

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL FOR THE YEAR 1900.

THE HONOURABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

I have the honour to submit my report on the Post Office Department for the year ended 31st December, 1900.

I took charge of the Department on 15th October, 1900, Mr. Coleman, the Postmaster of Durban, having acted as Postmaster-General, and Mr. Hardaker as General Manager of Telegraphs, in the interval which elapsed between the departure of Mr. Hamilton on 12th July, 1900, and my arrival.

POSTAL BRANCH.

The Postal Revenue for the year, including the estimated value of Government work (£11,236), and postage which would accrue if newspapers were not conveyed free (£7,500), amounted to £96,557 1s. 8d., and the expenditure to £52,351 15s. 4d., leaving a balance in favour of the Department of £44,205 6s. 4d. From this nominal profit must, however, be deducted a sum of £17,188 2s. 5d. which has been paid out on Crisis Account, and which yet remains to be adjusted. The net profit is thereby reduced to £27,017 3s. 11d.

It is proposed, however, to render a claim to the Imperial Government for the difference between the cost of conveying mails by sea, during the interruption of the overland route, and the amount which would have been paid if they had been carried by Railway, and for certain other Postal and Telegraph expenditure, the claim amounting, in round figures, to about £10,000.

Owing to the continuance of the war and the consequent interruption of overland communication the services to and from the neighbouring Colonies have been disorganised, and the exigencies of the times have thrown on the Staff a prolonged strain which has, on a whole, been borne by the Officers of all grades, Postal and Telegraph, willingly and cheerfully.

From the same cause various improvements of the Service have, necessarily, had to be deferred, but it has been found practicable to carry out the following alterations :—

- (1) A Parcel Post Convention has been entered into with British Central Africa.
- (2) The Parcel Post rate to Rhodesia, *via* Beira, has been reduced to 1s. 6d. a pound, and a reduction in the letter-rate has also been made.
- (3) A new Ocean Mail Contract came into operation on 1st October, 1900, by which this Colony contributes proportionately to the use it makes of mail steamers. As compared with the old contract the terms are favourable to Natal.
- (4) The Post-cart service from Ladysmith to Upper Tugela, and Dundee to Nondweni, which had been suspended in consequence of the Boer invasion, were resumed in June.
- (5) On the opening of the Railway from Maritzburg to Greytown the Post-cart service to that place ceased. The Post-cart between Park Rynie and Umzinto was also discontinued on the opening of the Railway to the latter place. Improved services have resulted.
- (6) New services by native postal-runners have been established between :—

Heatherdon and Heron Vale	...	...	...	...	Daily
Insuzi and Icibini	...	...	...	...	Tri-weekly
Muden and Mount Moriah	...	...	...	...	"
Vant's Drift and St. Augustine's	...	...	...	...	"

while the Greytown and Muden Service has been made a daily one instead of tri-weekly.

1900 REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued*).

During the year 20 new Post Offices and Agencies have been opened, and 7 Postal Agencies have been closed.

The total number of Post Offices and Postal Agencies in the Colony is now 275 as against 262 last year.

Pictorial Post Cards, showing places of interest in Natal, were introduced in July.

A new Post Office has been built at Stanger. The difficulty of carrying on the work efficiently at Maritzburg and Durban owing to the inadequacy of the Office accommodation has been emphasised during the war, and it is essential that the building of new and far larger premises at both places should be proceeded with as soon as possible.

The pay of Postmen has been improved, but in consequence of the raising of volunteer corps to proceed to the front there has been a scarcity of suitable men, and much inconvenience has been caused at Maritzburg and Durban, and it has been necessary to suspend deliveries at the latter place on several occasions.

A contract has been entered into for three years for the conveyance of mails by vans between Maritzburg Post Office and Railway Station.

A further effort has been made to enter into a Postal Order Convention with the United Kingdom, and a reply has been received that the matter is under consideration.

The number of persons employed on Postal duties on 31st December, 1900, was 651 as compared with 634 in the preceding year—an increase of 17.

On 1st September, 1900, the mail service for letters only was partially restored between Natal and the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal.

Money Order and Postal Order business was resumed with certain Offices in the Orange River Colony on 21st October, after suspension since the commencement of the war.

The wreck of the S.S. "Mexican" on 31st March resulted in the loss of a great part of the English Mail, and the whole of the parcel mail.

Several Officers of the Department have been lent to the Transvaal Administration to assist in re-organising the Postal Department, and the Civil Administrator has reported in highly favourable terms on the value of their services.

TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

During the year the number of telegrams dealt with was as follows:—Forwarded, 716,824; Received, 740,362; Transmitted, 867,647. Total, 2,324,833.

The transactions during the previous year were:—Forwarded, 497,466; Received, 509,829; Transmitted, 637,270. Total, 1,644,565. Increase, 680,268.

The cash earnings of the Department amounted to £55,271 16s. 6d., and £23,580 represented the value of work done for Government Departments, the total being £78,852 11s. 1d., an increase on the previous year of £27,396 18s. 2d.

The expenditure of the Department was £48,949 4s. 6d., including a sum of £16,948 11s. 7d., paid on Crisis Account, leaving a balance in favour of the Department of £29,903 6s. 7d., or, excluding the value of Government work, £6,322 12s.

The number of subscriptions (including extensions) to the Pietermaritzburg Telephone Exchange increased during the year by 25, from 217 to 242.

The following Telegraph Offices were opened during the year:—Alexandra Junction, Dalton, Hill Crest, Modder Spruit, Noodsberg Road, Pinetown Bridge, Umtwalumi, Umzinto Rail, and Victoria.

On the 31st of December there were 140 Telegraph Offices in the Colony, and the total number of persons employed in the Department on telegraph duties was 363.

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

The following new lines were constructed :—

- Dalton to Greytown (Railway Telegraph Line).
- Four additional wires, Pietermaritzburg to Dundee.
- New line, carrying three wires, between Dundee and Newcastle.
- New line, carrying three wires, between Newcastle and Charlestown.
- Park Rynie to Umtwalumi (Railway Telegraph Line).
- Two additional wires, Ladysmith to Glencoe Junction (Railway Telegraph Lines).

The new cross country lines between Pietermaritzburg and the Transvaal border, *via* Greytown, Dundee, Newcastle, and Charlestown will be found to be of great benefit when public telegraphic communication with Johannesburg is re-opened, as it will give the Department clear lines suitable for Duplex or Wheatstone working.

Negotiations were also commenced with a view to improving the Telegraphic Service between Cape Colony and Natal.

In addition to the construction of the new lines mentioned, a large amount of re-construction work had to be undertaken, owing to the lines in the Colony having been very badly damaged during the invasion of the enemy.

An Agreement was entered into with the Military authorities, whereby telegrams sent by them were paid for at half the ordinary rate, while Indulgence telegrams, *i.e.*, telegrams accepted by the Eastern Telegraph Company at 2s. a word, and telegrams from wounded officers, were passed over the Department's lines free of charge.

Negotiations are at present in progress for laying a Cable between Durban and Australia by the Eastern Telegraph Company, and the construction of an overland wire—also for the Eastern Telegraph Company—between Durban and Capetown.

In October, the Censorship on cablegrams was relaxed, to admit of cablegrams being sent in certain authorised codes.

I regret to report that one of the Department's officers was killed in Ladysmith on 6th January, during the siege.

The other members of the Staff who were in Ladysmith throughout the siege have, I am glad to say, regained their health.

The telegraphists employed on Special Duty at the front continued to render excellent service. Three of them, Messrs. McArthur, Rea, and Anderson were attached to the Royal Engineers' Telegraph Division, during the fighting at the following places :—

R. T. McArthur,	Spionkop, Vaalkrantz, &c.
A. Rea,	Spionkop, Vaalkrantz, Hussar Hill.
R. S. Anderson,	Spionkop, Vaalkrantz.

The other telegraphists were, at times, under heavy shell fire. All acquitted themselves with credit.

The Volksrust and Harrismith offices were manned by members of the Natal Staff, the former from the 24th June to the 15th July, and the latter during the period 11th to 22nd August, until arrangements could be made for the Royal Engineers to do the work.

In January, Mr. Hardaker, Telegraph Engineer, rendered material assistance to the Royal Engineers in designing a light Telephone connected with the balloon. As a means of obtaining speedy communications this was a great success.

The following letter was received from General Buller, in connection with a complaint regarding the incorrect transmission of certain cypher telegrams :—

"It is clear that the faults which have occurred in the transmission of cypher messages to and from Pretoria were not due to want of care on the part of the Natal Telegraph Department Staff, who have, throughout the Campaign, rendered most valuable assistance to the Military authorities, and have evidently taken the greatest pains to ensure the correct transmission of Military messages."

J. FRANK BROWN,

Postmaster-General and General Manager of Telegraphs.

Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

REPORT OF THE

POSTAL.]

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF

Expenditure.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	19,749 18 11	20,805 0 0	1,055 1 7	...
CONTINGENT AND OTHER EXPENSES—				
Commission on Sale of Stamps... ..	570 4 2	524 15 11	...	45 8 3
Overtime Attendance, Sorting Seaborne Mails	537 3 3	1,002 6 7	465 3 4	...
Petty Expenses, including Date Stamps ...	365 8 9	488 15 7	123 6 10	...
Travelling Expenses	197 6 9	165 12 11	...	31 13 10
Commission to Postmasters not wholly employed on Money Order duties ...	26 6 4	25 1 5	...	1 4 11
Remuneration to Stationmasters as Post- masters... ..	70 16 6	106 2 10	35 6 4	...
Learners and Probationers	5 9 8	139 13 6	134 3 10	...
	1,772 15 5	2,452 8 9	679 13 4	..
MAILS—				
Private Ships, Letters sent by	449 1 1	370 7 7	...	78 13 6
Landing and Shipping Mails	727 17 2	457 10 10	...	270 6 4
Inland Contracts	10,120 12 2	8,624 15 4	...	1,495 16 10
Native Carriers' Wages	2,878 3 1	3,752 4 2	874 1 1	...
Rations and Clothing to Carrier	1,379 0 0	1,556 13 2	177 13 2	...
Mail Bags, Supply and Repair	140 3 4	401 5 0	261 1 8	...
European Letter Carriers	2,183 16 8	3,930 7 10	1,746 11 2	...
Travelling P.O., including Allowances ...	1,453 14 8	11 19 6	...	1,441 15 2
	19,332 8 2	19,105 3 5	...	227 4 9
MISCELLANEOUS—				
Transit of Correspondence over Foreign Lines	2,476 19 1	7,128 16 6	4,651 17 5	...
Commission on Money Orders	753 13 7	1,066 15 9	313 2 2	...
Supply of Postage Stamps	914 15 7	1,086 6 2	171 10 7	...
Contribution—International Bureau ...	18 2 0	9 7 3	...	8 14 9
Passages of late Postmaster-General and Family ... ..	...	227 17 0	227 17 0	...
	4,163 10 3	9,519 2 8	5,355 12 5	...
RENT—				
Rent, Durban Post and Telegraph Offices	470 0 0	470 0 0		
	45,488 12 9	52,351 15 4		
Balance in favour of the Department...	27,348 18 3	44,205 6 4		
	72,837 11 0	96,557 1 8		

Crisis Expenditure, not included in the above Statement, is as follows:—

For the Year, 1899	£3,422 15s. 8d.
For the Year, 1900	£17,188 2s. 5d.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

POSTAL EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

Revenue.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sale of Postage Stamps, Postage and Surcharges	53,669 5 8	71,906 0 10	18,236 15 2	...
FEES OF OFFICE—				
Poundage on Postal Orders	213 4 3	353 5 0	140 0 9	...
Private Box Rents	872 19 9	879 7 6	6 7 9	...
Commission on Stamps purchased	7 4 1	1 16 1	0 12 0	...
Private Bag Rents	286 10 8	262 1 7	...	24 9 1
Fees on Money Orders issued	2,581 9 0	3,869 5 0	1,287 16 0	...
Commission on Money Order Accounts	379 8 7	304 2 11	...	75 5 8
Sale of Government Property ... ..	...	84 9 0	84 9 0	...
Forfeited Money Orders	116 7 6	134 3 6	17 16 0	...
Sums refunded to Treasury	138 13 7	1 0 0	...	137 13 7
Special Receipts	34 11 8	18 17 6	...	15 14 2
General Deposits	7 19 3	0 1 0	...	7 18 3
Fines	2 17 0	6 11 9	3 14 9	...
Value of Government Work	10,831 0 0	11,236 0 0	405 0 0	...
Value of Newspaper Work, for which Postage is not paid	3,702 0 0	7,500 0 0	3,798 0 0	...
	72,887 11 0	96,557 1 8	23,980 11 5	261 0 9

Of the expenditure of £17,188 2s. 5d., on account of Crisis during the Year 1900, £5,000 was received from the Treasurer.

Postal:]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONEY ORDER ISSUED.

Payable in.	1899.		1900.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Natal	16,846	52,979 7 8	23,825	84,248 17 4	6,979	31,269 9 8	...	...
United Kingdom	27,300	87,494 6 10	37,966	134,075 4 9	10,666	46,580 17 11	...	...
Cape Colony	6,200	18,908 3 6	7,780	27,261 12 5	1,580	8,353 8 11	...	...
*Tranavaal	3,605	10,416 11 8	...	...	...	...	3,605	10,416 11 8
†Orange River Colony	291	942 16 6	91	191 2 0	...	...	200	751 14 6
Rhodesia	31	121 15 4	74	279 8 5	43	157 13 1	...	...
St. Helena	79	133 8 9	85	143 10 11	6	10 2 2	...	...
Mauritius	1,172	6,184 12 7	801	2,725 9 0	...	...	371	3,459 3 7
British India	2,532	16,453 18 3	9,895	59,253 8 9	7,363	42,799 10 6	...	...
Australasia	395	1,628 10 6	2,332	10,758 7 0	1,937	9,129 16 6	...	...
Total	58,451	£195,263 11 7	82,849	318,937 0 7	28,574	138,300 18 9	4,176	14,627 9 9

NET INCREASE:—No. of Orders, 24,398; Value, £123,673 7s. 0d.

*Money Order Business suspended when War declared.

†Money Order Business suspended when War declared, and resumed 21st August, 1900.

POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONEY ORDERS PAID.

Issued in.	1899.		1900.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Natal	16,690	52,670 4 4	23,691	83,631 16 3	7,001	30,961 11 11	...	...
United Kingdom	3,674	12,636 4 6	5,506	19,515 18 4	1,832	6,879 13 10	...	...
Cape Colony... ..	5,164	20,538 7 3	10,200	35,170 1 10	5,036	14,631 14 7	...	...
*Transvaal	9,078	35,979 18 6	10	60 14 6	...	...	9,068	35,919 4 0
†Orange River Colony	1,205	3,018 18 9	236	603 1 1	...	...	969	2,415 17 8
Rhodesia	160	634 7 4	311	1,187 17 10	151	553 10 6	...	...
St. Helena	5	23 6 0	10	71 13 6	5	48 7 6	...	...
Mauritius	69	217 15 5	53	100 0 4	...	...	16	117 15 1
British India	15	44 13 8	105	364 17 9	90	320 4 1	...	...
Australasia	22	64 1 7	256	1,091 10 0	234	1,027 8 5	...	...
Total	36,082	125,827 17 4	46,378	141,797 11 5	10,299	54,422 10 10	10,053	38,452 16 9

NET INCREASE :—No. of Order 10,299 ; Value, £15,969 14s. 1d.

*Money Order Business suspended when War declared.

†Money Order Business suspended when War declared, and resumed 21st August 1900.

[POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL. (continued).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS ISSUED.

Country on which Drawn.	1899.		1900.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Natal	597	3,205 8 7	1,015	5,139 5 9	418	1,933 17 2	...	...
Cape Colony	729	3,695 9 9	1,636	8,921 9 11	907	5,226 0 2	...	...
Transvaal	425	2,753 2 7	...	...	..	...	425	2,753 2 7
Orange River Colony	13	95 0 0	...	...	...	...	13	95 0 0
Rhodesia	4	29 0 0	...	...	...	...	4	29 0 0
Totals	1,768	£9,778 0 11	2,651	£14,060 15 8	1,325	£7,159 17 4	442	£2,877 2 7

NET INCREASE :— No., 883; Amount, £4,282 14s. 9d.

[POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS PAID.

Country in which Issued.	1899.		1900.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Natal	606	3,340 7 7	997	5,009 5 3	391	1,668 17 8	...	...
Cape Colony	1,131	7,317 18 11	2,443	15,097 6 10	1,312	7,779 7 11	...	...
Transvaal	1,032	6,148 3 9	2	11 0 0	...	...	1,030	6,137 3 9
Orange River Colony	71	340 14 0	...	...	...	...	71	340 14 0
Totals	2,840	£17,147 4 3	3,442	£20,117 12 1	1,703	£9,448 5 7	1,101	£6,477 17 9

NET INCREASE :—No., 602; Amount, £2,970 7s. 10d.

POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

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

Issued in	DENOMINATION.										Totals.	
	1s.	1s. 6d.	2s. 6d.	5s.	7s. 6d.	10s.	12s. 6d.	15s.	17s. 6d.	20s.	No.	Amount.
Cape Colony	295	226	239	522	71	490	30	66	11	790	2,740	£ 1,331 11 6
South African Republic ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	0 15 0
Totals, 1900	295	226	239	523	71	491	30	66	11	790	2,742	1,332 6 6
Totals, 1899	539	389	458	603	132	625	60	128	30	1,364	4,328	2,149 17 6
Decrease, 1900	244	163	219	80	61	134	30	62	19	574	1,586	817 11 0

NET DECREASE :—No., 1,586; Amount, £817 11s.

POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL ORDERS PAID.

Postal Orders Paid in	DENOMINATION.										Totals.	
	1s.	1s. 6d.	2s. 6d.	5s.	7s. 6d.	10s.	12s. 6d.	15s.	17s. 6d.	20s.	No.	Amount.
												£ s. d.
Natal	3,508	2,394	2,696	5,420	1,321	6,220	693	1,696	499	13,681	38,123	21,474 16 6
Cape Colony	313	230	171	330	72	363	31	69	21	733	2,333	1,167 15 6
Orange Free State	5	...	3	5	1	5	...	...	...	6	25	10 15 0
South African Republic ... ..	...	...	2	7	4	3	...	...	...	21	37	26 0 0
Rhodesia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	0 10 0
Totals, 1900	3,821	2,624	2,872	5,762	1,398	6,592	724	1,765	520	14,441	40,519	22,679 17 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
Increase, 1900	1,817	1,239	1,252	2,821	487	2,571	305	774	133	5,286	16,685	8,687 3 0

NET INCREASE :—No., 16,685; Amount, £8,687 3s.

POSTAL.]

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

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

	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of Drafts issued in Natal	52	20	...	32
„ „ „ Cape Colony for collection in Natal	109	172	63	...
„ „ „ Natal, honoured	14	8	...	6
„ „ „ Cape Colony for collection in Natal, honoured	18	71	53	...
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount of Drafts issued in Natal	169 11 3	88 18 4	...	80 12 11
„ „ „ Cape Colony for collection in Natal	198 5 8	604 17 0	406 11 4	...
„ Natal Drafts, honoured	34 4 0	27 2 3	...	7 1 9
„ Drafts issued in Cape Colony upon Natal, honoured	45 9 4	232 9 8	187 0 4	...

NET INCREASE:—No., 78; Amount, £505 17s.

1900 REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

POSTAL.]

STATEMENT OF POST OFFICES AND AGENCIES OPEN ON DECEMBER 31st, 1900,
AS COMPARED WITH THE NUMBER OPEN ON DECEMBER 31st, 1899.

Class of Office.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
Post Offices	181	195	14	...
Post Office Agencies	68	61	...	7
Agencies at Railway Stations	13	19	6	...
Total	262	275	20	7

NET INCREASE—13.

POSTAL.]

STATEMENT OF POST OFFICES AND POST OFFICE AGENCIES OPENED
DURING 1900.

Name of Office.	Service Established
Alexandra Junction	Daily.
Belfort	"
Cato Manor	"
Dalton	"
Doesberg	"
Esperanza	"
Heatherdon	"
W. Vale	"
W. rest	"
Icibini	Three per week.
Marburg	Daily.
Noodsberg Road Rail	"
Pinetown Bridge	"
Sydenham (Indian Office)	"
Umtwalumi Rail	"

A Receiving Office was opened at Durban as under :—

Bulstrode's Store, Stamford Hill Road.

The following Offices and Agencies were closed :—

Ashton, Imfume, Sundays River.

[POSTAL].

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued.*)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.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
Letters, Official	639,569	826,624	187,055	...
Letters, Ordinary	7,706,430	8,198,241	491,811	...
Post Cards	186,961	209,498	22,537	...
Parcels	100,176	107,934	7,758	...
Books and Sample Packets	1,820,174	1,161,246	...	158,928
Papers	2,906,461	2,805,503	...	100,958
Total	12,859,771	*18,309,046	709,161	259,886
Net Increase			449,275	
Correspondence Posted	9,682,115	10,552,883	870,768	...
Articles Registered	120,067	174,038	53,971	...

* Of this number it is estimated that 4,627,000 were delivered by Postmen.

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

Correspondence.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
Returned to Writers within the Colony ...	89,340	66,639	22,701	...
Returned unopened to other Countries ...	21,522	72,880	51,358	...
Destroyed	59,539	52,294	...	7,245
Total	120,401	191,813	71,412	7,245

NET INCREASE :—71,412.

POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

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

	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
Exchanged between Offices in the Colony	284,432	237,542	...	46,890
Despatched to adjoining Territories	22,920	6,520	...	16,400
Received from adjoining Territories	22,878	7,820	...	15,058
Bags Despatched to the United Kingdom	2,904	3,940	1,036	...
Bags Received from the United Kingdom	6,247	7,050	803	...
Bags Despatched to Foreign Countries	1,612	5,148	3,536	...
Bags Received from Foreign Countries	2,636	9,735	7,099	...
Bags Received in Transit	5,845	15,480	9,635	...
Boxes of Parcels Despatched to United Kingdom	164	631	467	...
Boxes of Parcels Received from United Kingdom	1,281	1,687	406	...
Total	350,914	295,553	22,982	78,343

NET DECREASE, 55,361.

2,341 Boxes of Parcels were additionally received from the United Kingdom by the Army Post Office in Natal. The number of bags shown as despatched to and received from the United Kingdom does not include Mails dealt with by the Army Post Office.

POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FOREIGN AND OVERBERG PARCELS TRAFFIC.

	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of Parcels despatched to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries	8,017	26,045	18,028	...
Number of Parcels received from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries	24,316	39,536	15,220	...
Total . . . . .	...	...	33,248	...
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Value of Articles Exported to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	3,516 14 11	21,178 9 7	17,661 14 8	...
Value of Articles Imported from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries	43,877 9 0	72,268 9 11	28,391 0 11	...
Amount of Customs Dues Collected on Parcels from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries	2,971 13 6	4,749 9 4	1,777 15 10	...
Amount of Customs Dues Collected on Parcels and Letters from Countries Overberg	362 3 4	437 9 10	75 6 6	...

Additionally 74,018 Parcels were Received from the United Kingdom, for Members of Her Majesty's Forces, of the Gross Value of £145,682 11s. 10d.

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

POSTAL.]

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MILEAGE OF POSTAL ROUTE OPEN.

Service.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Railway	585	591 $\frac{1}{4}$	56 $\frac{3}{4}$	...
Post Cart	299	251	...	48
Carriers	2,810	2,213	...	97
Total	3,144	3,055 $\frac{1}{4}$	56 $\frac{3}{4}$	145

NET DECREASE :—88 $\frac{1}{4}$.

POSTAL.]

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXTENT OF POSTAL ROUTE TRAVERSED IN MILEAGE.

	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Railway	907,743	789,741	...	118,002
Post Cart	137,178	93,184	...	43,994
Carriers	919,386	912,449	...	6,937
Total	1,964,307	1,795,374	...	168,933

DECREASE :—168,933.

POSTAL.]

MISSING LETTER RECORD, 1900.

Duly delivered	...	...	...	28
Misdirected or insufficiently addressed	...	...	...	11
Not posted when stated and afterwards delivered	...	...	...	2
Awaiting application	...	...	...	1
Doubtful if posted	...	...	...	2
Lost or unclaimed by addressee	...	...	...	2
Delivered after some delay	...	...	...	2
Never posted	...	...	...	—
Returned to senders for various reasons	...	...	...	1
No trace	...	...	...	123

TELEGRAPHS.]

REPORT OF THE

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF

Expenditure.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
SALARIES	23,743 12 10	25,469 17 4	1,726 4 6	...
CONTINGENT AND OTHER EXPENSES—				
Battery and Instrument Materials ...	1,068 10 8	439 16 11	...	628 13 9
Petty Expenses, including Date Stamps and Obliterating Ink ...	194 2 10	223 10 2	29 7 4	...
Percentage to Stationmasters and others for performance of Telegraph and Telephone duties ...	820 1 2	894 12 2	74 11 0	...
Porterage and Disbursements recovered in Revenue ...	46 5 7	9 6 7	...	36 19 0
Clothing for European Messengers and Natives ...	283 13 0	350 1 0	66 8 0	...
Stationery, Printing, and Stamps ...	747 17 8	1,139 13 8	391 16 0	...
Travelling Expenses ...	197 14 5	63 16 6	...	133 17 11
Overtime ...	644 15 8	156 14 9	...	488 0 11
Allowance in lieu of Quarters to Postal and Telegraph Officers ...	160 0 0	154 2 6	...	5 17 6
Bicycles for European Messengers ...	105 1 6	108 14 0	3 12 6	...
Refund on Rhodesian Messages ...	163 13 10	160 8 8	...	3 5 2
Learners and Probationers ...	8 5 0	131 17 9	123 12 9	...
	4,440 1 4	3,832 14 8	689 7 7	1,296 14 3
MAINTENANCE OF LINE	1,382 9 1	991 6 10	...	391 2 3
MISCELLANEOUS—				
Contribution to International Telegraph Convention, Berne ...	18 0 0	15 9 6	...	2 10 6
Salaries, Maintenance and Rent, Tele- phone System ...	777 1 0	1,038 6 1	261 5 1	...
Electric Bells, Government Offices ...	...	42 18 6	42 18 6	...
	795 1 0	1,096 14 1	304 3 7	2 10 6
RENT—				
Offices	610 0 0	610 0 0		
Balance in favour of the Department...	20,484 8 8	46,951 18 2		
	51,455 12 11	78,952 11 1		

Crisis Expenditure, not included in the above Statement, is as follows :—

For the Year, 1899	£1,414 16s. 10d.
For the Year, 1900	£16,948 11s. 7d.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

TELEGRAPH EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

Revenue.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sale of Stamps	26,453 18 10	31,710 13 6	5,251 14 8	...
Amount received from Eastern Company ...	4,461 6 2	4,563 15 5	102 9 3	...
Registration Fees	270 11 0	314 6 0	43 15 0	...
Telephone Subscriptions	1,505 9 10	1,646 4 8	140 14 10	...
Special Receipts	1 18 7	24 17 0	22 18 5	...
Received from Chief Paymaster, Transmission Military Inland Messages ...	3,208 1 11	14,611 16 6	11,403 14 7	...
Sums refunded	3 8 0	...	...	6 8 0
Reimbursements	1,908 14 2	1,851 8 10	...	57 5 4
General Deposits	6 4 10	...	...	6 4 10
Sale of Government Property	7 1 0	5 5 6	...	1 15 6
Miscellaneous	13 2 9	11 9 1	...	1 13 8
Official Telephone connections calculated at private rate	438 0 0	520 0 0	82 0 0	...
Electric Bells, Government Offices ...	...	100 0 0	100 0 0	...
Maintenance of Line between Durban and Observatory	12 0 0	12 0 0	...	...
Value of Government Work	13,157 15 10	23,580 14 7	10,422 18 9	...
	51,455 12 11	78,952 11 1	27,570 5 6	73 7 4

Of the expenditure of £16,948 11s. 3d., on account of Crisis during the Year 1900, £5,000 was received from the Treasury.

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, 1899 ...	497,436	509,829	637,270	1,644,565	13,157 15 10	138,297 17 1	51,455 12 11
Year ended 31st December, 1900 ...	716,824	740,362	867,647	2,324,833	23,580 14 7	55,271 16 6	78,852 11 1
Increase	219,358	230,533	230,377	680,268	10,422 18 9	16,973 19 5	27,396 18 2

TELEGRAPH.]

RETURN OF CABLE TRAFFIC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1900.

Month.	Number of Messages received from the Eastern Company for transmission to South African Stations.	Number of Messages 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 Telegraph Company for Messages handed to Department for re-transmission.	Value of Government Messages received from Eastern Telegraph Company for re-transmission.	Total Amount received by Department on Messages received from Eastern Company for re-transmission, &c.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January ...	4,606	5,474	10,080	7,569 9 6	...	149 16 10	681 18 8	199 2 8	1,080 18 2
February ...	5,132	2,935	8,067	3,528 12 2	...	299 18 9	755 13 8	243 18 10	1,299 11 3
March ...	4,044	3,785	7,829	5,475 11 5	...	236 11 0	511 13 5	211 17 4	960 1 9
April ...	2,678	2,431	5,109	2,766 19 7	...	24 8 0	390 12 11	173 0 1	588 1 0
May ...	2,527	2,835	5,362	2,477 17 3	...	57 0 6	408 3 7	223 14 7	688 18 8
June ...	1,302	1,326	2,628	2,179 11 7	6 7 10	25 12 8	173 19 5	97 15 2	303 15 1
July ...	1,597	1,756	3,353	2,249 10 3	22 3 11	57 13 0	147 4 0	127 5 4	354 6 3
August ...	1,895	1 31	3,756	1,998 6 0	25 14 8½	51 3 2	153 3 6	168 3 6	398 4 4½
September ...	1,923	1,775	3,698	1,666 19 1	31 12 0	87 19 5	173 17 3	185 18 4	479 7 0
October ...	2,186	1,929	4,115	2,063 13 3	28 15 7½	35 9 5	177 15 5	153 15 8	395 16 1½
November...	3,480	2,119	5,599	1,74 19 3½	25 10 0½	27 10 2	304 16 11	119 0 6	476 17 7½
December...	2,754	2,432	5,186	3,316 14 8	59 3 6	53 18 6½	*355 17 10½ 328 19 4½	120 13 9	918 12 11½
	34,124	30,658	64,782	37,043 4 0½	199 7 7½	1,107 1 5½	4,563 15 5	2,024 5 9	7,394 10 3

* Western.

TELEGRAPH.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

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

	Telegraph.		Telephona.		Private Wires.	
	Line.	Wire.	Line.	Wire.	Line.	Wire.
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Year ended 31st December, 1899	1,337 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,088	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
Year ended 31st December, 1900	1,422 $\frac{3}{4}$	3,620 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{3}{4}$	175 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$

TELEGRAPH].

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

RETURN OF REVENUE AND TRAFFIC, YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1900.

Stations.	No. of Messages forwarded.	No. of Messages received.	Number of Messages Transmitted (including Second Transmission).	Total.	Value of Government Work.	Revenue.	Total Earnings including Government Work.	Remarks.
1. Acton Homes ...	163	204	...	367				Re-opened in July, 1900.
2. Albert Falls ...	849	609	...	1,458				
3. Albertina ...	896	694	...	1,590				Re-opened in August, 1900.
4. Alexandra Junction ...	161	88	...	249				Opened in August, 1900.
5. Avoca ...	368	483	...	851				
6. Balgowan ...	650	581	...	1,231				
7. Batstones ...	1,872	1,641	...	3,513				
8. Belfort ...	72	53	...	125				
9. Bellair ...	1,582	2,791	...	4,373				
10. Barea Road ...	906	...	...	906				
11. Besters ...	1,217	580	...	1,797				Re-opened in June.
12. Boston ...	279	275	...	554				
13. Bothas Hill ...	364	284	...	648				
14. Brakwal ...	52	25	...	77				Re-opened in August.
15. Bulwer ...	1,563	1,359	2,422	5,344				
16. Camperdown ...	872	1,032	...	1,904				
17. Cato-Ridge ...	326	418	...	744				
18. Charlestown ...	3,083	2,067	...	5,150				Re-opened in June.
19. Charlestown Rail ...	30	6	...	36				Temporary Office.
20. Chieveley ...	1,968	1,203	...	3,171				
21. Chieveley Camp ...	2,734	2,327	...	5,061				Temporary Office closed in February.
22. Cleveley ...	196	362	78	636				
23. Cleveland Hill ...	416	344	...	760				
24. Colenso ...	1,666	1,187	...	2,853				Re-opened in May.
25. Colenso Camp ...	5,655	5,245	53	10,953				Temporary Office closed in May.
26. Congella ...	294	477	...	771				
27. Dalton ...	1,028	727	...	1,755				Opened in February.
28. Dambausen ...	1,138	1,110	...	2,248				Re-opened in May.
29. Dangle Road ...	951	869	...	1,820				
30. Duff's Road ...	125	189	...	314				
31. Dundee ...	21,437	17,018	4,850	43,305				
32. Dundee Coalfields ...	882	441	...	1,323				Re-opened in June.
33. Durban ...	196,502	207,768	397,688	801,958				
34. Durban Rail ...	182	258	2	442				
35. Elands Laagte ...	2,634	1,594	...	4,278				Re-opened in March.
36. Ennersdale ...	673	551	...	1,224				
37. Eshowe ...	7,683	7,570	9,712	24,965				
38. Eshowe Camp ...	1,193	1,134	...	2,327				Temporary Office closed in August.
39. Estcourt ...	15,840	14,625	328	45,293				
40. Estcourt Rail ...	797	429	36	1,262				
41. Fox Hill ...	164	155	...	319				
42. Frere Camp ...	7,202	6,645	349	14,196				Temporary Office closed in March.
43. Frere ...	1,861	1,070	...	2,451				
44. Gillitts ...	348	520	...	868				
45. Glencoe Junction ...	2,916	1,941	569	5,426				Re-opened in May.
46. Greytown ...	11,649	10,580	4,200	26,429				
47. Greyville ...	747	1,138	...	1,885				
48. Harding ...	2,497	2,070	1,244	5,811				
49. Harrismith ...	1,122	1,039	312	2,473				
50. Harrismith Rail ...	80	52	...	132				Opened for August month only.
51. Hatting Spruit ...	944	657	...	1,601				Opened in August.
52. Helpmakaar ...	249	215	...	464				Re-opened in June.
53. Highflats ...	327	376	...	703				Re-opened in September.
54. Highflats Police Camp ...	94	72	...	166				
55. Highlands ...	2,669	2,106	...	4,775				
56. Hillcrest ...	363	345	...	708				
57. Hilton Road ...	1,637	1,643	...	3,280				Opened in June.
58. Howick ...	8,728	7,505	3,900	20,133				
59. Howick Rail ...	1,595	1,417	...	3,012				
60. Ifafa ...	182	108	...	290				
61. Illovo ...	313	421	...	734				
62. Illovo Rail ...	408	191	...	599				
63. Impendle ...	374	416	...	790				
64. Inchauga ...	1,798	1,448	...	3,246				
65. Ingagane ...	3,491	3,064	...	6,555				Re-opened in May.
66. Ingogo ...	799	319	...	1,118				Re-opened in June.
67. Ingwavuma ...	11	...	...	11				Opened in December.
68. Isipingo ...	892	942	...	1,834				
69. Ixopo ...	2,614	2,020	2,770	7,404				
70. Kearsney ...	423	554	...	977				
71. Keat's Drift ...	424	298	...	722				
72. Krantzklouf ...	133	135	...	268				
73. Krantzkop ...	1,148	955	...	2,103	23,580 14 7	55,271 16 6	78,852 11 1	
74. Ladysmith ...	48,925	42,536	73,966	165,427				Re-opened in March.
75. Ladysmith Rail ...	1,763	542	...	2,305				
76. Lidgetton ...	585	653	...	1,238				
77. Lower Tagela ...	3,279	2,719	...	5,998				
78. Lower Unkomaas ...	1,900	1,740	...	3,640				
79. Mahlabatini ...	301	333	...	634				
80. Malvern ...	1,306	1,575	...	2,881				
81. Manderston ...	305	428	...	733				
82. Mapumulo ...	389	419	...	808				
83. Melmoth ...	3,318	2,538	1,732	7,628				
84. Mid-Illovo ...	216	165	...	381				
85. Modderspruit ...	1,045	1,094	...	2,139				Opened in May.
86. Moguntha ...	292	285	...	577				
87. Mooi River ...	19,153	15,783	94	35,030				
88. Mount Edgecombe ...	1,321	1,309	...	2,630				
89. Mount Prospect ...	152	105	...	257				
90. Musgrave Road ...	4,987	15,946	...	20,933				Re-opened in July.
91. Ndwedwe ...	370	328	...	698				
92. Newcastle ...	46,414	50,740	37,534	134,688				
93. Newcastle Rail ...	1,256	...	...	...	

34. Durban Rail	182	258	2	442					
35. Elands Laagte	2,684	1,594	...	4,278					
36. Eumersdale	673	551	...	1,224					
37. Eshowe	7,683	7,570	9,712	24,965					
38. Eshowe Camp...	1,193	1,134	...	2,327					
39. Estcourt	15,840	14,625	14,828	45,293					
40. Estcourt Rail	797	429	36	1,262					
41. Fox Hill	164	155	...	319					
42. Frene Camp	7,202	6,645	349	14,196					
43. Frene	1,381	1,070	...	2,451					
44. Gillits	348	520	...	868					
45. Glencoe Junction	2,916	1,941	569	5,426					
46. Greytown	11,649	10,580	4,200	26,429					
47. Greyville	747	1,138	...	1,885					
48. Harding	2,497	2,070	1,244	5,611					
49. Harrismith	1,122	1,039	312	2,473					
50. Harrismith Rail	80	52	...	132					
51. Hatting Spruit	944	657	...	1,601					
52. Helpmakaar	519	215	...	464					
53. Highflats	327	376	...	703					
54. Highflats Police Camp	94	72	...	166					
55. Highlands	2,669	2,106	...	4,775					
56. Hillcrest	363	345	...	708					
57. Hilton Road	1,637	1,643	...	3,280					
58. Howick	8,728	7,505	3,900	20,133					
59. Howick Rail	1,595	1,417	...	3,012					
60. Ifafa...	182	168	...	350					
61. Illovo	313	421	...	734					
62. Illovo Rail	408	191	...	599					
63. Impedible	374	416	...	790					
64. Inxanga	1,798	1,448	...	3,246					
65. Ingagane	3,491	3,064	...	6,555					
66. Ingogo	799	319	...	1,118					
67. Ingwavuma	11	...	...	11					
68. Isipingo	892	942	...	1,834					
69. Isopo	2,614	2,020	2,770	7,404					
70. Kearsney	423	554	...	977					
71. Keats's Drift	424	298	...	722					
72. Krantzklöof	133	135	...	268					
73. Krantzklöof	1,148	955	...	2,103					
74. Ladysmith	48,925	42,536	73,966	165,427					
75. Ladysmith Rail	1,763	542	...	2,305					
76. Lidgetton	565	653	...	1,238					
77. Lower Tugela	2,279	2,719	...	5,998					
78. Lower Umkomaas	1,900	1,740	...	3,640					
79. Mahlabatini	301	333	...	634					
80. Malvern	1,306	1,575	...	2,881					
81. Mauderston	305	428	...	733					
82. Mapunulo	339	419	...	808					
83. Melmoth	3,318	2,538	1,732	7,628					
84. Mid-Illovo	216	165	...	381					
85. Moddersport	1,045	1,094	...	2,139					
86. Mognutia	292	285	...	577					
87. Mool River	19,153	15,783	94	35,030					
88. Mount Edgecombe	1,321	1,309	...	2,630					
89. Mount Prospect	152	105	...	257					
90. Mt. Olive Road	4,987	15,946	...	20,933					
91. Ndwedwe	370	328	...	698					
92. Newcastle	46,414	50,740	37,534	134,688					
93. Newcastle Rail	1,356	374	...	1,730					
94. New Hanover	2,000	2,099	...	4,099					
95. Nondweni	312	154	...	466					
96. Nongoma	1,230	868	924	3,022					
97. Noodsberg Road	260	244	...	504					
98. Northdene	263	406	...	669					
99. Nottingham Road	3,223	3,086	...	6,309					
100. Nqutu	1,344	1,063	...	2,407					
101. Ottawa	157	269	...	426					
102. Park Rynie	963	703	...	1,666					
103. Phoenix	172	223	...	395					
104. Pietermaritzburg	147,168	191,691	244,616	583,475					
105. Pietermaritzburg Rail	8,607	397	2	9,006					
106. Pieters	211	135	...	346					
107. Pinetown	1,339	2,461	...	4,300					
108. Pinetown Bridge	2,253	1,191	...	3,444					
109. Point	31,483	24,532	...	56,015					
110. Port Shepstone	2,762	1,879	7,318	11,959					
111. Reunton	319	316	...	635					
112. Richmond	3,631	4,682	6,524	14,840					
113. Richmond Rail	1,148	12	...	1,160					
114. Rosetta	585	770	...	1,355					
115. Seven Oaks	734	775	...	1,509					
116. South Coast Junction	680	807	...	1,487					
117. Stanger	3,270	3,633	14,626	21,529					
118. Stanger Rail	239	16	...	255					
119. Stamford Hill	664	1,161	...	1,825					
120. Thornville Junction	1,305	1,376	...	2,681					
121. Tongaat	2,200	2,066	...	4,266					
122. Ubombo	468	178	...	646					
123. Umbilo	355	636	...	993					
124. Umhlali	362	494	...	856					
125. Umhlali Rail	335	191	...	526					
126. Umsindasi	165	236	...	401					
127. Umgeni	784	1,294	...	2,078					
128. Umsinga	791	605	...	1,396					
129. Umtwalumi	353	362	...	715					
130. Umtavuna	282	268	...	550					
131. Umsinkulu	245	720	...	965					
132. Umzinto	3,710	3,920	3,852	11,482					
133. Umzinto Rail	157	13	...	170					
134. Upper Tugela	887	672	...	1,559					
135. Van Keenen's	2,838	1,811	...	4,649					
136. Vants Drift	305	230	...	535					
137. Vernlam	4,748	4,754	8,800	18,302					
138. Victoria	21	1	...	22					
139. Volksrust	2,593	4,430	24,646	31,669					
140. Volksrust Rail	201	115	...	316					
141. Waschbank	946	622	...	1,568					
142. Weenen	2,332	1,329	...	3,661					
143. Wessels Nek	533	334	...	867					
144. West's	21	92	...	123					
145. Willow Grange	455	485	...	940					
146. Woodcote	28	60	...	88					
147. York	144	229	...	373					
148. Zwaartkop	302	557	...	859					
Totals	716,624	740,362	867,647	2,324,833	23,580 14 7	55,271 16 6	78,852 11 1		

Re-opened in March.

Temporary Office closed in August.

Temporary Office closed in March.

Re-opened in May.

Opened for August month only.
Opened in August.
Re-opened in June.
Re-opened in September.

Opened in June.

Re-opened in May.
Re-opened in June.
Opened in December.

Re-opened in March.

" "

Opened in May.

Re-opened in July.

Re-opened in May.

" "

Re-opened in June.

Opened in April.

Re-opened in June.

Re-opened in March.

Opened in April.

Opened in April.

Re-opened in May.
Opened in August.

" "

Re-opened in August.

August and December months only.
Temporary Office for June and July

Re-opened in May. " "

" "

Re-opened in August.