sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

### TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

39. The cash receipts of the Telegraph Department were £24,815 17s. 9d., and the value of the work performed for Government Departments was £7,887 19s. 5d., making the total earnings £32,703 17s. 2d., and leaving a balance of £15,455 18s. 5d. in favour of the Department after deducting the year's expenditure, which amounted to £19,247 18s. 9d.

40. During the financial year 1894-95 the cash receipts were £16,342 5s. 1d., and the value of Government work was £4,937 0s. 3d., making the total earnings £21,279 5s. 4d. There was, therefore, in 1896, an increase of £8,473 12s. 8d. in cash receipts, and of £2,950 19s. 2d. in the value of Government work performed.

41. The expenditure during 1896 was £2,567 11s. 10d. greater than during 1894-95.

42. The number of messages forwarded from all stations was 307,247 as against 223,099; the number of messages received was 323,504 as against 237,339; and the number of messages transmitted (transactions at intermediate stations) was—including second transmissions—510,368 as against 413,388. The increase in the total number of transmissions was therefore 267,293.

43. During the year connections by wire by means of telephone were made with Boston, Umhlali, Illovo, Impendle, New Hanover, Tongaat, York, and Vant's Drift. The service to all these places is giving satisfaction. The ordinary telegraph wire is employed, telegraphic working being discontinued at fixed times of the day to admit of telephonic speaking.

44. On the 31st of December the number of offices open for the transaction of business was 89.

45. On the same date the number of persons employed by the Department was 220.

46. Comparatively little construction work was undertaken during the year, but a good deal of work in connection with maintenance was carried out.

47. The construction of the following new lines has been authorized, and it is hoped that all the work involved will be completed during 1897:—

- 4 lines between Pietermaritzburg and Durban (2 for Railway Department).
- 1 line between Umsinga and Dundee.
- 1 line between Estcourt and Weenen.
- 1 line between Stanger and Mapumlo.

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REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued*).

48. The following were the cable interruptions during the year :—

Eastern line—1st to 4th January, 19th to 21st January, 27th January to 5th February, 16th to 1st March, 13th to 24th July and 25th to 31st December. Western line—11th to 26th January, 2nd to 21st May, and 11th to 16th June.

GENERAL.

49. Gas was introduced at the Ladysmith office on the 1st of October, and it is giving satisfaction.

50. The agreement with the Rand and Natal Engineering Corporation for the supply of electric light to the Post and Telegraph offices at Durban was terminated at the end of September, and a temporary arrangement was made with the Railway Department for the supply of a similar light from the 3rd of October.

51. In both Departments there was considerable pressure of work more or less throughout the year, and a great deal of overtime had to be performed by the officers employed, who, generally, exhibited commendable zeal and energy. Much difficulty was experienced in recruiting the two staffs, which were at no time throughout the year at their complement.

J. CHADWICK,

Postmaster-General and General Manager of Telegraphs.

General Post Office, Natal,  
19th March, 1897.

[POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE  
POSTAL

POST OFFICE.			CORRESPONDENCE.						Registered Articles.	
			Letters.							
			Official.	Ordinary.	Postcards.	Parcels.	Book and Sample Packets.	Papers.		Total.
Acton Homes	...	...	442	9,048	546	234	1,378	6,474	18,122	98
Addington	...	...	208	23,856	260	52	10,192	5,980	40,548	112
Albert	...	...	104	7,930	26	78	316	2,392	10,846	19
Amanzimtoti	...	...	260	10,452	234	26	104	4,192	15,268	68
Avoca	...	...	1,222	8,424	78	78	650	6,136	16,588	25
Balgowan	...	...	104	5,382	286	...	130	1,950	7,852	130
Batstones	...	...	1,326	22,022	...	442	416	3,978	28,184	234
Beaumont	...	...	312	6,968	624	182	520	5,308	13,914	98
Beith	...	...	78	3,250	..	130	1,196	2,548	7,202	74
Bellair	...	...	546	32,318	494	604	1,092	17,244	52,298	374
Besters	...	...	78	3,978	...	26	78	2,054	6,214	65
Biggarsberg	...	...	130	5,044	...	26	78	3,198	8,476	141
Blackburn	...	...	442	4,186	52	52	702	3,016	8,450	62
Blackwater...	...	...	546	3,146	52	390	858	2,288	7,280	78
Boston	...	...	312	6,292	182	234	260	4,270	11,550	75
Bothas Hill...	...	...	52	3,224	...	26	156	1,872	5,330	138
Brakwal	...	...	78	988	26	...	...	702	1,794	132
Bulwer	...	...	3,510	24,284	546	832	4,160	17,056	50,388	569
Byrnetown	...	...	52	7,410	156	52	208	5,928	13,806	61
Camperdown	...	...	3,380	44,486	952	1,326	546	29,068	79,758	221
Cato Ridge...	...	...	104	12,376	182	78	1,040	3,984	17,764	177
Charlestown	...	...	3,016	62,218	260	702	494	28,340	95,030	1,537
Chieveley	...	...	182	11,648	754	286	78	1,222	14,170	5
Clairmont	...	...	52	3,900	...	...	208	1,040	5,200	88
Clarke Road	...	...	...	18,616	130	104	...	2,626	21,476	42
Cleveland Hill	...	...	260	7,072	78	208	1,326	4,160	13,104	102
Carried forward	...	...	16,796	348,518	5,918	6,168	26,186	167,026	570,612	4,725

## STATISTICS.



[POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE  
POSTAL

POST OFFICE.			CORRESPONDENCE.						Registered Articles.	
			Letters.							
			Official.	Ordinary.	Postcards.	Parcels.	Book and Sample Packets.	Papers.		Total.
Brought forward...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Colenso	...	...	358	7,462	390	156	2,522	5,278	16,666	451
Cundyclough	...	..	468	3,172	...	260	156	2,912	6,968	60
Curry's Post	...	...	416	7,488	182	234	312	6,136	14,768	26
Dannhauser	...	...	182	33,046	442	156	156	3,094	37,076	211
Dargle	...	...	1,456	11,310	338	442	1,274	9,568	24,388	155
Dargle Road	...	...	312	11,492	234	234	1,612	7,644	21,528	247
Deepdale	...	...	234	6,240	208	234	52	3,770	10,738	27
Dew Drop	...	...	26	3,562	130	208	390	2,678	6,994	13
Dronk Vlei...	...	...	260	6,942	182	234	494	4,160	12,272	105
Duff's Road	...	...	26	4,446	52	52	338	754	5,668	30
Dumisa	...	...	416	2,808	...	52	52	2,184	5,512	61
Dundee	...	...	9,012	122,876	4,628	4,056	32,578	78,832	251,982	1,890
Dundee Coalfields	...	...	780	14,660	390	156	338	9,412	25,736	390
Durban	...	...	104,026	1,983,202	48,958	10,540	673,894	645,658	3,466,278	26,439
Durslade	...	...	104	884	52	...	52	1,176	2,268	...
Edendale	...	...	26	6,930	78	...	52	2,106	9,192	21
Ekutandanani	...	...	208	1,352	...	...	...	...	1,560	9
Elandslaagte	...	...	442	8,632	208	208	338	2,912	12,740	248
Elizabeth	...	...	26	5,746	...	26	26	884	6,708	40
Ennersdale...	...	...	364	17,394	994	286	520	8,258	27,816	266
Enqabeni	...	...	130	6,058	78	156	130	2,834	9,386	104
Equeefa	...	...	338	3,666	104	624	650	5,096	10,478	112
Esidumboni, M.S.	...	...	364	3,588	26	104	26	1,066	5,174	...
Estcourt	...	...	9,672	72,150	3,172	936	20,774	43,212	149,916	1,148
Fawn Leas	...	...	104	5,512	104	156	962	4,108	10,946	118
Carried forward	...	...	147,046	2,699,136	66,868	25,678	763,884	1,020,758	4,723,370	36,596



[POSTAL]

REPORT OF THE  
POSTAL

POST OFFICE.	CORRESPONDENCE.							Registered Articles.
	Letters.							
	Official.	Ordinary.	Postcards.	Parcels.	Book and Sample Packets.	Papers.	Total.	
Brought forward ...	147,046	2,699,136	66,868	25,678	763,884	1,020,758	4,723,370	36,895
Florida Road ...	182	10,010	130	104	480	3,224	14,130	99
Fox Hill ...	260	4,216	26	..	702	4,394	9,598	48
Frere ...	156	7,712	1,196	208	520	4,290	14,082	213
Garden Castle ...	...	5,278	...	130	312	4,338	10,058	20
Gillets ...	...	4,836	...	...	...	520	5,356	132
Glencoe Junction ...	338	8,684	416	...	26	3,142	12,606	132
Glendale ...	182	1,924	26	...	52	910	3,094	95
Gourton ...	478	7,086	416	260	676	4,628	13,544	48
Grahams ...	78	1,040	...	78	26	1,196	2,418	13
Greenvale ...	156	1,248	312	104	52	1,898	3,770	14
Greytown ...	5,382	67,262	1,794	3,078	16,904	49,582	144,002	1,215
Greyville ...	494	12,662	260	182	5,252	5,538	24,388	189
Groutville ...	416	11,882	52	...	78	3,068	15,496	46
Harburg ...	156	2,730	52	78	1,222	1,352	5,590	67
Harding ...	3,640	36,270	2,626	2,314	10,244	17,914	73,008	1,368
Helpmakaar ...	168	12,376	182	494	520	10,088	23,828	252
Hermansberg ...	4,576	31,118	546	416	5,196	7,436	49,288	198
Highbury ...	312	3,692	...	26	338	4,134	8,502	47
Highflats ...	1,248	9,594	130	416	1,872	5,846	19,106	151
Highlands ...	390	14,763	780	208	208	10,244	26,598	136
Hilton Road ...	208	7,306	364	182	650	6,292	15,002	183
Hopetown ...	1,196	6,110	312	286	234	3,198	11,336	114
Howick ...	6,470	31,590	988	702	13,702	23,504	76,956	861
Howick Mail ...	312	6,864	26	52	312	4,160	11,726	150
Ifafa ...	468	5,772	104	104	260	5,044	11,752	125
Carried forward ...	174,312	3,011,166	77,606	35,100	823,722	1,206,698	5,323,604	42,812

[illegible]

[POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE  
POSTAL

POST OFFICE.				CORRESPONDENCE.						Registered Articles.	
				Letters.							
				Official.	Ordinary.	Postcards.	Parcels.	Book and Sample Packets.	Papers.		Total.
Brought forward ..	...	174,312	3,011,166	77,606	35,100	823,722	1,206,698	5,328,604	42,812		
Illovo	...	1,056	8,502	156	182	26	2,712	12,634	225		
Imbezane	...	624	1,794	...	104	130	1,222	3,874	64		
Impendhle	...	910	9,516	338	442	52	6,474	17,732	110		
Inadi	...	...	2,340	...	520	52	572	3,484	56		
Inanda	...	130	10,712	1,352	52	182	1,638	14,066	...		
Inchanga	...	130	4,706	52	...	208	416	5,512	148		
Ingagane	...	130	7,670	52	52	78	4,368	12,350	137		
Ingele	...	130	2,990	...	260	104	2,178	5,662	22		
Ingogo	...	182	3,718	156	78	1,066	2,964	8,164	27		
Ingogo Rail	...	130	3,484	26	...	130	2,912	6,682	122		
Insuzi	...	88	3,952	52	104	...	806	5,002	49		
Isinga	...	208	3,562	208	130	52	1,768	5,928	9		
Isipingo	...	5,850	18,070	604	182	5,096	4,680	34,482	295		
Ixopo	...	3,406	35,282	4,472	2,912	38,064	14,716	98,852	784		
Indian Postmaster, Durban	...	234	7,202	52	...	442	182	8,112	...		
Do.	Ladysmith	52	4,176	26	...	...	...	4,254	...		
Do.	P'maritzburg	...	3,936	...	...	...	...	3,936	...		
Kearney	...	1,742	14,144	104	806	1,196	7,696	25,688	261		
Kershaw's	...	...	4,602	208	156	260	3,458	8,684	...		
Krantzkloof	...	52	1,612	26	...	156	806	2,652	62		
Ladysmith	...	12,922	109,694	2,600	1,534	23,998	58,864	209,612	2,990		
Uggetton	...	468	12,740	364	234	910	6,630	21,346	220		
Over Tug	...	858	4,910	78	52	936	3,536	10,370	305		
Over Umkomas	...	1,586	16,492	104	494	364	6,968	26,008	94		
Maitlandfield	...	234	4,374	130	104	312	4,216	9,370	68		
Carried forward ..	...	205,434	3,311,346	88,766	43,498	897,536	1,346,480	5,893,060	48,860		

[illegible]

[POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE  
POSTAL

POST OFFICE.	CORRESPONDENCE.							Registered Articles.
	Letters.							
	Official.	Ordinary.	Postcards.	Parcels.	Book and Sample Packets.	Papers.	Total.	
Brought forward ...	205,434	3,311,346	88,766	43,498	897,536	1,346,480	5,893,060	48,860
Malvern ...	52	12,070	260	104	78	7,514	20,078	106
Manderston ...	26	4,722	52	...	130	702	5,632	101
Mapumulo ...	1,118	11,206	156	104	364	5,720	18,668	184
Meran ...	208	3,120	104	...	...	260	3,692	12
Middelberg...	104	624	104	...	104	1,248	2,184	6
Middleton ...	364	3,094	234	208	338	3,120	7,358	...
Mid Illovo ...	702	4,660	364	234	...	1,690	7,650	90
Misgunst ...	78	2,990	...	52	...	1,716	4,836	16
Moguntia ...	702	4,940	182	338	208	3,380	9,750	127
Mooi River...	478	31,876	702	234	146	15,340	48,776	453
Mount Edgecombe ...	364	14,148	312	338	260	7,208	22,630	118
Mount Moriah ...	572	2,522	...	286	...	1,768	5,148	47
Muden ...	104	3,900	...	26	858	1,612	6,500	5
Murchison ...	130	2,392	312	78	26	1,872	4,810	127
Musgrave Road ...	4,126	65,130	1,300	936	18,642	15,934	106,068	904
Newcastle ...	11,102	95,394	2,756	2,366	29,458	69,940	211,016	2,268
New Germany ...	52	4,602	26	52	676	2,210	7,618	20
New Hanover ...	312	8,008	234	312	3,094	8,268	20,228	221
New Leeds...	78	3,882	26	52	...	2,288	6,266	22
New Scotland ...	234	5,356	182	78	156	1,586	7,592	20
Ngobevu ...	234	2,314	26	364	130	2,210	5,278	97
Nonoti ...	52	2,184	52	52	208	104	26,52	...
Noodsberg ...	780	11,176	364	312	1,196	5,122	18,950	165
Noodsberg Road ...	1,326	9,984	260	52	4,524	6,058	22,204	181
Normandien ...	104	3,042	26	78	312	5,600	9,162	77
Carried forward ...	228,836	3,624,622	96,800	50,154	958,444	1,518,950	6,477,806	54,227





[POSTAL.]

## REPORT OF THE

## POSTAL

POST OFFICE.	CORRESPONDENCE.							Registered Articles.
	Letters.							
	Official.	Ordinary.	Postcards.	Parcels.	Book and Sample Packets.	Papers.	Total.	
Brought forward...	228,836	3,624,622	96,800	50,154	958,444	1,518,950	6,477,806	54,227
Northdene ...	...	3,926	52	...	234	1,248	5,460	64
Nottingham ...	1,144	8,632	390	338	988	5,248	16,740	78
Nottingham Road ...	858	26,156	936	572	2,314	16,198	47,034	353
Olivier's Hoek ...	1,560	5,278	78	390	988	3,120	11,414	188
Onderbrook Spruit ...	130	2,964	78	52	682	1,326	5,232	19
Ottawa ...	478	6,032	130	...	52	3,276	9,968	98
Phoenix ...	156	5,486	26	...	...	1,118	6,786	125
Pietermaritzburg ...	136,708	1,095,510	21,216	13,286	235,274	345,930	1,847,924	34,379
Pieters ...	104	1,678	...	26	78	650	2,626	78
Pinetown ...	1,404	49,400	1,560	260	13,650	22,638	88,912	300
Point ...	8,918	84,396	1,638	468	18,746	20,488	134,654	3,255
Port Shepstone ...	3,874	11,518	208	520	5,850	8,084	30,054	940
Reunion ...	130	2,860	...	...	130	1,768	4,888	97
Richmond ...	6,838	44,642	2,132	1,066	11,778	34,866	101,322	503
Richmond Road ...	1,794	34,970	1,924	572	1,066	12,428	52,754	157
Riet Valley...	104	2,834	...	52	26	...	3,016	5
Riet Vlei ...	728	14,534	130	780	2,522	8,398	27,092	172
Rockvale ...	208	2,860	104	260	260	520	4,212	2
Rorke's Drift ...	78	5,070	26	52	390	1,456	7,072	205
Rosebank ...	312	2,418	78	...	26	2,158	4,992	...
Scotston ...	156	3,484	26	78	468	2,548	6,760	21
Seven Oaks ...	208	11,102	156	260	1,118	8,866	21,710	32
South Coast Junction ...	156	11,232	...	26	1,380	4,576	17,370	195
Southdowns ...	208	2,320	52	...	208	780	3,568	...
Spitzkop ...	286	5,564	...	208	312	5,330	11,700	54
Carried forward ..	395,376	5,069,578	127,740	69,420	1,256,984	2,031,968	8,951,066	95,547



[POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE  
POSTAL

POST OFFICE.	CORRESPONDENCE.							Registered Articles.
	Letters.							
	Official.	Ordinary.	Postcards.	Parcels.	Book and Sample Packets.	Papers.	Total.	
Brought forward ...	395,376	5,069,578	127,740	69,420	1,256,984	2,031,968	8,951,066	95,547
Springfield...	1,118	20,930	962	858	1,716	7,800	33,384	145
Spring Grange	...	3,068	...	...	832	3,354	7,254	17
Springvale ...	182	6,392	...	338	910	3,068	10,890	97
Stamford Hill	780	16,302	208	182	364	10,426	28,262	17
Stanger ...	2,808	55,330	5,070	2,132	2,808	28,080	96,278	1,382
Stirling ...	260	2,158	...	208	182	780	3,558	21
Sunday's River	338	3,094	78	156	156	2,184	6,006	68
Sydenham ...	624	10,140	130	52	2,976	3,094	17,016	107
Tafamasi ...	494	3,614	26	26	52	884	5,096	91
Thornville ...	182	1,950	...	26	52	2,756	4,966	37
Tongaat ...	3,172	29,640	494	754	2,912	13,572	50,544	478
Tugela Ferry	312	650	...	26	52	806	1,846	...
Ulundi ...	572	1,898	78	26	182	2,028	4,784	...
Umbilo ...	104	7,150	26	...	494	5,330	13,104	150
Umgeni ...	1,560	17,732	572	52	...	20,332	40,248	90
Umhlali ...	2,008	13,724	260	234	3,328	8,528	28,082	425
Umhlangeni	1,014	5,044	130	260	104	2,522	9,074	500
Umlaas Bridge	78	1,118	26	...	26	962	2,210	...
Umtamvuna	156	4,264	...	156	156	3,078	7,810	135
Umsundusi Rail	156	2,574	26	26	364	156	3,302	58
Umsinga ...	2,678	13,728	182	468	1,820	7,332	26,208	543
Umsinisini ...	52	598	...	...	...	624	1,274	...
Umsurduzi, M.S.	...	2,002	...	...	26	286	2,314	...
Umtwalumi	78	3,354	52	26	130	468	4,108	...
Umzumbe, M.S.	78	3,666	78	52	26	1,456	5,356	4
Carried forward ...	414,180	5,299,748	136,138	75,478	1,276,652	2,161,874	9,364,070	99,912

## POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

## STATISTICS.

MONEY ORDERS.				FEES OF OFFICE.				Fees on Money Orders.	Number of Free Boxes and Bags.
Issued.		Paid.		Private Boxes.		Private Bags.			
No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.		
35262	£ s. d. 102,280 17 6	31269	£ s. d. 98,777 4 11	566	£ s. d. 571 5 9	...	£ s. d. ...	1,434 6 6	79 Boxes
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
761	1,830 6 8	362	1,442 16 4	...	...	...	...	24 19 9	...
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[POSTAL.]

## REPORT OF THE

## POSTAL

POST OFFICE.				CORRESPONDENCE.						Registered Articles.	
				Letters.							
				Official.	Ordinary.	Postcards.	Parcels.	Book and Sample Packets.	Papers.		Total.
Brought forward...	...	414,180	5,299,748	136,138	75,478	1,276,652	2,161,874	9,364,070	99,912		
Umzinto ...	...	7,202	43,810	1,950	2,262	11,986	32,470	99,680	1,041		
Undeen ...	...	208	4,342	26	104	156	4,420	9,256	42		
Underberg...	...	182	3,536	52	130	936	1,846	6,682	...		
Upper Tongaat	...	234	5,564	26	13	546	1,664	8,164	48		
Umzimkulu	...	468	14,742	780	520	1,274	10,348	28,132	194		
Van Reenen	...	1,040	4,372	52	26	702	3,224	9,776	436		
Vant's Drift	...	754	3,198	...	130	390	2,964	7,436	92		
Verulam ...	...	14,248	79,754	1,118	1,040	17,264	48,100	161,524	1,472		
Vlaklaagte ...	...	156	2,028	...	...	52	468	2,704	...		
Waschbank	...	234	12,324	182	182	1,144	3,146	17,212	230		
Weenen ...	...	1,768	14,560	520	806	1,118	6,838	25,610	310		
Wessels Nek	...	104	5,408	52	...	26	1,430	7,020	117		
West End ...	...	4,602	24,674	468	312	728	3,120	33,904	1,144		
Wilgefontein	...	156	2,060	...	...	182	1,794	4,212	36		
Willow Grange	...	260	6,392	208	156	2,236	5,902	15,154	173		
Woodside ...	...	780	5,336	494	208	338	5,564	12,720	68		
York ...	...	130	8,658	182	338	1,430	6,188	16,926	123		
Zunckels ...	...	234	3,926	26	78	78	2,002	6,344	...		
Zwaartkop ...	...	208	3,328	78	...	...	1,326	4,940	8		
Postmaster-General	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...		
Totals ...	...	447,148	5,548,140	142,352	81,900	1,317,238	2,304,688	9,841,466	105,446		

## POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

## STATISTICS.

[illegible]

[POSTAL.]

## REPORT OF THE

## DEBIT AND

Expenditure.	Amounts.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries ... ..	...	11,089 2 8
CONTINGENT AND OTHER EXPENSES—		
Commission on Sale of Stamps ... ..	549 18 9	
Overtime Attendance, Sorting Seaborne Mails ... ..	319 0 0	
Petty Expenses, including Date Stamps, &c. ... ..	329 7 9	
Travelling Expenses ... ..	57 16 0	
Remuneration to Stationmasters as Postmasters ... ..	120 0 0	1,376 2 6
MAILS —		
Contract, Union Steamship Company ... ..	7,500 0 0	
Contract, Castle Packets Company ... ..	7,500 0 0	
Private Ships, Letters sent by ... ..	279 2 11	
Landing and Shipping Mails ... ..	477 17 7	
Inland Contracts ... ..	8,557 8 3	
Native Carriers' Wages ... ..	2,042 10 7	
Rations and Clothing to Carriers ... ..	841 11 10	
Mail Bags, Supply and Repair of ... ..	153 6 6	
Special Trains, Elandsfontein to Natal Border (English Mail) ... ..	1,147 10 0	
European Letter Carriers ... ..	1,424 6 6	
Travelling Allowances to Officers employed in Sorting Van ... ..	75 19 9	29,999 13 11
MISCELLANEOUS—		
Ocean and other Postage ... ..	572 5 10	
Commission on Money Orders ... ..	431 6 5	
Supply of Postage Stamps ... ..	1,345 9 3	2,349 1 6
RENT—		
Rent, Durban Post and Telegraph Offices ... ..	470 0 0	470 0 0
Balance in favour of the Department ... ..	...	21,666 9 5
		£66,950 10 0

## POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

## CREDIT STATEMENT.

Revenue.						Amounts.			Totals.		
						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sale of Postage Stamps, Postage, and Surcharges						...			50,972 18 6		
FEES OF OFFICE—											
Private Box Rents						571	5	9			
Private Bag Rents						231	5	1			
Fees on Money Orders issued						1,579	1	6			
Commission on Money Order Accounts						404	12	10	2,786 5 2		
SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY						1	13	0			
FORFEITED MONEY ORDERS						98	18	6			
SUMS REFUNDED TO TREASURY						3	12	3			
SPECIAL RECEIPTS						9	15	1			
GENERAL DEPOSITS						25	19	7			
REIMBURSEMENT						300	0	0	439 18 5		
Approximate Value of Official Correspondence dealt with						8,275	3	0			
Rent, calculated at ordinary rate, of Private Boxes and Bags set apart for Government Departments						104	7	0			
Approximate Postage on Newspapers conveyed unstamped within the Colony						4,371	17	11	12,751 7 11		
									66,950 10 0		



[POSTAL.]

## REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

STATEMENT SHOWING TIME OF ARRIVAL OF MAIL STEAMERS AT CAPE TOWN, AND TIME OF RECEIPT OF ENGLISH MAIL AT PIETERMARITZBURG  
AND DURBAN DURING 1896.

Steamer.	Arrival at Capetown.		Arrival at Mafitzburg P.O.		Arrival at Durban P.O.		Remarks.
	Date.	Hour.	Date.	Hour.	Date.	Hour.	
Grantully Castle ...	January 4	7.10 a.m.	January 8	10.30 p.m.	January 8	4.20 p.m.	Scot broke down; Mail transferred to Athenian at Vigo Roslin Castle late in reaching Capetown owing to defect in machinery.
Athenian ...	" 17	9.0 p.m.	" 22	10.25 p.m.	" 22	6.10 p.m.	
Roslin Castle ...	" 18	10.0 p.m.	" 23	3.15 p.m.	" 23	9.10 a.m.	
Trojan ...	" 24	3.32 a.m.	" 28	2.27 p.m.	" 28	7.45 a.m.	
Dunottar Castle ...	" 28	11.38 a.m.	February 1	2.50 p.m.	February 1	3.30 p.m.	
Norman ...	February 4	6.55 a.m.	" 8	2.15 p.m.	" 8	7.30 a.m.	
Hawarden Castle ...	" 12	6.22 a.m.	" 16	2.10 p.m.	" 16	8.0 a.m.	
Tartar ...	" 19	5.45 p.m.	" 24	2.25 p.m.	" 24	7.30 a.m.	
Norham Castle ...	" 26	4.20 a.m.	March 1	6.50 p.m.	March 1	11.15 p.m.	
Pretoria ...	March 5	6.27 a.m.	" 9	6.35 p.m.	" 9	11.58 p.m.	
Tantallon Castle ...	" 9	6.45 p.m.	" 14	7.45 p.m.	" 14	10.30 p.m.	
Athenian ...	" 18	6.45 p.m.	" 23	6.10 a.m.	" 23	8.10 a.m.	
Grantully Castle ...	" 27	12.17 a.m.	" 31	12.50 p.m.	" 31	4.45 p.m.	
Mexican ...	April 1	11.20 p.m.	April 6	6.25 a.m.	April 6	7.20 a.m.	
Dunottar Castle ...	" 7	8.8 p.m.	" 12	11.25 a.m.	" 12	2.37 p.m.	
Norman ...	" 14	9.43 a.m.	" 18	11.30 a.m.	" 18	3.0 p.m.	
Roslin Castle ...	" 23	7.35 a.m.	" 27	10.32 a.m.	" 27	2.15 p.m.	
Tartar ...	" 30	5.45 a.m.	May 4	8.40 a.m.	May 4	2.30 p.m.	
Hawarden Castle ...	May 6	6.50 a.m.	" 10	10.35 a.m.	" 10	2.15 p.m.	
Moor ...	" 13	10.35 p.m.	" 18	6.5 a.m.	" 18	8.30 a.m.	
Tantallon Castle ...	" 19	8.45 a.m.	" 23	10.30 a.m.	" 23	2.18 p.m.	
Athenian ...	" 27	1.20 p.m.	" 31	10.30 a.m.	" 31	2.20 p.m.	
Norham Castle ...	June 3	2.50 a.m.	June 7	10.45 a.m.	June 7	2.20 p.m.	
Mexican ...	" 10	10.15 a.m.	" 14	10.35 a.m.	" 14	2.15 p.m.	
Grantully Castle ...	" 19	11.5 a.m.	" 23	10.25 a.m.	" 23	2.30 p.m.	
Norman ...	" 23	7.52 a.m.	" 27	10.30 a.m.	" 27	2.30 p.m.	
Dunottar Castle ...	" 30	7.40 a.m.	July 4	10.35 a.m.	July 4	2.40 p.m.	

[Postal.]

## REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (continued).

STATEMENT SHOWING TIME OF ARRIVAL OF MAIL STEAMERS AT CAPE TOWN, AND TIME OF RECEIPT OF ENGLISH MAIL AT PIETERMARITZBURG AND DURBAN DURING 1896 (continued).

Steamer.	Arrival at Capetown.		Arrival at M...urg P.O.		Arrival at Durban P.O.		Remarks.
	Date.	Hour.	Date.	Hour.	Date.	Hour.	
Tartar ... ..	July 8	6.53 p.m.	July 13	6.30 a.m.	July 13	8.35 a.m.	
Roslin Castle ... ..	" 15	3.31 a.m.	" 19	10.36 a.m.	" 19	2.10 p.m.	
Moor ... ..	" 22	1.10 p.m.	" 26	10.45 a.m.	" 26	2.40 p.m.	
Hawarden Castle ... ..	" 29	9.40 a.m.	August 2	10.25 a.m.	August 2	2.20 p.m.	
Scot ... ..	August 4	7.21 a.m.	" 8	10.25 a.m.	" 8	4.12 p.m.	
Tantallon Castle ... ..	" 11	11.40 a.m.	" 15	10.25 a.m.	" 15	2.40 p.m.	
Mexican ... ..	" 20	2.0 a.m.	" 23	7.30 p.m.	" 24	6.45 a.m.	
Norham Castle ... ..	" 25	10.40 p.m.	" 30	10.30 a.m.	" 30	2.15 p.m.	
Norman ... ..	Sept. 1	8.20 a.m.	Sept. 5	7.16 p.m.	Sept. 5	10.55 p.m.	
Dunottar Castle ... ..	" 8	11.51 a.m.	" 12	10.30 a.m.	" 12	2.32 p.m.	
Tartar ... ..	" 16	4.50 p.m.	" 20	10.25 a.m.	" 20	2.15 p.m.	
Dunvegan Castle ... ..	" 22	4.45 a.m.	" 26	10.25 a.m.	" 26	2.20 p.m.	
Moor ... ..	" 30	6.30 p.m.	October 4	10.30 a.m.	October 4	2.15 p.m.	
Roslin Castle ... ..	October 7	6.55 a.m.	" 11	12.30 p.m.	" 11	5.0 p.m.	
Scot ... ..	" 13	8.0 a.m.	" 17	12.25 p.m.	" 17	5.0 p.m.	
Hawarden Castle ... ..	" 21	5.12 a.m.	" 25	1.43 p.m.	" 25	5.45 p.m.	
Mexican ... ..	" 28	2.10 p.m.	November 1	12.35 p.m.	November 1	4.50 p.m.	
Tantallon Castle ... ..	November 3	5.39 a.m.	" 7	1.25 p.m.	" 7	4.50 p.m.	
Norman ... ..	" 10	1.45 p.m.	" 14	12.26 p.m.	" 14	4.50 p.m.	
Norham Castle ... ..	" 18	6.40 a.m.	" 22	12.25 p.m.	" 22	4.50 p.m.	
Tartar ... ..	" 26	5.45 a.m.	" 30	6.0 a.m.	" 30	6.35 a.m.	
Dunottar Castle ... ..	December 1	12.54 p.m.	December 5	1.44 p.m.	December 5	5.45 p.m.	
Moor ... ..	" 9	9.55 p.m.	" 14	6.0 a.m.	" 14	6.35 a.m.	
Dunvegan Castle ... ..	" 15	7.0 p.m.	" 20	8.5 p.m.	" 21	12.15 a.m.	
Scot ... ..	" 22	11.29 p.m.	" 27	7.0 p.m.	" 27	10.50 p.m.	
Roslin Castle ... ..	" 20	5.13 p.m.	Jan. 4, 1897	6.0 a.m.	Jan. 4, 1897	6.40 a.m.	

[TELEGRAPH.]

## RETURN OF REVENUE AND TRAFFIC, YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

Stations.	Number of Messages Forwarded.	Number of Messages Received.	Number of Messages Transmitted (including Second Transmission.)	Total.	Value of Government Work.	Revenue.	Total Earnings including Government Work.	Remarks.
					£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Albertina ... ..	123	65	...	188	0 4 6			Railway Work not included. Free State Office worked by Natal Department.
Avoca ... ..	184	330	...	514	1 7 0			
Balgowan ... ..	179	189	...	368	1 1 0			Railway Work not included.
Bellaire ... ..	1,144	1,935	...	3,079	4 9 6			
Berna Road ... ..	310	5	...	315	0 3 6			" "
Besters ... ..	101	94	...	195	0 9 0			" "
Boston ... ..	212	156	...	368	3 3 6			" "
Borbas Hill ... ..	238	212	...	450	4 1 5			" "
Brakwal ... ..	73	48	...	121	0 2 0			" "
Bulwer ... ..	1,372	907	722	3,362	66 2 6			" "
Camperdown ... ..	587	717	...	1,303	15 19 0			" "
Cato Ridge ... ..	229	220	...	449	1 9 0			" "
Charlestown ... ..	6,400	5,444	...	11,844	136 11 9			" "
Chieveley ... ..	78	73	...	151	0 7 0			" "
Clairmont ... ..	71	74	...	145	0 7 6			" "
Colenso ... ..	654	355	...	1,009	30 6 0			" "
Dannhauser ... ..	340	333	...	673	1 5 0			" "
Dargle Road ... ..	493	396	...	889	1 17 0			" "
Duff's Road ... ..	166	239	...	405	0 15 0			" "
Dundee ... ..	8,575	7,166	4,974	23,102	150 18 0			" "
Dundee Coalfields ... ..	1,245	1,117	...	2,362	1 10 6			" "
Durban ... ..	128,967	131,161	121,366	442,177	1,822 8 10			" "
Durban Railway Station ... ..	1,385	39	...	1,424	4 3 6			" "
Elandslaagte ... ..	766	608	...	1,374	1 17 0			" "
Ennersdale ... ..	380	464	...	844	2 13 0			" "
Estcourt ... ..	2,510	3,184	46	5,763	97 19 6			" "
Estcourt Railway Station ... ..	1,073	97	...	1,170	12 10 0			" "
Fox Hill ... ..	69	66	...	135	0 5 0			" "
Frere ... ..	441	430	...	871	3 7 6			" "
Gillett's ... ..	203	266	...	469	0 12 6			" "
Glencoe Junction ... ..	1,246	361	82	1,730	11 9 0			" "
Greytown ... ..	3,212	2,785	508	6,759	74 10 0			" "
Greyville ... ..	348	639	...	987	0 5 6			" "
Harding ... ..	1,917	1,478	...	3,395	86 0 2			" "
Highlands ... ..	293	377	...	670	1 5 0			" "
Hilton Road ... ..	396	467	...	863	0 16 0			" "
Howick ... ..	1,936	1,746	44	3,748	76 9 6			" "
Howick Railway Station ... ..	522	539	...	1,061	7 5 6			" "
Ingagane ... ..	263	174	...	437	1 6 6			" "
Inchanga ... ..	547	286	...	833	3 10 0			" "

Ingogo ... ..	425	413	...	838	11 5 0			" "
Isipingo ... ..	1,074	1,254	...	2,328	10 12 6			" "
Illovo ... ..	93	50	...	143	2 6 6			Office opened October.
Impendhle ... ..	32	24	...	56	0 17 0	24,815 17 9	32,703 17 2	Office opened November.
Ixopo ... ..	2,253	1,453	28	3,748	138 5 6			Railway work not included.
Krantzkloof ... ..	75	59	...	134	0 11 6			" "
Ladysmith ... ..	6,898	8,191	23,074	49,700	204 8 6			" "
Ladysmith Railway Station	1,799	100	36	1,953	7 10 6			" "
Lidgettton ... ..	338	325	...	663	0 19 0			" "
Lower Tugela ... ..	1,320	795	248	2,487	71 6 2			" "
Malvern ... ..	526	742	...	1,268	0 16 9			" "
Manderston ... ..	90	95	...	185	0 14 0			" "
Mooi River ... ..	1,525	1,356	...	2,881	12 14 0			" "
Mount Edgecombe ... ..	765	704	...	1,469	2 13 6			" "
Musgrave Road ... ..	2,849	6,247	...	9,096	27 4 6			" "
Newcastle ... ..	8,498	7,874	11,572	33,730	182 10 0			" "
Newcastle Railway Station	1,448	26	...	1,474	7 9 6			" "
New Hanover ... ..	103	98	...	201	6 4 0			Office opened October.
Northdene ... ..	202	188	...	390	0 12 0			Railway work not included.
Nottingham Road ... ..	1,377	1,787	...	3,164	7 9 0			" "
Ottowa ... ..	243	234	...	477	1 4 0			" "
Phoenix ... ..	171	220	...	391	1 0 6			" "
Pietermaritzburg ... ..	63,740	92,824	346,982	679,037	2,835 9 0			" "
Pietermaritzburg Ry. Stn.	3,294	194	2	3,491	46 3 0			" "
Pieters ... ..	50	58	...	108	1 0 6			" "
Pinetown ... ..	1,181	1,739	...	2,920	12 14 6			" "
Point ... ..	12,166	9,342	...	21,508	891 15 0			" "
Port Shepstone ... ..	2,988	2,148	...	5,136	160 8 0			" "
Rennion ... ..	130	118	...	248	0 3 6			" "
Richmond ... ..	2,704	2,652	...	5,356	63 14 6			" "
Richmond Road ... ..	1,667	1,743	...	3,410	20 6 6			" "
South Coast Junction ... ..	359	320	...	679	0 17 6			" "
Stamford Hill ... ..	339	385	...	724	0 10 0			" "
Stanger ... ..	2,839	2,423	...	5,262	112 3 3			" "
Tongaat ... ..	184	194	...	378	1 3 0			Office opened October.
Umbilo ... ..	379	562	...	941	0 5 6			Railway work not included.
Umgeni ... ..	680	1,187	...	1,867	10 14 6			" "
Umlhali ... ..	365	315	...	680	8 1 6			" "
Umsundusi ... ..	114	167	...	281	...			" "
Umsinga ... ..	1,056	600	...	1,656	83 14 0			" "
Umsinto ... ..	2,174	1,820	236	4,348	96 15 0			" "
Van Reenen ... ..	1,032	579	...	1,611	47 12 0			" "
Vants' Drift ... ..	171	139	...	310	8 9 0			Office opened September.
Verulam ... ..	4,850	5,200	398	10,647	146 16 0			Railway work not included.
Waschbank ... ..	566	541	...	1,107	5 18 0			" "
Wessel's Nek ... ..	563	459	...	1,022	0 17 0			" "
Willow Grange ... ..	167	139	...	306	1 11 6			" "
York ... ..	47	48	...	95	...			Office opened October.
Zwaartkop ... ..	91	131	50	297	0 19 6			Railway work not included.
	307,247	323,504	510,368	1,141,119	7,887 19 5			

[TELEGRAPH.]

## REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

## ALL STATIONS.

	Forwarded.	Received.	Transmitted.	Total.	Value of Government Work.	Revenue.	Total.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Year ended 30th June, 1895 ...	223,099	237,339	413,388	873,826	4,937 0 3	16,342 5 1	21,279 5 4
Do. 31st December, 1896 ...	307,247	323,504	510,368	1,141,119	7,887 19 5	24,815 17 9	32,703 17 2
Increase ...	84,148	86,165	96,980	267,293	2,950 19 2	8,473 12 8	11,424 11 10

[TELEGRAPH.]

RETURN OF CABLE TRAFFIC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 1896.

Month.	Number of Messages received from the Eastern and Western Companies for Transmission to South African Stations.	Number of Messages collected in South Africa and handed to the Eastern and Western Companies for transmission abroad.	Total.	Payments to Eastern and Western Telegraph Companies.	Payments made by Eastern Telegraph Co. for Messages handed to Department for re-transmission.	Value of Government Messages received from Eastern Telegraph Co. for re-transmission.	Total Earnings by Department on Messages received from Eastern Co. for re-transmission.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January ... ..	4,641	3,532	8,173	8,935 1 6	559 10 10	59 5 4	618 16 2
February ... ..	3,032	4,446	7,478	10,909 3 5	294 15 2	55 12 5	350 7 7
March ... ..	3,385	3,452	6,837	8,829 19 2	324 0 2	31 3 9	355 3 11
April ... ..	3,855	4,192	7,987	10,433 7 5	532 12 9	44 14 10	577 7 7
May ... ..	5,046	5,550	10,596	11,366 1 4	463 10 5	23 2 11	486 13 4
June ... ..	5,487	5,306	10,793	12,298 0 9	484 9 2	26 8 7	510 17 9
July ... ..	2,985	2,334	5,319	4,968 10 11	283 12 2	40 8 8	324 0 10
August ... ..	5,036	3,563	8,599	8,124 12 3	424 5 5	19 4 5	443 9 10
September ... ..	5,420	4,823	10,243	10,114 6 11	452 0 6	21 10 8	473 11 2
October ... ..	6,592	4,070	10,662	10,091 10 9	527 15 5	42 9 1	570 4 6
November ... ..	5,498	3,136	8,634	7,251 19 6	490 9 3	26 1 3	516 10 6
December ... ..	4,478	2,242	6,720	4,945 1 1	384 3 11	25 8 4	409 12 3
	55,455	46,586	102,041	107,767 15 0	5,221 5 2	415 10 3	5,685 15 5

[TELEGRAPH.]

## REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued.)

DEBIT AND CREDIT STATEMENT, YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

Expenditure.	Amount.	Revenue.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Salaries .....	14,805 17 5	By Cash Receipts (Ordinary Fees) ...	23,640 3 3
„ Rent .....	360 0 0	„ Reimbursements .....	1,023 4 6
„ Battery and Instrument Materials .....	305 12 3	„ Sale of Government Property .....	121 10 2
„ Petty Expenses, including Date Stamps, Obliterating Ink, etc. ....	160 9 9	„ Sums Refunded .....	25 3 9
„ Percentage paid to Stationmasters for forwarding paid Messages .....	432 1 4	„ Special Receipts .....	5 16 1
„ Portage and other Disbursements recovered in Revenue .....	31 14 9	„ General Deposits .....	7,887 19 5
„ Uniform Clothing for European Messengers .....	207 17 10	„ Value of Government Work .....	
„ Stationery, Printing, and Stamps .....	748 0 2		
„ Travelling Expenses .....	126 8 4		
„ Overtime .....	897 7 9		
„ House Allowance in lieu of Quarters to Telegraph Officers—Verulam, Point, Stanger, Estcourt, Umzinto, and Greytown .....	150 0 0		
„ Maintenance of Line .....	1,012 6 4		
„ Contribution to International Telegraph, Bureau—Berne .....	10 2 10		
Balance in favour of Department ...	13,455 18 5		
	32,703 17 2		32,703 17 2