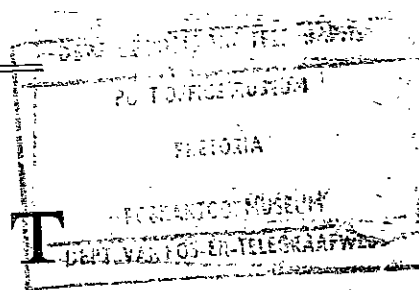




COLONY OF NATAL.

REPORT



OF THE

POSTMASTER-GENERAL

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1904.

PIETERMARITZBURG

"TIMES" PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, LTD.

1905.

Report of the Postmaster-General for the Year ended 31st December, 1904.

HONOURABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—

I have the honour to submit my report on the Post Office Department for the year ended 31st December, 1904.

Revenue and Expenditure.—The total revenue of the Department (Postal and Telegraph Branches) for the financial year ended 30th June, 1904, amounted to £205,976 15s. 9d., as compared with £238,778 11s. 11d.—the previous year's revenue—and the expenditure to £167,960 7s. 3d., as compared with £168,099 10s. 1d. for the preceding financial year.

The revenue thus exceeded the expenditure by £38,016 7s. 9d.

Indirect Credits and Debits.—The estimated value of work done for other Government Departments, for which no payment was made, was £28,183 10s. 9d., and the postage value of newspapers conveyed free £8,123 8s. 1d., whilst indirect credits to be allowed to this Department in respect of superannuation deductions from salaries and rent paid to the Public Works Department for official quarters amount to £1,650 12s. 8d.

Adding these items to the surplus revenue brings the value of the Post Office surplus up to £75,973 19s. 3d.

There are, however, charges paid out of other Department's votes, such as interest on loans, office expenses, erection of and repairs to Post Office Buildings, amounting approximately to £26,316 8s. 10d., which are rightly chargeable against my Department, and reduce the surplus to £49,657 10s. 5d., which may be taken as the actual profit on the year's working.

Collection of Customs Revenue.—In addition to its own revenue the Post Office collected on behalf of the Customs Department during the calendar year the sum of £9,418 6s. 1½d.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

Extension of South African Postal Union.—The Province of Mozambique (Portuguese East Africa) having notified its adherence to the South African Postal Union Convention, all classes of correspondence—also Money and Postal Orders—may be exchanged at the same rate and under the same conditions as obtain in the case of the Cape Colony, Transvaal, etc., except that as regards Telegraphic Money Orders a higher charge is made when the telegram of advice is addressed to an office outside the District of Lourenço Marques.

Postage on Newspapers.—A proposition made by the New Zealand Postal Authorities that newspapers should be forwarded thence to Natal for one penny, irrespective of weight, has been agreed to; no change, however, being made in the existing rates as regards newspapers sent in the reverse direction.

Improved Mail Service between Natal and Beira.—Formerly, mails to and from Beira were conveyed by sea as opportunity offered, but as ships sailed only at irregular intervals and the time occupied varied considerably, arrangements were made for an overland service, via Rhodesia, whereby mails are now regularly exchanged twice weekly. Parcels, however, continue to be conveyed by the sea route.

Increased maximum for Single Money Orders.—The maximum amount for which a single Money Order may be drawn in Natal upon countries and colonies other than the Australian Commonwealth, Portuguese East Africa, Nyassaland (British Central Africa), Zanzibar, and British East Africa has been increased from £10 to £40.

Money Order Exchange with Norway.—Negotiations are now proceeding with a view to establishing a direct Money Order exchange with Norway. At present the British Post Office acts as intermediary, deducting a small commission from the amount of each Order for the service rendered. Under the proposed arrangement—which is warranted by the amount of business transacted—the full value of Order will be paid on presentation.

Illustrated Post Cards.—Illustrated Post Cards with a space reserved on the "address" side for correspondence are now accepted for transmission at the rates applicable to Post Cards, when addressed to places within the South African Postal Union, provided that such correspondence in no way interferes with the stamping or marking of the Postal Service.

Undeliverable Mail Matter.—An amendment having been made to Section 2 of Act 12, 1898, Postmasters are now empowered to destroy any newspaper, printed circular, advertisement or the like remaining unclaimed after the expiration of a specified period. This rule has so far been applied only to such articles posted within the Colony, but negotiations are being conducted with other Administrations with a view to its extension. So far, the majority of the replies received have been favourable.

Outward European Mail.—Owing to the discontinuance in April of the 9.10 a.m. train from Durban to the Transvaal, it has been necessary to discontinue the supplementary European mail previously forwarded thereby on Sunday, and to despatch the final mail by the train leaving Durban at 6 p.m. Saturdays, thus considerably curtailing the latest hour at which correspondence can be posted through out the Colony.

Exchange of Postal Orders with the United Kingdom.—Arrangements for the exchange of Postal Orders between Natal and the United Kingdom have not as yet been concluded, although the negotiations have been proceeding for a long time past. It is, however, hoped that an agreement will now be come to between the Imperial Post Office and the South African Colonies under which British Postal Orders of certain denominations will be issued in Natal for payment in the United Kingdom and vice versa.

Extension of Postal Draft System.—On the first of September the Postal Draft system was extended to include the Orange River Colony.

Offices.—Money Order Offices have been opened at Bellair, Camperdown, and Lower Umkomaas and in Durban at Berea Road, Clarke Road and East End.

The designations of the following Post Offices have been changed :—

From.	To.
✓ Greyling Street, Pietermaritzburg	Victoria Road, Pietermaritzburg.
✓ New Scotland, " "	Alexandra Road, " "
✓ Noodsberg Road Rail " "	Schroeders.

During the year 26 Post Offices and Postal Agencies were opened and 6 closed, making the total number 359, as compared with 339 in 1903.

The Post Office at Isipingo has been transferred to the Railway Station, where, previously, the telegraph work only had been carried on.

Letter Boxes.—The number of pillar, lamp, and wall boxes in use in the Colony on the 31st December was 58. The lamp boxes which have recently been introduced have proved to be of much convenience in towns, are easy to fix, cost far less and are cheaper to maintain than pillar or wall boxes.

Post Carts.—On the 2nd May the Post Cart conveying mails between Newcastle and Uitenhage commenced running daily, except Sunday, in each direction, instead of only thrice weekly.

Since the opening of the Pietermaritzburg-Elandskop section of the Natal-Cape Railway the Post Cart service between Pietermaritzburg and Bulwer has been discontinued, the mails being conveyed by train to Elandskop and intermediate stations, thence by Post Cart to Bulwer, Impendhle and places en route.

Delivery of Correspondence by Postmen.—A house-to-house delivery of correspondence was commenced at Vryheid on the first of July.

On the 6th November a Parcel delivery was established in Maritzburg. Under this arrangement overseas as well as local and Inter-Colonial parcels are delivered at the doors of the houses to which they are addressed. As soon as the necessary arrangements can be made it is proposed to establish a similar service at other places where a house-to-house delivery is made.

Night Sorting.—On the 4th January night duties were introduced at Durban. This has proved of much value, as it has led to an acceleration in the delivery of letters for many local places, and at the same time given a much later posting at Durban.

South African Postal Conference.—The Conference of the Representatives of the South African Postal Union, which it was expected would have been held in August, was once again postponed, *since*

Dead and Returned Correspondence.—Particulars of the Articles received and dealt with in the Returned Letter Branch are given hereunder :—

Ordinary Letters returned to writers in the Colony	...	...	99,115
Registered Letters returned to writers in the Colony	...	...	872
Returned unopened to Foreign Countries	...	...	75,783
Destroyed owing to illegible addresses, and senders being unknown	...	...	55,300

The majority of the letters destroyed were written by Natives and Indians whose names and addresses were illegible. Letters written by Natives are on the increase yearly, which tends to show that education among the Natives is fast spreading.

A large number of articles without wrappers—chiefly newspapers—continue to be received in the Colony by the European mail every week, owing to insecure wrapping.

Articles of value in the form of Cheques, Money Orders, Postal Orders, Drafts, and Postage Stamps found in ordinary letters returned within the Colony amounted to £2,385 14s. 4d.

TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

Traffic.—The following comparative statement shows the traffic dealt with during the last two years :—

Year.	Forwarded.	Received.	Transmitted.	Total.	Decrease in the Number of Telegrams sent.
1903	723,648	784,420	1,041,964	2,550,032	...
1904	634,067	700,194	932,436	2,266,697	89,581

Revenue and Indirect Credits.—For the financial year ended 30th June, 1904, the receipts for telegraphic business amounted to £57,624 17s. 6d. £10,983 13s. 7d. represented the value of work done for Government Departments, and £65 15s. 1d. the 50 per cent. reduction on telegrams transmitted on behalf of the Military Authorities, making a total of £69,474 6s. 2d. a decrease on the previous year of £19,520 13s. 7d.

The amount received from the Military Authorities for the transmission of military telegrams was £867 15s. 1d., a decrease of £9,285 10s. 5d. on the previous year's collections.

Offices.—The following Telegraph and Telephone Offices were opened during the year :—

✓ Berea Road, Durban.	✓ Noodsberg Road.
✓ De Jager's Drift.	✓ Otto's Bluff.
✓ Edendale.	✓ Pepworth.
✓ Elandsdorp.	✓ Shafton Grange.
✓ Greenwood Park.	✓ Taylor's.
✓ Henley.	✓ Wartburg.
✓ Hillary's.	✓ Woodside.

The following Offices were closed during the year :—

✓ Mimosa.
✓ Modder Spruit.
✓ Reichenau.

The designations of the undermentioned offices have been changed :—

From.	To.
✓ Berea Road, Durban ...	Berea Road Rail.
✓ New Scotland, Pietermaritzburg ...	Alexander Road, Pietermaritzburg.
✓ Noodsberg Road (Rail) ...	Schroeders.
✓ Victoria Road, Pietermaritzburg ...	Victoria Rail, Pietermaritzburg.

ENGINEERING BRANCH.

The more important works carried out in the Engineering Branch during the year were as follows :—

New Lines erected :—

- Pietermaritzburg to Mooi River (section of Pietermaritzburg to Ladysmith new line, carrying 10 wires, skirting Railway). This has taken the place of the old Railway Line of eight wires, which has been pulled down.
- Umsindusi Depot to Elandsdorp (skirting Natal-Cape Railway).
- Hovick to Shafton Grange and Woodside.
- Schroeders to Noodsberg Road and Wartburg.

New wires erected on existing lines of poles.

- Durban to Berea Road, Durban.
- Pietermaritzburg to Dundee, three wires.
- Dundee to Newcastle, two wires.
- Charlestown to Coldstream (Natal-Transvaal border) one wire.

(The three latter are in completion of a scheme, commenced in 1903, for providing improved facilities with the Transvaal.)

South Coast Junction to Wests (for Electric Train Staff working by Railway Department two wires.

Observatory to Bluff, two wires for the new Time Ball.

Point to Durban (Metallic Telephone Junction Circuit for use between the Harbour and Railway Telephone Exchanges), two wires.

Point to Bluff (Metallic Telephone Junction Circuit for use between the Harbour and Railway Telephone Exchanges), two wires.

Telephone Revenue.—Telephone subscriptions amounting to £4,589 12s. 6d. were collected during the year ended June 30th, whilst the value of Official connections, for which no charge was made, was £677.

Pietermaritzburg Telephone Exchange.—The work of transferring the Pietermaritzburg Telephone Exchange from Church Street to the premises at the rear of the new General Post Office and the conversion of the service into a metallic circuit system, was completed in July last, the final change over the system having been carried out with a minimum of inconvenience to the subscribers. The improvement in the working of the system has even exceeded expectations, and the system now compares favourably with any other. Since the transfer was effected 109 additional connections have been established. The total number of connections on the 31st December was 591, and there were then sixty applications for connections on hand.

Dundee Telephone Exchange.—The establishment of a Telephone Exchange at Dundee, commenced in November, 1903, was completed, and the system opened on the 1st February with 50 connections. Extensions have been carried out during the year, and on the 31st December there were 78 connections.

Newcastle Telephone Exchange.—At Newcastle, the work of installing the Telephone Exchange was commenced in May and completed in September; the system being opened on the first of the month with 49 connections, which were subsequently augmented, the number at the end of the year being 66.

Private Telephone Lines.—Several private Telephone lines have been erected in different parts of the Colony, and a number of new connections have been added to the Ladysmith Exchange, the total number on the 31st December being 91.

Telephone Operators.—The introduction of Europeans, in place of the present Indian Night Operators at the Telephone Exchange, is contemplated, and will be brought into operation on the 1st February next.

Works carried out for other Departments.—During the year a number of works have been carried out for the Railway Department, the more important of which were as follows:—

The introduction of Electric Train Staff working between South Coast Junction and Wests including the intermediate stations at Clairmont and Jacobs.

The fitting-up of a new Electric Train Staff Station at Naval Hill.

The establishment of a Phonophore connection at No. 3 Reversing Station on the Orange River Colony Branch Line.

The fitting-up of Distant Signal Repeaters at Berea Road, Congella, Bellair, Alverston, and Winters Kloof Railway Stations.

The installing of Electric Bells and Telephones in the new portion of the Railway Offices, Durban.

The installation of a Telephone Exchange System in the new offices of the Engineer-in-Chief of Railways, Pietermaritzburg. (This work will not be completed until the building is occupied in February, 1905.)

Work has been in progress for some time for the Harbour Department in connection with the installation of a larger Telephone Switchboard in their own offices at the Point, with additional connections, and with improved communication between it and the Railway Department's System at Durban. This work will be completed about the end of February, 1905, when the switchboard presently in use at the Point will be transferred to Wests, there to be used for the purpose of joining existing and new connections through to the Durban and Point Exchanges.

Pressing works only executed.—In view of Treasury instructions, only such work in connection with the maintenance of the system as has been absolutely necessary, has been carried out.

Reconstruction of Main Lines.—The reconstruction of main lines throughout the Colony during the past years, which will be completed on the reconstruction of the Railway Line above Mooi River, has, by the introduction of iron poles and copper wires, put the Colony's Telegraph System in a most excellent condition. The working capacity of the lines has been improved and increased, while the result of the construction will reduce very considerably the cost of maintenance.

The life of these lines in a country such as this will be very long, and one cannot but congratulate the Colony on possessing so good a system.

Cable Messages.—The charges collected during the year by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company on cable messages sent to and from South Africa exceeded £300,000, and, in accordance with the agreement with the Company, the annual subsidy payable by Natal was refunded.

Bonus to Telegraph Messengers.—The special inducement offered to Telegraph Messengers by regular attendance at the Government Night Schools, and general advancement in educational attainments, has resulted this year in 16 messengers at Pietermaritzburg and 15 at Durban being awarded a bonus of £5 each.

Hours of Attendance.—The weekly hours of attendance for telegraph business have been extended at Ladysmith, Newcastle, and Dundee, and also at a large number of Railway Offices.

Staff.—The number of persons employed by the Department on the 31st December, 1904, was 1,288, of whom 333 were on the permanent establishment.

They may be classified as follows :—

		Postal and Telegraph.	Engineering Branch.
Europeans	...	870	70
Natives	...	418	158
		<hr/> 1,288	<hr/> 228

GENERAL REMARKS.

Treatment of Unregistered Parcels.—From the first of January the practice of obtaining receipts from the addressees of unregistered Inland Parcels was discontinued, and on the first of May this exemption was extended to unregistered parcels received from other Countries. This especially benefited those who rent private bags, or are in the habit of sending Natives—sometimes for a considerable distance—for their correspondence, as they are now able to receive their parcels at once, instead of being obliged to first return the discharged receipt to the Post Office.

The cumbersome method of dealing with unregistered parcels in transit, spoken of in my last report, has also been abolished.

The fee of 2d. formerly demanded for a receipt for an unregistered parcel has been abolished, and the certificate of posting is now given free of charge, if applied for when the parcel is handed in.

Weight Limit for South African Parcels—Suggested Increase.—It has been suggested that the weight limit for South African parcels addressed to places served by railway should be increased to 10 lbs. As, however, it is undesirable there should be two weight limits, and as the limit for other countries cannot be similarly raised—it being necessary that the weight of mails conveyed by post carrier should be kept as low as possible—the question has been allowed to stand over for consideration at the next Conference of the South African Postal Union Representatives.

Complaints of Delay to Newspapers.—Numerous complaints of delay in the transmission of daily newspapers have arisen, but enquiry has elicited the fact that, in the majority of instances, the fault lies with the Publishers and not with the Department.

Postal Arrangements at Militia Camps.—Special arrangements were made for dealing with correspondence for and from members of the Militia Corps attending the encampments at Heineburg and Blood River, and also in connection with the Cadet encampment at Pietermaritzburg.

Post Office Guide.—Lists of private box holders and of registered telegraphic addresses, as well as the Department's telephone subscribers at the various towns, are now published in the Post Office Guide.

Private Boxes.—The number of private boxes rented on the 31st December was 2,735, as compared with 1,794 at the end of the preceding year.

With a view to providing against possible loss to the Department by reason of carelessness in the use of private boxes, a deposit of 5s. is now collected from renters of private boxes.

This deposit—which was not levied in the case of persons already in possession of boxes at time of its institution—is refunded when a box is given up, provided that the box, lock and keys are in good order and repair, fair wear and tear only excepted.

Private Bags.—The number of private bags rented on 31st December was 317, as compared with 270 at the end of the previous year.

It has been found that the private bags in general use are not of the most suitable pattern, after continued exposure to all weathers, the leather softens, and this frequently renders it possible to abstract correspondence without unlocking the bag. With a view to preventing this, it has been arranged that the bags should in future be fitted with an improved fastening, and also with flaps on the inside, thus rendering it practically impossible to withdraw the contents without leaving obvious trace of violation.

Examination of Accounts.—Arrangements have been made for the systematic examination of accounts at all Money Order Offices in the Colony. Those established at railway stations will be checked by the Railway Department's Auditors, and two offices—the expense of specially visiting which is not warranted—will be dealt with by the Government Auditors.

Official Correspondence.—With a view to obviating the objections to the franking of correspondence by so large a number of persons all over the Colony, to which I called attention in my last Annual Report, arrangements have been made whereby, from the 15th February, 1905, franking is to be strictly confined to His Excellency the Governor and Staff, Ministers, Judges, the President and Clerk of the Legislative Council, the Speaker and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and Heads of Civil and Military Departments. Subordinate officers will use either franked envelopes supplied by their Departmental head, or official postage labels, as may be convenient.

Delivery of Correspondence by Native Carriers.—An experimental service in connection with the question of free delivery of correspondence to persons residing on native carrier mail routes has recently been introduced with satisfactory results, and it is my intention to extend the system to other parts of the Colony.

Briefly, the method of working is as follows:—

The carrier is provided with a large haversack, divided into pockets or compartments. Each person's letters are tied up separately, and those for the house nearest the Post Office are placed in the first compartment, and so on, in the order in which the houses are passed. Should there be nothing for a particular house, the carrier's attention is directed to the fact. One compartment is reserved for letters collected by the carrier. For houses off the mail route locked roadside boxes are provided and fixed on the postman's route by the persons desirous of using them. These boxes are partitioned into two parts, the lower for letters delivered and the upper for letters collected. The carrier holds a key for each box.

Travelling Post Office.—Since the 18th August last the sorting of the European mail in the Travelling Post Office has been performed in a new van constructed on the most up-to-date principles. The staff employed are thereby afforded much greater facilities for dealing with the correspondence in a prompt and efficient manner, and, by reason of the increased space it has been possible for a larger number of direct bags to be made up, thus minimising delay in delivery at many of the smaller offices.

The old van, which had been in use for some years, was not sufficiently large to meet present requirements; it had, in fact, not been specially designed for the work and was badly lighted and ill ventilated.

Fires.—The store in which the Marburg Post and Telegraph Office was situated was totally destroyed by fire on the evening of January 3rd. All Government property—including stamps and postal orders—was destroyed, with the exception of a sovereign which was afterwards recovered in a damaged condition. The telegraph office was re-opened on February 2nd, postal business having in the meantime been carried on at the Sub-Postmaster's residence.

The Post Office at Bulstrodes, Durban, was burnt on July 11th, and postal property—including stamps, cards and wrappers to the value of £9 11s. 7d.—was destroyed or damaged. Ordinary Postal business was resumed in adjacent premises on the 13th idem and Money Order and Postal Order transactions on the 22nd.

A fire broke out on the night of the 1st October in the premises in which the post office at West Durban was situated, resulting in the disappearance of a quantity of postal property, including stamps, etc., to the value of £58 4s. 10d.

Prosecutions, Robberies, etc.—A railway guard was sentenced in March last to two years' imprisonment with hard labour for robbing mails entrusted to his care during their conveyance on the Glencolton - Nqutu Road branch line in October, 1903.

A coloured man was convicted at Eshowe of forging the signature of a European to a telegram and postal orders, valued £1 each, whereby payment of the latter was obtained, and was sentenced to six months' hard labour and 20 lashes.

Another coloured man, charged with receiving the money, knowing it to have been stolen, was also convicted and sentenced to two months' hard labour.

A Native was convicted at Dundee of fraudulently claiming a letter intended for another Native and attempting to cash a Money Order for £5 which was contained therein. A sentence of four months' hard labour was imposed.

A Native Messenger at Paulpietersburg, convicted of stealing a registered letter containing a Money Order for £6, was sentenced to six months' hard labour and 15 strokes with the birch.

Suspicion having arisen owing to the non-receipt of a letter containing 5s., forwarded in a private bag to the Postmaster Mooi River, a similar letter as a test was enclosed in the bag. This letter also failing to reach its destination, the native carrier who conveyed the bag was taken to the Police Station and searched, when the letter—which had been marked—were found concealed in a fold of his coat. He subsequently was charged with theft, found guilty, and sentenced to three months' hard labour and 15 lashes.

On the night of the 23rd-24th March, mail bags from Pietermaritzburg and Durban to Van Reenen and from Pietermaritzburg to Besters were stolen from the guard's van of a train between Pietermaritzburg and Mooi River. The last mentioned bag was found empty three weeks later three-quarters of a mile above Boshoff's Road station.

The matter was placed in the hands of the Railway Police, who, however, were unsuccessful in their endeavours to trace the offender or offenders.

The Railway Station at Phoenix was broken into on the night of the 13th April, and Stamps and Postal Orders to the value of £7 3s. 3d. damaged, whilst £2 1s. 1d., the property of this Department, was stolen. The culprits—two Natives—were arrested by the Railway Police, and sentenced to three years' hard labour each.

The Railway Station at Reunion was also entered on the night of the 26th-27th August, and Postage Stamps and cash to the value of £8 2s. 3d., belonging to this Department, abstracted from the safe. No clue was discovered, and the Police were consequently unable to make any arrests.

On the night of the 19th October, the Berea Road Post Office, Durban, was entered, and the safe removed to the back of the premises. Attempts had been made to open it, which proved futile.

A burglary was committed at Clairmont Railway Station on the night of the 30th October, Postal cash and Stamps amounting to £9 5s. 11d. being stolen. Postal Orders to the value of 4s. 9d. were also taken but were subsequently recovered near the station. Four Natives were arrested on suspicion, but were discharged owing to the lack of evidence, and no further arrests have been made.

Progress since 1899.—Although there has, during the year, been a considerable falling off in the number of letters, etc., dealt with as compared with 1903, I see no cause for alarm, for I find that the work done was more than twice as much as that dealt with during the year 1899 (the year the Boer War broke out).

During the year 1899 22,661,953 Letters and Parcels were dealt with, while last year the number was 53,395,108.

Similarly the telegraph work done during the year shows a large increase over that for 1899, the total number of telegrams dealt with being as follows:—

1904	...	...	...	...	...	2,266,697
1899	...	...	...	...	...	1,644,565

or an increase of 622,132.

Ce reforms not yet practicable.—I regret that, in consequence of the falling Revenue, it has not been deemed advisable to reduce the parcel post rate or increase the weight of the 1d. letter. These are reforms which I am anxious to see carried out, and I trust that at no distant date the finances of the Colony will admit of its being done.

Express Delivery.—Proposals have already been put forward for the introduction of an express delivery service at the more important towns of the Colony, and as soon as I receive the necessary sanction, the service will be established.

Articles delivered in Durban.—The number of postal packets, other than parcels, delivered in Durban during the year was 18,754,944, whilst the parcels numbered 97,760.

Motor Car Mail Services.—In several instances when post cart contracts have been vacant, tenders for a service by Motor Car have been called for, but in no case has anyone sent in a Tender. Even persons in the Motor Car business do not, apparently, see their way to undertake a service by Motor Car, and from this and the failure of the Motor Car experiment on the Potchefstroom-Mafeking Post Route, one can only conclude that the time is not yet ripe for Motor Post Car services. Certain it is that the cost of such services would be greatly in excess of those performed by the present post carts, while the frequency with which on heavy roads motor cars fail would render those services far less reliable than they are now.

C. MAXWELL-HIBBERD,
Postmaster-General.

Pietermaritzburg,
21st February, 1905.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH EXPENDITURE

Actual Post and Telegraph Expenditure : —

<i>Actual Post and Telegraph Expenditure:—</i>				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries ...	...	...	...	118,784	18	7			
Mails ...	...	...	...	22,194	15	0			
Contingent and Other Expenses	...	...	...	3,857	3	11			
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	20,569	9	5			
Rent ...	..	...	...	2,554	0	4			
				<hr/>			167,960	7	3
<i>Excess of Revenue over Expenditure</i>	...	...	...				38,016	7	9

The more than one million dollars worth of equipment and supplies which were shipped to the front during the last year have been used up.

£205,976 15 0

Indirect Charges to be taken up:—

Direct Charges to be taken up:—					
Pensions, etc., paid through Treasury (Schedule 1)	...			1,127	19 0
Stationery, etc., paid through Colonial Secretary (Schedule 2)		3,440	18 7		
Travelling and Subsistence paid through Colonial Secretary (Schedule 2)	...		132 8 5		
				3,573	7 0
Interest on Telegraph Loan Works (Schedule 3)	...			4,994	15 4
Interest on Postal Buildings from Loans (Schedule 4)	...			3,140	18 10
Works and Services Met by P.W.D. (Schedule 5)	...			11,631	4 8
Railway Passes supplied free	...			1,848	4 0
				<u>£26,316</u>	<u>8 10</u>
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	...			38,016	7 9
Less Excess of Services received over-rendered...	...			24,665	16 2

£13,350 11 7

AND REVENUE FOR THE YEAR 1903-04.

Actual Post and Telegraph Revenue.

Sale of Postage Stamps :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postal ...	182,800	5	8			
Less transferred to Stamps	58,500	0	0			
				124,300	5	8
				8,315	1	8
<i>Postage</i> ...						
<i>Fees of Office :—</i>						
Money Order Commission	862	0	3			
Fees on Money Orders issued	6,198	12	8			
Postal Order Poundage	633	9	3			
Private Box Fees	1,927	1	6			
Private Bag Fees	436	8	5			
Commission on Stamps purchased		7	0			
				10,057	19	1
<i>Telegraph Revenue :—</i>						
Sale of Stamps	51,329	6	5			
Registration Fees	840	3	6			
Telephone Subscriptions	4,589	12	6			
Military Telegrams	865	15	1			
				57,624	17	6
<i>Miscellaneous :—</i>						
Special Receipts :—						
Postal	159	5	4			
Telegraph	1	0	0			
Sale of Government Property	44	15	9			
Sums Refunded	93	4	11			
Reimbursements	4,702	10	0			
Fines	32	16	7			
Lapsed Money Orders paid to Revenue	644	18	6			
				5,679	11	1
Total Revenue				£205,976	15	0
<i>Indirect Credits to be Allowed :—</i>						
Superannuation deductions	1,470	11	3			
Rent for Quarters, paid to P.W.D.	180	1	5			
				1,650	12	8
<i>Excess of Services Received over Services Rendered</i>				24,665	16	2
				£26,316	8	10
<i>In Addition, the Department Rendered the following Services Free, viz :—</i>						
Amount Expended in Postage on Oversea Letters	154	2	1			
Conveyance of Official Letters	16,180	0	0			
Transmission of Official Telegrams	10,138	7	10			
Registration of Official Telegraphic Addresses	65	2	0			
Official Telephone Connections	677	0	0			
Postage on Colonial Newspapers	8,123	8	1			
Upkeep of Electric Bells, Government Offices	91	3	9			
Upkeep of Observatory Line	12	0	0			
50 per cent. on Military Telegrams	865	15	1			
				36,306	18	10

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED.

Payable in	1903.			1904.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	No.	Amount.			No.	Amount.			No.	Amount.		
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Natal ...	21,654	82,042	15	1	21,692	80,095	17	6	38	...	1,946	17 7
United Kingdom ...	75,907	249,011	5	7	70,859	213,898	13	10	...	5,048	35,112	11 9
Cape Colony ...	5,879	19,911	11	9	5,362	17,804	5	1	...	517	2,107	6 8
Transvaal ...	5,101	20,993	2	8	5,757	23,028	13	6	656	2,035	10 10	...
Orange River Colony ...	868	3,883	19	4	825	3,395	6	9	...	43	488	12 7
Rhodesia ...	100	388	6	7	71	260	14	11	...	29	127	11 8
St. Helena ...	74	145	4	0	64	88	10	0	...	10	56	14 0
Mauritius ...	1,192	4,168	18	8	951	2,571	6	5	...	241	1,597	12 3
India ...	15,935	102,684	6	3	14,256	91,169	15	4	...	1,679	11,514	10 11
Australia ...	3,696	31,918	7	6	5,365	22,983	15	9	...	1,331	8,934	11 9
Ceylon ...	50	181	16	6	51	142	8	8	4	...	39	7 10
British Central Africa ...	7	11	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	7	11	2 5
Mozambique ...	...	...	...	21	104	3	6	...	21	104	3 6	...
Totals ...	133,463	515,340	16	4	125,277	455,543	11	3	719	2,139	14 4	8,905 61,936 19 5

NET DECREASE:—No., 8,186; Value, £59,797 5s. 1d.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONEY ORDERS PAID.

Issued in.	1903.		1904.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Natal ...	21,550	£ 81,983 5 0	21,689	£ 80,134 16 3	139	£ ...	...	£ 1,848 8 9
United Kingdom ...	5,445	20,720 4 1	6,149	21,635 8 10	704	915 4	...	...
Cape Colony ...	6,941	25,509 6 6	7,232	24,416 15 1	291	...	...	1,092 11 5
Transvaal ...	20,971	84,413 3 9	18,937	79,019 11 7	...	...	2,034	5,393 12 2
Orange River Colony ...	4,528	12,329 6 10	3,687	12,183 18 10	...	...	841	145 8 0
Rhodesia ...	545	2,399 10 5	405	1,554 12 8	...	...	140	844 17 9
St. Helena ...	10	50 2 0	6	43 6 8	...	...	4	6 15 4
Mauritius ...	53	205 15 10	141	770 5 8	88	56 9 10	...	...
India ...	109	420 14 10	110	403 7 11	1	...	...	17 6 11
Australia ...	514	2,318 7 3	452	1,602 8 10	...	...	62	715 18 5
Ceylon ...	6	21 12 2	10	33 5 1	4	1 13 2	...	...
British Central Africa ...	37	65 14 11	36	99 8 11	...	33 14 0	1	...
Mozambique ...	...	...	4	8 9 4	4	8 9 4	...	...
Totals ...	60,709	230,437 3 7	58,858	221,905 15 11	1,231	533 12 1	3,082	10,064 18 9

NET DECREASE : No. of Orders, 1,851 ; Value, £8,531 7s. 8

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

Issued in—	Denomination.																Totals.	
	1/-	1/6	2/-	2/6	3/-	3/6	4/-	4/6	5/-	7/6	10/-	10/6	12/6	15/-	17/6	20/-	No.	Amount.
Cape Colony ...	365	255	...	376	...	...	...	...	346	56	310	...	...	36	3	569	2,316	£ s. d. 945 10 0
Transvaal ...	658	317	545	755	523	295	501	251	1,394	320	1,754	229	...	485	...	4,185	12,212	6,506 15 6
Orange River Colony	213	122	208	224	177	112	196	79	389	107	392	73	...	107	...	613	3,012	1,236 13 6
Rhodesia ...	16	8	...	12	...	...	...	...	23	5	13	...	2	2	...	21	102	40 15 6
B.C.A. ...	3	7	...	7	...	...	...	...	6	...	10	...	...	...	...	25	58	33 1 0
Totals, 1904 ...	1,255	709	753	1,374	700	407	697	320	2,158	488	2,479	302	2	630	3	5,413	17,700	8,762 15 6
" 1903 ...	711	411	381	926	337	178	311	151	1,132	185	1,357	113	4	307	5	2,752	9,261	4,477 8 6
Increase ...	544	298	372	448	363	229	386	179	1,026	3	1,122	189	...	323	...	2,661	8,443	4,288 7 0
Decrease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	4	3 0 0

NET INCREASE: No, 8,429; Amount, £4,286 7s.

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED IN NATAL, AND PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT
IN THE RESPECTIVE COLONIES DURING THE YEAR.**

Where Paid.	Denomination.																Totals.	
	1/-	1/6	2/-	2/6	3/-	3/6	4/-	4/6	5/-	7/6	10/-	10/6	12/6	15/-	17/6	20/-	No.	Amount.
Natal ...	4,297	2,187	2,831	6,132	2,714	1,501	2,825	1,442	11,864	2,737	12,804	1,233	593	3,277	529	23,136	80,102	£ s. d. 40,456 13 0
Cape Colony ...	268	122	231	342	192	9	147	95	431	78	459	44	27	107	19	702	3,353	1,388 18 0
Orange River Colony ...	35	17	23	270	32	9	25	9	87	12	79	3	3	28	5	152	789	299 1 0
Rhodesia ...	3	...	2	2	...	...	1	...	4	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	17	4 16 0
Transvaal ...	231	113	155	674	141	85	163	74	489	126	519	34	17	80	21	1,050	3,972	1,790 18 0
B.C.A. ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	16 0
Totals, 1904 ...	4,835	2,439	3,242	7,420	3,079	1,684	3,161	1,620	12,875	2,957	13,862	1,314	640	3,493	574	25,041	88,236	43,941 2 0
Totals, 1903 ...	5,940	3,684	1,329	7,064	1,195	550	1,038	588	10,244	2,634	11,388	462	803	2,877	537	20,734	71,067	35,553 8 0
Increase ...	...	...	1,913	356	1,884	1,134	2,123	1,032	2,631	323	2,444	852	...	516	37	4,307	19,682	8,638 4 0
Decrease ...	1,105	1,245	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	163	...	...	...	2,513	250 10 0

15

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

Country of Issue.	Drafts Issued.								Drafts Honoured.							
	1903.		1904.		Increase.		Decrease.		1903.		1904.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Natal	53	£ s. d. 153 11 4	116	£ s. d. 382 0 3	63	£ s. d. 228 8 11	...	£ s. d. ...	10	£ s. d. 11 4 11	34	£ s. d. 117 14 6	24	£ s. d. 106 9 7	...	£ s. d. ...
Cape Colony	54	139 14 8	62	160 7 5	8	20 12 9	...	...	13	47 16 1	16	22 18 4	3	...	...	24 17 9
Orange River Colony	...	...	3	10 17 4	5	10 17 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	107	293 6 0	181	553 5 0	74	259 19 0	...	...	23	59 1 0	50	140 12 10	27	106 9 7	...	24 17 9

Drafts Issued :—Net Increase: No. of Drafts 74; Value £259 19s. 0d.

Drafts Honoured :—Net Increase: No. of Drafts 27; Value £81 11s. 10d.

THE POST OFFICE AND COLONIES

STATEMENT OF THE POST OFFICES AND AGENCIES OPEN ON DECEMBER
31ST, 1904, AS COMPARED WITH THE NUMBER OPEN ON DECEMBER
31ST, 1903.

Class of Office.	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
Post Offices ...	277	294	17	...
Post Office Agencies ...	62	65	3	...
	339	359	20	...

STATEMENT OF POST OFFICES AND AGENCIES OPENED DURING 1904.

Name of Office.	Service Established.	Name of Office.	Service Established.
✓ Alpha ...	Two days a week	✓ Inkonza ...	Six days a week
✓ Avondale Rd. (Durban)	Town Sub-Office	✓ Kalabasi ...	Do.
✓ Berea Road (Durban)...	Do.	✓ Kangela St. (Eshowe)	Do.
✓ Bingham's Nek ...	Six days a week	✓ Kongolona ...	Two days a week
✓ Ceza ...	Two days a week	✓ Makowie ...	Three days a week
✓ Dingley Dale ...	Six days a week	✓ Mhlumayo ...	Two days a week
✓ East End (Durban) ...	Town Sub-Office	✓ Pepworth ...	Six days a week
✓ East (Stranges) ...	Six days a week	✓ Red Hill ...	Do.
✓ Elandskop... ..	do.	✓ Sunkel's Drift ...	Three days a week
✓ Fairfield ...	do.	✓ Sweetwaters ...	Six days a week
✓ Finchley ...	do.	✓ Taylor's ...	Do.
✓ Goedhoek ...	Two days a week	✓ Tinley Manor ...	Do.
✓ Henley ...	Six days a week	✓ Winkle Spruit ...	Do.

The following Offices and Agencies were closed :—

✓ Cora Linn
 ✓ Kingston
 ✓ Mayor's Walk (Pietermaritzburg)
 ✓ Modder Spruit
 ✓ Welkom
 ✓ Woodside

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

Correspondence Received.			1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
Letters, Ordinary	...	...	19,335,628	17,484,506	...	1,851,122
Letters, Official	...	...	1,594,736	1,503,788	...	90,948
Postcards	...	...	763,880	736,554	...	27,326
Parcels	...	...	220,740	204,724	...	16,016
Books and Sample Packets	...	...	3,316,300	2,762,968	...	553,332
Papers	...	...	5,035,472	4,770,792	...	264,680
Total			30,266,756	27,463,332	...	2,803,424
Correspondence Posted	...	...	27,227,668	25,624,968	...	1,532,700
Articles Registered	...	...	247,467	236,808	...	10,659

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

Correspondence.			1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
Returned to senders within the Colony	...	...	91,620	99,987	8,367	...
Returned to other Countries	...	...	88,329	75,783	...	12,546
Destroyed	...	...	97,559	55,300	...	42,259
Total			277,508	231,070	8,367	54,805
Net Decrease, 46,438.						

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

	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
Exchanged between Offices in the Colony	419,328	413,452	..	5,876
Despatched to adjoining Territories	38,825	42,259	3,434	...
Received from adjoining Territories	40,942	46,574	5,632	...
Bags despatched to the United Kingdom	4,234	4,422	188	...
Bags received from the United Kingdom	10,914	11,115	201	...
Bags despatched to Foreign Countries	1,920	1,443	...	477
Bags received from Foreign Countries	5,490	3,441	...	2,049
Bags received in Transit	11,562	10,842	...	720
Boxes of Parcels despatched to the United Kingdom	419	389	...	30
Boxes of Parcels received from the United Kingdom	5,436	4,688	...	748
Totals	539,070	538,625	9,455	9,900

Net Decrease:—445.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FOREIGN AND OVERBERG PARCELS TRAFFIC.

	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of Parcels despatched to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries... ..	16,061	14,114	...	1,947
Number of Parcels received from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries... ..	68,625	58,608	...	10,017
Total	84,686	72,722	...	11,964
Value of Articles Exported to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries... ..	£ s. d. 12,274 13 3	£ s. d. 10,385 6 0	...	£ s. d. 1,889 7 3
Value of Articles Imported from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries... ..	143,453 8 1	111,616 6 10	...	31,837 1 3
Amount of Customs Dues collected on Parcels and Letters from other Countries... ..	†12,166 7 11	9,418 6 1½	...	2,748 1 9½

† Including Customs Collections made on Overberg Parcels during the first portion of the year 1903.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MILEAGE OF POSTAL ROUTE OPEN.

Service.				1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
Railway	...	...	...	795½	779	37½	...
Post Cart	...	...	...	487½	476½	...	11
Carrier	...	...	...	2,533½	2,571½	38	...
Total	...	...	...	3,780½	3,845	75½	11

NET INCREASE :—64½.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXTENT OF POSTAL ROUTE TRAVERSED, IN MILEAGE.

Service.				1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
Railway	...	...	...	1,419,171	1,333,181	...	*85,990
Post Cart	...	...	...	228,072	230,984	2,912	...
Carrier	...	...	...	1,048,346	1,099,540	51,194	...
Total	...	...	...	2,695,589	2,663,705	54,106	85,990

NET DECREASE :—31,884.

*Due to the discontinuance of certain trains.

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

	Telegraph.		Telephone.		Private Wires.	
	Line, Miles.	Wire, Miles.	Line, Miles.	Wire, Miles.	Line, Miles.	Wire, Miles.
Year ended 31st December, 1903 ...	1,722	4,677½	86¼	586½	38	154½
Year ended 31st December, 1904 ...	1,793	5,590½	110½	1,774¼	29½	166½

TELEGRAPHS.]

RETURN OF CABLE TRAFFIC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1904.

MONTH.	Number of Messages received from Eastern Company for transmission to South African Stations.	Number of Messages collected in South Africa and handed to 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.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January ...	1,194	1,019	2,213	*37 19 5 410 7 11	34 6 4½	22 14 1	50 0 4	8 17 8	115 18 5½
February ...	1,183	955	2,138	*107 9 2 319 3 8½	28 9 8	6 4 4	43 18 11	6 7 0	84 19 11
March ...	1,319	1,088	2,407	*116 15 0 369 4 0	41 3 2	15 19 11	51 6 9	10 17 1	119 6 11
April ...	1,207	1,422	2,629	*1 4 2 492 2 2½	31 11 9	16 9 0	51 3 0½	9 15 1	108 18 10½
May ...	1,272	1,089	2,361	*19 4 7 475 4 10½	30 18 8	14 17 3	50 13 11½	4 8 10	100 18 8½
June ...	993	1,019	2,012	*5 14 2 440 4 7	23 6 0½	10 10 2	35 10 7	6 3 0	75 9 9½
July ...	1,093	1,015	2,108	*1 12 1 428 18 1½	33 19 7½	5 1 3	40 12 4	6 13 5	91 6 7½
August ...	1,017	1,083	2,100	*7 17 2 387 14 9½	37 12 7½	7 17 0	37 15 3	7 9 1	90 13 11½
September ...	1,130	1,017	2,147	*7 1 8 398 15 7	40 14 4½	12 13 6	44 19 6	8 3 5	106 10 9½
October ...	1,196	1,164	2,360	*5 8 9 432 18 6	34 3 3	11 5 1½	47 7 6	5 0 10	97 16 8½
November ...	1,249	1,117	2,366	*0 16 11 463 3 11	32 13 0½	19 9 3½	48 1 10	6 6 10	106 11 0
December ...	1,095	1,004	2,099	*109 7 3 270 19 8	24 2 4½	8 5 3	39 13 4	6 6 8	78 7 7½
Total ...	13,948	12,992	26,940	5,309 8 2½	398 0 12½	151 6 2	541 3 4	86 8 11	1,176 19 4½

* Western.