

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

REPORT

OF THE

POSTMASTER-GENERAL

(DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS)

FOR THE

YEAR 1915.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of His Excellency
the Governor-General.*

Price 1s.

CAPE TOWN :

CAPE TIMES LIMITED, GOVERNMENT PRINTERS.

1916.

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UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (dated 17th April, 1916) for the Year 1915.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of His Excellency
the Governor-General.*

INTRODUCTORY.

The depression in commercial circles which followed the outbreak of hostilities, and which resulted in a marked decline in the revenue of the Department for the year 1914, viz., a shortfall for the year of £12,456 as compared with the revenue for 1913, has not apparently been maintained if the receipts from post, telegraph and telephone sources are to be accepted as a criterion of commercial activity. Receipts from Postal Services during the year 1915 amounted to £1,042,325 as compared with £1,015,836; Telegraph receipts were £386,701 as compared with £356,739, and Telephone receipts £316,498 as compared with £278,730, giving a gratifying total increase of £94,219 over the receipts for the previous year. As will be noticed elsewhere in the Report the Department has conducted its operations during the year under exceptionally trying conditions, mainly due to depleted staff, and the fact that the increased business which the higher returns represent has been transacted with comparatively speaking but little inconvenience to the public is evidence of the facility with which the machinery of the Post Office can be adapted to meet abnormal circumstances.

The total revenue for the year 1915 was £1,745,524, as compared with £1,651,305. In addition an amount of £6,462 was collected in the South-West Protectorate on account of postal and telegraph services undertaken in that Territory, the amount being transferred to the Treasury on behalf of the Protectorate Administration. Expenditure fell from £1,685,907 in 1914 to £1,643,038 in 1915. Included in the latter sum is an amount of £8,469 expended in connection with the postal and telegraph services in the South-West Protectorate.

Free services, to and by other Government Departments, which are not included in the foregoing figures, were rendered as follows:—

Performed by other Departments for the Post Office, £261,811.

Performed by the Post Office for other Departments, £275,068.

Revenue collected for other Departments amounted to £589,269, of which Revenue stamps (£215,594), cigarette labels (£195,457) and Customs dues on parcels (£100,847) were the most important items. On behalf of the Department of Finance 18,792 pension warrants of a total value of £128,920 were cashed by postmasters.

POSTS.

Post Offices.—The number of offices transacting postal business on the 31st December, 1915, was 2,478, an increase of 27 compared with the previous year.

Posting Receptacles.—The number of posting receptacles, other than those at Post Offices, was 962, an increase of 3 during the year. Twenty-nine were on trains and nine on mail steamers.

Mail matter dealt with.—A return showing the mail matter posted in the Union for delivery therein is given in Appendix No. 7.

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INLAND MAIL SERVICES.

Main Posts.—The main posts in the Union, excluding railway services, numbered 302. The following were the principal changes effected during the year:—

Kenhardt to Kakamas and Upington to Zwartmodder.—Services from Lutzputs to Kakamas and from Langklip to Zwartmodder were substituted for those from Kenhardt and Upington respectively.

Belmont to Douglas.—Douglas is now served from Hopetown, and residents on the old Belmont-Douglas route receive their mail matter from an agency opened at Scholtzfontein.

Tsomo to Engcobo and Tsomo to Butterworth.—The connections Tsomo to Engcobo and Tsomo to Butterworth were discontinued. The former route was terminated at Main, and Ngamakwe on the latter receives its mails *via* Butterworth.

Emfundisweni to Bizana.—The service Emfundisweni to Bizana was terminated and Bizana served from Izingolweni.

Idutywa to Franklin.—The posts from the railhead at Idutywa to the railhead at Franklin, *via* Umtata, Tsolo, Qumbu, Mt. Frere, Mt. Ayliff and Koksstad, are now run by motor cars throughout.

Harrismith to Vrede.—The Harrismith to Vrede post, being no longer of use as a "through" service, was discontinued and the offices on the route served by branch posts.

Vrede to Memel.—The Vrede to Memel service was terminated at Langhoek and mails for Memel circulated exclusively from the Natal side.

Branch Posts.—The Branch Posts numbered 1,076. Owing to the continuance of the war and the attendant restriction of expenditure many applications for posts which would not be remunerative could not be granted. Several petitions for increased frequency of running on routes which are only just self-supporting could likewise not be given effect to.

New Lines of Railway.—During the year the undermentioned sections of railway were opened for public traffic and utilised for mail conveyance, displacing road services:—

Cape.

Motkop to New England.
Birdfield to Klaver.
Sterling to Williston.

Orange Free State.

Kroonstad to Vierfontein.
Fauresmith to Koffyfontein.

Natal.

Paddock to Izingolweni.
Dalton to Glenside.
Schroeders to Sandymount.

Transvaal.

Bethal to Morgenzon.
Tzaneen to Zoekmakaar.

The opening of the line to Vierfontein permitted of the serving of Bothaville from that point and the abolition of the road post between Kroonstad and Voorspoed. The extension to Morgenzon rendered the cart service between Standerton and Ermelo no longer necessary.

Summary of Mail Services.—The following is a summary of the mail services other than those on the Union Government Railways:—

	CONVEYED BY										Total
	Cart	Tram	Horse	Foot	Ox Cart	Boat	Cycle	Motor Car	Railway	Hand-cart	
Main Posts ..	241	12	5	1	5	7	..	28	1	2	302
Branch Posts ..	216	2	186	616	13	..	20	6	2	15	1,076
	457	14	191	617	18	7	20	34	3	17	1,378

1,348 contractors and 1,689 men were employed on the above services, with 2,175 horses and mules, 64 oxen, 607 carts, 46 bicycles and 52 motor cars.

The distance travelled by the mails in course of conveyance through the Union during the year was: By train, 8,549,268 miles; by other means, 5,185,544 miles.

Cost of Mail Conveyance.—The contracts in force, exclusive of the ocean mail service, represented the following liabilities:—

Main and Branch Posts ..	£89,063	Conveyance over Private	
Landing & shipping mails	1,949	Railways	£3,728
Conveyance over Union			
Railways ..	77,500	Total	£172,240

Delays to Mails.—During January the mail services to Rhodesia were repeatedly interrupted by washaways on the railway; and owing to heavy floods in the Northern Transvaal the railway service beyond Pietersburg was disorganised. Carts were run when possible to all points except Messina which was entirely isolated until the 22nd February.

Washaways occurred on the Graskop line on the 15th January and at various other dates, rendering the railway useless for mail conveyance. An additional cart was run between Lydenburg and Pilgrims Rest and a service put on from Pilgrims Rest to Sabie. As the line was opened up the cart from Pilgrims Rest to Sabie was discontinued and mails run from Rosehaugh. On the 1st April normal services were reverted to.

On the 16th February mails were delayed through a washaway on the De Aar-Prieska line.

The railway line between Harrisburg and Leeuwdoorns was washed away on the 17th February, interrupting postal communication between the Transvaal and Cape Provinces *via* Fourteen Streams for some days.

The Rhodesian mail service was interrupted from the 17th to 21st February through washaways at Pokwani and Pudimoe.

Washaways on the Rustenburg line between Brits and De Wildt on the 17th and 18th February caused the suspension of train running until the 1st March. Mails were conveyed by motor cars between Johannesburg and Rustenburg on the 20th, 22nd, 24th and 27th February.

During the last quarter of the year rains were responsible for heavy delays to mail matter circulating over routes in the Transkei.

Destruction of mails by fire.—On the 24th November, at a point about three miles north of Prince Albert Road, a fire broke out in the Western Travelling Post Office and 129 bags of mails and two baskets of parcels were destroyed. The fire was caused through a can of paraffin being dislodged from its shelf owing to oscillation of the train and falling on to a lighted stove used for cooking by the travelling staff. A considerable number of mails was thrown out on to the railway track and saved, but the van was completely gutted.

Use of motor cycles on posting bus clearances.—Notwithstanding the difficulty experienced in obtaining replacement parts from England owing to war conditions the motor collection services were satisfactorily maintained.

On the 19th and 20th July the clearances in Johannesburg were impeded through a considerable fall of snow.

Private Postbags.—The total number of private postbags in service on the 31st December was 3,011, as against 3,038 at the end of the previous year.

Transmission of certain articles through the post not allowed.—Owing to the number of cases of damage caused to other contents of mail bags by the inclusion of such commodities it was decided during February last to prohibit the transmission of butter, eggs and fresh or pickled fish through the post.

Parcel Post.—The following is a return of the parcels posted at the principal offices.—

Number and Postage Value of Parcels.	1915.		1914.	
	Number.	Postage.	Number.	Postage.
		£		£
Aliwal North	8,502	342	9,763	422
Bloemfontein	56,459	2,165	44,954	1,757
Cape Town	452,270	25,288	396,006	19,961
Do. Bree Street	5,720	262	9,347	445
Do. St. George's Street	*	*	16,728	709
Durban	151,905	6,680	138,359	5,971
East London	159,085	2,536	54,054	2,426
Grahamstown	29,328	1,082	27,079	939
Johannesburg (Main Post Office)	223,392	9,947	259,779	10,102
Kimberley	44,993	1,751	47,723	1,806
Kingwilliamstown	22,945	980	25,454	1,096
Oudtshoorn	8,996	371	8,879	370
Paarl	6,396	427	5,902	434
Pietermaritzburg	73,684	2,386	74,477	2,263
Port Elizabeth	155,402	7,728	143,403	7,744
Pretoria	74,724	1,631	70,915	1,672
Queenstown	33,787	1,482	29,887	1,322
Tifenhage	9,347	305	6,773	245
	1,416,935	£ 55,372	1,369,482	£ 59,682

* Included in Cape Town return.

In addition to the above it is estimated that 824,243 parcels, on which the postage paid approximated £41,212, were posted at the smaller offices, as contrasted with 598,206 parcels and £28,210 postage for the previous year.

OCEAN MAIL SERVICE.

In view of the extraordinary conditions prevailing during the year in connection with shipping generally the Mail Service to and from South Africa was reasonably well maintained. It has to be recorded, however, that in a good many instances the contract time was exceeded and that Mail Steamers were not provided on certain occasions.

On the outward service from the United Kingdom the contractors failed to supply steamers on three occasions, namely on the 10th and 17th of October and on the 18th of December, owing to the requisitioning of vessels by the Admiralty. The first two failures were met by the despatch of mails from the United Kingdom, by private steamers, as follows:—

Private Ship.	Left United Kingdom.	Arrived Cape Town.
Medic	October 9	October 31
Wanderer	„ 12	November 6
Remuera	„ 18	„ 7

On the homeward route the contract service was maintained except on two occasions, namely, the 13th and 20th of November. Private ship mails were despatched by the steamer "Italian" which sailed from Cape Town on the 10th of November and by the "Ingoma" which sailed on the 19th of November.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that no mails were lost on the United Kingdom-South Africa route during the year. The following statement however shows in brief the mails for and from South Africa which were lost on other sea routes as a result of the activity of enemy submarines:—

Steamer.	From.	To.	Date of loss of Vessel.	Bags of S.A. Mails on board.	Registered Articles contained in Union Mails.	Remarks.
Lusitania ..	New York..	Liverpool ..	May 7 ..	4	..	Torpedoed off Irish Coast.
Arabic ..	Liverpool ..	New York..	August 18..	35	170	Torpedoed.
Hesperian ..	Liverpool ..	Montreal ..	Sept. 4 ..	35	203	Torpedoed.
Persia ..	United Kingdom	India ..	Dec. 30 ..	2	6	Torpedoed off coast of Crete. The Union mails lost were for Alexandria.

On July 16th a mail for Australia and New Zealand consisting of 12 bags of letters, 14 bags of news, and 5 parcel receptacles, was despatched from Cape Town on board the steamer "Benalla." A fire broke out in the hold on July 20th and assumed such proportions that it became necessary to alter the course of the vessel and to put into the nearest port. The vessel reached Durban, where it was found that 14 of the 31 bags and receptacles of Australian mails were partially destroyed by fire and water. The mails were taken off the steamer, the damaged matter was repacked in the Durban office, and the mail was sent forward by the S.S. "Hokoku Maru" on the 7th of August.

The following is a comparative statement of the quantity of mail matter conveyed between the United Kingdom and South Africa during the past three years:—

	To South Africa.			From South Africa.		
	1913.	1914.	1915.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Mail Bags	94,623	87,413	75,211	34,257	28,235	27,680
Parcel Receptacles ...	22,711	17,224	22,682	2,490	1,997	2,149

The mails conveyed from the United Kingdom to South Africa during 1915 were divided as follows:—

Destination.	Mail Bags.	Parcel Receptacles
Union of South Africa	60,613	21,957
Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Portuguese East Africa & Belgian Congo	12,779	725*
Australia (from South America, <i>via</i> Madeira)	77	..
Madeira, Ascension, Mauritius and St. Helena	1,641	..
Ocean Post Offices, transhipped at Madeira	101	..
Total	75,211	22,682

* For Rhodesia.

The mails conveyed from South Africa to the United Kingdom, Madeira, Ascension, and St. Helena were divided as follows:—

Destination.	Mail Bags.	Parcel Receptacles
British Isles (excluding London and London Districts) ..	11,200	2,149
London and London Districts	12,025	
Foreign Countries	3,317	
Madeira	1,111	
Ascension and St. Helena	27	
Total	27,680	2,149

It is estimated that during the year 12,728,168 articles of mail matter, excluding parcels, were despatched to countries beyond the Union. See Appendix No. 6.

The number of parcels despatched to destinations beyond the Union during the year is estimated at 115,479, and the number received from other countries at 246,244.

MISSING MAIL ENQUIRIES.

The following statement shows the number of enquiries for missing articles and the results of the investigations made:—

Ordinary Letters.	Registered Letters.	Contents of Articles.	News-papers.	Parcels.	Result of Investigations.
2,847	..	129	41	579	No trace.
1,772	1,763	45	24	1,691	Delivered.
163	497	4	2	86	Returned.
94	..	3	5	34	Probably delivered or returned to sender.
167	33	9	7	124	Not dealt with in this Administration.
62	96	1	..	75	On hand, unclaimed, undeliverable or unreturnable.
63	5	6	2	19	Complaint withdrawn.
59	..	5	6	47	Doubtful if posted or contents enclosed.
47	184	3	..	36	Duly forwarded to other Administrations.
..	85	..	..	29	Lost in post.
85	47	2	3	18	Not posted or enclosed.
5,359	2,710	207	90	2,738	Total .. 11,104

Special cases, e.g., mail losses, frauds, forgeries, robberies, etc., investigated. } .. 208
Also the arrest and return of letters to senders, etc.

GRAND TOTAL .. 11,312

The large number of registered letters lost in the post is due to the war. Thirteen were lost in the post, four at Karibib, seventeen through the sinking of the "Arabie," fifteen in the "Hesperian," twenty-five at Omaruru, and eleven destroyed by fire. Total eighty-five.

During the year the sum of £225 12s. 8d. was paid to members of the public as compensation for registered and other articles which failed to reach the addressees. Of this amount £153 6s. 0d. was in respect of losses by accident, etc., or defalcations by officers in the employment of this Department and of the South African Railways and is chargeable against the Post Office Vote, while the [U.G. 28—'16.]

sum of £72 6s. 8d. was made good either by officers of the Union Post Office or by persons on their behalf, or by other Postal Administrations responsible for the loss.

Dead and Undelivered correspondence.—During the year the Returned Letter Offices dealt with 1,484,024 articles. Of this number 1,030,270 were returned to the senders, leaving a balance of 453,754 articles which could not be returned owing to the illegibility or omission of the address of the sender. Letters from natives form the great part of the unreturnable matter. In addition to the undelivered articles dealt with in Returned Letter Offices, 469,439 such articles were returned direct to the senders by the Post Offices attempting delivery, in accordance with the request to that effect appearing on the cover. Coin, stamps, cheques and other articles of a total value of £24,276 18s. 2d. found in letters opened in Returned Letter Offices were duly returned to the senders. The value of articles found in unreturnable letters was £1,791 18s. 3d. Early in the year it was decided for staff reasons to close the Returned Letter Office at Bloemfontein and to concentrate the Returned Letter work of the two inland Provinces at Johannesburg.

MONEY ORDERS.

Money Orders issued and paid.—394,983 Money Orders were issued during 1915, as compared with 436,541 for the previous year. The value of the former was £2,430,167, a decrease of £204,441 (8.41 per cent.) on the 1914 figures. The average value of Orders issued was £6 3s. 0d. A falling off took place to the extent of £135,407 in Money Orders issued in the Union for payment locally, whilst Orders drawn on Oversea Countries decreased by £69,033. The number of Money Orders paid was 330,608, or 36,101 less than in 1914. The value of Orders paid was £1,954,554, a decrease of £171,324 (8.76 per cent.) on the value of the previous year's payments. The average value of Orders paid was £5 18s. 3d.

The value of Money Orders drawn on Oversea Countries amounted to £621,880, as compared with £690,913 in 1914.

A statement showing the number and value of transactions with the various Countries is given in Appendix No. 2.

In comparing the 1915 figures with those of 1914 it must be borne in mind that the latter were affected by the War for a period of five months only.

During 1915 Money Orders of the value of £1,726 were received through the medium of the United Kingdom from Holland and Switzerland for prisoners of War interned in the Union. On the other hand Money Orders of an aggregate value of £154 were issued free in the Union for payment to prisoners of War in enemy Countries.

Commission.—The commission collected from the public amounted to £20,285, i.e., £2,635 less than in 1914.

Free Money Orders.—During 1915 65,400 free Orders, representing £502,800 in value and £4,000 in commission, were issued to the public and to Government Departments for the transmission of Government monies within the Union. The figures show an increase of 1,000 Orders over the previous year, the Magisterial and Police Departments being largely responsible therefor. Numerous free Orders were issued to the public for the transmission of money to prisoners of War in internment camps throughout the Union. The free Money Order system was also largely used for the payment of allotments to dependents of men on Active Service.

Through Money Orders.—The number and value of Money Orders exchanged between other Countries through the intermediary of the Union of South Africa during 1915 were as follows, and show an increase of £2,405 on the total for 1914:—

		No.	Amount.
Issued in Rhodesia,	payable in other Countries	.. 1,781	£13,461
" " Mozambique,	" " " "	.. 1,165	4,567
" " other Countries,	" " Rhodesia "	.. 221	1,330
" " " "	" " Mozambique	.. 66	210
Exchange between various other Countries		.. 64	291
		3,297	£19,859

Void Money Orders.—In 1915 £1,675 was surrendered to Revenue in respect of Money Orders issued in the Union and unpaid within the prescribed period. £1,260 was surrendered in 1914.

POSTAL ORDERS.

Postal Orders issued and paid.—3,467,201 Postal Orders were issued in 1915, as compared with 3,458,662 for 1914. The value of the former was £2,149,800, a decrease of £6,513 (0.33 per cent.) on the previous year. 2,870,576 Postal Orders of a total value of £1,712,362 were paid in 1915, i.e., an increase of 75,343 Orders, and £42,796 (2.50 per cent.) over the payments of the previous year. Despite the adverse effect of the War upon commerce in general the Postal Order issues suffered in a very small degree, whilst payments exceeded those of any previous year. It is also of interest to note that the month of December, 1915, furnished a record for payments in the Union, the figures being 272,363 Orders of an aggregate value of £160,161. The previous highest figures for this class of business were recorded in December, 1913, when 264,643 Orders of a total value of £159,246 were paid. Statements showing the Postal Orders issued and paid monthly since 1913 are given in Appendix No. 3.

Poundage.—The Union revenue in respect of poundage on Postal Orders was £22,785, as compared with £22,585 for 1914.

Void Postal Orders.—The value of Postal Orders surrendered to revenue during 1915 was £1,303.

Summary.—The total Money Order and Postal Order issues during the year amounted to £4,579,967, and the payments to £3,666,916, as against £4,790,921 and £3,795,444 respectively for the previous year.

POSTAL DRAFTS.

The Department made 15,134 demands on behalf of the public under the above system, as compared with 19,259 during 1914, a decrease of 1,125. The number of Drafts collected totalled 2,881, i.e., 19.03 per cent. of the number issued, representing £3,729. The revenue accruing from Postal Draft business amounted to £454, as compared with £583 for the previous year.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

Statements are included in Appendix I, showing the position of the Post Office Savings Bank of the Union for the financial year 1914-15. These comprise 8 Annexures, viz.:

- (a) summarised statement of the transactions and financial position of the Bank for the year;
- (b) a schedule of Investments held by the Public Debt Commissioners on behalf of the Bank;
- (c) a general comparative statement of transactions in Depositors' Accounts in (i) the Cape and Orange Free State Provinces, (ii) the Transvaal, (iii) Natal, and (iv) the Union as a whole;
- (d) a similar statement in respect of Savings Bank Certificates;
- (e) a statement showing the transfers to and from the Savings Banks of other Administrations and between Provinces;
- (f) Cash Accounts for the year;
- (g) Balance Sheet for the Union; and
- (h) a statement reconciling the figures for the year with the Cash balance shown on the 31st March, 1915.

The closing of a number of branch post offices in the larger towns—one of the means adopted to conserve staff—correspondingly affected the number of Savings Banks opened during the year, and there is, therefore, to be recorded the slight increase of 9 in the number of Savings Banks open as compared with the position at the 31st December, 1914. The number of accounts remaining open, however, has greatly increased, there being 254,361 accounts now open, an increase for the year of 11,622. The balance due to depositors at the end of the year was also greater, viz., £6,558,819, an increase for the twelve months of no less a sum than £271,711. The value of the deposits made during the year exceeded that of the previous year by £24,372, and the amount withdrawn decreased by over half a million, viz., £548,560.

The foregoing figures demonstrate to a marked degree the return of public confidence in the stability and future of the State.

Revenue benefited during the financial year from Savings Bank operations to the extent of £52,461 from Surplus Interest and £5,011 from the balance to the credit of accounts not operated upon for fifteen years, while the fees collected for incidental services amounted to £1,569.

The following statement shows the position of the Bank under the more important heads for the past five years:—

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Deposits—Number	474,164	493,612	502,449	444,698	459,302
Amount*	£3,926,711	£4,000,318	£4,009,744	£3,555,326	£3,579,698
Withdrawals—Number	202,536	218,015	223,766	227,174	219,421
Amount	£3,602,627	£3,755,439	£3,883,022	£3,828,448	£3,279,888
Accounts remaining open, No. ..	233,607	248,110	253,353	242,739	254,361
Certificates—Issued	£321,700	£217,900	£200,000	£154,400	£147,800
Repaid	£190,900	£251,100	£243,100	£257,000	£175,900
Balance due to depositors:—					
In ordinary accounts*	£5,390,472	£5,635,351	£5,757,029	£5,483,908	£5,783,719
In certificate accounts	£982,100	£948,900	£905,800	£803,200	£775,100

* Including interest.

TELEGRAPHS.

Offices.—The number of Telegraph Offices in the Union of South Africa (including those worked by the Railway Department) on the 31st December, 1915, was 1,656, an increase during the year of 54 offices. Of this number 571 are worked by telephone as against 508 the previous year.

Traffic.—There has been an increase in public-paid, Government and Railway service traffic during the year. The increase in paid traffic equals 55 per cent., Government messages 23 per cent., and Railway service messages 5 per cent. The large increase shown under Government messages is due to the South-West Africa Campaign.

The figures since the first full year of Union, which do not include Railway Service messages which were dealt with at Railway Telegraph Offices worked exclusively by Railway officials, are as follows:—

Class.	Messages.					Compared with 1914.	
	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
Paid	4,352,359	4,764,127	4,946,707	4,799,741	4,825,999	26,258	..
Government	309,048	288,981	320,109	521,404	641,380	119,976	..
Railway	429,865	548,571	577,592	657,866	691,273	33,407	..
Imperial & Military	25,404	27,733	19,491	19,504	6,916	..	12,588
Totals	5,116,676	5,629,412	5,863,899	5,998,515	6,165,568	179,641	12,588

Press Telegrams.—The number of press telegrams dealt with in the Union of South Africa during the last five years is shown below:—

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
No. of Messages	235,767	298,463	306,530	385,049	423,904
No. of Words	28,574,960	39,313,420	41,197,632	46,205,880	50,868,480

In 1915 there was an increase in the number of messages of 38,855 over the previous year. This entailed the transmission of 50,868,480 words, being an increase over 1914 of 4,662,600 words.

Revenue.—The telegraph revenue for 1915 amounted to £386,701, being an increase on the previous year of £29,962.

The value of free telegraph services to other Departments and the Imperial Government was £104,406 as compared with £87,834 in 1914. The increase is due principally to the requirements of the Defence Department in connection with the German South-West African Campaign.

During the last four years the value of services undertaken free of charge for other Government Departments was as follows:—In 1912. £45,093; in 1913. £48,820; in 1914. £87,834, and in 1915, £103,998.

Night Letter Telegrams.—The public continues to make increasing use of this facility. The undermentioned figures show the approximate number dealt with during the past three years.

In 1913 ..	Messages, 278,256 ; Words, 11,321,968
„ 1914 ..	„ 293,608 ; „ 11,169,888
„ 1915 ..	„ 378,238 ; „ 13,294,208

Inter-State Communications.—Telegraph communication with Rhodesia has been fairly well maintained during the past year.

An alternative means of communication with the Protectorate of South-West Africa has been arranged *via* Upington, and it has been found useful in times of interruption of the direct line to Windhuk and for direct working between Cape Town and Keetmanshoop. The new copper wire between Cape Town and O'okiep is well in hand, and when this is finished Windhuk will be afforded a through line to Cape Town, free from the interruptions of the Union stations between Cape Town and O'okiep, which are unavoidable at present.

It is a matter of regret that telegraph communication with Lourenco Marques on both sides of the border continues to be subject to frequent interruptions due in most instances to the weather conditions in this part of the country. There are, however, certain weak sections of line; the worst parts of the route in the Union have received attention, and it is intended to take further action as soon as funds are available.

Traffic Arrangements.—Improvements in the telegraph traffic circulation in the Transkeian area of the Cape Province have been under consideration but it has not been found possible to complete the scheme this year owing to the delay in receiving material from overseas and other causes.

The replacement of single current apparatus by double current instruments is proceeding with vigour now that deliveries, long overdue, have been made.

It is regretted that money could not be found for the provision of Creed apparatus at Johannesburg and Durban for use between those places. The volume of traffic is very heavy, and the means of communication are in need of betterment, but this service had necessarily to stand down in favour of other pressing works, which the existing provision is all too insufficient.

The Department's telegraph operations have been seriously hindered by heavy storms over wide areas, which on occasions destroyed as much as twenty miles of the main routes. In view of the hundreds of miles of unfrequented country traversed by the telegraph it is a matter for congratulation that interruptions to communication have not been more extensive.

As will be seen above, the volume of telegraph business has been well maintained, and the problem of dealing satisfactorily with the large amount of traffic has occasioned much anxiety to the Administration, seeing that several hundred experienced telegraphists have been withdrawn for Defence requirements and for Active Service.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHS.

Traffic.—The following figures show the radio traffic (excluding Government traffic) for the last 4 years:—

In 1912 ..	Messages, 6,675 ; Words, 67,914 ; Value, £1,980
„ 1913 ..	„ 6,028 ; „ 68,582 ; „ 2,000
„ 1914 ..	„ 4,298 ; „ 51,890 ; „ 1,514
„ 1915 ..	„ 1,651 ; „ 22,540 ; „ 658

The value shown is the amount accruing to the Union in respect of Land and Coast Station charges.

The falling off in the value of paid traffic is due to the continuance of hostilities and the measures deemed advisable by the Admiralty to restrict public wireless traffic in the interests of safe navigation.

The above figures do not, however, nearly represent the amount of radio traffic dealt with by the radio stations of the Union, as a large volume of Government traffic has been transmitted, amounting to 1,823 messages, containing 212,631 words. Previous to the outbreak of war in August, 1914, the Government radio traffic was negligible.

The wireless stations at Luderitzbucht and Swakopmund were damaged by the enemy prior to their evacuating those places. It has not been considered necessary at present to restore them to working condition.

Distress Signals.—Distress signals from the S.S. "Bevalla," on fire, were received at the Durban Station, and one of His Majesty's war vessels in the vicinity was immediately advised, as was the port authorities. A distress call was received at Slangkop from S.S. "Hyacinthus" which was reported ashore at Paternoster Point. The information was duly communicated to the Port Captain, Table Bay, who sent a tug to the scene.

Amateur Wireless Stations.—As a result of the special steps taken it is believed that all amateur stations were suppressed, and there is no record of inter-

ference on the part of any illicit station with the operations of the Government stations. The action taken was fully justified by events as it will be well within recollection that the Admiralty was seriously impeded in its work of clearing the seas of enemy ships in other parts of the world by the information imparted to the enemy through the medium of concealed irregular wireless stations.

SUBMARINE SERVICE.

Cable Traffic.—There has been an increase of £4,298 in the value of the traffic handed in at offices of the Union for transmission over the wires of the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, but the number of messages has decreased by 8,759. This disparity is doubtless due to the large number of Government cablegrams to England and East Africa which are longer than private cablegrams. The figures since Union are as follows:—

1911	..	Messages,	100,092	; Value,	£104,260
1912	..	"	110,621	"	107,794
1913	..	"	121,481	"	110,819
1914	..	"	102,682	"	109,605
1915	..	"	93,923	"	113,903

In addition to the last-mentioned amount a sum of £5,757 was paid to the Cable Company in respect of press cablegrams to the Union, as compared with £5,131 in 1914.

Included in the above figures is the sum of £10,496 for cable traffic from South-West Africa to the Union passing over the Cape-town-Luderitzbucht-Swakopmund section.

The terminal and transit charges accruing to the Union for cablegrams handed to the Eastern Telegraph Company for the year 1915 was £4,609 as compared with £5,914 in 1914.

The number of messages handed over by the Eastern Telegraph Company to the Post Office for transmission throughout South Africa was 89,477, producing £4,295 terminal or transit charges as compared with £4,975 in 1914.

The decrease in terminal charges is due to the larger number of deferred cablegrams on which only ½d. per word accrues to the Union as compared with 1d. per word on full rate cablegrams, and to the general falling off of inward fully-paid cablegrams.

Cable Revenue.—The revenue derived by the Eastern Telegraph and Associated Companies from South Africa in respect of messages addressed overseas during 1915 is given as £279,821, subject to final audit, and shows a decrease on that for 1914 of £16,960.

The net receipts of the Associated Cable Companies having fallen below the standard revenue of £300,000, the portion (£8,825) of the annual subsidy becomes payable by the Union. The agreement with the Companies regarding the subsidy expires in 1919.

Deferred Cablegrams.—The number of deferred cablegrams dealt with during 1915 is as follows:—

Deferred Cablegrams.				Messages.	Words.
Incoming in	1915	..	..	42,490	637,380
Outgoing	"	..	..	52,926	952,800
Total	"	..	..	95,418	1,590,180
"	1914	..	..	42,890	519,000
Increase	1915	..	..	52,528	1,071,180

The deferred message service was suspended from the 3rd August to 1st October, 1914.

Week-end Cablegrams.—The week-end service was suspended on the 3rd August, 1914, but it has been restored for use in messages sent to and from members of the Imperial and Colonial Forces in the field, including sailors, marines and nurses. This enables cablegrams to be sent at quarter rate at the week-end for delivery on Tuesday mornings. It is expected that the service will become very popular.

By special arrangement a code word has been allotted as the equivalent of the official designation of every unit of the Union Oversea and East African Contingents. The name of the unit is translated by the Department into the code word and the sender is in consequence only charged for one word, although the name of the unit may contain four or five words. This concession effects a material reduction of the cost of cabling.

The week-end service is also available for sending remittances to the Union Contingents through the courtesy of the Cable Companies and the Banks concerned.

Free Casualty Telegrams.—The Administrations and Cable Companies concerned have been good enough to agree to pass free over their lines three telegrams from the next-of-kin of any member of the Forces who has been officially advised as "wounded", "seriously wounded" or "dangerously wounded" (but not "slightly wounded"), inquiring as to his condition. The telegram of inquiry is sent to "Deinform", Pretoria (Defence Information Bureau), whence it is sent oversea with any other like telegrams that may have come to hand.

CABLE INTERRUPTIONS.

The deep sea cable *via* St. Helena-Ascension worked without interruption throughout the year. The sections of Coast Cable interrupted and the entire duration of interruptions in 1915 were as follows: Lagos-Accra, 1 day; Aden-Zanzibar, 19½ days.

TELEPHONES.

The telephone system has been extended as follows:—

	At Union ¹	1914.	1915.	Increase over 1914.
Exchanges	112	400	417	17
Exchange lines	9,290	19,870	21,625	1,755
Call Offices	416	1,763	1,923	160
Telephones in use	13,650	29,400	32,144	2,744
Miles of wire in use .. ..	..	85,494	97,148	11,654
Miles of wire, spare .. ..	..	12,454	10,798	..

and additional trunk centres have been connected to the trunk lines as under:—

Cape.	Transvaal.	Natal.	O.F.S.	Total.
18	8	8	..	34

Local and junction calls dealt with numbered 59,373,761, and trunk calls 2,703,106, representing increases of 7·8 per cent. and 15 per cent. respectively for the year.

The expenditure from Loan Vote amounted to £127,238, the distribution of which is given below, along with the capital account total for each Province:—

	Cape.	Transvaal.	Natal.	O.F.S.	Total.
Loan expenditure during 1915	51,200	44,058	21,289	10,691	127,238
Capital Account at 31 Dec., 1915	550,331	1,135,400	197,896	119,560	2,003,187

The total credit to the Telephone Section on a commercial basis is as under:—

	Cape.	Transvaal.	Natal.	O.F.S.	Total.	Increase over 1914.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash revenue collected ..	96,700	179,990	24,718	14,972	316,380	37,650
Value of free services to other Departments	11,227	19,691	3,661	2,542	37,121	2,007
Total	107,927	199,681	28,379	17,514	353,501	39,657

The increase in cash revenue is regarded as highly satisfactory in the existing circumstances of the country.

Save in cases where the expenditure was necessary in order to render existing plant revenue-earning or materially to increase the income, the development of farm line telephones, the extension of small exchanges already established and the erection of new exchanges and new trunk lines have generally had to be deferred owing to the very limited amount of loan moneys which the Treasury has been able on this occasion to allocate for the purpose.

The tariff for Fourth Class Exchanges, which proved unremunerative, was suspended in so far as new subscribers are concerned, and will as from the 1st July, 1916, be entirely withdrawn. Other questions affecting the tariff charges are still under treatment.

MAINTENANCE.

The interruptions to the Telegraph and Telephone Systems during the year were rather more extensive than usual, owing to the greater prevalence of abnormal weather conditions. They involved considerable expenditure in repairs, which were in all cases carried out with a minimum of delay.

A large number of men are still absent on active service, and greatly increased effort on the part of those remaining has been necessary to keep the system going. The staff has responded most loyally in this direction, however, and, so far, no serious delay in restoring communication has occurred.

MILEAGES OF LINE AND WIRE.

The total mileage of line and wire on the 31st December was as follows:—

Mileage of Line and Wire.	Cape.	Transvaal.	Natal.	O.F.S.*	Total.
1. Telegraph Line	10,056	2,598	2,556	843	16,053
2. " Wire	34,320	8,051	6,866	5,019	54,256
Telephone trunk wires carried on:					
3. Purely telephone routes ..	1,629	6,771	47	1,007	9,454
4. Telegraph telephone routes ..	3,380	4,925	2,844	2,073	13,222
5. Telegraph-telephone wire used for trunk purposes	2,572	2,171	1,315	624	6,682
6. Superimposed circuits, trunk ..	522	1,480	180	..	2,182
7. " " telegraph ..	561	1,375	1,021	964	3,921
8. *Telephone wire, working	19,951	63,314	8,248	5,635	97,148
9. " " spare	6,451	3,329	343	675	10,798

* Including 3, 4 and 5.

GENERAL.

DEPARTMENTAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The following statement for 1915 covers the whole of the transactions of the Post Office, including the value of services rendered to and by other Government Departments for which no actual payments were made:—

To:—	£	By:—	£
Expenditure: Cash Payments, Net .. *	1,634,569	Revenue: Cash Receipts, Net .. *	1,745,524
Value of services for which no cash debit is taken:—		Value of services for which no cash credit is received:—	
Interest liability, 3½% on Capital, £153,676:		Services rendered to Union Departments, £254,317:	
From Loan Acts for Telephones ..	53,522	Postage	110,437
From Loan Acts for Telegraphs ..	26,953	Telegrams	99,882
From Revenue Funds, Telephones ..	13,370	Telephones	35,328
From Revenue Funds, Telegraphs ..	16,047	Miscellaneous	8,670
For Stores Reserve	7,000	Services rendered to Provincial Departments, £20,751:	
Value of Government Buildings ..	36,784	Post. age. Tele. Tele-grams. phones.	
Pension Funds: Government's liability, £44,190:		Cape .. 3,834 1,002 347	5,183
To contributors to Funds	36,442	Natal .. 1,562 1,022 300	2,884
To non-contributors	7,748	Transvaal 4,946 1,300 862	7,108
Services rendered by other Departments, £60,776:		O.F.S. .. 4,092 1,200 264	5,576
Printing and Stationery	18,853	Amount apportioned to Capital for direction and supervision of Telegraph and Telephone Construction Works	4,121
Repairs to and supply of mail bags, etc.	640		
Minor works & furniture maintenance & repairs, rents, rates & taxes	39,265		
Law Costs and Damages	1,387		
Minor Services	631		
Miscellaneous, £3,169:			
Control & Audit Office services ..	1,419		
Custody & distribution of stamps ..	1,750		
Balance	128,333		
	£2,024,713		£2,024,713

* From the gross Cash Payments (£1,643,038) and Cash Receipts (£1,751,986) have been deducted respectively the S.W.A. Expenditure (£8,469) and the S.W.A. Revenue (£6,462).

NOTE.—The above Balance Sheet is prepared on the basis of similar statements in previous years. This Department is not debited therein with the cost of buildings provided during the year out of revenue, but a debit is taken for interest charges on all such expenditure. Details in regard to the cash payments and receipts are given in Appendix No. 4.

REVENUE COLLECTED FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS DURING 1915.

Inland Revenue.			Customs and Excise.		Agricultural Department.	Total.
Licences.	Revenue Stamps.	Warmbaths Tickets Sold.	Customs Dues.	Cigarette Stamps.		
£76,856	£215,594	£506	£100,847	£195,457	£9	£589,269

The total amount of money handled by the Department's officers during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1915, was approximately £22,000,000.

SUMMARISED PARTICULARS OF POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE BUSINESS,
1913, 1914 AND 1915.

Description.	1913.	1914.	1915.
<i>Posts :</i>			
Revenue	£1,049,414	£1,015,836	£1,042,325
Expenditure	£1,021,215	£1,063,231	£985,818
Offices open No.	2,461	2,451	2,478
Posting receptacles (excluding those at Post Offices) No.	933	959	962
Private Post Bags in use	2,976	3,038	3,011
Main posts running	336	330	302
Branch posts running	1,248	1,108	1,076
Cost of mail conveyance within the Union	£182,474	£179,015	£172,240
Cost of Ocean Mail Service	£150,000	£145,673	£142,984
Articles of mail matter posted No.	191,693,385	172,524,052	195,407,943
Registered packets dealt with	1,628,321	1,465,490	1,698,105
Parcels posted	2,110,316	1,967,688	2,241,178
Articles despatched to places outside the Union No.	14,837,849	13,354,065	12,728,168
Articles dealt with in Returned Letter Office No.	1,655,083	1,623,347	1,484,024
Money Orders issued	489,829	436,541	394,983
Money Orders paid	386,193	366,709	330,608
Postal Orders issued	3,595,255	3,458,662	3,467,201
Postal Orders paid	2,788,167	2,795,233	2,870,576
Postal Drafts issued	15,160	19,259	15,134
<i>Savings Bank :</i>			
Accounts open No.	253,353	242,739	254,361
Amount to credit of depositors :			
In ordinary accounts	£5,757,029	£5,483,908	£5,783,719
In certificates	£905,800	£803,200	£775,100
Amounts deposited during the year (including interest)	£4,009,744	£3,555,326	£3,579,698
Amount withdrawn	£3,883,022	£3,828,448	£3,279,888
<i>Telegraphs and Telephones :</i>			
Telegraph offices open No.	1,575	1,602	1,656
Revenue Telegraphs	£375,738	£356,739	£386,701
Revenue Telephones	£238,610	£278,730	£316,498
Expenditure	£599,762	£622,676	£657,220
Capital Account : Telegraphs	£1,201,013	£1,224,843	£1,249,618
Telephones	£1,640,651	£1,863,727	£2,003,187
Miles of Telegraph wire No.	48,011	50,352	54,256
Miles of Telephone wire :			
Working No.	70,372	85,494	97,148
Spare	12,706	12,454	10,798
Miles of telegraph-telephone wire	6,190	6,246	6,682
Telegrams dealt with	5,863,899	5,998,515	6,165,568
Telephone Exchanges	300	400	417
Public Call Offices	1,309	1,763	1,923
Exchange Lines	17,664	19,870	21,625
Telephones in use	26,257	29,400	32,144
Telephone Calls	50,022,000	57,400,000	62,076,867
<i>General :</i>			
Total amount of money dealt with	£21,500,000	£21,000,000	£22,000,000
Revenue collected for other Departments	£640,188	£597,827	£589,269
Persons fully or partially employed (excluding mail cart drivers, native runners and others) No.	8,875	9,002	9,087

FIELD POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH CORPS.

The Field Postal and Telegraph Corps organized in connection with the operations in German South-West Africa was composed principally of officers of this Department, the Postal division being placed under the command of Major Sturman, Assistant Secretary, as Director of Army Postal Services, and the Telegraph division under the command of Major Harrison, Engineer-in-Chief, as Director of Signals.

Postal Division.—As far as possible correspondence for the various units was sorted at Cape Town, where the principal Base Post Office was established, the object in view being to reduce sorting in the field to the lowest possible minimum. Base Post Offices were established also at Johannesburg (during the period of rebellion), Keetmanshoop, Kuruman, Luderitzbucht, O'okiep, Upington, Walvis Bay and Windhuk. In addition, Field Post Offices were opened at 77 points according to the necessities of the campaign. Statistics taken for one month during a period of normal activity gave the following results:—

Postal articles delivered to troops :

Letters and post cards	288,000
Registered letters	13,000
Newspapers and bookpackets	92,000
Parcels	19,400

Postal articles posted by troops :

Letters and post cards	413,000
Registered letters	2,000
Bookpackets	11,000
Parcels	1,600

It is estimated that more than eight million articles passed through the Army Post Office during the period of its existence. In addition to dealing with ordinary mail matter the Army Post Office undertook the work of receiving and delivering parcels of gifts and comforts for men in the field. During the period 15th March, when the service was taken over, to the closing of the depôt on the 21st August, 71,775 cases, packages and parcels were despatched to their destination from the depot at the Docks, Cape Town. One shipment of gifts and comforts to the "Northern Force" weighed no less than 160 tons. Upon the Army Post Office also devolved the distribution of gifts from overseas such as those sent by Her Majesty the Queen, the Christmas gifts sent by H.R.H. Princess Mary, and the many gifts in bulk sent by patriotic societies in England. A committee formed in Cape Town for the collection of money to purchase fruit and for the collection of fruit from farmers also utilised the Army Post Office for the distribution of the results of its labours. Two hundred tons of fruit collected by the Committee went forward from the Army Post Office Depôt to the men in the field and to the hospitals established at the front.

Telegraph Division.—The division was formed to provide telegraph, telephone, visual signalling and wireless communication, and was composed of engineers, telegraphists, linemen and wiremen principally drawn from the Post Office. The nucleus of the division already existed in the Natal Telegraph Corps and the Transvaal Signalling and Field Telegraph Corps and in the signallers attached to the several Regiments of the Active Citizen Force, but these were totally inadequate and their number was augmented by the release of a further large number of skilled telegraphists and the recruitment of men from outside the Department.

In the course of operations telegraph offices were opened and worked at 143 points, signal stations were opened at 168 points, and at 34 places wireless telegraph stations were established and worked. Telegrams were dealt with at these points as follows:—

	Forwarded.	Transmitted.	Received.	Total.
Telegraph Offices	221,489	165,555	194,053	581,097
Signal Stations	33,375	16,111	33,037	82,523
Wireless Stations	4,113	5,067	4,524	13,704
Grand Total				677,324

In addition to the above-mentioned means of electric and visual signalling, communication was established with Luderitzbucht and Walvis Bay by connecting the two places with the deep sea cable between Europe and Cape Town. This was rendered possible by the cordial co-operation of the Eastern and South

African Telegraph Company, and I had much pleasure in conveying to the Superintendent at Cape Town the Government's appreciation of the ready assistance afforded by the Company throughout the period of operations. 12,590 cablegrams were dealt with at Luderitzbucht and 14,457 cablegrams at Walvis Bay. The former station was cut out of the cable on the 31st August and the latter on the 31st July. Operating and signalling formed only a portion of the division's duties. It was responsible also for the construction of telegraph lines for the use of the several forces in the field, for the maintenance of communication over those lines and for the repair and upkeep of the enemy telegraph system as the forces advanced and took possession of the conquered territory. Over 1,000 miles of telegraph wire were laid and nearly 6,000 miles of wire were overhauled. In addition, telephone exchanges were established at Upington, Kakamas, Tschaukaib and Garub, while the enemy's existing exchanges at Luderitzbucht, Kolmanskop, Aus, Keetmanshoop and Windhuk were repaired and brought into use.

Gifts and Comforts Fund Organization.—On the demobilization of the Field Post and Telegraph Corps, Major Sturman, Capt. Freuch (a principal clerk in the Chief Office) and several other members of the Corps were requisitioned by the Government to assist the Gifts and Comforts Fund Committee in the work of that organization. Major Sturman is now acting as honorary secretary to the Committee.

Free Gifts and Comforts.—The Department undertook early in the year to convey through the post free of charge parcels of gifts and comforts addressed to any member of His Majesty's forces in the field provided the parcels conform to post office requirements in respect of size, weight, etc. Such parcels are despatched in the ordinary way by post to Cape Town or Durban, as the case may be, and transferred to the Gifts and Comforts dépôt for conveyance to their destination.

Statistics which have been taken show that on an average 430 parcels weighing 980 lb. are being transferred each week to the Gifts and Comforts dépôt at Cape Town, and 633 parcels weighing 1,925 lb. to the dépôt at Durban.

Correspondence from and to Prisoners of War.—Statistics taken of the quantity of mail matter dealt with on behalf of the prisoners of war in the Internment Camp at Pietermaritzburg, Natal, show that letters and other articles (exclusive of parcels) are posted at the rate of 218,036 per annum and that 210,912 letters and other articles are delivered. In addition, 6,032 parcels weighing 33,488 lb. are posted per annum and 3,160 parcels weighing 22,880 lb. are received.

Under the provisions of the Hague Convention and the International Postal Convention all articles of mail matter sent by or addressed to prisoners of war must be transmitted free of all postal charges. Effect is being given to the above-mentioned provisions of the Conventions at Pietermaritzburg and also in respect of correspondence dealt with at the Internment Camp at Aus in the Protectorate.

Protectorate of South-West Africa.—On the introduction of Civil Government in the Protectorate of South-West Africa post and telegraph offices were opened at all the more important places. With the exception of Money Order and Savings Bank business all classes of Post Office business are transacted. The fees, rates and charges in force within the Union have been applied to correspondence exchanged between the two territories, and the offices generally are conducted on the same lines as those of the Union. 46 of this Department's permanent officers are engaged on post and telegraph duties in the Protectorate while several other officers have been seconded for duty for service with other Departments administering the conquered territory.

CONFERENCE OF SURVEYORS.

A Conference of the several District Surveyors, including the Controller of Posts, Johannesburg, the Controller of Posts and Telegraphs, Cape Town, and the Postmasters of Durban and Port Elizabeth, was held in Pretoria in June. The Conference was presided over by the Secretary of the Department and its session lasted for six days. A wide range of subjects was discussed and some important recommendations for the alteration and improvement of departmental practice in various respects were made to the Administration. These recommendations have since been considered by an administrative committee consisting of the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary and the Chief Clerk, upon whose advice many of the recommendations will be carried out. Apart from the direct results in this way the Conference has been beneficial to the Surveyors and to the Administration in that it provided an opportunity for the district representatives to make the

personal acquaintance of the principal officers of the headquarter staff, thus tending towards closer co-operation between the head office and the districts; whilst at the same time the Surveyors themselves took advantage of the opportunity for a valuable exchange of views in regard to their respective districts.

" SUGGESTIONS " SCHEME.

In September a scheme was inaugurated on the lines of the scheme which has for many years been in operation in the British Post Office under which monetary awards are paid to individual members of the staff for useful suggestions. A standing Committee, consisting of the Secretary, the Engineer-in-Chief, and the Controller of Stores, was appointed to deal with suggestions received and make recommendations for the payment of awards in deserving cases. The announcement of the scheme met with a gratifying response, no less than 26 suggestions, covering a wide range of subjects and emanating from officers in all parts of the Union, being submitted within the first month. It is not to be expected of course that suggestions will continue to be received at this rate, but there is good reason to consider that the Department's attempt to offer some tangible encouragement to the staff to take a close interest in the details of every branch of postal, telegraph and telephone work is fully justified. Several awards for useful labour- and time-saving devices have already been granted, and a number of other proposals designed to effect economy in one direction or another are under consideration.

Buildings.—New accommodation was secured in specially constructed State-owned buildings at Adelaide, Boksburg (Telephone Exchange), Cathcart, Krugersdorp (Telephone Exchange) and Yeoville; the offices at Donnybrook, Hopetown, Kokstad, Middelburg (Cape), Mossel Bay and Vogelfontein were removed into other adapted premises also State-owned.

Improved rented accommodation was taken over at Amabele, Camperdown, Dalton, French Hoek, Groot Drakenstein, Morgenzon, Mount Ngwibi, Simondium and Sterkstroom Station.

A new building for the Post Office is under construction at South Coast Junction, and the building at Pinetown is being removed and reconstructed with necessary additions. It is hoped to secure new offices also at Belmont, Malvern and Paul Roux in the immediate future.

These changes have afforded material relief to the pressure for extra space urgently felt at the different places; but there are a number of other cases of limited accommodation under postponement owing to financial restrictions.

Fires.—There were fires at the following offices: Bankfontein, Brakvlei, Mfongosi, Quaggashoek, Ramakokstad, Springfield, Steynspruit, Tweedronk and Vossmans Beacon. In most of the cases the properties were completely destroyed, but the losses to the State were unimportant, the buildings belonging to private owners and the cost of the Post Office equipment being small.

Burglaries.—Burglaries were committed at Airley, Berlin, Charlestown, Hartebeestfontein, Jonbertina, Louwsberg, Maquassi, Mid Illovo, New Denmark, Retreat, St. Cuthbert's and Tayside. As in the cases of the fires so also on the occasions of these burglaries the losses were of minor importance and the public services suffered no material interruption.

STAFF.

The number of employees of all grades on the 31st December, 1915, was as follows:—

Administrative and Clerical Division Officers	..	..	..	3,171
General Division Officers	..	..	..	3,343
Learners in training	..	..	..	141
Local persons and Railway officials performing Post Office work	..	..	..	2,432

The wastage of staff of all grades—excluding learners, local persons and Railway officials—during the year through resignations, retirements, dismissals, deaths and transfers to other Departments was at the rate of 12 per cent.

21 officers were retired on account of failing health, 11 by reason of their having reached the superannuation age and 1 through abolition of office. The vacancies on the various clerical grades have been filled by the appointment of matriculated youths and females who have passed a departmental educational test, whilst vacancies on the Post and Telegraph Assistants' establishment have

been filled by the promotion of learners trained in South Africa. 122 male learners and 25 female learners have been so promoted during the year and 8 lower grade employees have received advancement to the sorters' grade.

Recruiting of Learners.—At the beginning of the year it was estimated that the number of learners then in training would be sufficient to meet the requirements of the Department for a period of 18 months to 2 years and, in consequence, the recruiting of further learners was temporarily suspended. With the extension, however, of the Department's activities through the taking over of the Post and Telegraph services in South-West Africa on the establishment of civil administration in that territory, and also in consequence of the large number of officers who had been released for active service, which, it is evident, will make serious demands for additional staff in the near future, the recruiting of learners has been resumed to a limited extent.

Roll of Honour.—The following officers have died whilst serving their country as members of its military forces:—

Mr. T. Allan	.. ..	S.A. Field Telegraph and Postal Corps.
Mr. F. D. Cullen	.. ..
Mr. W. R. Shaw	.. ..	Overseas "Expeditionary" Force.
Mr. W. P. Waring	.. ..	" "

Mr. Allen met his death through the explosion of an enemy's mine at Swakopmund, whilst the remaining officers died as the result of sickness.

Technological and Science Examinations.—The Technological Examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute in Telegraphy and Telephony were held at 13 different centres throughout the Union. 36 candidates presented themselves for examination of whom 32 were successful and 50 per cent. of these were awarded certificates of the first class.

8 candidates entered for the final examinations in Telegraphy and Telephony 7 of whom were successful.

Board of Education, London, Examinations in Science and Technology.—2 candidates entered for and passed the examinations in Magnetism and Electricity and Practical Mathematics.

Sick and Holiday Leave.—3,137 officers were granted 36,365 days' sick leave, averaging 11.59 days per officer, and 4,567 officers obtained 77,790 days' holiday leave, averaging 17.03 days per officer.

The marked increase in the number of officers who were granted holiday leave and the appreciable decrease in the number of days obtained is due to the introduction of the new Leave Regulations, from the 1st January, 1915, under which officials in the Cape and Natal Provinces became eligible for occasional leave, a grant they did not enjoy under the Provincial regulations.

The year opened with the European War still in progress and the military operations of the Union Government in South-West Africa about to be pressed forward. In connection with the latter the Department was called upon to supply a further number of men for the South African Field Telegraph and Postal Corps. In all 650 men were released from the Department for active service, the majority of whom were serving in the abovementioned Corps. These men returned to their civil duties during August and September, but shortly afterwards recruiting commenced for the overseas expeditionary force and the Department was again called upon to supply the personnel for the Signal Company attached to that force. 105 men were released for this purpose, including the Engineer-in-Chief of the Department who is in command of the Company. Many others also applied for permission to join the Expeditionary Force, and at the end of the year 324 men were serving overseas. During the year also 14 wireless operators had to be supplied for the wireless section attached to the Central African Contingent, and in connection with the Overseas Contingent 17 officers were released for the wireless section of the S.A. Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps. The recruiting for the forces proceeding to German East Africa, which began in November, made a further drain on the staff. A large number of signallers had to be provided by the Department for these forces and in addition numerous applications for permission to enlist were received from the staff. At the end of the year 216 men had been released for active service in East Africa which, with the men serving overseas, made a grand total of 540 men absent on military duty on the 31st December, 1915. The release of so large a number was only rendered possible by a continuance of the curtailment of postal facilities generally throughout the Union referred to in my previous report and the stoppage of long vacation leave.

On the termination of hostilities in South-West Africa the Department was called upon to provide for the post and telegraph work in that territory. To supply the staff necessary for this purpose a number of men with postal and telegraph experience who had been serving with the forces were engaged in a temporary capacity, and 46 permanent officers of the Union were also sent to the Protectorate. Post and telegraph facilities have been restored at all the larger towns in South-West Africa, and at many of the smaller places on the line of railway postal agencies have been opened, the duties being undertaken by railway officials. The post and telegraph arrangements in the Protectorate are in charge of a senior officer from the Union with the title of Director of Posts and Telegraphs. As it is necessary for discipline purposes that the service in the Protectorate should be of a military character all post and telegraph officials are enrolled as members of the South African Field Telegraph and Postal Corps.

Conclusion.—The demands upon the staff of the Department have been no less heavy and continuous than in the previous year, and I have much pleasure in again placing on record my recognition of the unfailing zeal and devotion to duty of officers of all ranks.

At Cape Town,
17th April, 1916.

J. WILSON,
Postmaster-General.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX No. 1.—POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.*

Annexure (a).—Summarised particulars of Post Office Savings Bank Business for the year ended 31st March, 1915.

Particulars.	No.	Amount.	Particulars.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Savings Bank Offices			Fees collected:		
open ..	650		For replacing lost		
Accounts opened ..	46,861		deposit books ..	..	80 18 0
Ordinary ..	42,768		For issuing "Special		
Trust Fund ..	93		Warrants ..	..	830 14 0
Accounts closed ..	51,695		For retransferring		
Ordinary ..	51,550		certificates with-		
Trust Fund ..	145		out notice ..	..	656 10 0
Accounts remain-			Commission on trans-		
ing open ..	248,723		fers to Mozam-		
Ordinary ..	247,530		bique ..	..	1 10 0
Trust Fund ..	1,193		Surplus interest trans-		
Deposits received ..	436,873	3,379,639 14 7	ferred to Postal		
Ordinary ..	433,726	3,334,006 15 6	Revenue ..	..	52,460 18 7
Trust Fund ..	3,147	45,632 19 4	Penny Bank Accounts	29	833 12 10
Withdrawals paid ..	221,060	3,625,172 7 4	Dormant Accounts ..	42,006	15,173 14 9
Ordinary ..	219,909	3,565,772 13 7	Deceased depositors—		
Trust Fund ..	1,151	59,399 13 9	claims paid ..	584	57,219 5 10
Certificates—Issued ..		155,200 0 0	Cross entry transac-		
Repaid ..		231,800 0 0	tions—		
Interest added to de-			Deposits ..	117,718	
positor's accounts ..		181,333 18 8	Withdrawals ..	81,560	
On Ordinary & Trust			Lost Books replaced ..	796	
Fund deposits ..		150,209 8 8	Special warrants issued	16,614	248,971 16 5
On Certificate hold-			Telegraphic warrants		
ings ..		25,124 10 0	issued ..	90,538	1,231,370 1 8
Balance due to deposi-			Transferred to Revenue		
tors ..		6,530,960 8 8	Accounts having no		
In ordinary accounts		5,617,027 5 7	transactions for		
In Trust Fund ac-			15 years ..	8,206	5,011 1 6
counts ..		111,533 3 1	Retransferred from		
In Certificate ac-			Revenue ..	42	268 7 9
counts ..		802,400 0 0	Inter-Province trans-		
Amount invested with			actions—		
Public Debt Com-			Deposits ..	12,685	105,065 19 5
missioners ..		6,528,575 19 7	Withdrawals ..	12,753	194,345 4 3
Average amount due to			Inter-Province trans-		
each depositor ..			fers ..	141	8,387 10 0
On Ordinary & Trust			Transfers—		
Fund accounts ..		23 0 8	From other States ..	361	18,497 0 6
In total balance ..		26 5 2	To other States ..	1,575	114,496 9 2
Average amount of in-			Union of S. Africa 3½%		
terest earned on in-			Local Stock pur-		
vestments ..		3 13 8	chased by depositors	28	6,757 10 3
Average cost of each					
transaction ..		0 0 11½			

* Full details are given in the various Annexures (a) to (h) subjoined.

Annexure (b).—Schedule of Investments held on behalf of the Post Office Savings Bank at 31st March, 1915.

Nominal Value.	Description of Investment.	Cost.
£		£ s. d.
355,000	Transvaal 3% Guaranteed Stock, 1923-53 ..	326,872 0 9
159,800	.. 1958 ..	170,005 12 10
500,000	Union 4% Local Stock, 1933-53 ..	791,565 3 2
2,688,310	Union 3½% Local Stock, 1933-53 ..	2,893,623 1 8
499,500	Cape 3% Colonial Stock 1924-44 ..	458,859 18 4
13,000	Cape 4% Stock, 1916-36 ..	12,967 10 0
716,000	Cape 3½% Stock, 1929-49 ..	714,790 12 10
143,400	Cape 3% Stock, 1933-43 ..	122,326 5 5
30,000	Natal 3½% Stock, 1934-44 ..	28,704 12 2
188,500	Natal 3% Stock, 1929-49 ..	168,118 7 8
25,000	Canada 3½% Stock, 1909-34 ..	24,932 5 5
14,000	Canada 3% Stock, 1938 ..	13,467 11 4
13,000	Ceylon 3% Stock, 1940 ..	12,634 6 8
25,000	New South Wales 3½% Stock, 1924 ..	24,732 16 9
2,000	New South Wales 2½% Stock, 1918 ..	1,979 12 3
35,000	New South Wales 3% Stock, 1935 ..	31,089 10 1
61,000	New South Wales 3½% Stock, 1939-50 ..	57,461 2 10
25,000	New Zealand 3% Stock, 1945 ..	21,006 8 8
21,000	Queensland 3% Stock, 1922-47 ..	16,566 10 11
10,000	Queensland 3½% Stock, 1924 ..	9,371 15 4
10,000	Queensland 3½% Stock, 1930 ..	9,271 15 4
15,000	Queensland 4½% Loan, 1920-25 ..	14,850 0 0
22,000	South Australia 3% Stock, 1916 and after ..	17,935 19 0
4,800	South Australia 4% Bonds, 1916 ..	4,965 0 0
52,000	South Australia 3½% Stock, 1926-36 ..	47,931 7 4
40,000	South Australia 3% Stock, 1916-26 ..	37,575 19 6
8,000	Tasmania 3½% Stock, 1920-40 ..	7,265 14 8
10,000	Victoria 3½% Stock, 1921-26 ..	9,378 0 4
50,000	Victoria 3% Stock, 1920-49 ..	42,563 17 0
31,000	West Australia 3% Stock, 1915-35 ..	26,551 7 11
10,000	West Australia 3% Stock, 1927 ..	8,789 3 4
31,000	West Australia 3% Stock, 1916-26 ..	28,053 13 7
	Treasury Bills ..	
	Cash ..	
	Total ..	367,000 0 0
		568 7 6
		£6,528,575 19 7

APPENDIX No. 1 (continued).—POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.
Annexure (c).—General statement of transactions in Depositors' Accounts.

Year.	Deposits and Interest.		Withdrawals.		Balance due to Depositors.		Average Amount to Credit of each Depositor in Current Account.	Accounts.		
								Opened.	Closed.	Re-maining open.
No.	£		No.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	No.	No.	No.
<i>(i) Cape and Orange Free State.</i>										
1910-11	156,091	1,441,236	58,470	1,220,543	2,538,635	898,600	21 5 3	19,535	13,152	110,398
1911-12	228,312	2,028,710	85,485	1,813,325	2,754,020	935,800	21 14 9	28,798	21,502	126,694
1912-13	242,844	2,047,987	104,554	1,940,207	2,861,800	861,100	22 8 1	27,373	26,318	127,749
1913-14	247,313	1,917,383	99,035	1,825,490	2,953,693	757,100	21 17 10	25,928	18,765	134,912
1914-15	215,470	1,696,297	104,703	1,682,867	2,969,123	669,200	22 13 7	22,541	26,542	130,911
<i>(ii) Transvaal.</i>										
1910-11	153,772	1,384,185	76,557	1,078,162	2,108,099	..	26 8 9	20,048	11,506	79,727
1911-12	191,943	1,848,604	96,472	1,758,127	2,198,576	23,900	25 12 10	23,120	17,115	85,732
1912-13	190,106	1,847,077	101,739	1,839,698	2,205,955	74,100	25 5 10	23,982	22,496	87,219
1913-14	194,918	1,723,651	99,194	1,774,427	2,155,179	100,900	24 4 9	22,742	21,034	88,026
1914-15	167,308	1,458,100	87,066	1,514,627	2,098,652	109,900	23 16 11	18,678	19,601	88,003
<i>(iii) Natal.</i>										
1910-11	47,972	296,125	20,511	260,153	583,119	..	22 6 7	5,094	3,501	26,113
1911-12	62,960	431,875	27,345	389,176	625,819	7,100	22 15 11	7,998	6,661	27,450
1912-13	62,704	476,869	30,064	447,018	655,670	15,000	23 2 6	7,241	6,340	28,351
1913-14	64,975	474,698	30,683	446,480	683,888	21,000	23 0 3	7,160	5,792	29,802
1914-15	54,095	404,576	29,291	427,679	660,785	23,300	22 3 4	5,642	5,552	29,809
<i>(iv) General Statement of transactions in Depositors' Accounts for the Union of South Africa.</i>										
1910-11	357,835	3,015,950	155,538	2,328,459	5,229,853	898,600	23 4 5	44,677	28,159	225,238
1911-12	483,215	4,161,872	209,302	3,960,623	5,578,415	966,800	23 5 1	59,916	45,278	239,876
1912-13	495,654	4,371,933	236,367	4,226,923	5,723,425	950,200	23 10 5	58,596	55,154	243,318
1913-14	507,211	4,115,732	228,912	4,046,397	5,792,759	879,000	22 16 11	55,830	45,591	253,557
1914-15	436,873	3,560,974	221,060	3,625,172	5,728,560	802,400	23 0 8	46,861	51,695	248,723

Annexure (d).—Savings Bank Certificates.

Province and Year.				Certificates issued.	Certificates repaid.	Balance due to Certificate Holders.
				£	£	£
<i>(i) Cape and Orange Free State.</i>						
1910-11	..	..	..	230,400	105,600	898,600
1911-12	..	..	..	250,000	221,800	935,800
1912-13	..	..	..	153,300	228,000	861,100
1913-14	..	..	..	120,800	224,800	757,100
1914-15	..	..	..	97,500	155,400	669,200
<i>(ii) Transvaal.</i>						
1910-11	..	..	..	..	..	..
1911-12	..	..	..	25,300	1,400	23,900
1912-13	..	..	..	60,600	10,400	74,100
1913-14	..	..	..	54,100	27,300	100,900
1914-15	..	..	..	45,500	36,500	109,900
<i>(iii) Natal.</i>						
1910-11	..	..	..	..	..	..
1911-12	..	..	..	7,500	..	7,100
1912-13	..	..	..	11,100	..	15,000
1913-14	..	..	..	11,200	5,200	21,000
1914-15	..	..	..	12,200	9,900	23,300
<i>(iv) Total Union of South Africa.</i>						
1910-11	..	..	..	230,400	105,600	898,600
1911-12	..	..	..	291,800	223,600	966,800
1912-13	..	..	..	225,000	241,600	950,200
1913-14	..	..	..	186,100	257,300	879,000
1914-15	..	..	..	155,200	231,800	802,400

APPENDIX No. 1 (continued).--POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

Annexure (e).--Accounts transferred from and to the Savings Banks of other Administrations and Provinces during the Financial Year 1914-15.

Name of Administration or Province.	Cape and Orange Free State.				Transvaal.			
	Transferred to.		Transferred from.		Transferred to.		Transferred from.	
	No.	£ s. d.	No.	£ s. d.	No.	£ s. d.	No.	£ s. d.
India .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	41 10 0	3	196 2 2
Mozambique .. .. .	..	..	..	..	28	1,474 2 0	33	756 1 2
Southern Rhodesia	42	2,019 8 11	49	1,794 3 1	130	7,134 6 0	892	65,859 15 8
United Kingdom	114	5,868 11 7	449	33,873 13 3	..	..	..	..
	156	7,888 0 6	498	35,667 16 4	160	8,649 19 0	928	66,811 19 0
Cape and Orange Free State..	..	..	..	..	65	3,897 2 0	29	1,355 10 2
Transvaal	29	1,355 10 2	65	3,897 2 3	..	..	..	..
Natal	11	655 5 11	8	244 11 8	14	1,060 15 0	14	1,174 5 0
	196	9,898 16 7	571	39,809 10 3	239	13,607 16 0	971	69,341 14 2

Name of Administration or Province.	Natal.				Union of South Africa.			
	Transferred to.		Transferred from.		Transferred to.		Transferred from.	
	No.	£ s. d.	No.	£ s. d.	No.	£ s. d.	No.	£ s. d.
India .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	41 10 3	..	..
Mozambique .. .. .	..	..	1	30 0 6	..	..	4	226 2 8
Southern Rhodesia	8	261 15 5	4	254 13 10	78	3,855 6 6	86	2,804 18 1
United Kingdom	37	1,697 5 6	144	11,731 19 6	281	14,700 3 9	1,485	111,465 8 5
	45	1,959 0 11	149	12,016 13 10	361	18,597 0 6	1,575	114,496 9 2
Cape and Orange Free State	8	244 11 8	11	655 5 11	..	..	..	..
Transvaal	14	1,174 5 0	14	1,060 15 0	..	..	..	..
Natal .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	67	3,377 17 7	174	13,732 14 9	361	18,597 0 6	1,575	114,496 9 2

Annexure (f).--Cash Accounts for Financial Year 1914-1915.

Cash Account Financial Year 1914-15.	Cape and Orange Free State.	Transvaal.	Natal.	Union of South Africa.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Receipts.</i>					
Balance 1st April, 1914:—					
Ordinary Account	2,953,692 13 6	2,155,178 13 11	683,887 15 4	5,792,759 2 9	
Certificate Account	757,100 0 0	100,900 0 0	21,000 0 0	879,000 0 0	
					6,671,759 2 9
Cash received	1,379,022 12 4	1,328,430 4 1	355,111 8 5	3,062,564 4 10	
Inter-Province Transfers	2,010 16 1	4,957 17 3	1,418 16 8	8,387 10 0	
Official Entries	29,329 11 6	27,955 8 3	19,334 12 3	76,619 12 0	
Re-transfers from:—					
Revenue	247 15 6	16 11 9	4 0 6	268 7 9	
Certificate Account	185,400 0 0	36,500 0 0	9,900 0 0	231,800 0 0	
					3,379,639 14 7
Certificates Issued	97,500 0 0	45,500 0 0	12,200 0 0		155,200 0 0
Interest allowed on:—					
Ordinary Account	80,778 11 11	57,255 13 11	18,175 2 10	156,209 8 8	
Certificate Account	21,507 15 0	2,984 10 0	632 5 0	25,124 10 0	
					181,333 18 8
Total Receipts	5,506,589 15 10	3,759,678 19 2	1,121,664 1 0		10,387,932 16 0
<i>Payments.</i>					
Cash paid	1,552,624 4 3	1,440,749 4 1	395,743 14 10	3,389,117 3 2	
Less 1913-14 Warrants cashed	12,882 19 3	9,203 13 0	3,944 12 5	25,131 4 8	
	1,539,741 5 0	1,431,546 11 1	392,699 2 5	3,363,985 18 6	
Add 1914-15 Warrants issued but not cashed	8,726 7 2	5,600 7 8	1,582 10 5	15,968 5 4	
	1,548,467 12 3	1,437,204 18 9	394,281 12 10	3,379,954 3 10	
Inter-Province Transfers	4,141 13 11	2,529 15 2	1,716 0 11	8,387 10 0	
Official Entries	29,329 11 6	27,955 8 3	19,334 12 3	76,619 12 0	
Transferred to:—					
Revenue	3,427 15 4	1,436 17 7	146 8 7	5,011 1 6	
Certificate Account	97,500 0 0	45,500 0 0	12,200 0 0	155,200 0 0	
					3,625,172 7 4
Certificates re-transferred	185,400 0 0	36,500 0 0	9,900 0 0	231,800 0 0	
Balance due to Depositors on 31st March, 1915:—					
Ordinary Account	2,969,127 2 19	2,138,651 19 5	660,787 6 5	5,728,560 8 8	
Certificate Account	669,200 0 0	100,900 0 0	23,300 0 0	802,400 0 0	
					6,530,960 8 8
Total Payments	5,506,536 16 1	3,769,656 19 2	1,121,661 1 0		10,387,932 16 0

APPENDIX No. 1 (*continued*).—POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.
Annexure (g).—Balance Sheet, Post Office Savings Bank, Union of South Africa.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance due to depositors on 31st March, 1915:—			Funds lodged with Public Debt Commissioners for investment	6,347,242	0 11
Ordinary Account ..	5,728,560	8 8	Interest added to depositors' accounts for 1914-15, due by Public Debt Commissioners..	181,333	18 8
Certificate Account ..	802,400	0 0	Cash in Postmaster-General's deposit account ..	18,352	14 5
Warrants issued but not cashed by 31st March, 1915 ..	15,968	5 4			
	£6,546,928	14 0		£6,546,928	14 0

Annexure (h).—Statement reconciling the total figures for the year 1914-15 with the Cash figures shown on the 31st March, 1915.

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance due to depositors on 31st March, 1915, as per Savings Bank Ledgers ..	6,530,960	8 8	Balance due to depositors on 31st March, 1915, as per Accountant's Ledgers ..	6,365,594	15 4
Outstanding warrants on 31st March, 1915 ..	15,968	5 4	Interest added to depositors' accounts for 1914-15 ..	181,333	18 8
	£6,546,928	14 0		£6,546,928	14 0

APPENDIX No. 2.—Statement showing number and value of Money Orders—(a) issued in the Union for payment in other Countries, and (b) issued in the Union for payment within the Union during 1915.

(a) Money Order exchange with.	Issued in the Union.		Issued in the other Country.		(a) Money Order exchange with.	Issued in the Union.		Issued in the other Country.	
	No.	£	No.	£		No.	£	No.	£
Australia ..	6,070	22,468	2,570	8,145	Rhodesia ..	1,224	9,493	7,513	44,565
British East Africa ..	51	336	271	1,478	St. Helena ..	34	270	80	1,018
Canada ..	673	3,509	1,062	1,920	United Kingdom	58,742	339,357	13,664	67,806
Ceylon ..	17	123	40	140	United States of America ..	5,822	16,214	1,848	8,607
France ..	1,284	3,941	196	796	Zanzibar ..	10	53	9	29
Hong Kong ..	107	430	11	49	Total (a) ..	91,973	621,880	29,109	145,251
India ..	14,674	204,341	319	2,638	(b) Issued in the Union for payment in Union	303,010	1,808,287	..	..
Mauritius ..	339	1,875	201	898	Grand Total	394,983	2,430,167	..	..
Mozambique ..	1,762	14,059	572	3,197					
New Zealand ..	361	2,007	555	2,401					
Norway ..	760	2,923	151	1,187					
Nyasaland ..	43	481	47	377					

APPENDIX No. 3.—Comparative Statement showing the number and value of Postal Orders—(a) issued, and (b) paid monthly throughout the Union, from 1st January, 1913, to 31st December, 1915.

Month.	1913.		1914.		1915.	
	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£
(a) Issued :						
January ..	259,286	165,703	247,992	155,718	237,355	148,064
February ..	272,963	172,429	288,006	180,484	256,952	162,037
March ..	291,756	185,858	315,489	197,601	290,250	187,204
April ..	299,741	138,998	310,319	194,064	278,861	172,341
May ..	288,529	183,234	305,940	190,853	276,905	169,686
June ..	308,095	196,284	321,866	201,492	299,699	187,472
July ..	281,080	174,570	322,074	200,726	293,202	179,977
August ..	300,205	183,997	274,404	168,781	283,891	175,227
September ..	300,988	192,345	263,824	159,065	317,927	188,637
October ..	312,079	193,733	252,404	157,202	267,484	167,852
November ..	316,575	196,538	265,275	168,321	323,335	200,875
December ..	363,049	230,142	291,059	182,006	341,340	210,428
Total (a) ..	3,595,255	2,263,831	3,458,662	2,156,313	3,467,201	2,149,800

APPENDIX No. 5.—SUMMARY OF TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CAPITAL ACCOUNT
AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1915.

	From Loan Acts.	From Revenue.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Telegraphs ..	790,792 16 1	458,825 0 0	1,249,617 16 1
Telephones ..	1,617,371 19 11	385,815 0 0	2,003,186 19 11
Total ..	£2,408,164 16 0	£844,640 0 0	£3,252,804 16 0

APPENDIX No. 6.—STATEMENT OF MAIL MATTER ORIGINATING WITHIN AND
DESPATCHED TO COUNTRIES BEYOND THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA DURING 1915.

Description of Mail Matter.	Europe.	Africa.	America.	Asia.	Australia and Oceania.	Total.
1. Letters—Paid	6,520,137	1,892,982	293,137	368,732	269,971	9,344,959
2. Unpaid	90,506	32,695	20,046	4,602	5,525	153,374
3. Post Cards—Single	268,710	75,998	20,748	4,147	13,741	383,344
4. Reply paid	416	143	117	..	..	676
5. Printed Papers	1,014,193	897,754	108,719	43,940	87,880	2,152,486
6. Commercial papers	21,086	243,035	4,628	351	1,521	270,621
7. Sample Packets	62,205	31,551	8,944	1,664	4,407	108,771
8. Articles admitted free of charge for postage :						
(a) Letters and Post Cards ..	60,983	201,422	2,496	1,950	5,265	272,116
(b) Other Articles	28,418	13,169	..	52	182	41,821
Articles in Columns 2 to 8 inclusive :						
9. Total Number	8,066,654	3,388,749	458,835	425,438	388,492	12,728,168
10. Registered No.	150,241	44,200	10,114	12,064	8,372	224,991
11. For Express Delivery No.	1,391	..	..	..	..	1,391
12. Parcels No.	52,247	56,953	1,248	3,185	1,846	115,479

APPENDIX No. 7.—MAIL MATTER POSTED AT OFFICES IN THE UNION AND
BASUTOLAND IN 1915 FOR DELIVERY THEREIN, WITH A COMPARISON FOR 1914.

Mail Matter.	1915.	1914.
Letters (Ordinary) : Prepaid	105,446,791	89,830,120
Taxed	908,387	707,991
Post Cards : Single	6,882,011	6,341,213
Reply Paid	14,612	17,784
Newspapers	21,285,279	16,690,378
Printed Papers, Book and Sample Packets ..	45,667,718	30,922,445
Official Correspondence : Letters	11,356,199	9,961,474
Other Articles	1,076,556	1,567,426
Parcels	2,130,004	1,816,496
Registered Articles	1,477,222	1,231,870
Total	196,244,779	159,087,197

APPENDIX No. 3 (continued).

Month.	1913.		1914.		1915.	
(b) Paid :	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£
January ..	209,657	129,096	199,043	120,158	203,039	121,376
February ..	212,550	130,214	223,908	135,342	216,856	130,352
March ..	221,583	134,986	250,519	149,768	248,155	149,423
April ..	235,521	144,218	241,248	145,142	234,625	141,255
May ..	228,786	139,260	248,517	148,998	232,986	140,202
June ..	237,342	145,497	258,821	156,249	250,735	150,982
July ..	225,787	137,479	257,636	154,302	239,445	144,126
August ..	227,151	136,356	238,332	141,145	238,018	141,911
September ..	243,398	145,413	230,956	136,008	243,427	144,131
October ..	246,691	146,521	220,238	130,728	240,124	141,628
November ..	235,058	139,738	191,931	112,688	250,803	146,815
December ..	264,643	159,246	234,084	138,838	272,363	160,161
Total (b) ..	2,788,167	1,688,024	2,795,233	1,669,566	2,870,576	1,712,362

APPENDIX No. 4.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, CALENDAR YEAR 1915.

A.—REVENUE.

(a) <i>Postal</i> (£1,048,787).		£	£
Postage	{ Union, £800,460 }		
	{ S.W.A., 6,462 }	806,922	
Commission on Money Orders		17,911	
Poundage on Postal Orders		22,242	
Private Box and Bag Rents		26,470	
Ocean Mail Service Receipts		108,513	
Miscellaneous		8,061	
Savings Bank Revenue		58,662	
			1,048,787
(b) <i>Telegraphs</i> (£386,701).			
Ordinary Paid and Press Messages		280,553	
Registered Address Fees		5,283	
Miscellaneous		100,865	
			386,701
(c) <i>Telephone</i> (£316,498).			
Private Wire and Exchange Rentals		173,752	
Subscribers' Call Fees		99,734	
Call Office Receipts		35,622	
Miscellaneous		7,390	
			316,498
Grand Total "A" Revenue			£1,751,986

APPENDIX NO. 4 (continued).—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

B.—EXPENDITURE.

Postal, Telegraph and Telephone.		£
Salaries, Wages and Allowances	{ Union, £1,183,147 S.W.A., £8,434 }	1,191,581
Transport and Travelling ..	{ Union, £22,855 S.W.A., £32 }	22,887
Uniforms .. .. .	.. .. .	5,516
Commission .. .. .	.. .. .	2,168
Conveyance of Mails ..	{ Union, £324,686 S.W.A., £3 }	324,689
Cable Subsidy .. .. .	.. .. .	8,825
Maintenance of Telegraphs and Telephones ..	.. .. .	48,206
Purchase, Maintenance and Hire of Transport ..	.. .. .	11,032
Technical Furniture and Fittings .. .. .	.. .. .	1,426
Postage Stamps .. .. .	.. .. .	3,909
Telegraph and Telephone Stores .. .. .	.. .. .	5,635
Postal Stores and Supplies .. .. .	.. .. .	13,241
Contributions to International Bureaux .. .. .	.. .. .	779
Incidental .. .. .	.. .. .	3,144
Grand Total " B " Expenditure		

APPENDIX No. 3 (continued).

Month.	1913.		1914.		1915.	
	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£
(b) Paid :						
January ..	209,657	129,096	199,043	120,158	203,039	121,376
February ..	212,550	130,214	223,908	135,342	216,856	130,352
March ..	221,583	134,986	250,519	149,768	248,155	149,423
April ..	235,521	144,218	241,248	145,142	234,625	141,255
May ..	228,786	139,260	248,517	148,998	232,986	140,202
June ..	237,342	145,497	258,821	156,249	250,735	150,982
July ..	225,787	137,479	257,636	154,302	239,445	144,126
August ..	227,151	136,356	238,332	141,145	238,018	141,911
September ..	243,398	145,413	230,956	136,008	243,427	144,131
October ..	246,691	146,521	220,238	130,728	240,124	141,628
November ..	235,058	139,738	191,931	112,688	250,803	146,815
December ..	264,643	159,246	234,084	138,838	272,363	160,161
Total (b) ..	2,788,167	1,688,024	2,795,233	1,669,566	2,870,576	1,712,362

APPENDIX No. 4.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, CALENDAR YEAR 1915.

A.—REVENUE.

(a) Postal (£1,048,787).		£	£
Postage	{ Union, £800,460 } { S.W.A., 6,462 }	806,922	
Commission on Money Orders		17,911	
Poundage on Postal Orders		22,242	
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Ordinary Paid and Press Messages		280,553	
Registered Address Fees		5,283	
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(c) Telephone (£316,498).			
Private Wire and Exchange Rentals		173,752	
Subscribers' Call Fees		99,734	
Call Office Receipts		35,622	
Miscellaneous		7,390	
			316,498
Grand Total "A" Revenue			£1,751,986

APPENDIX No. 4 (continued).—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

B.—EXPENDITURE.

Postal, Telegraph and Telephone.		£	£
Salaries, Wages and Allowances	{ Union, £1,183,147 } { S.W.A., £8,434 }	1,191,581	
Transport and Travelling	{ Union, £22,855 } { S.W.A., £32 }	22,887	
Uniforms		5,516	
Commission		2,168	
Conveyance of Mails	{ Union, £324,686 } { S.W.A., £3 }	324,689	
Cable Subsidy		8,825	
Maintenance of Telegraphs and Telephones		48,206	
Purchase, Maintenance and Hire of Transport		11,032	
Technical Furniture and Fittings		1,426	
Postage Stamps		3,909	
Telegraph and Telephone Stores		5,635	
Postal Stores and Supplies		13,241	
Contributions to International Bureaux		779	
Incidental		3,144	
Grand Total "B" Expenditure			£1,642,523

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AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1915.

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Registered Articles	1,477,222	1,231,870
Total	196,244,779	159,087,197

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