



COLONY OF NATAL

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REPORT

OF THE

**POSTMASTER-GENERAL**

FOR THE

**Year ended 31st December, 1908.**

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# Report of the Postmaster-General for the Year ended the 31st December, 1908.

THE HONOURABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,—

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the work of the Post and Telegraph Department for the year ended the 31st of December, 1908.

Before proceeding to discuss in detail the items of the Balance Sheet, I should like to call attention again to the practice of burdening the Postal Department with the total cost to the Colony of the various Post Cart Services.

It may be necessary that Government should encourage the establishment of Post Cart Services where Railway facilities do not exist, but unless such services are essential to the proper performance of the mail service, their cost cannot, I submit, be a fair and equitable charge against the votes of my Department.

In some cases the running of a horsed vehicle is not only not warranted—from the point of view of the Post Office—that is to say, the cost to the Department exceeds the revenue derived from the service, but it is doubtful whether it is justified by the number of passengers making use of the service. I have caused a record to be taken during the month of January, 1909, of the number of passengers conveyed by certain of these Post Carts, and I think it will be conceded that this record bears out my statement.

To take but two instances, the Vryheid-Paulpietersburg and the Dundee-Nondweni services. The Vryheid-Paulpietersburg Post Cart formerly ran on two days a week, but at the request of the residents the Government raised the subsidy from £249 to £300 a year in order to provide a service three times a week. During the month of January only ten passengers were conveyed by this cart in both directions.

The Dundee-Nondweni Post Cart is another service which is unwarranted from a Post Office point of view, and one which I have advised the Government to discontinue. The subsidy now paid is £450 a year, and the number of passengers making use of the Post Cart during January was 13 only.

If there is a genuine demand for a passenger service on any route I feel sure some person, or persons, will be found prepared to undertake it for profit without a subsidy from the Government. This is borne out by the fact that prior to the opening of the Railway line between Creighton and Riverside a passenger cart service was in existence between these two places, and also that a passenger cart continues to be run between Ixopo and Union Bridge, notwithstanding that the subsidy for this latter service was withdrawn after the 31st of December, 1908.

These are but two instances, but they are sufficient to indicate that if the Post and Telegraph Department is to be conducted on business lines, paying its own way, then the practice of charging against its revenue such expenses as the subsidies paid to the Contractors of the so-called Post Cart Services will have to be considerably modified.

*Finance.*—The Postal and Telegraph Revenue of the year, including the value of indirect credits, and certain free services rendered to other Departments, was £213,558 16s. 11½d. Compared with the revenue of the previous year there is a decrease of £8,926, or, approximately, 4·01 per cent.

*Indirect Credits and Free Services.*—The value of the indirect credits was £4,541 2s. 1d., and of the free services £32,080 16s. 2½d.

Particulars of the latter are as follows:

## FREE SERVICES.

	£	s.	d.
(1) Conveyance of Official Letters ... ..	11,895	6	3
(2) Transmission of Official Telegrams ... ..	8,690	8	10
(3) Registration of Official Telegraphic Addresses ... ..	73	10	0
(4) Official Telephone Connections ... ..	828	5	0
(5) Maintenance of Electric Bells ... ..	130	4	6
(6) Official Calls on Trunk Telephone Lines ... ..	111	4	10½
(7) Postage on Colonial Newspapers ... ..	7,000	0	0
(8) Half Cost of Military Telegrams ... ..	159	2	6
(9) Upkeep of Observatory Line ... ..	12	0	0
(10) Upkeep of Harbour Department's Telephone System ... ..	80	0	0
(11) Private Bag Services for Government Departments ... ..	63	0	0
(12) Private Boxes allotted to Government Departments ... ..	161	14	0
(13) Difference between cost of Post Carts (unwarranted) and Carrier Services ... ..	2,303	0	0
* (14) Loss on the Zululand Telephone Wire, constructed and maintained for Magisterial purposes ... ..	573	0	0
	<u>£32,080</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2½</u>

\*This should be an indirect charge against the Colonial Office Vote.

*Expenditure.*—The Postal and Telegraph expenditure, including the value of the indirect charges, amounted, during the year, to £185,499 0s. 9d., a decrease of £2,485 12s. 8d., or approximately 1·3 per cent.

The net profit was thus £28,059 16s. 2½d.

## STATISTICS OF POSTAL PACKETS.

It is estimated that the number of postal packets delivered in Natal during the year was 21,037,520—an increase of 7·5 per cent. on the number delivered during 1907.

The numbers of each class of postal matter are as follow:—

	Number	Increase or Decrease
Letters ... ..	13,024,492	+ 13 per cent.
„ (Official) ... ..	1,357,252	+ 2·6 „
Post Cards ... ..	1,026,792	+ 2·1 „
Book and Sample Packets... ..	2,226,416	+ 4·4 „
Newspapers ... ..	3,215,784	+ 5·8 „
Parcels ... ..	186,784	+ 4·08 „
	<u>21,037,520</u>	

The increase of 4·08 per cent. in the number of parcels is mainly due to the introduction of the Natal Produce Parcel Post—to which reference will be found in another portion of my report.

The number and value of parcels received from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries decreased by 8·1 per cent and 11·2 per cent. respectively, the figures for 1907 being 39,856 parcels, valued at £66,138 5s. 11d and those for 1908, 36,593 parcels, valued at £58,710 12s. 3d.

In connection with the fall in Oversea Parcel traffic it may be mentioned that since the unit of weight of an article posted for transmission at the letter rate of postage was raised, under the Rome Convention, from 15 to 20 grammes (one ounce), numbers of packets, weighing less than one pound, formerly prepaid at the parcel post rate, are now forwarded to Natal at the letter rate.

Suggestions were put forward by two of the Inland Colonies for measures to be taken to relieve the letter post of all articles liable to duty, but I was unable to agree to them as I am unwilling to place any further obstacle in the way of the transmission of articles by post between the United Kingdom and Natal, which, by reason of the high tariff, is already sufficiently restricted.

The number of parcels sent out of the Colony to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries was 9,263—a decrease of 6·1 per cent.—their value being £5,759 15s. 5d., as against £8,205 16s. 7½d. in 1907—a decrease of 29·8 per cent.

The number of letters registered during the year increased by 3·8 per cent., the figures being 161,796 for 1908, and 155,821 for 1907.

There was a considerable falling off in the number of letters, etc., posted within the Colony during the year, the estimated number being 18,274,464, as against 20,779,824 for 1907—a decrease of 12 per cent.

A comparative statement showing the number of bags of mails and cases of parcels exchanged between Natal, the United Kingdom and other Colonies and Foreign Countries during the years 1907 and 1908 is given in the appendix. The total for 1908 shows a decrease of 1.1 per cent.

*Undelivered Postal Packets.*—The number of undelivered postal packets, including articles found loose and packets bearing illegible addresses, dealt with in the Returned Letter Office, is estimated to have reached a total of 174,302, being an increase of 3,767, or approximately 2.2 per cent. on the number for the previous year.

Of this number 61,773 were returned to senders residing within the Colony; 30,418 were forwarded to other countries, while 52,151 were destroyed owing to the name and address of the sender being unknown.

In addition to the articles dealt with in the Returned Letter Office, 15,833 packets of printed papers were destroyed and 21,705 postal packets were returned by Postmasters.

Articles of value, in the form of Cheques, Money Orders, Postal Orders, Bank Notes, Drafts and Postage Stamps, found in ordinary letters returned within the Colony, amounted to £1,963 13s. 10d.

*Postal Customs Officers.*—In order to minimise, as far as possible, the delay in the delivery of postal packets detained for inspection on the supposition that they contain articles liable to customs duty, it was decided to grant authority to Postmasters at Railway Post Offices to act as Customs Officers.

With but few exceptions all Postmasters are now empowered to assess the duty to be paid upon articles arriving by Post.

The sum collected on behalf of the Customs Department during 1908 was £8,430 3s. 10d., a decrease of 1.6 per cent.

#### INLAND SERVICES.

*Parcel Post.*—Although it has not been found practicable, so far, to reduce the rate of postage on all inland parcels, a lower rate was introduced on the 1st of April, 1908, for parcels containing articles of Natal produce and manufacture. In the latter case only those articles which are manufactured wholly of Natal produce are admitted for transmission at the special rates.

The reduced rates are as follows :—

For a parcel weighing not more than 1½ lbs.	...	...	3d.
Over 1½ lbs., but not more than 3 lbs.	...	...	6d.
Over 3 lbs., but not more than 6 lbs.	...	...	8d.
Over 6 lbs., but not more than 9 lbs.	...	...	10d.
Over 9 lbs., but not more than 11 lbs.	...	...	1s.

The new service has from its commencement worked smoothly and will undoubtedly become very popular with all classes, as its advantages become more generally recognised.

During the short time it has been in force approximately 5,000 parcels have been dealt with without any additional cost to the Department, beyond that incurred in connection with the printing of the forms.

The service has been of particular benefit to persons residing in Zululand and other parts of the Colony remote from the Railway lines. It has brought within reach of many people articles of local produce and manufacture, which were virtually unobtainable in the past by reason of the high tariff and the difficulty of obtaining transport. It has, at the same time, proved of great assistance to the farmer in the disposal of certain articles of farm produce.

It is within my knowledge that persons residing in the districts of Ubombo and Ingwavuma obtain, during the winter months, fresh butter and other perishable articles from Durban by means of this service.

#### DELIVERY OF CORRESPONDENCE.

*Private Bag Services.*—In order to meet the increasing demands for private bag services in the rural districts for short periods, authority was obtained for special rates to be charged for such services. These rates have been fixed at 5s. a month where the correspondence of one person only is dealt with, and 7s. 6d. a month where two or more persons make use of the private bag.

*Special Delivery of Correspondence.*—In towns or villages where a house to house delivery of correspondence by postman is made, persons who are not private box holders may, on making application at the local post office, obtain correspondence arriving by mails reaching the office between the hours of delivery by postman.

*Express Delivery by Messenger.*—Arrangements were made during the past year for the delivery by special messenger of letters and parcels received from the United Kingdom, upon which an express fee had been prepaid in addition to the postage. This is an extension of the service which was formerly limited to the acceptance in Natal of postal packets for express delivery in the United Kingdom.

*Train Letters.*—In view of the facilities for later posting afforded by the system of Train Letters, an additional fee of 1d. is now charged upon all letters tendered for transmission as such between any two places having a direct mail service.

*Franking.*—Reciprocal franking privileges have been arranged between Natal and the Orange River Colony and between Natal and North-Eastern and North-Western Rhodesia.

*Parcel Post Convention.*—Correspondence is passing between Natal and the Postal Authorities at Madagascar with a view to the introduction of a direct Parcel Post Service between Durban and Tulear. At the present time parcels for Madagascar are forwarded *via* the Island of Mauritius.

*International Reply Coupons.*—This Colony formally adopted the system of International Reply Coupons on the 31st of January, 1908.

*Rate of Postage to Morocco.*—Notice of the inclusion of the British Post Office Agencies in Morocco in the Imperial Penny Postage Scheme having been received, the rate of postage payable on letters addressed to these Agencies was reduced from 2½d. per half-ounce to 1d. per half-ounce.

#### MONEY ORDERS.

*Statistics of Orders Issued and Paid.*—The total number of money orders issued in Natal during the year 1908 was 54,499, representing a sum of £268,814 17s. 10d. Compared with the number and value of the orders issued during 1907 there is a decrease of 15,716, or 22·3 per cent., in the number, and of £41,732 15s. 7d., or 13·5 per cent., in the amount.

The decrease in the money order business is accounted for by the increasing popularity of the postal order as a means of exchange. The postal order traffic, which is dealt with elsewhere, shows an increase of more than 35 per cent.

The number of money orders issued in Natal and payable in South Africa was 20,067, valued at £103,302 14s. 11d. The number of similar orders issued during 1907 was 25,022, and their value £110,465 14s. 6d. Although the number was decreased by 19 per cent., the decrease in the amount was only 6 per cent.

The number of money orders issued in Natal and payable in the United Kingdom during the year was 22,379, and the sum represented by them £93,478 2s. 9d. The decrease in the figures for 1907 was at the rate of 29·5 per cent. in the number and 20·2 per cent. in the amount.

The total number of money orders paid in Natal during the year was 38,227, and the amount paid £209,163 0s. 4d., the net decrease in the figures for 1907 being 7,779 orders, valued at £16,132 15s. 11d.

Comparative statements of money orders issued and paid are given in the Appendix.

*Advice of Payment System.*—The Advice of Payment System, which was introduced in 1907, was extended during the past year to the following countries, namely :—

India,  
Bulgaria,  
Cyprus,  
Costa Rica,  
Curacao,  
Republic of Honduras.

It is estimated that 100 cases were dealt with in connection with money orders originating in Natal during 1908. As the system did not come into force between this Colony and India until October last, it is expected that the number of cases will be largely increased when the advantages of the service become generally known among the Indians resident in the Colony.

*Search Fee.*—A search fee of 1s. is now charged when a person applying for information concerning a money order is unable to furnish the date of issue of such order.

*Money Orders to and from Papua.*—Arrangements having been made for the direct exchange of money orders between Papua (formerly known as British New Guinea) and the Commonwealth of Australia, orders issued in Natal are now forwarded to Brisbane for re-issue to Papua.

#### POSTAL ORDERS.

The total number of postal orders issued in Natal during the year 1908 was 266,007. Compared with the number issued during 1907, namely, 196,450, there is an increase of 35·4 per cent. The value represented by the orders issued in 1908 amounts to £152,340 16s. 2d., being an increase of £49,597 6s. 1d. (48·2 per cent.) over the value of the orders issued during 1907.

Of orders paid, the number increased by 31·06 per cent. viz., from 199,366 in 1907 to 261,292 in 1908, the increase in the value being 35·6 per cent.

#### SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits and withdrawals made during the year ended the 31st December, 1908, are shown in the following table, together with the corresponding figures for the year ended the 31st of December, 1907.

Year	Deposits		Withdrawals	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
1907 ... ..	48,018	£    s.    d. 340,689 19 5	27,740	£    s.    d. 347,301 15 10
1908 ... ..	48,308	311,035 7 1	28,159	324,717 1 5

During 1908 the number of depositors increased by 290, or ·6 per cent., but the amount deposited was lower by £29,654 12s. 4d., a decrease of 8·7 per cent.

The withdrawals for the same period show an increase in number of 419, or 1·5 per cent., while the amount withdrawn was reduced by 6·5 per cent., the actual decrease being £22,584 14s. 5d.

The amount withdrawn exceeded the amount deposited by £13,631 14s. 4d. During 1907 the excess of withdrawals over deposits was £6,611 16s. 5d.

The following Table shows the variation in the amounts deposited and withdrawn in any one month during the years 1907 and 1908.

Year	Deposits		Withdrawals	
	Highest Amount in any one month	Lowest Amount in any one month	Highest Amount in any one month	Lowest Amount in any one month
1907 ... ..	£    s.    d. 32,082 4 5	£    s.    d. 23,843 14 4	£    s.    d. 34,382 5 8	£    s.    d. 23,954 9 0
1908 ... ..	27,974 6 4	21,832 14 4	31,565 19 11	23,456 3 6

The average value of each deposit made during the year 1908 was £6 8s. 9d., and of each withdrawal £11 10s. 8d. For 1907 the average amounts were £7 1s. 10d. and £12 10s. 4d. respectively.

The average amount standing to the credit of each depositor on the 31st December, 1908, was £22 0s. 9d., being a decrease of £1 6s. 4d. in the amount standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1907.

*Balances.*—On the 1st of January, 1908, the balance standing to the credit of Depositors was £502,673 8s. 9d., and at the end of the year £488,991 14s. 5d.

*Interest.*—The total amount of Interest paid during the year 1908 was £15,723 17s. 10d., and for the year 1907 £15,764 18s., a decrease of £41 0s. 2d. Included in the amount for 1908 is the sum of £14,284 4s. 8d., Capitalised Interest drawn on June 30th, 1908.

*Average Rate of Interest Paid.*—The average rate of Interest for the year 1908 was approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, practically the same as that for the previous year.

*Number of Depositors.*—The number of accounts open on the 31st of December, 1908, was 22,190, an increase of 665 on the number open on the 31st December, 1907.

*Average Amount to Credit of each Depositor.*—The average amounts standing at the close of the years 1907 and 1908 to the credit of each Depositor, classified according to race, were as follows :—

	1907			1908			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Europeans ...	23	15	5	22	5	9	1 9 8 Decrease.
Indians ...	20	0	2	20	8	10	8 8 Increase.
Natives ...	19	2	5	18	12	8	9 9 Decrease.

*Indian Depositors.*—On the 31st of December, 1908, there were 2,043 Indian Depositors compared with 1,847 on the 31st December, 1907, being an increase of 196. The total amount standing to the credit of the Indian Depositors on the first-named date was £41,760 5s. 5d., and on the 31st of December, 1907, £36,955 0s. 11d., being an increase of £4,805 4s. 6d.

*Native Depositors.*—There were 432 accounts open at the end of 1907 and 504 at the end of 1908, being an increase of 72. The balances were £8,260 10s. 9d. and £9,390 17s. 10d., respectively.

That so few Natives should take advantage of the Post Office Savings Bank is most disappointing, and I am taking steps that will, I trust, make the service more popular among the Native population.

*Unclaimed Fund.*—The amount standing to the credit of the Unclaimed Fund on the 31st December, 1908, was £4,596 4s. 6d., made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Pietermaritzburg ...	1,526	13	1
Durban ...	1,666	14	10
Branches ...	1,402	16	7

*Investments.*—The amount invested on 1st January, 1908, was £321,401 4s. 9d., and on 31st December, 1908, £320,334 19s. 7d., a decrease of £1,066 5s. 2d. This is accounted for by the re-investment in Natal  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. stock, of £100 South Australian 4 per cent. stock which matured on the 1st of January, and of £900 of the same stock which matured on the 1st of July.

*Number of Branches.*—The number of branches open on 1st January, 1908, was 56, and on the 31st December, 1908, 59—an increase of 3. The following new offices were opened :—  
✓ Hatting Spruit, Creighton, Kearsney and Umbogintwini, while the Boshoff Street Office, Pietermaritzburg, was closed. ✓

*Management.*—The cost of management for the financial year 1907-8 was £3,905 18s. 7d.

*General.*—The Telegraphic withdrawals during the year 1908 numbered 3,797, being an increase of 720 as compared with the previous year. The number is made up as follows :—

Durban ...	2,516
Eshowe ...	32
Point ...	115
Estcourt ...	98
Ladysmith ...	190
Mooi River ...	23
Weenen ...	8
Stanger ...	38
Vryheid ...	78
Port Shepstone ...	20
Greytown ...	106
Dundee ...	134
Charlestown ...	7
Nongoma ...	50
Lower Umkomaas ...	6
Creighton ...	1
Hatting Spruit ...	20
Newcastle ...	55
Nkandhla ...	49
Bergville ...	4
Pinetown ...	11
Melmoth ...	36
Ixopo ...	24
Umsinga ...	4
Umzinto ...	16

New Hanover	...	...	...	4
Berea Road ..	...	...	...	13
Harding	...	...	...	13
Bulwer	...	...	...	4
Richmond	...	...	...	7
Utrecht	...	...	...	19
Howick	...	...	...	24
Verulam	...	...	...	23
Nqutu	...	...	...	2
Camperdown	...	...	...	5
Musgrave Road	...	...	...	15
Elandslaagte...	...	...	...	1
Dannhauser	...	...	...	5
Himeville	...	...	...	3
Paulpietersburg	...	...	...	7
Mtunzini	...	...	...	2
Mapumulo	...	...	...	3
Stamford Hill	...	...	...	4
Total	...	...	...	3,797

Revenue amounting to £20 was derived from the sale of duplicate Pass Books during the year.

The number of withdrawals at sight (Head Office only), for which a fee of one shilling is charged, amounted to 3,057, a decrease of 74 as compared with last year.

On the 1st March, 1908, the system of transferring Savings Bank Accounts from one Administration to another was extended to the Cape Colony, at the same rates of commission chargeable in the case of transfers to the United Kingdom, and certain other Colonies.

Particulars of the transfers to and from Natal and other Administrations during the year ended the 31st December, 1908, are given in the following table :—

Other Administrations	From Natal		To Natal	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
United Kingdom	82	5,913 15 6	27	1,204 11 2
Transvaal	65	2,863 5 5	111	3,920 1 0
Orange River Colony	5	93 10 7	14	624 3 0
Southern Rhodesia	2	19 11 5	Nil	Nil
Cape Colony	13	606 15 1	18	846 15 3
	167	9,499 18 0	170	6,595 10 5

The sum transferred to Natal was exceeded by the sum transferred from Natal by £2,904 7s. 7d.

The amount earned as commission on the transfer of accounts was £20 3s 10d., being at the rate of 1d. for every £2 or fraction thereof transferred.

While people generally are not so well off now as they were during the two or three years following the end of the Boer War, a greater number are making use of the Bank, and this is probably on account of the Post Office being more convenient for the transaction of Savings Bank business than Magistracies.

I have strongly urged the Government to authorise me to make payments of withdrawals by cash instead of by cheque, as is done in England and in other parts of South Africa, in order to meet the wishes of the majority of Savings Bank depositors, but so far the Government has not, I regret to say, been able to fall in with my recommendation.

#### TELEGRAPHS.

*Receipts.*—The Telegraph receipts for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1908, amounted to £42,404 17s. 1½d., compared with £45,623 14s. 7d. for the previous financial year, a decrease of £3,218 17s. 6½d., or approximately 7·05 per cent.



The estimated value of the free services, including £159 2s. 6d., the value of the rebate allowed on messages forwarded on behalf of the Imperial Military Authorities, is £9,718 5s. 10d.

*Traffic.*—During the year ended the 31st December, 1908, 1,518,148 telegrams passed over the Department's lines. Compared with the number for the previous year, namely, 1,579,061, there is a decrease of 3·8 per cent. The total number of transactions decreased by 77,072, the figures being, for the year 1908, 1,967,451, and, for the year 1907, 2,044,523.

The following statement gives particulars of the traffic dealt with during the past two years, transmitted work being counted as two transactions :—

Year	Forwarded	Received	Transmitted	Totals
1907 ... ..	531,917	581,682	930,924	2,044,523
1908 ... ..	509,757	559,088	898,606	1,967,451
Decrease ...	22,160	22,594	32,318	77,072

The number of official telegrams transmitted on behalf of Government Departments during the past four years is as follows :—

Year	Number
1905 ... ..	65,952
1906 ... ..	125,554
1907 ... ..	65,732
1908 ... ..	56,375

On the 31st December, 1908, there were 212 offices open for the transaction of telegraph business, 120 of which were situated at Railway Stations.

Three additional Offices were opened during the year for the transaction of public telegraph business, Umbogintwini on the South Coast Railway Line; Malongeni, on the Dundee-Vryheid Branch Line; and Winter's Kloof, on the Main Railway Line.

Four Telegraph Offices were closed, viz.:—Moguntia, Boshoff's Road, Merebank and Good Hope.

#### TELEPHONES.

*Receipts.*—The receipts from Telephone business for the financial year totalled £9,587 1s. 9½d. compared with £8,682 9s. 7½d. received during the previous year, an increase of £904 12s. 2d., or 10·4 per cent. The revenue derived from the Trunk Telephone system continued to show a steady increase, the amount received during 1907-1908 being £2,729 16s. 0½d., against £1,815 15s. 6½d. received during the financial year ended the 30th June, 1907, an increase of £914 0s. 6d., or more than 50 per cent.

It is estimated that in addition the Department performed free services of the value of £828 5s. in respect of official telephone connections which it was called upon to provide, and £111 4s. 10½d. in respect of conversations held over the Trunk lines. There was also a loss of £523 on the Zululand Telephone line which connects up all the Magistracies with the Commissioner's Headquarters at Eshowe.

On the 1st of June, 1908, an important alteration in the tariff of Telephone charges was carried out; the practice hitherto followed of fixing the charge upon a mileage basis for conversations held over the Trunk Telephone lines within the Colony being abandoned, and, in its stead, a uniform rate of 1s. 6d. being charged for each call of three minutes' duration passed between any of the Exchange areas.

The adoption of a uniform rate, which, although slightly higher than the rate formerly in force between Maritzburg and Durban, enables conversations between Durban and the up-country Exchanges and Call Offices to be held for nearly half the former charge, has resulted in a greatly increased use of the Trunk Lines.

Prior to the change being made, the average number of calls dealt with each month from January to May was 2,770. From June—the month from which the new tariff took effect—until December, the number of calls dealt with each month averaged 3,995, the increase being at the rate of 44·2 per cent.

*Cable Traffic.*—A statement giving particulars of the Cable Traffic is appended.

The full amount of the subsidy to the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, viz., £825, has, I regret to say, again been paid to the Company for the year 1908.

The following are the more important works carried out by the Engineering Staff during the year :—

1. The fitting of special lightning dischargers on the Cable Company's overland line running from Durban to Capetown. These dischargers were designed specially for this line by the Cable

Company's Engineers in London, their object being to neutralise as far as possible the effects of atmospheric electricity on the line, and so eliminate irregularities which cause signals to be distorted, resulting in errors in messages and delays in transmission. The experiment is an interesting one, but the dischargers have not been long enough in use for a correct estimate to be formed of their value.

2. The extension of the Trunk Telephone System to Vryheid.

3. The installation of a Telephone Exchange in the Post Office, Durban, for the use of the South African Convention. This Exchange connected up the various offices occupied by the Delegates to the Convention and their Staffs, and by its means communication was also available with the subscribers to the Durban Municipal Exchange, and with the Department's Trunk Lines. The system worked with complete satisfaction.

I am much indebted to His Worship the Mayor of Durban, through whose kindness special wires were erected for the use of the National Convention between the Post Office and the Municipal Exchange.

4. The erection of an additional wire between Maritzburg and the Cape border (Union Bridge). This wire was urgently needed in order to strengthen the Department's system of telegraphic communication with the Cape Colony, and its erection in time for use during the sitting of the National Convention at Durban was a great advantage.

During the year several works were carried out for the Railway Department, the more important of which are the following :

1. The construction of a Telegraph line along the Esperanza-Donnybrook Railway, which was begun at the end of 1907.

2. The erection of a Metallic Circuit between Glencoe Junction and Dundee for the purpose of the Electric Train Staff working.

3. The extension of the Telegraph line along the Natal-Cape Railway from Creighton to Riverside.

4. The construction of the Telegraph line along the Railway between Vryheid and Hlobane.

Additional Trunk Telephone facilities were given, during the year, by the establishment of Telephone Call Offices at the following places :—

Boston Police Camp.  
Bulwer.  
Charlestown.  
Dannhanser.  
Hatting Spruit.  
Hilton Road.  
Impendhle.  
Nondweni.  
Ngutu.  
Vant's Drift.  
Vryheid.  
Weenen.

*Post Offices.*—The total number of Post and Telegraph Offices on the 31st December, 1908, was 305, made up as follows :—

Head Offices	...	...	...	...	21
Branch Office	..	..	..	..	1
Town Sub-Offices	...	...	...	...	21
Country Sub-Offices	...	...	...	...	24
Telegraph Offices at which Postal business is not transacted					15

In addition there were 2 Postal Agencies open throughout the Colony.

During the year four new Post Offices and seven Postal Agencies were opened, while six Post Offices and seven Postal Agencies were closed, as follows :—

Post Offices Opened—

- ✓ Malongeni.
- ✓ Izingolweni.
- ✓ Umbogintwini.
- ✓ Winter's Kloof.

Postal Agencies Opened—

- ✓ Edwaleni.
- ✓ Etalaneni.
- ✓ Harden Heights.
- ✓ Havelock.
- ✓ Hlobane.
- ✓ Taylor's.
- ✓ Rustverwacht.

## Post Offices Closed—

- ✓ Merebank.
- ✓ Moguntia.
- ✓ Boshoff Street T.S.O.
- ✓ Boshoff's Road.
- ✓ Scottsville.
- ✓ Port Shepstone Rail.

## Postal Agencies Closed—

- ✓ Appelsbosch.
- ✓ Blackburn.
- ✓ Corby Rock.
- ✓ Lenjane's Drift.
- ✓ Palmiet.
- ✓ Winter's Kloof.
- ✓ Zuurborg.

Money Order and Savings Bank business was extended to the following Offices :—

- ✓ Creighton.
- ✓ Kearsney.
- ✓ Hatting Spruit.
- Umbogintwini.

*Staff.*—The number of persons on the establishment of the Post Office on the 31st December, 1908, was 298, a decrease of 8 during the year. In addition there were 609 unestablished persons employed, as compared with 601 during the year 1907.

The number of Natives employed was 375, a reduction of 62 in the number employed in the previous year. The saving by this reduction is at the rate of, approximately, £1,302 a year.

Among the established officers there were six retirements during the year and two transfers to other Departments.

The bonus of £5, awarded to Telegraph Messengers for proficiency in studies, was gained by 23 boys.

+ Double increments were awarded to three officers of the Department who qualified in special scientific subjects.

On the 24th of August the Railway Station at Stamford Hill, which is also the Post Office, was broken into, but an attempt to rifle the safe was not successful. No Post Office property was stolen.

On the 7th of November, a Native named Ustulman Zondi was sentenced by the Magistrate at Estcourt to four months' imprisonment with hard labour for fraudulently obtaining money in respect of a stolen Money Order.

During the year the business of the Department has gone on smoothly and well, the complaints received from the public being comparatively few. For this satisfactory result I am indebted to the loyal and willing way in which the officers of all ranks have worked. In several cases the need for the strictest economy has made it necessary to introduce hours of attendance for the sorting clerks which are irregular, and I fear, in some cases irksome, but the Staff, appreciating the position in which the Department is placed, has cheerfully fallen in with the arrangements made, and when it is remembered that an attendance may have to be made at any hour of the day or night—some duties beginning as early as 3 a.m., the cheerfulness of the staff to fall in with the revised duties will be fully appreciated.

C. MAXWELL HIBBERD,

Postmaster-General.

26th April, 1909.

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE POSTED AND DELIVERED,  
AND OF THE NUMBER OF ARTICLES REGISTERED AT OFFICES WITHIN  
THE COLONY.**

Correspondence Received	1907	1908	Increase	Decrease
Letters, Ordinary ... ..	13,006,812	13,024,492	17,680	...
Letters, Official ... ..	1,322,256	1,357,252	34,996	...
Post Cards ... ..	1,005,368	1,026,792	21,424	...
Parceis ... ..	179,452	186,784	7,332	...
Book and Sample Packets ... ..	2,130,804	2,226,416	95,612	...
Newspapers ... ..	3,234,764	3,215,784	...	18,980
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>20,879,456</b>	<b>21,037,520</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>
Correspondence Posted ... ..	20,779,824	18,274,464	...	291,604
Articles Registered ... ..	155,821	161,796	...	...

Net Increase, Articles Delivered, 156,62.

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

Correspondence	1907	1908	Increase	Decrease
Returned to senders within the Colony ... ..	82,311	61,773	...	20,578
Returned to other Countries ... ..	53,332	60,418	7,086	...
Destroyed ... ..	34,892	52,151	17,259	...
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>170,535</b>	<b>174,302</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>

Net Increase, 3,767.

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF MAIL BAGS AND CASES  
OF PARCELS DEALT WITH.**

	1907	1908	Increase	Decrease
Despatched to adjoining Territories ... ..	37,444	36,867	...	577
Received from adjoining Territories ... ..	39,970	45,295	5,325	...
Bags despatched to the United Kingdom ... ..	4,193	3,813	...	380
Bags received from the United Kingdom ... ..	13,098	9,366	...	3,732
Bags despatched to Foreign Countries ... ..	2,067	2,099	32	...
Bags received from Foreign Countries ... ..	4,945	4,278	...	667
Bags received in Transit ... ..	7,231	6,075	...	1,156
Boxes of Parcels despatched to the United Kingdom ... ..	293	267	...	26
Boxes of Parcels received from the United Kingdom ... ..	2,244	2,165	...	79
Boxes of Parcels despatched to Oversea Colonies ... ..	485	468	...	17
Boxes of Parcels received from Oversea Colonies ... ..	526	559	33	...
<b>Totals ... ..</b>	<b>112,496</b>	<b>111,252</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>

Net Decrease, 1,244.

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FOREIGN PARCEL TRAFFIC.

	1907	1908	Increase	Decrease
Number of Parcels despatched to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	9,872	9,263	...	609
Number of Parcels received from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	39,856	36,593	...	3,263
Total ...	49,728	45,856	...	3,872
Value of Articles Exported by post to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	£ s. d. 8,205 16 7½	£ s. d. 5,759 15 5	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. 2,446 1 2½
Value of Articles Imported by post from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	66,138 5 11	58,710 12 3	...	7,427 13 8
Amount of Customs Dues collected on Postal Packets received from other Countries ...	8,572 1 1	8,430 3 10	...	141 17 3

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED.

Payable in	1907		1908		Increase		Decrease	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Natal		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Cape Colony	24,385	106,987 15 5	19,472	99,863 7 3	...	...	4,913	7,124 8 2
Transvaal								
Rhodesia								
Mozambique								
United Kingdom ...	31,750	117,213 8 8	22,779	93,478 2 5	...	...	9,371	23,735 5 11
Orange River Colony	637	3,477 19 1	525	3,439 7 8	...	...	42	38 11 5
St. Helena	62	83 17 0	60	179 12 6	...	95 15 6	2	...
Mauritius ...	654	2,146 9 10	532	1,848 1 3	...	...	122	298 8 7
India ...	9,791	69,908 0 9	9,938	61,601 5 6	...	...	753	8,306 15 3
Australia ...	2,255	8,342 14 7	1,830	6,561 13 2	...	...	425	1,781 1 5
Ceylon ...	59	202 2 9	41	116 6 4	...	...	18	85 16 5
Nyasaland Protectorate	8	15 15 1	2	3 2 0	...	...	6	12 13 1
British East Africa ...	15	62 0 6	22	117 11 2	7	55 10 8	...	...
Norway ...	599	2,107 9 9	528	1,606 8 3	...	...	71	501 1 6
	70,215	310,547 13 5	54,499	268,814 17 10	7	151 6 2	15,723	41,884 1 9

Net Decrease No. 15,716. Amount £41,732 15s. 7d.

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONEY ORDERS PAID.

Issued in	1907		1908		Increase		Decrease	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Natal		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	17,112	73,336 3 4	13,566	69,408 5 6	...	...	3,546	3,927 17 10
Cape Colony	3,837	17,443 1 11	3,477	15,919 5 6	...	...	360	1,523 16 5
Transvaal	7,025	33,318 4 4	4,702	28,158 2 0	...	...	2,323	5,160 2 4
Orange River Colony	14,917	85,901 6 6	13,269	79,412 9 0	...	...	1,648	6,488 17 6
Rhodesia	1,645	8,485 18 10	1,649	9,130 14 1	4	644 15 3	...	...
St. Helena	506	2,495 3 2	483	2,808 12 10	...	313 9 8	23	...
Mauritius ...	5	26 4 7	5	20 10 0	...	...	...	5 14 7
India ...	104	738 5 11	79	424 14 8	...	...	25	313 11 3
Australia ...	114	617 2 10	124	859 0 1	10	241 17 3	...	...
Ceylon ...	509	1,744 13 7	614	1,995 0 0	105	250 6 5	...	...
Nyasaland Protectorate	10	28 11 4	14	...	4	...	...	4 7 1
Mozambique	1	7 10 0	4	25 16 6	3	18 6 6	...	...
British East Africa ...	128	353 1 8	142	389 17 5	14	36 15 9	...	...
Norway ...	28	85 9 3	33	194 10 7	5	109 1 4	...	...
	65	714 19 0	66	291 17 11	1	...	...	323 1 1
	46,006	225,295 16 3	38,227	209,163 0 4	146	1,614 12 2	7,925	17,747 8 1

Net Decrease No. 7,779. Amount £16,132 15s. 11d.

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, BRITISH COLONIES AND OTHER PLACES ABROAD, AND PAID IN NATAL.**

		Denomination																																	Totals									
		6d.	1/-	1/6	2/-	2/6	3/-	3/6	4/-	4/6	5/-	5/6	6/-	6/6	7/-	7/6	8/-	8/6	9/-	9/6	10/-	10/6	11/-	11/6	12/-	12/6	13/-	13/6	14/-	14/6	15/-	15/6	16/-	16/6	17/-	17/6	18/-	18/6	19/-	19/6	20/-	21/-	No.	Amount
1908	..	1,396	3,075	4,927	8,899	15,864	26,022	5,327	2,100	5,321	32,067	1,812	1,575	714	939	6,290	989	320	703	392	23,263	4,444	497	278	692	1,134	486	303	561	2,360	5,501	276	500	263	324	737	408	216	367	316	88,209	3,583	261,492	£ 145,873 4 0
1907	..	357,631	4,477	7,755	10,514	3,257	1,801	8,372	4,546	25,967	21	35	12	29	5,632	35	14	16	10	30,088	3,525	12	9	30	323	17	12	14	7,000	8	14	4	18	111	13	10	24	3	65,025	991	199,366	107,567 14 0		
Increase	..	1,561	454	580	1,144	5,350	425	546	804	675	6,000	1,791	1,540	702	910	658	954	500	687	382	3,175	779	485	269	662	811	469	291	547	229	501	268	486	259	306	626	306	206	343	312	22,584	2,592	61,926	38,305 10 0

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED IN NATAL AND PAID IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, BRITISH COLONIES AND OTHER PLACES ABROAD.**

		Denomination																																	Totals									
		6d.	1/-	1/6	2/-	2/6	3/-	3/6	4/-	4/6	5/-	5/6	6/-	6/6	7/-	7/6	8/-	8/6	9/-	9/6	10/-	10/6	11/-	11/6	12/-	12/6	13/-	13/6	14/-	14/6	15/-	15/6	16/-	16/6	17/-	17/6	18/-	18/6	19/-	19/6	20/-	21/-	No.	Amount
1908	..	2,257	8,006	4,846	8,621	14,440	8,532	5,164	7,783	4,875	34,676	1,984	1,979	1,341	1,366	7,343	1,327	714	919	497	35,317	3,716	693	359	984	1,445	673	384	742	295	8,909	345	635	301	104	876	517	328	423	354	89,848	3,779	266,007	£ 152,340 16 2
1907	..	..	8,206	1,441	1,267	10,883	8,034	5,215	8,777	4,940	25,408	..	..	..	..	5,887	..	..	..	..	31,051	3,381	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,017	..	..	..	..	106	..	..	..	..	61,584	..	196,450	£ 22,743 10 1	
Increase	..	2,257	..	405	354	3,557	..	..	..	..	7,248	1,984	1,979	1,341	1,366	1,456	1,327	714	919	497	4,266	335	693	359	984	1,112	673	384	742	295	..	345	635	301	404	770	517	328	423	361	28,264	3,779	Net Increase. No. 69,557. Amount, £49,597 6s. 1d.	
Decrease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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

Country of Issue	Drafts Issued								Drafts Honoured							
	1907		1908		Increase		Decrease		1907		1908		Increase		Decrease	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Natal ...	152	£ s. d. 324 9 0	174	£ s. d. 278 19 2	22	£ s. d. ...	...	£ s. d. 45 9 10	41	£ s. d. 77 14 9	40	£ s. d. 46 1 7	...	£ s. d. ...	1	£ s. d. 31 13 2
Gape Colony ...	70	£ s. d. 152 9 5	70	£ s. d. 123 4 5	...	£ s. d. ...	...	£ s. d. 29 5 0	15	£ s. d. 15 1 0	14	£ s. d. 19 4 6	...	£ s. d. 4 3 6	1	£ s. d. ...
Orange River Colony ...	4	£ s. d. 5 10 8	6	£ s. d. 16 19 7	2	£ s. d. 10 8 11	...	£ s. d. ...	...	£ s. d. ...	...	£ s. d. ...	...	£ s. d. ...	...	£ s. d. ...
	226	£ s. d. 483 8 1	250	£ s. d. 419 3 2	24	£ s. d. 10 8 11	...	£ s. d. 74 14 10	56	£ s. d. 92 15 9	54	£ s. d. 65 6 1	...	£ s. d. 4 3 6	2	£ s. d. 31 13 2

Drafts Issued :—Net Decrease, value £64 5s. 11d. Net Increase, No. of Drafts, 24.

Drafts Honoured :—Net Decrease No., 2 ; value £27 9s. 8d.

## RETURN OF CABLE TRAFFIC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1908.

Month	Number of Messages			Payments to Eastern Telegraph Company	Particulars of Amounts Received from Company					Value of Government Messages received from the Company for re-transmission for which no payment is made
	Received from Company	Handed to Company	Total		Ordinary Fees (Messages handed to Department for re-transmission)	R.P.'s (Prepaid Reply Messages)	R.T.P.P.'s (Press Messages)	Amounts received on behalf of B.S.A. Company	Total	
January ...	1,465	1,070	2,535	£ s. d. 1,247 17 3½	£ s. d. 55 6 1	£ s. d. 4 9 3	£ s. d. 8 0 6½	£ s. d. 13 19 2	£ s. d. 81 15 0½	£ s. d. 10 0 2
February ...	1,451	958	2,409	£ s. d. 1,202 7 6½	£ s. d. 53 12 2	£ s. d. 11 3 7	£ s. d. 5 19 1½	£ s. d. 7 9 6	£ s. d. 78 4 4½	£ s. d. 9 6 10
March ...	1,246	836	2,082	£ s. d. 1,074 14 10	£ s. d. 46 4 3	£ s. d. 10 1 1	£ s. d. 5 1½	£ s. d. 7 11 1½	£ s. d. 64 1 7	£ s. d. 5 12 5
April ...	1,399	837	2,236	£ s. d. 982 4 3	£ s. d. 52 11 4½	£ s. d. 5 18 1	£ s. d. 13 4	£ s. d. 7 0 2	£ s. d. 66 2 11½	£ s. d. 7 16 11
May ...	1,598	995	2,593	£ s. d. 981 12 5	£ s. d. 60 11 11	£ s. d. 22 7 3	£ s. d. 2 2 8	£ s. d. 6 9 1	£ s. d. 91 10 11	£ s. d. 10 4 3
June ...	1,581	830	2,411	£ s. d. 937 16 9½	£ s. d. 58 1 3	£ s. d. 7 7 1	£ s. d. 3 2 9	£ s. d. 7 12 7	£ s. d. 70 3 8	£ s. d. 12 17 1
July ...	1,568	893	2,461	£ s. d. 1,030 6 2	£ s. d. 55 8 5	£ s. d. 3 16 8	£ s. d. 4 16 5½	£ s. d. 11 0 0	£ s. d. 75 1 6½	£ s. d. 14 0 4
August ...	1,703	892	2,595	£ s. d. 932 1 5	£ s. d. 64 4 11	£ s. d. 14 17 8	£ s. d. 3 4 5½	£ s. d. 7 6 0	£ s. d. 89 13 0½	£ s. d. 5 8 1
September ...	1,462	985	2,447	£ s. d. 1,002 9 0½	£ s. d. 37 3 6	£ s. d. 8 9 2	£ s. d. 2 4 9½	£ s. d. 5 14 3½	£ s. d. 73 11 9	£ s. d. 6 13 1
October ...	1,995	999	2,994	£ s. d. 1,068 5 9½	£ s. d. 77 11 5	£ s. d. 6 19 1	£ s. d. 1 19 5½	£ s. d. 9 7 4	£ s. d. 95 17 3½	£ s. d. 11 16 2
November ...	1,921	904	2,825	£ s. d. 1,085 18 6	£ s. d. 83 4 11	£ s. d. 11 6 7	£ s. d. 2 17 2½	£ s. d. 14 1 8	£ s. d. 111 10 4½	£ s. d. 8 3 6
December ...	1,615	854	2,469	£ s. d. 927 10 1½	£ s. d. 63 15 3	£ s. d. 7 5 8	£ s. d. 1 6 8	£ s. d. 9 0 8½	£ s. d. 81 8 3½	£ s. d. 5 8 11
Eastern ...	19,004	10,963	29,967	£ s. d. 12,473 4 2	£ s. d. 727 15 5½	£ s. d. 114 1 2	£ s. d. 36 12 7	£ s. d. 106 11 7½	£ s. d. 985 0 10	£ s. d. 107 7 9
Western (Jan. to Dec.) ...	...	69	69	£ s. d. 162 14 10	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. ...
Grand Total ...	19,004	11,032	30,036	£ s. d. 12,635 19 0	£ s. d. 727 15 5½	£ s. d. 114 1 2	£ s. d. 36 12 7	£ s. d. 106 11 7½	£ s. d. 985 0 10	£ s. d. 107 7 9

Amount paid to Eastern Company by Natal, £4,879 13s. 6½d.





## POST OFFICE BALANCE SHEET FOR 1907-1908 (continued).

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure ... ..	...	13,918 1 0	<i>In addition the Department rendered the undermentioned free Services:—</i>		
Less excess of Services Received over Services Rendered ... ..	...	17,939 1 0	Conveyance of Official Letters	11,895 6 6	
Balance against the Dept. ... ..	...	4,021 0 0	Transmission of Official Telegrams ... ..	8,690 8 10	
Value of free Services rendered to other Departments ... ..	...	32,080 16 2½	Registration of Official Telegraphic Addresses ... ..	73 10 0	
Less balance of Indirect Credits and Debits ... ..	...	4,021 0 0	Official Telephone Connections	828 5 0	
			Maintenance of Electric Bells...	130 4 6	
			Official Calls on Trunk Telephone Lines ... ..	111 4 10½	
			Postage on Colonial Newspapers ... ..	7,000 0 0	
			Half Cost of Military Telegrams ... ..	159 2 6	
			Upkeep of Observatory Line ... ..	12 0 0	
			Upkeep of Harbour Department Telephone System ... ..	80 0 0	
			Private Bag Services to Government Departments...	63 0 0	
			Private Boxes allotted to Governments ... ..	161 14 0	
			Difference between Cost of Post Cart and Carrier Services ... ..	2,303 0 0	
			Loss on Telephone Line in Zululand constructed and maintained for Magisterial purposes ... ..	573 0 0	
Net gain to Colony ... ..	...	28,059 16 2½			32,080 16 2½

## GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

## BALANCE SHEET 31st DECEMBER, 1908.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance due to Depositors on 31st December, 1908:—				Value of Securities at the cost price, as per Schedule "B" ...			320,334 19 7
Pietermaritzburg ...	141,236	12	0	Treasurer's Cash in hand ...	171,928	3	0
Durban ...	246,038	12	2	Overpaid by A.O., G.P.O. ...	211	0	2
Branches ...	97,120	5	9	Drafts outstanding on the 31st December, 1908 ...	3,092	2	6
			484,395 9 11				168,625 0 4
Unclaimed Fund:—				Deposits in transit to Treasury on 31st December, 1908 ...			31 14 6
Pietermaritzburg ...	1,526	13	1				
Durban ...	1,666	14	10				
Branches ...	1,402	16	7				
			4,596 4 6				488,991 14 5
			488,991 14 5				

The following Investments on behalf of Savings Bank Funds are held conjointly by Sir Walter Peace, K.C.M.G., and William Smart, Esq.

Description of Securities.	When Redeemable.	Period for which Interest is calculated.	Amount.	Cost price of Stock.	Amount of Interest.
Cape of Good Hope Inscribed Stock, 4 per cent. ...	1936	Jan 1 to Dec. 31	£ 9,796 13 4	£ 9,630 7 6	£ 391 17 4
*Canada Debenture Stock, 4 per cent. ...	1908	" Oct. 31	100 0 0	107 10 0	4 0 0
Canada Debenture Stock, 4 per cent. ...	1910	" Dec. 31	700 0 0	722 14 7	28 0 0
Canada Inscribed Stock, 3½ per cent. ...	1909-1934	" "	9,456 4 9	10,000 0 0	330 19 4
Canada Inscribed Stock, 3 per cent. ...	1938	" "	13,845 10 6	13,335 0 0	415 7 4
New South Wales Inscribed Stock, 3½ per cent. ...	1918	" "	900 0 0	902 3 3	368 6 3
New South Wales Inscribed Stock, 3½ per cent. ...	1924	" "	9,623 6 3	10,018 4 7	400 0 0
†New South Wales Debenture Stock, 4 per cent. ...	1909	" "	10,000 0 0	10,787 11 0	300 0 0
New South Wales Debenture Stock, 3 per cent. ...	1935	" "	10,000 0 0	10,262 4 6	114 18 10
Victoria Inscribed Stock, 3½ per cent. ...	1923	" "	4,141 7 10	3,299 13 5	400 0 0
Victoria Inscribed Stock, 4 per cent. ...	1911-1926	" "	10,000 0 0	9,581 6 0	600 0 0
Victoria Inscribed Stock, 3 per cent. ...	1929-1949	" "	20,000 0 0	19,024 12 10	600 0 0
Queensland Stock, 4 per cent. ...	1913-1915	" "	15,000 0 0	16,312 11 6	40 0 0
†South Australia Stock, 4 per cent. ...	1909	" "	1,000 0 0	1,066 5 2	192 0 0
South Australia Stock, 4 per cent. ...	1916	" "	4,800 0 0	4,965 0 0	600 0 0
South Australia Stock, 3 per cent. ...	1916-1926	" "	20,000 0 0	19,725 8 6	163 0 0
South Australia Stock, 3 per cent. ...	1916	" "	3,500 0 0	5,231 16 0	180 0 0
West Australia Stock, 3 per cent. ...	1915-1935	" "	6,000 0 0	5,707 13 6	465 0 0
West Australia Stock, 3 per cent. ...	1916-1936	" "	15,500 0 0	15,020 14 6	1,050 11 8
New Zealand Inscribed Stock, 3½ per cent. ...	1940	" "	30,016 17 7	28,628 13 0	150 0 0
New Zealand Stock, 3 per cent. ...	1945	" "	5,000 0 0	5,036 5 0	20 0 0
Mauritius Inscribed Stock, 4 per cent. ...	1937	" "	500 0 0	469 2 7	360 6 0
Ceylon Inscribed Stock, 3 per cent. ...	1940	" "	12,010 0 0	11,799 17 6	19 10 0
Queensland Stock, 3 per cent. ...	1922-1947	" "	650 0 0	605 4 8	65 19 5
Indian Government 3½ per cent. Loan —20,000 Rupees ...	...	" "	...	2,932 3 7	3,150 0 0
Natal Government Securities, 3 per cent. ...	1929-1949	" "	105,000 0 0	98,527 16 10	41 14 9
Cape of Good Hope, 3 per cent. ...	1933-1943	" "	1,391 5 0	1,198 5 3	203 9 1
Natal Government, 3½ per cent. ...	1939-1944	" "	5,812 18 6	5,416 14 4	4,643 18 2
Amount of Interest assessed at 4 per cent. on uninvested balances during the year ...	...	" "	...	...	...
			326,744 3 9	320,334 19 7	15,306 18 2

\* Redeemed 1st November, 1908.

† Redeemable 1st January, 1909.

Detailed Statement of the Head Office and Branch Ledger Balances on 31st December, 1908, in support of the Controller's Consolidated Account for the period July 1st to December 31st, 1908.

Office	Balances, 30th June, 1908	Deposits, 1st July to 31st Dec., 1908	Withdrawals, 1st July to 31st Dec., 1908	Transferred Unclaimed Fund	Balances, 31st Dec., 1908
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pietermaritzburg ...	145,088 1 6	43,149 12 3	46,538 7 3	462 14 6	141,236 12 0
Durban ...	251,651 15 8	77,051 10 5	82,247 14 2	416 19 9	246,038 12 2
Babanango ...	...	...	...	...	9 11 3
Bellair ...	...	85 3 6	5 0 0	...	80 3 6
Berea Road ...	76 5 4	243 6 0	161 13 0	...	157 18 4
Bergville ...	754 14 1	157 7 9	176 3 7	5 6	735 12 9
Bulstrodes ...	...	...	...	...	10 0 5
Camperdown ...	6 0 5	4 0 0	...	...	150 5 4
Chapel Street ...	20 5 4	167 0 0	37 0 0	...	629 10 2
Charlestown ...	443 14 2	293 13 0	107 17 0	...	...
Clarke Road ...	...	...	...	...	113 13 8
Creighton ...	7 0 6	141 17 8	35 10 0	...	15 9 0
Dalton ...	...	25 9 0	10 0 0	...	187 2 11
Dannhauser ...	141 3 10	113 11 0	67 11 11	...	10,489 0 2
Dundee ...	10,892 10 7	3,188 5 10	3,586 14 8	5 1 7	60 10 0
East End ...	13 1 10	121 4 0	73 15 10	...	656 0 6
Elandslaagte ...	439 12 9	285 7 9	69 0 0	...	2,695 2 10
Eshowe ...	2,976 17 8	613 15 1	895 3 11	6 0	6,189 5 11
Estcourt ...	6,653 0 3	1,827 13 4	2,288 6 8	3 1 0	14 18 0
Florida Road ...	...	23 18 0	9 0 0	...	4,466 14 9
Greytown ...	4,457 18 10	1,193 14 0	1,017 7 5	167 10 8	152 18 6
Greyville ...	114 6 11	137 15 0	99 3 5	...	1,525 13 3
Harding ...	1,652 12 16	191 14 2	316 19 10	1 13 11	162 8 4
Hatting Spruit ...	129 10 10	180 2 0	147 4 6	...	2,578 16 7
Howick ...	2,209 3 1	1,135 7 9	747 13 0	18 1 3	...
Ingwavuma ...	...	...	...	...	957 9 4
Ipoela ...	1,075 17 2	133 7 1	251 14 11	...	2,097 11 11
Ixopo ...	2,010 0 10	431 17 10	344 6 9	...	81 5 0
Kearsney ...	...	81 5 0	...	...	339 9 2
Krantzkop ...	274 9 0	127 16 2	62 16 0	...	17,940 8 7
Ladysmith ...	17,944 5 9	5,266 6 8	5,095 16 4	174 7 6	117 11 3
Lower Umkomaas ...	95 15 8	66 15 1	44 19 6	...	336 1 6
Magumulo ...	291 5 9	99 15 9	55 0 0	...	1,458 12 1
Memoth ...	1,249 13 0	530 9 0	321 9 11	...	1,327 9 2
Mosi River ...	1,239 18 0	530 3 11	442 12 9	...	45 15 8
Musgrave Road ...	5 10 8	44 0 0	3 15 0	...	496 10 10
Mt. Zion ...	297 7 7	213 3 3	14 0 0	...	7,061 9 7
Newcastle ...	7,717 14 7	1,570 7 1	2,213 15 1	12 11 0	334 9 3
New Hanover ...	257 8 7	140 3 0	63 2 4	...	1,808 4 7
Nkandhla ...	1,834 5 4	510 18 7	536 19 4	...	6 4 0
Nondweni ...	18 18 8	15 17 9	28 12 5	...	495 17 4
Nongoma ...	603 14 0	464 0 11	571 17 7	...	921 16 4
Nqutu ...	933 14 5	151 17 11	163 16 0	...	163 1 9
Paulpietersburg ...	150 9 7	42 16 0	30 3 10	...	654 17 2
Pinetown ...	519 7 11	409 9 0	264 19 9	...	4,735 16 4
Point ...	4,298 0 3	2,328 1 7	1,890 5 6	...	3,068 16 0
Port Shepstone ...	2,737 3 0	886 13 5	553 3 8	1 16 9	4,448 18 10
Richmond ...	4,761 0 11	923 7 3	1,234 11 0	18 4	33 0 10
Stamford Hill ...	21 8 11	39 0 8	27 8 9	...	5,352 10 0
Stanger ...	6,414 1 4	993 0 6	1,798 3 7	256 8 3	145 10 0
Umbogintwini ...	...	145 10 0	...	...	5 11 0
Umsinga ...	20 15 0	8 16 0	24 0 0	...	2,133 14 6
Umzinto ...	1,887 8 9	552 5 9	273 4 2	32 15 10	37 4 3
Underberg ...	35 11 0	15 1 6	13 9 0	...	1,351 16 11
Utrecht ...	1,237 18 2	364 9 6	250 10 9	...	4,834 4 6
Verulam ...	4,542 18 6	1,300 4 3	1,005 7 11	3 10 4	2,141 16 2
Vryheid ...	1,441 16 4	1,101 5 1	401 5 3	...	992 3 10
Weenen ...	809 19 2	347 12 2	165 6 6	2 0	114 2 11
West End ...	31 15 8	141 18 8	59 11 5	...	4,596 4 6
Unclaimed Fund ...	3,532 17 10	...	494 17 6	...	...
	496,021 2 10	150,309 0 3	157,338 8 8	1,558 4 2	488,991 14 5

CONTROLLER'S CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT.

1908 July 1 Dec. 31					Dr.		Cr.	
					£	s. d.	£	s. d.
	To Balance	...	...	...	496,021	2 10		
	By Deposits from 1st July to date	...	...	...	150,309	0 3		
	By Amounts transferred to Unclaimed Fund	...	...	...	1,558	4 2		
	By Withdrawals from 1st July to date	...	...	...			157,338	8 8
	By Amounts transferred to Unclaimed Fund	...	...	...			1,558	4 2
	By Balance	...	...	...			488,991	14 5
					647,838	7 3	647,888	7 3
	To Balance	...	...	...	488,991	14 5		

## INDIAN DEPOSITORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1908.

Branch	Number of Depositors.	Amount	Increase as compared with 1907		Decrease as compared with 1907	
			No. of Depositors	Amount	No. of Depositors	Amount
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Pietermaritzburg ...	711	10,152 15 1	29	750 3 0	...	...
Durban ...	823	23,199 1 4	63	3,415 16 0	...	...
Babango ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bellair ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Berea Road ...	2	32 3 6	2	32 3 6	...	...
Bergville ...	2	44 1 5	...	...	1	1 14 0
Bulstrodes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Camperdown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chapel Street ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Charlestown ...	2	10 6 9	1	6 9	...	...
Creighton ...	3	22 7 8	3	22 7 8	...	...
Clarke Road ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dalton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dannhauser ...	3	6 4 6	2	31 4 6	...	...
Dundee ...	69	1,329 5 4	...	...	2	375 7 0
East End ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Elandslaagte ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eshowe ...	1	8 9 6	1	8 9 6	...	...
Estcourt ...	53	735 17 0	2	285 14 1	...	...
Florida Road ...	1	3 0	1	3 0	...	...
Greytown ...	7	128 9 9	...	...	3	75 10 1
Greyville ...	2	15 11	2	15 11	...	...
Harding ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hatting Spruit ...	9	56 0 0	9	56 0 0	...	...
Howick ...	27	264 9 6	...	...	...	59 7 6
Ingwavuma ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ipoela ...	5	33 19 5	...	...	3	21 5 8
Ixopo ...	5	33 15 1	...	...	3	2 8 3
Kearsney ...	3	26 5 0	3	26 5 0	...	...
Krantzkop ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ladysmith ...	77	1,253 7 9	16	...	...	81 11 6
Lower Umkomaas ...	1	71 10 4	1	71 10 4	...	...
Mapumulo ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Melmoth ...	4	45 19 1	3	39 4 11	...	...
Mooi River ...	2	47 9 7	1	36 17 1	...	...
Musgrave Road ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mtunzini ...	2	11 13 0	1	6 7 5	...	...
Newcastle ...	36	844 12 5	3	...	...	177 0 5
New Hanover ...	6	86 6 5	5	86 3 11	...	...
Nkandhla ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nondweni ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nongoma ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nqutu ...	1	6 9 0	1	6 9 0	...	...
Paulpietersburg ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pinetown ...	2	17 7 6	1	17 3 0	...	...
Point ...	46	672 13 1	13	27 7 11	...	...
Port Shepstone ...	14	420 17 7	2	145 15 3	...	...
Richmond ...	27	419 13 10	7	147 15 11	...	...
Stamford Hill ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stanger ...	37	598 17 0	...	...	2	144 2 1
Umbogintwini ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Umsinga ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Umtinto ...	10	132 6 3	6	74 3 6	...	...
Underberg ...	1	6 5 8	...	3 12 5	...	...
Utrecht ...	1	10 0	1	10 0	...	...
Verulam ...	45	894 10 0	13	419 13 10	...	...
Vryheid ...	2	88 9 7	...	39 0 6	1	...
Weenen ...	1	3 4 1	...	...	...	7 5 11
West End ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2,043	41,760 5 5	211	5,750 16 11	15	945 12 5

## NATIVE DEPOSITORS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1908.

Branch	No. of Depositors	Amount	Increase as compared with 1907		Decrease as compared with 1907	
			No. of Depositors	Amount	No. of Depositors	Amount
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Pietermaritzburg ...	163	2,015 17 3	15	252 2 2	...	...
Durban ...	93	1,162 3 9	7	165 12 10	...	...
Babanango ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bellair ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Berea Road ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bergville ...	1	42 0 0	1	42 0 0	...	...
Bulstrodes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Camperdown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chapel Street ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Charlestown ...	1	9 0 0	1	9 0 0	...	...
Clarke Road ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Creighton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dalton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dannhauser ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dundee ...	14	106 7 9	1	...	...	182 14 8
East End ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Elandslaagte ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eshowe ...	38	1,468 10 10	4	...	...	25 11 0
Estcourt ...	13	189 8 2	2	...	...	50 18 8
Florida Road ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greytown ...	15	226 17 6	5	...	...	4 15 1
Greyville ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Harding ...	5	28 7 8	...	3 6 11	...	...
Hatting Spruit ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Howick ...	1	12 1	1	12 1	...	...
Ingwavuma ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ipoela ...	2	9 14 7	...	4 7	...	...
Ixopo ...	5	183 8 8	2	56 17 0	...	...
Kearsney ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Krantzkop ...	2	6 1 11	...	...	...	11 6
Ladysmith ...	42	617 4 7	11	182 2 7	...	...
Lower Umkomaas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mapumulo ...	5	78 11 10	2	30 7 8	...	...
Melmoth ...	6	238 2 2	4	232 9 5	...	...
Mooi River ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Musgrave Road ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mtunzini ...	4	103 10 0	4	103 10 0	...	...
Newcastle ...	13	329 7 0	1	...	...	8 6 7
New Hanover ...	1	31 2 2	...	10 15 7	...	...
Nkandla ...	24	1,167 6 6	7	191 5 10	...	...
Nondweni ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nongoma ...	...	...	...	...	1	19 3 11
Nqutu ...	13	563 19 1	...	...	1	46 5 2
Paulpietersburg ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pinetown ...	4	236 6 10	2	131 16 9	...	...
Point ...	...	...	...	...	1	18 2 3
Port Shepstone ...	1	26 8 2	...	8 9	1	1 8 0
Richmond ...	10	148 10 9	1	...	...	...
Stamford Hill ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stanger ...	10	244 14 10	2	54 13 1	...	...
Umbogintwini ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Umsinga ...	2	4 5 0	2	4 5 0	...	...
Umzinto ...	5	80 13 2	...	12 7 9	...	...
Underberg ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Utrecht ...	1	5 1 3	1	5 1 3	...	...
Verulam ...	6	45 8 5	...	...	1	16 3 11
Vryheid ...	3	21 12 2	1	15 8 7	...	...
Weenen ...	1	3 8	...	...	...	...
West End ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	504	9,390 17 10	77	1,504 7 10	5	374 0 9

## SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS OPENED AND CLOSED DURING YEAR 1908.

Branches	Total		Branches	Total	
	Opened	Closed		Opened	Closed
Pietermaritzburg ...	1,240	1,166	Lower Umkomaas ...	6	4
Durban ...	2,347	2,274	Mapumulo ...	3	1
Babanango ...	...	...	Melmoth ...	18	19
Bellair ...	9	1	Mooi River ...	20	18
Berea Road ...	39	7	Musgrave Road ...	7	1
Bergville ...	8	6	Mtunzini ...	7	1
Bulstrodes ...	...	...	Newcastle ...	73	68
Chapel Street ...	5	3	New Hanover ...	7	3
Camperdown ...	3	...	Nkandhla ...	30	25
Charlestown ...	25	4	Nondweni ...	3	1
Clarke Road ...	...	...	Nongoma ...	27	40
Creighton ...	15	...	Nqutu ...	5	6
Dalton ...	4	1	Paulpietersburg ...	7	3
Dannhauser ...	11	4	Pinetown ...	16	10
Dundee ...	160	125	Point ...	95	73
East End ...	15	4	Port Shepstone ...	46	20
Elandslaagte ...	9	...	Richmond ...	28	35
Eshowe ...	32	20	Stamford Hill ...	9	2
Estcourt ...	93	54	Stanger ...	47	34
Florida Road ...	7	1	Umbogintwini ...	9	...
Greytown ...	66	35	Umsinga ...	6	1
Greyville ...	28	4	Umzinto ...	29	14
Harding ...	12	10	Underberg ...	1	1
Hatting Spruit ...	21	5	Utrecht ...	15	6
Howick ...	44	38	Verulam ...	52	34
Ingwavuma ...	...	...	Vryheid ...	49	20
Ipoela ...	5	15	Weenen ...	17	7
Ixopo ...	23	18	West End ...	23	2
Kearsney ...	11	...			
Krantzkop ...	9	1			
Ladysmith ...	183	169	Total ...	5,079	4,414

## Detailed Statement of Actual Deposits and Withdrawals for the Year 1908.

Office	Deposits	Withdrawals	Office	Deposits	Withdrawals
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Maritzburg ...	89,576 15 6	97,308 6 6	Ladysmith ...	10,692 11 1	10,635 1 7
Durban ...	159,959 0 3	171,273 16 6	Lower Umkomaas ...	129 16 9	56 5 6
Babanango ...	5 2 5	...	Mapumulo ...	151 10 11	56 19 6
Bellair ...	85 3 6	5 0 0	Melmoth ...	1,137 11 9	611 11 5
Berea Road ...	321 19 4	166 1 0	Mooi River ...	1,203 6 1	743 5 4
Bergville ...	383 8 10	385 12 2	Musgrave Road ...	67 10 8	21 15 0
Bulstrodes ...	...	...	Mtunzini ...	282 14 11	62 19 10
Camperdown ...	8 10 5	...	Newcastle ...	3,433 1 9	4,161 12 9
Chapel Street ...	197 5 4	47 0 0	New Hanover ...	290 19 10	149 8 11
Charlestown ...	688 17 2	163 0 0	N'Kandhla ...	1,225 8 11	900 2 5
Clarke Road ...	...	...	Nondweni ...	34 16 5	28 12 5
Creighton ...	149 3 8	35 10 0	Nongoma ...	1,061 1 3	1,180 16 8
Dalton ...	25 9 0	10 0 0	Nqutu ...	323 18 8	499 13 11
Dannhauser ...	196 14 10	67 11 11	Paulpietersburg ...	180 15 3	91 9 3
Dundee ...	6,355 7 2	6,840 1 1	Pinetown ...	741 18 4	561 9 6
East End ...	134 5 10	73 15 10	Point ...	5,011 10 7	4,174 2 11
Elandslaagte ...	595 8 3	83 0 0	Port Shepstone ...	1,710 0 9	1,444 14 5
Eshowe ...	1,370 14 10	1,483 7 4	Richmond ...	1,866 8 8	2,324 6 10
Estcourt ...	4,050 17 1	4,608 14 9	Stamford Hill ...	62 19 7	29 18 9
Florida Road ...	23 18 0	9 0 0	Stanger ...	2,461 13 0	2,796 9 0
Greytown ...	2,500 8 11	2,412 13 8	Umbogintwini ...	145 10 0	...
Greyville ...	250 1 11	105 3 5	Umsinga ...	29 11 0	24 0 0
Harding ...	448 18 4	681 9 11	Um into ...	985 3 4	883 17 3
Hatting Spruit ...	321 12 10	159 4 6	Underberg ...	70 3 5	189 12 4
Howick ...	1,975 4 2	1,851 8 9	Utrecht ...	851 12 3	676 18 8
Ingwavuma ...	...	...	Verulam ...	2,952 4 3	1,893 7 7
Ipoela ...	382 5 0	435 12 6	Vryheid ...	1,748 5 4	809 1 9
Ixopo ...	1,014 4 9	845 13 6	Weenen ...	680 13 0	556 19 2
Kearsney ...	81 5 0	...	West End ...	204 10 4	90 7 5
Krantzkop ...	191 16 8	97 16 0	Unclaimed Fund ...	...	...
				311,035 7 1	324,717 1 5

Total paid into Treasury during 1908 ... 319,825 4 2  
Less 1907 Deposits paid into Treasury in 1908 ... 8,611 1 10

Overpaid to Treasury by Accounting Officer, Post Office, £211 0 2 311,214 2 4  
Underpaid to Treasury by Magistrates ... 31 14 6

£179 5 8 179 5 8

Add Interest short drawn on 30th June, 1908 ... 10 5

£311,035 7 1