



COLONY OF NATAL.

REPORT

OF THE

POSTMASTER-GENERAL

FOR THE

YEAR 1899.

PIETERMARITZBURG :

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MDCCC.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL FOR THE YEAR 1899.

I have the honour to submit my report of the Postal and Telegraph Departments for the year ended 31st December, 1899.

I took charge of the administration of these Departments on the 27th March, 1899.

During the year I visited several offices in the Colony, but my inspections were interrupted by the political crisis which became acute in the spring.

The outbreak of the war in the month of October and the consequent disturbance of the regular business of the Department militates against the value which would ordinarily attach to comparative statements of the work done during the past year as contrasted with previous years, but the experience of the Department up to October augured well for a substantial increase in all branches of work.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

During the year the total earnings of the Postal Department amounted to ~~£50,539 1s.~~ ^{58304: 11/-} whilst the expenditure was ~~£50,539 1s.~~ ^{45488: 12:9.}

The Department performed a large amount of work for which it received no payment, but the impossibility of keeping accurate returns of the quantity of official correspondence dealt with during the closing months of the year made it impracticable to arrive at an exact estimate of the revenue which would have resulted if such correspondence had been paid for at ordinary rates.

The unusual conditions also prevented any fair calculation with regard to the amount of additional work which followed the reduction to one penny of the postage on letters to the United Kingdom, etc.

The system of sending letters and parcels "on Government service," free by post, is one that requires to be placed under greater restrictions than exist at present. Undue advantage has been taken of the system in many instances, and proposals for placing it under better control will be submitted.

The war has hindered the carrying out of several improvements which were contemplated in the postal arrangements of the Colony, but, nevertheless, the following changes, many of which were commenced by my predecessor, were carried into effect during the year:—

- (1) Money Order Conventions, which have proved of great public utility, were entered into with India and Southern Rhodesia and the following Australian Colonies:—Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, and the Colony of New Zealand.
- (2) Arrangements were made during the year for the direct exchange of parcels between Natal, Mauritius, and India.
- (3) Eighteen additional non-Money Order Post Offices were opened for the sale of Postal Orders, making the total of such offices 34.
- (4) Remittances to England by Money Order can now be telegraphed to Capetown to catch outgoing mail steamers.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT (continued).

- (5) The rates of commission on Money Orders for St. Helena have been reduced.
- (6) To facilitate the remittance of small sums between the Colony and England, a proposal for an exchange of Postal Orders has been made to the English Post Office, but no reply has yet been received.
- (7) The house to house delivery of letters at Durban has been extended to the Berea, greatly to the advantage of the residents in that important district.
- (8) Improvement has been effected in the system of pillar and wall box collections in Pietermaritzburg. Letter boxes of a new type have been erected, which bear tablets showing the hour of the next clearance, and the collections are being made by European Postmen instead of by native carriers.

The introduction of letter cards, registered letter envelopes, and embossed penny and half-penny envelopes has been sanctioned, and these cards and envelopes will be on sale early in the next financial year. The sale of official pictorial post cards will also be introduced.

Last session an act was passed reducing the rates paid to private ships for the carriage of mails from one penny to one half-penny a letter.

Attention has been called to the absence of proper means for speedily extinguishing an outbreak of fire in the Postal and Telegraph buildings.

The total number of Post Offices and Agencies on the 31st December was 262.

The total number of persons employed in the Postal Service on the 31st December, 1899, was 634, as compared with 528 on the 31st December, 1898.

During the year 6 new Post Offices and 15 Postal Agencies have been opened.

The existing contract for the Ocean Mail Service between Capetown and England expires on the 30th September, 1900. Before making arrangements for a new contract, a Postal Conference was held at Capetown early in the year between the representatives of the Cape Colony, Transvaal, and Natal. This Colony was represented by the late Sir H. Binns. It was agreed that under the new contract each country should contribute to the cost of the service in proportion to the use it made of the ocean mail steamers. As an outcome of the Conference, Mr. French, Postmaster General, Cape Colony, visited England and settled with the Castle and Union Steamship Companies the terms of the new contract, which will come into operation on the 1st October next, and under which a greatly improved service will be given, by which Natal will materially benefit.

New Postal and Telegraph buildings have been completed and occupied at Umzinto, and new offices are in course of erection at Eshowe and Stanger. The enlargement of the office at the Port Natal was commenced but suspended on the outbreak of the war. I hope it may be possible to resume the work before long as increased accommodation is much required.

The buildings which are being used for postal and telegraph work at Pietermaritzburg and Durban are altogether inadequate, and the efficient performance of the work is much hindered by the want of suitable and sufficient accommodation. Reports on this subject have been laid before you from time to time.

During the year an excellent site has been purchased for a new postal and telegraph office at Pietermaritzburg, but beyond the preparation of rough sketch plans nothing has yet been done towards the erection of new premises.

A fresh site for a new office at Durban is now under consideration, and I hope it may be possible to arrive at a decision before long.

A considerable improvement in the scale of pay of Postmen, to take effect from the 1st July, 1900, has been sanctioned with a view to securing the permanent service of thoroughly suitable men. Hitherto the frequent changes have interfered with the efficient performance of delivery duties.

The uniforms worn by the Postmen and Telegraph Messengers have been changed from navy blue serge to khaki, which is found to be better suited to the climate of Natal.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT (continued).

New services of postal runners have been established between—

Alderley and Springvale	Daily Service
Amahlongwa and Lower Umkomaas	" "
Ashton (on Umzinto-Port Shepstone route)	" "
Dering (on Camperdown-Beaumont route)	" "
Ellensdale and Normandien	Three times a week
Entumeni (on Eshowe-Nkandhla route)	Daily Service
Eqwatsha and Ulundi	Three times a week
Fair View (Umzinto-Port Shepstone route)	Daily Service
Glenbain and Ixopo	" "
Glenisla and Gourton	" "
Olivefontein (Greytown-Tugela Ferry route)	Three times a week
S. Augustine's and Ngutu	Daily Service
Varken's Vlei (Greytown-Inadi r)	Three times a week
Klipbank and Newcastle	Twice a week
Watermead (Bulwer-Coleford route)	Three times a week
Umvoti Poort (Branch service from Greytown-Hei route)	Daily Service

The following alterations in the mail carrier services have been made during the year :—

The through service between Ixopo and Bulwer was discontinued, the termini being—
from Ixopo-Greenvale, and—from Bulwer-Trappists.

Eshowe and Lower Umfolosi, *via* O'Banjeni: Three times a week, instead of twice a week direct.

Hamding and Ingeli: Daily, instead of three times a week.

Stanger and Ekutandeneni: Daily, instead of three times a week.

Richmond and Byrnetown: Daily, instead of three times a week.

Dundee and Helpmakaar: Daily, instead of three times a week.

Nongoma and Ubombo: Three times a week, instead of twice a week.

Port Shepstone and Umhlangeni: Daily, instead of three times a week.

Estcourt and Tabamhlope: Four times, instead of twice a week.

Owing to the opening of portions of the new line of railway between Pietermaritzburg and Greytown, the post cart has ceased to run over the sections from Pietermaritzburg to Albert Falls, and Albert Falls to New Hanover.

TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,

The number of messages dealt with during the year was as follows :—

Forwarded, 497,466; Transmitted, 637,270; Received, 509,829—Total, 1,644,565.

The transactions during the previous year were:—Forwarded, 352,690; Transmitted, 485,882; Received, 367,735—Total, 1,206,307. Increase, 438,258.

The cash earnings of the Department amounted to £34,639 15s. 2d., and £16,815 17s. 9d. represented the value of work done for Government Departments, the total being £51,455 12s. 11d.

The expenditure of the Department was £30,971 4s. 3d.

On and from the 1st January, 1899, the charges on ordinary telegrams for Natal, Cape Colony, Orange Free State, South African Republic, and Lourenço Marques were reduced to one penny per word, with a minimum charge of one shilling.

Ten bicycles were purchased for Telegraph Messengers and their use has considerably expedited the delivery of telegrams in Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

The number of subscriptions (including extensions) to the Telephone Exchange increased during the year by 48—from 169 to 217.

A new switch board of the latest pattern has been fitted up and the revision of the telephone system is contemplated on the removal of the Exchange to the new Postal and Telegraph buildings which are to be erected in Longmarket Street.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT (*continued*).

The following telegraph and telephone offices have been opened during the year :—

Albert Falls	Keat's Drift
Belfort	Mahlabatini
Congella	New Hanover Rail
De Jager's Drift	Wests
Ingwavuma	Woodcote

On the 31st December there were 135 Telegraph Offices in the Colony and the total number of persons employed in the Department was 400.

The following new lines were constructed :—

Dundee to De Jager's Drift.
 Pietermaritzburg to Greytown (Railway telegraph line).
 Ubombo to Ingwavuma.
 Port Shepstone to Moguntia.
 Durban to Wests (Railway telegraph line).
 Newcastle to Charlestown (Railway telegraph line).

The construction of the Port Shepstone-Moguntia line affords a third route to the Cape.

During the erection of the line between Ubombo and Ingwavuma, one of the construction party, Mr. S. Smith, was attacked by a lion and severely injured. Fortunately the party was accompanied by a Surgeon, who attended promptly to Mr. Smith's injuries, from which he has happily completely recovered.

New telegraph regulations have been introduced during the year and have resulted in the speedier treatment of messages, but addresses on many telegrams are still much too vague and time and labour are lost in endeavouring to trace the addressees.

The instrument room at Pietermaritzburg has been fitted up with electric light. The alteration has greatly added to the comfort of the staff, and has been found of much advantage in connection with the all night attendance, which has been given since the crisis commenced.

A fresh agreement has been entered into with the Eastern Telegraph Company, which resulted in the reduction of rates on European telegrams from 5s. 2d. per word (Durban 5s.) to 4s. per word. A new line has been constructed by the Cable Company between Capetown and England which affords another channel of communication. There are now three cables at work so that there is little likelihood of complete interruption of telegraphic communication between South Africa and Europe.

SPECIAL CRISIS ARRANGEMENTS.

At the commencement of the war all Postal and Telegraph officers on leave in South Africa were recalled to duty, and annual leave suspended for the time being.

Postal communication with the Transvaal and Orange Free State was suspended on the 12th October, and telegraphic communication was cut off on the 14th October.

When railway communication between Cape Colony and Natal, through the Orange Free State and the South African Republic, was interrupted, other arrangements had to be made for the conveyance of the English mails inwards and outwards. At first the outward English mail was despatched by sea from Durban to East London and thence by rail to Capetown, the Mail Companies altering the day of sailing of their steamers from Monday to Saturday in each week.

On the cutting of the railway line between East London and De Aar, a fresh arrangement was entered into by which the mails were sent direct from Durban to Capetown by the steamers of the King and Rennie lines alternately. The service thus provided has worked most satisfactorily, and still continues.

Previous to the cutting of the East London line, the mails from England were conveyed from East London to Durban by a vessel specially chartered by this Department, the s.s. "Umzimvubu," which left East London immediately on the arrival of the mail train from Capetown. Subsequently mails had to be sent on by various boats as opportunity offered, but on the whole a good service has been maintained. Once only did the outward mail from Natal miss the ocean mail steamer at Capetown, and the circumstances were as follows :—

The R.M.S. "Scot" having on her outward journey waited at East London for the purpose of bringing on Sir George White and his staff, was unable to leave Durban with the English mails on the Saturday afternoon as at first arranged.

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On Sunday, the time subsequently fixed for her sailing from Durban, the bar was so rough as to be impassable, and the "Scot" did not get away until Monday at 3.45 p.m. It was arranged with the Postmaster-General at Capetown that the homeward English mail steamer should be detained for twenty-four hours, but, unfortunately, when the "Scot" got to East London the bar there was also impassable, and the mails could not be landed at the appointed time. By this unfortunate combination of circumstances the Natal mails for England suffered a week's delay.

On the whole the correspondence of the Colony with England has suffered much less inconvenience than might have been expected through the interruption of the regular means of communication.

On the cessation of postal communication with the Transvaal and Orange Free State, the mails arriving in Natal from Australia, India and elsewhere for the residents in those countries were opened by this Department and distributed to such of the addressees as had taken refuge in this Colony. The distribution involved a large amount of labour, but the convenience to the addressees was very great, and was much appreciated.

In October two rooms, which were formerly in occupation by the Education Department, were added to the Pietermaritzburg Post Office. This relieved the congestion of work in the sorting office at that place.

In consequence of the augmentation of the Imperial forces operating in Natal, a branch of the Army Post Office was established in this Colony in November under the direction of Lieut. H. F. McClintock.

At the outset Natal stamps were used for all letters dealt with by the Army Post Office, but subsequently it was arranged that such stamps should only be used by the military post offices for places in South Africa, British stamps being used upon oversea correspondence for other places.

The civil and military post offices have mutually assisted each other and have worked in harmony.

Letters from Volunteers on active service are being carried by the Post Office free, when addressed to places within the Colony, and parcels for the Imperial and Volunteer forces are being re-directed without charge.

In consequence of military operations the following offices have been temporarily vacated :—

Acton Holmes	Alcock Spruit
Beith	Besters
Biggarsberg	Brakwal
Charlestown	Colenso
Cundycleugh	Dannhauser
De Jager's Drift	Dewdrop
Dundee	Dundee Coalfields
Elands Kraal	Elandslaagte
Ellensdale	Elizabeth
Glencoe Junction	Glenisla
Hatting Spruit	Hazeldene
Helpmakaar	Ingagane
Ingogo	Ingogo Rail
Ingwavuma	Meran
Maputa	Mossdale
Mount Prospect	Newcastle
Normandien	Olivier's Hoek
Onderbrook Spruit	Pieters
Rorke's Drift	S. Augustines
Spitzkop	Springfield
Sunday's River	Umsinga
Underberg	Upper Tugela
Van Reenen	Van's Drift
Waschbank	Wessels Nek

Zunckels

1899 POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT (continued).

Also the following offices now re-opened :—

Chieveley. Ennersdale. Frere. Highlands. Weenen. Willow Grange.

Communication with Estcourt and the following connecting offices was also cut off for a time :

Middleton. South Downs. Tabanahlope.

The following members of the Postal and Telegraph staff have been in Ladysmith during the siege :—Mr. R. W. Weightman (Engineer in charge of Telegraphs), Mr. J. B. Craddock (Acting Postmaster), Mr. J. C. Burton, Mr. J. B. Surgeson, Mr. T. M. Alderson, Mr. R. G. Honey, Mr. N. Harrison, Mr. L. W. Bagley, Mr. W. C. McIsaac, Mr. D. A. Salmond, Mr. W. F. Michell (escaped through Boer lines), Mr. F. G. Joy, Mr. F. S. Hayburn, Mr. J. J. O'Neill, Mr. A. Alison, Mr. G. E. Gummow, Mr. A. E. Harmer, Mr. O. M. Garson, Mr. J. V. Osborn, junior, Mr. A. D. Richards, Mr. A. D. McArthur, Lineman Etheridge, Lineman Mather.

A noteworthy feat was performed by Mr. W. F. Michell, telegraphist at Ladysmith, who broke through the Boer lines surrounding that town. He left Ladysmith on the 25th and reached Weenen on the 29th November.

Before the investment of Ladysmith, Mr. Weightman fitted up a complete Telephone Exchange between Sir George White's headquarters and the positions held by the various regiments and detachments. This Exchange proved of the greatest value in the defence of the town.

During the course of the war several telegraphists have been, from time to time, employed on special duty at the front and all have acquitted themselves in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. They have given long hours of attendance, including much night work, and have invariably maintained an efficient service, often under very trying conditions. They have borne hardships and privations uncomplainingly and cheerfully, and, altogether, I cannot speak too highly of the excellent spirit that has been shown.

Mr. R. T. McArthur has particularly distinguished himself by the ability, courage, and resource he has displayed in difficult and sometimes dangerous situations. He has more than once been under fire, and was on board the armoured train which was wrecked at Frere in November last.

At the commencement of hostilities the whole of the telegraph arrangements for the troops were made by this Department, and were carried out to the satisfaction of the General Commanding. Mr. N. Harrison was in charge of the engineering arrangements at Glencoe and Dundee, and Messrs. Clark, R. T. McArthur and O'Neill were employed there as operators. They remained at their posts, under the enemy's fire, until ordered by the General to withdraw. They accompanied General Yule's column to Ladysmith.

Mr. Weightman, Assistant Engineer, was in charge of the special telegraphic arrangements in Ladysmith and the neighbourhood. He was assisted by Messrs. Burton, Bagley, and Salmond. At the battle of Elands-laagte, Mr. Burton rode with the cavalry division and Mr. Salmond and Lineman Etheridge accompanied the armoured train. These officers kept up telegraphic communication from the front with the Headquarters at Ladysmith throughout the day, and were instrumental in securing the timely arrival of reinforcements.

Strenuous efforts have been necessary to secure the efficient working of the Postal and Telegraph Departments under the heavy strain imposed upon them by the existing political crisis, and I have specially to acknowledge the valuable services rendered by Mr. J. W. Coleman, Postmaster and Telegraph Superintendent, Durban, and Mr. C. Long, Controller of the Telegraph Office, Pietermaritzburg.

Mr. T. T. Hardaker, Telegraph Engineer, has carried out the engineering arrangements of the Telegraph Department in a very efficient manner, and has promptly and satisfactorily met every demand made upon that branch, both for civil and military requirements.

I also wish to make special mention of the services of Mr. A. J. Norris, Chief Clerk, Postmaster General's Office, in dealing with the vastly increased correspondence of the Postal Department.

The staff, as a whole, deserve much praise for the exertions they have made to cope with the great increase of work during the closing months of the year.

W. G. HAMILTON,

Postmaster General and General Manager of Telegraphs.

Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED AND PAID.
ISSUED.

Payable in :—	1898.		1899.		Increase.		Decrease.		
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Natal ...	15,212	45,053 5 1	16,846	52,979 7 8	1,634	7,926 2 7	...	...
United Kingdom ...	26,544	89,630 5 10	27,300	87,494 6 10	756	..	...	2,135 19 0	
Cape Colony ...	4,208	12,084 17 5	6,200	18,908 3 6	1,992	6,823 6 1	...	...
South African Republic*	5,191	11,669 16 2	3,605	10,416 11 8	...	...	1,586	1,253 4 6	
Orange Free State*	368	990 14 0	291	942 16 6	...	...	77	47 17 6	
Rhodesia†...	...	...	31	121 15 4	31	121 15 4	...	...
St. Helena ...	91	177 13 0	79	133 8 9	...	...	12	44 4 3	
Mauritius ...	1,209	6,500 17 2	1,172	6,184 12 7	...	...	37	316 4 7	
British India†	...	...	2,532	16,453 18 3	2,532	16,453 18 3	...	...
New South Wales**	...	...	113	525 3 3	113	525 3 3	...	...
New Zealand**	...	...	17	91 16 9	17	91 16 9	...	...
Queensland**	...	...	13	49 17 5	13	49 17 5	...	...
South Australia**	...	...	20	44 19 7	20	44 19 7	...	...
Tasmania**	...	...	27	87 8 1	27	87 8 1	...	...
Victoria**	...	...	194	771 15 5	194	771 15 5	...	...
Western Australia**	...	...	11	57 10 0	11	57 10 0	...	...
Totals ...	52,823	166,107 8 8	58,451	195,263 11 7	7,340	32,943 12 9	1,712	3,797 9 10	Nett Increase—No. of Orders, 5,628; Value £29,156 2s. 11d.

APPENDIX B

[POST-L.]

REPORT OF THE

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF

Expenditure.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	16,119 10 5	19,749 18 11	3,630 8 6	...
CONTINGENT AND OTHER EXPENSES —				
Commission on Sale of Stamps	470 14 3	570 4 2	...	...
Overtime Attendance, Sorting Seaborne Mails	879 13 6	527 3 3	...	...
Petty Expenses, including Date Stamps, &c. ...	464 0 10	365 8 9	...	...
Travelling Expenses	122 13 4	197 6 9	...	...
Commission to Postmasters not wholly employed on Money Order duties ..	16 9 0	26 6 4	...	...
Remuneration to Stationmasters as Postmasters	72 6 5	70 16 6	...	...
Learners and Probationers ... ..	...	5 9 8	...	...
	2,026 17 4	1,772 15 5	...	254 1 11
MAILS—				
Private Ships, Letters sent by	424 19 5	449 1 1	...	...
Landing and Shipping Mails	300 10 0	727 17 2	...	...
Inland Contracts	8,672 1 0	10,120 12 2	...	...
Native Carriers' Wages	2,937 4 6	2,878 3 1	...	...
Rations and Clothing to Carriers	1,149 0 10	1,379 0 0	...	...
Mail Bags, Supply and Repair of	269 10 5	140 3 4	...	...
European Letter Carriers	1,841 0 7	2,183 16 8	...	...
Travelling P.O., including Allowances ...	1,434 13 9	1,453 14 8	...	...
	17,029 0 6	19,332 8 2	2,303 7 8	...
MISCELLANEOUS—				
Transit of Correspondence over Foreign Lines	14,521 7 9	2,476 19 1	...	...
Commission on Money Orders	607 17 2	753 13 7	...	...
Supply of Postage Stamps	1,317 14 11	914 15 7	...	...
Contribution—International Bureau	13 13 8	18 2 0	...	...
	16,460 13 6	4,163 10 3	...	12,297 3 3
RENT—				
Rent, Durban Post and Telegraph Offices ...	430 16 8	470 0 0	39 3 4	...
	52,066 18 5	45,488 12 9	...	...
Balance in favour of the Department ...	11,282 4 11	12,815 18 3	...	...
	63,349 3 4	58,304 11 0	5,044 12 4	12,551 5 2
Net Decrease in Expenditure ... ..	...	...	£6,578 5 8	
Net Decrease in Revenue ... ..	...	...	5,044 12 4	
Net Increase in Balance in favour of Department ...	...	...	1,533 13 4	

Official Correspondence if paid for at ordinary rates
Newspapers posted by publishers and delivered free.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL. (continued.)

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

Revenue.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sale of Postage Stamps, Postage, and Sur-charges	59,097 14 0	53,669 5 8	...	5,428 8 4
FEES OF OFFICE—				
Poundage on Postal Orders	157 16 5	213 4 3	55 7 10	...
Private Box Rents	798 15 9	872 19 9	74 4 0	...
Private Bag Rents	280 8 11	286 10 8	6 1 9	...
Commission on Stamps Purchased	0 14 0	1 4 1	0 10 1	...
Fees on Money Orders Issued	2,264 1 9	2,581 9 0	317 7 3	...
Commission on Money Order Accounts	386 1 6	379 8 7	...	6 12 11
SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY				
...	4 4 3	...	...	4 4 3
FORFEITED MONEY ORDERS	97 8 11	115 7 6	18 18 7	...
SUMS REFUNDED TO TREASURY	49 12 9	138 13 7	89 0 10	...
SPECIAL RECEIPTS	4 2 5	34 11 8	30 9 3	...
GENERAL DEPOSITS	41 1 8	7 19 3	...	33 2 5
FINES	17 1 0	2 17 0	...	14 4 0
REIMBURSEMENT	150 0 0	...	...	150 0 0
	63,349 3 4	58,304 11 0	591 19 7	5,636 11 11

would have returned a Revenue of £10,831.
if paid for, would have returned a Revenue of £3,702.

PAID.												
Issued in :—	1898.			1899.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.	
Natal ...	15,224	£	s. d.	16,690	£	s. d.	1,466	£	s. d.	...	£	s. d.
United Kingdom ...	3,315	11,360	17 4	3,674	12,636	4 6	359	1,275	7 2	...	...	...
Cape Colony ...	3,473	12,165	5 11	5,164	20,467	1 10	1,691	8,301	15 11	...	...	...
South African Republic* ...	11,287	44,096	9 1	9,078	35,979	18 6	...	...	...	2,209	8,116	10 7
Orange Free State* ...	1,546	3,459	15 3	1,205	3,018	18 9	...	...	...	341	440	16 6
Rhodesia† ...	...	...	...	160	705	12 9	160	705	12 9	...	...	...
St. Helena ...	7	23	15 8	5	23	6 0	...	...	...	2	0	9 8
Mauritius ...	29	113	12 6	69	217	15 5	40	104	2 11	...	...	...
British India†	...	...	...	15	14	13 8	15	44	13 8	...	...	...
New South Wales**	...	...	...	1	3	0 0	1	3	0 0	...	...	...
New Zealand**	...	...	...	7	8	12 7	7	3	12 7	...	...	...
Queensland**	...	...	...	4	7	9 6	4	7	9 6	...	...	...
South Australia**	...	...	...	1	0	4 6	1	0	4 6	...	...	...
Tasmania**	...	...	...	4	36	0 0	4	36	0 0	...	...	...
Victoria**...	...	...	...	5	8	15 0	5	8	15 0	...	...	...
Western Australia**	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	34,881	116,254	18 7	36,082	125,827	17 4	3,753	18,130	15 6	2,552	8,557	16 9
Net Increase—No. of Orders, 1,201: Value, £9,572 18s. 9d.												
*Money Order Business suspended when war declared. †Convention operated from 1st June, 1899. Before that date Money Order Business with Rhodesia was transacted through the intermediary of Cape Colony. " " 1st July, " " " India " " " United Kingdom. " " 1st October, " " " { the Australian Colonies and New Zealand } " " " Cape Colony.												

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS ISSUED AND PAID.

ISSUED.

Country on which Drawn.	1898.		1899.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Natal	351	1,958 2 2	597	3,205 8 7	246	1,247 6 5	...	...
Cape Colony...	384	1,689 1 0	729	3,695 9 9	345	2,006 8 9	...	...
South African Republic	228	946 19 10	425	2,753 2 7	197	1,806 2 9	...	...
Orange Free State ...	18	89 15 0	13	95 0 0	...	5 5 0	5	...
Rhodesia ... ..	...	...	4	29 0 0	4	29 0 0	...	...
Totals	981	4,683 18 0	1,768	9,718 0 11	792	5,094 2 11	5	...

PAID.

Country in which Issued.	1898.		1899.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Natal	351	1,957 14 2	606	3,340 7 7	255	1,382 13 5	...	...
Cape Colony...	449	2,473 2 1	1,131	7,317 18 11	682	4,844 16 10	...	...
South African Republic	968	5,929 14 8	1,032	6,148 3 9	64	218 9 1	...	...
Orange Free State	61	264 1 0	71	340 14 0	10	76 13 0	...	...
Totals	1,829	10,624 11 11	2,840	17,147 4 3	1,011	6,522 12 4	...	...

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED BY THE ADJOINING ADMINISTRATIONS AND PAID IN THE COLONY.

Issued in	Denomination.										Totals.	
	1/-	1/6	2/6	5/-	7/6	10/-	12/6	10/-	17/6	20/-	No.	Amount.
Cape Colony ...	193	145	198	250	...	243	22	39	11	586	1,733	£ 885 3 0
Orange Free State ...	200	162	158	160	40	153	17	41	10	293	1,234	516 10 6
South African Republic ...	146	82	102	193	46	229	21	48	9	485	1,361	748 4 0
Totals 1899 ...	539	389	458	603	132	625	60	128	30	1,364	4,328	2,149 17 6
Totals 1898 ...	414	342	331	563	154	585	77	90	50	1,098	3,724	1,841 2 0
Decrease 1899 ...	...	...	...	...	22	...	17	...	20	...	...	...
Increase 1899 ...	125	47	127	20	...	40	...	38	...	266	604	308 15 6

Postage to the value of 224 7s 6d was collected for revenue of the Colonies by Cape Colony, South African Republic and Orange Free State and affixed to such orders.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL ORDERS PAID.

1899.

Postal Orders Paid in.	DENOMINATION.											Totals.	
	1/-	1/6	2/6	5/-	7/6	10/-	12/6	15/-	17/6	20/-	No.	Amount.	
Natal ...	1,653	1,188	1,415	2,683	852	3,655	379	922	371	8,110	21,228	£	s. d.
Cape Colony ...	272	144	151	170	44	232	32	45	10	549	1,649	12,529	7 6
South African Republic	66	49	40	73	9	115	8	18	5	426	809	829	15 6
Orange Free State ...	13	4	13	15	6	19	...	6	1	70	147	539	19 6
Rhodesia ...	...	...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	93	9 0
Totals, 1899 ...	2,004	1,385	1,620	2,941	911	4,021	419	991	387	9,155	23,834	13,992	14 0
Totals, 1898 ...	1,518	1,033	1,054	2,049	732	2,822	349	753	319	6,520	17,149	10,064	17 6
Increase, 1899 ...	486	352	566	892	179	1,199	70	238	68	2,635	6,685	3,927	16 6

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL DRAFTS ISSUED AND COLLECTED IN THE COLONY.

	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of Drafts Issued in Natal ...	155	52	...	103
" " " Cape Colony for Collection in Natal ...	60	109	49	...
" " " Natal, honoured ..	38	14	...	24
" " " Cape Colony for Collection in Natal, honoured ..	13	18	5	...
Amount of Drafts Issued in Natal ...	£ s. d. 301 9 9	£ s. d. 169 11 3	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. 131 18 6
" " " Cape Colony for Collection in Natal ...	188 2 3	198 5 8	10 3 5	...
" Natal Drafts honoured ...	66 7 4	34 4 0	...	32 3 4
" Drafts Issued in Cape Colony upon Natal, honoured ...	25 14 7	45 9 4	19 14 9	...

STATEMENT OF POST OFFICES AND AGENCIES OPEN ON DECEMBER 31st, 1899, AS COMPARED WITH THE NUMBER OPEN ON DECEMBER 31st, 1898.

Class of Office.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Post Offices ...	165	181	16	...
Post Office Agencies ...	62	68	6	...
Agencies at Railway Stations ...	14	13	...	1
	241	262	22	1

Net Increase, 21.

STATEMENT OF POST OFFICE AND POST OFFICE AGENCIES OPENED DURING 1899.

Name of Office.				Service Established.
Alderley	...	...	...	Daily.
Amahlongwa	...	...	...	"
Ashton	...	...	...	"
Congella	...	...	...	"
Dering	..	...	...	"
Ellensdale	...	...	...	Three per week.
Entumeni	...	...	...	Daily.
Eqwatsha	...	...	...	Three per week.
Fair View	...	...	...	Daily.
Glenbain	...	...	..	"
Glenisla	...	...	...	"
Greenwood Park	...	...	...	"
Illovo River	...	...	...	"
Klipbank	..	...	...	Two per week.
New Hanover Rail	...	...	...	Daily.
Olivefontein	...	...	...	Three per week.
St. Augustine's	...	...	...	Daily.
Watermead	...	...	...	Three per week.
West's (Bluff)	...	...	...	Daily.
Umvoti Poort	...	...	...	"
Varken's Vlei	...	...	...	Three per week.

Receiving Offices were opened at Pietermaritzburg and Durban as under :—

Pietermaritzburg	...	...	...	Boshoff Street.
Durban	...	...	...	Russel Street.

The following Offices and Agencies were Closed ;—

Klipbank.

North End (Ladysmith).

Varken's Vlei.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THE COLONY; OF CORRESPONDENCE POSTED WITHIN THE COLONY; AND OF NUMBER OF ARTICLES REGISTERED AT OFFICES IN THE COLONY.

Correspondence Received.				1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Letters. Official	...	...	...	652,583	639,569	...	13,014
„ Ordinary	...	...	...	7,163,721	7,706,430	542,709	...
Post Cards	...	...	...	204,707	186,961	...	17,746
Parcels	...	...	...	113,313	100,176	...	13,137
Books and Sample Packets	...	...	...	1,304,718	1,320,174	15,456	...
Papers	...	...	...	2,698,151	2,906,461	208,310	...
Total	...	...	...	12,137,193	*12,859,771	722,578	43,897
					Net Increase ...	722,578	
Correspondence Posted	...	...	...	9,122,402	9,682,115	559,713	...
Articles Registered	...	...	...	122,529	120,067	...	2,462

*Of this number it is estimated that 3,166,200 were delivered by Postmen.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ARTICLES DEALT WITH IN THE RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

Correspondence.				1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Returned to Writers within the Colony	...	...	...	26,875	39,340	12,465	...
Returned Unopened to other Countries	...	...	...	18,507	21,522	3,015	...
Destroyed	...	...	...	13,215	16,211	2,996	...
Total	...	...	...	58,597	*77,073	18,476	...
					Net Increase ...	18,476	

*This Number represents Letters and Post Cards only. There were also 43,000 Newspapers and Circulars dealt with.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF THE NUMBER OF BAGS, AND CASES OF PARCELS DEALT WITH.

	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Exchanged between Offices in the Colony ...	242,569	284,432	41,863	...
Despatched to Adjoining Territories ...	19,067	22,920	3,853	...
Received from Adjoining Territories ...	17,134	22,873	5,439	...
Bags Despatched to the United Kingdom ...	1,870	2,904	1,034	...
Bags Received from the United Kingdom ...	5,249	6,247	998	...
Bags Despatched to Foreign Countries ...	1,363	1,612	249	...
Bags Received from Foreign Countries ...	1,290	2,636	1,346	...
Bags Received in Transit ...	1,394	5,845	4,451	...
Cases of Parcels Despatched to United Kingdom ...	135	164	29	...
Cases of Parcels Received from United Kingdom ...	1,036	1,281	245	...

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FOREIGN AND OVERBERG PARCELS TRAFFIC.

	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of Parcels Despatched to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	5,401	8,017	2,616	...
Number of Parcels Received from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	17,654	24,316	6,662	...
Value of Articles Exported to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	£4,341 19 10	£3,516 14 11	...	£825 4 11
Value of Articles Imported from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	£43,197 0 0	£13,877 9 0	£680 9 0	...
Amount of Customs Dues collected on Parcels from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	£2,469 5 7	£2,971 13 6	£502 7 11	...
Amount of Customs Dues collected on Parcels and Letters for Countries Overberg ...	£363 15 2	£362 3 4	...	£1 11 10

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MILEAGE OF POSTAL ROUTE OPEN.

Service.	1898.	1899.	Incr. ase.	Decrease.
Railway ...	505	535	30	...
Post Cart ...	327	299	...	28
Carriers ...	2,160	2,310	150	...
Total ...	2,992	3,144	180	28
Net Increase			...	152

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXTENT OF POSTAL ROUTE TRAVERSED IN MILEAGE.

	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Railway ...	611,213	907,743	296,530	...
Post Cart ...	132,776	137,178	4,402	...
Carriers ...	1,014,616	919,386	...	95,230
Total ...	1,758,605	1,964,307	300,932	95,230
Net Increase			...	205,702

RECORD OF MISSING LETTERS, 1899.

Duly Delivered.	Misdirected or insufficiently addressed.	Not posted when stated and afterwards delivered.	Awaiting application.	Doubtful if posted.	Lost or unclaimed by addressee.	Delivered after some days.	Never posted.	Returned to Sender for various reasons.	No trace.
51	31	17	7	9	10	33	3	2	152

During the year 120,000 Articles have been dealt with in the Returned Letter Office.

[TELEGRAPH.]

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

DEBIT AND CREDIT STATEMENT, YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1899.

Expenditure.	Amount.	Revenue.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Salaries	23,743 12 10	Sale of Stamps	26,458 18 10
Rent	610 0 0	Amount received from Eastern Company	4,461 6 2
Battery and Instrument Materials	1,068 10 8	Registration Fees	270 11 0
Petty Expenses, &c.	194 2 10	Telephone Subscriptions	1,505 9 10
Percentage to Stationmasters and others for performance of Telegraph and Telephone Duties	820 1 2	Special Receipts	1 13 7
Porterage and other Disbursements recovered in Revenue	46 5 7	Sums Refunded	6 8 0
Clothing for European Messengers and Natives	283 13 0	Reimbursements	1,908 14 2
Stationery, Printing, and Stamps	747 17 8	General Deposits	6 4 10
Travelling Expenses	197 14 5	Sale of Government Property	7 1 0
Overtime	644 15 8	Miscellaneous	13 2 9
Allowance in lieu of Quarters to Post and Telegraph Officers	160 0 0	Official Telephone Connections, Calculated at ordinary Private Rate	438 0 0
Bicycles for European Messengers	105 1 6	Maintenance of Line between Durban and Observatory	12 0 0
Refund on Rhodesia Messages	163 13 10	Value of Government Works	16,365 17 9
Learners and Probationers	8 5 0		
Maintenance of Line	1,382 9 1		
Contribution to International Telegraph Convention, Berne	13 0 0		
Salaries, Maintenance, and Rent, Telephone System	777 1 0		
Balance in favour of Department	20,484 8 8		
	51,455 12 11		51,455 12 11

[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 31st December, 1898 ...	...	352,690	367,735	485,882	1,206,307	10,958 17 0	27,856 1 5	38,814 18 5
Year ended 31st December, 1899 ...	...	497,466	509,829	637,270	1,644,565	16,815 17 9	34,639 15 2	51,455 12 11
Increase ...	...	144,776	142,094	151,388	438,258	5,857 0 9	6,783 13 9	12,640 14 6

(TELEGRAPH)

RETURN OF CABLE TRAFFIC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1899.

Month.	Number of Mes- sages received from the Eastern Company for trans- mission to South African Stations.	Number of Mes- sages collected in South Africa and handed to the Eastern Company for transmission abroad.	Total.	Payments to Eastern and Western Telegraph Companies.	Amount received on behalf of B.S.A. Company.	Amount received from Eastern Company on account of Prepaid Reply Messages.	Payments made by Eastern Tele- graph Company for Messages handed to Department for re-transmission.	Value of Government Messages received from Eastern Tele- graph Company for re-transmission.	Total amount received by Department on Messages received from Eastern Com- pany for re-trans- mission, &c.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January ...	5,149	4,698	9,847	10,406 3 4	12 7 8	26 1 10	378 10 6	14 14 2	431 14 2
February ...	5,715	5,204	10,919	12,099 2 0	13 16 7	17 17 4	434 2 0	15 16 6	481 12 5
March ...	4,639	4,065	8,704	10,134 19 11	4 17 5	17 0 8	365 6 1	19 11 1	399 15 3
April ...	4,088	4,008	8,096	9,496 9 8	16 2 1	31 3 9	295 18 7	13 4 8	356 9 1
May ...	3,500	2,974	6,474	7,335 1 6	11 13 1	19 0 6	248 3 2	19 4 2	298 5 11
June ...	3,352	2,695	6,047	6,022 19 3	19 3 4	8 6 2	254 9 9	7 12 5	289 11 8
July ...	3,356	3,638	6,994	8,017 16 4	18 15 4	18 3 8	252 3 8	25 6 1	314 8 9
August ...	3,262	3,255	6,517	6,615 19 0	15 0 8	15 7 10	225 19 11	33 15 4	290 3 9
September ...	3,671	3,537	7,208	6,344 2 4	16 9 6	158 19 0	257 17 3	45 8 1	478 13 10
October ...	3,740	5,038	8,778	6,750 15 5	10 9 7	132 5 10	614 5 5	103 6 9	860 7 7
November ...	3,362	3,532	6,894	4,667 6 7	...	52 8 4	452 6 11	87 10 2	591 19 5
December ...	4,794	5,892	10,686	7,214 16 9	...	121 1 11	682 3 11	168 5 4	971 11 2
	48,628	48,536	97,164	95,105 12 1	138 15 3	610 16 10	4,461 6 2	553 14 9	5,764 13 0

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING MILEAGE OF TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINE AND WIRE.

	Telegraph.		Telephone.		Private Wires.	
	Line.	Wire.	Line.	Wire.	Line.	Wire.
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Year ended 31st December, 1898	1,237 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,935 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Year ended 31st December, 1899	1,337 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,088	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$

