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*[Extracted from the volume of "Annual Departmental Reports
(Abridged)" for the period 1921-22.]*



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

ABRIDGED ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

For the Year ended 31st March, 1922

PRETORIA

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING AND STATIONERY OFFICE

1922

2147-20/5/23-180

383.1

No. 585

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

Year ended 31st March, 1922.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL: H. W. S. TWYLCROSS.
E. A. STURMAN, C.B.E.
(28th October, 1921).

I. FINANCIAL SUMMARY.

1. *Revenue*.—The cash revenue collected during the year 1921-22 in respect of postal, telegraph, and telephone services totalled £2,893,757, as compared with £2,785,139 during the previous year, an increase of £108,618. The increase was chiefly due to the raising in June, 1921, of the letter and post card rates and to the general expansion of the telephone service. Revenue from telegraphs shows a falling off, due to commercial depression. Revenue was also collected by the Post Office from the sale of licences (£110,496), revenue stamps (£330,250), cigarette labels (£312,090), customs dues (£305,496), Transvaal Poll Tax (£58,450), Cape Entertainment Tax (£35,708), totalling £1,153,729, as compared with £1,288,158 during the previous year. The Post Office was thus the medium for the collection of gross revenue amounting to £4,047,486, while, in addition to the work involved in this, the Department paid pension warrants amounting to £1,000,000 (Treasury) and £55,000 (Railways and Harbours).

"Free services" were rendered to other Government Departments to the value of £276,117. This figure includes postal, telegraph, and telephone services rendered to Provincial Administrations without payment, the values of which in regard to the respective Provinces were as follows:—Transvaal, £11,114; Cape, £10,518; Natal, £4,174; Orange Free State, £4,823. Whilst the expenditure on free services in the Transvaal Province has been largely reduced, that for the Cape Province shows a considerable increase.

2. *Expenditure*.—Expenditure fell from £3,344,475 in 1920-21 to £3,202,585 in 1921-22, the principal decreases being in salaries (£195,000), subsistence and transport (£4,000), uniforms (£15,000), postage stamps (£3,000), and postal stores (£2,000).

3. *Net Result of Operations*.—The excess of expenditure over revenue for the year, or the loss on a cash basis was £308,828. Taking into account the "free services" rendered to and by other Departments, the year's working resulted in a loss amounting to £436,313. The loss for the previous year was on a cash basis £560,086, and, including the "free services," £631,033.

II. POSTAL.

1. *Inland Mail Services*.—(i) *Postal Facilities*.—The number of post offices transacting public business on the 31st March, 1922, was 2,793, including 38 offices in Basutoland and Swaziland administered

by the Union, an increase of 22 as compared with the previous year. The numbers of main and branch posts other than those on the railway systems were as follows:—Main posts, 268; branch posts, 1,236. The total number of private post bags in use on the 31st March was 3,486, as against 2,747 at the end of the previous year.

(ii) *Increased Postage Rates.*—The postage on inland and Empire letters was increased from 1½d. to 2d. from 1st June, 1921, and from the same date the limit of weight of inland newspapers was reduced to 2 lb., whilst a minimum fee of ½d. was substituted for the ¼d. rate in the case of newspapers posted by the publishers. From the 1st January, 1922, the rates on letters addressed to destinations outside the South African Postal Union, except the British Empire and Egypt, were altered to 3d. for the first ounce and 1½d. for each additional ounce, the post card rate being raised from 1d. to 1½d. In accordance with the provisions of the Madrid Convention, a minimum charge of 30 centimes (1½d.) is now levied on insufficiently prepaid correspondence received from abroad.

(iii) *Cost of Conveyance of Mails.*—The contracts in force at the 31st March, exclusive of the ocean mail service, represented a liability of £296,866 for the year.

2. *Ocean Mail Service.*—(i) *United Kingdom Service.*—A comparative statement showing the mails conveyed between the United Kingdom and South Africa during the last four years is appended.

Description.	To South Africa.				From South Africa.			
	1918.	1919.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1918.	1919.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Mail bags.....	54,563	55,717	87,027	94,672	18,152	17,501	25,406	28,270
Parcel receptacles	58,255	38,116	49,818	54,255	5,845	3,796	5,880	4,791

(ii) *All Oversea Destinations, except those served through the United Kingdom :—*

Description.	To South Africa during 1921-22.	From South Africa during 1921-22.
Mail bags.....	5,589	4,412
Parcel receptacles.....	5,660	1,518

(iii) *Extra-Union Parcel Post.*—The total number of postal parcels dispatched beyond the Union and received in the Union during the last four years is shown below :—

Description.	1918.	1919.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Dispatched beyond the Union.....	174,762	118,565	160,200	168,116
Received from beyond the Union.....	361,631	261,138	418,793	425,256
TOTAL EXTRA-UNION TRAFFIC.....	536,393	379,703	578,993	593,372

(iv) *Inward Mails.*—The mails conveyed from the United Kingdom to the Union of South Africa during the year 1921-22 were divided as follows:—

Destination.	Mail Bags.	Parcel Receptacles.
Union of South Africa.....	73,235	50,739
South-West Africa.....	2,585	535
Bechuanaland Protectorate.....	150	—
Rhodesia and Belgian Congo.....	10,148	2,981
Nyasaland and East Coast.....	6,083	—
Madeira, Ascension, and St. Helena.....	1,498	—
Mauritius.....	813	—
Transit and various.....	160	—
GRAND TOTAL.....	94,672	54,255

(v) *Outward Mails.*—The mails conveyed from South Africa to the United Kingdom and Madeira were divided as follows:—

Destination.	Mail Bags.	Parcel Receptacles.
United Kingdom.....	21,048	4,791
Madeira.....	1,076	
Europe.....	3,490	
Various.....	2,656	
TOTAL.....	28,270	4,791

(vi) *Articles of Mail Matter handled at Post Offices in the Union, 1921-22:—*

Mail Matter.	Letters.	Post Cards.	News-papers.	Book and Sample Packets, Printed Matter.	Parcels.		Registered Articles.	Express Articles.	Official Correspondence.	Total.
					Ordinary.	Agricultural.				
Posted.....	,000. 119,035	,000. 6,008	,000. 24,551	,000. 53,239	,000. 3,347	,000. 546	,000. 2,258	,000. 2	,000. 13,942	,000. 22,298
Received....	122,423	5,603	26,490	41,744	3,269	484	2,423	8	11,548	213,992
In transit...	45,565	1,491	10,404	8,838	2,012	391	1,247	1	1,789	71,738
TOTAL....	287,023	13,102	61,445	103,821	8,628	1,421	5,928	11	27,279	508,658

3. *Complaints and Inquiries.*—The Post Office investigated 16,828 inquiries made with regard to the alleged loss of mail matter, a small number in comparison with the very large number of articles handled during the course of the year. Inquiries as to the whereabouts of missing persons to the number of 134 were received and dealt with.

4. *Undeliverable Correspondence.*—The number of undeliverable letters and other articles dealt with in the Returned Letter Office and by postmasters during the year was 2,161,888, of which 683,904 were returned by postmasters, 541,481 through the Returned Letter Office, 116,846 to countries outside the Union, and the remainder were unreturnable.

5. *Money Orders, Postal Orders, and Postal Drafts.*—(i) *Money and Postal Orders issued and paid, 1921-22:—*

Heading.	Issued.		Paid.		Void.		Commis- sion or Poundage.
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	
		£		£		£	£
Money orders—							
Ordinary.....	358,767	2,464,440	346,833	2,270,477	826	2,159	25,508
*Cable.....	1,629	27,676	556	12,596	—	—	—
†Free.....	56,300	404,794	—	—	—	—	—
Postal orders.....	2,762,273	1,571,252	2,348,563	1,267,818	—	1,925	18,162

* To and from the United Kingdom only.

† For Government purposes: Estimated.

The number of demands made in respect of postal drafts drawn was 14,998; 2,809 were honoured, £4,098 was collected, and £455 earned in revenue.

(ii) *Number and Value of Money Orders issued in and for payment in the Union (showing Countries), 1921-22:—*

Money Orders Exchanged with.	Issued in the Union.		Issued in other Countries for pay- ment in the Union.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
		£		£
Australia.....	5,408	24,848	2,456	10,435
Canada.....	650	4,190	593	1,848
Ceylon.....	31	173	23	131
Hong Kong.....	70	533	17	30
Kenya Colony.....	98	1,023	284	1,065
India.....	15,824	290,375	121	835
Mauritius.....	111	755	170	395
Mozambique.....	622	6,304	857	17,352
New Zealand.....	338	2,394	525	2,710
Norway.....	320	1,739	80	921
Nyasaland.....	371	4,100	45	545
Rhodesia.....	1,329	13,617	5,740	46,394
St. Helena.....	22	142	30	183
South-West Africa.....	823	9,249	7,119	48,679
United Kingdom.....	69,292	485,282	11,030	79,372
United States of America.....	4,859	11,167	1,486	6,659
Zanzibar.....	10	67	19	56
Total for payment in other countries..	100,178	855,958	—	—
Total for payment in the Union.....	316,518	2,040,952	30,595	217,610
TOTAL.....	416,696	£2,896,910	30,595	£217,610

(iii) *Through Money Orders*.—The number and value of money orders exchanged between other countries through the intermediary of the Union were as follows:—

	Number.	Amount.
Issued in Rhodesia—Payable in other countries.....	1,329	£ 16,144
„ Mozambique—Payable in other countries.....	480	4,406
„ South-West Africa—Payable in other countries.....	1,298	6,665
„ other countries—Payable in Rhodesia.....	244	1,964
„ „ „ Mozambique.....	65	332
„ „ „ South-West Africa.....	49	449
Exchanged between various other countries.....	69	391
 TOTAL.....	 3,534	 £30,351

The value of “through orders” was £331 less than in 1921.

(iv) *International Money Order Service*.—A money order exchange with France was arranged through the intermediary of the United Kingdom, and direct services with Mauritius and the United States of America were resumed.

6. *Savings Bank*.—(i) *General*.—With the exception of Savings Bank Certificates, which showed a marked recovery during the latter half of the year, the returns reflect the general economic depression. The number of deposits fell by 99,597 and the amount by £629,657. While there was a drop of 16,353 in the number of the withdrawals, the amount withdrawn increased by £59,406. 6,900 fewer accounts were opened, and 3,217 fewer accounts were closed, resulting in a reduction of 4,514 in the number of accounts remaining open. The balance due to depositors in the current account fell from £6,414,269 at the end of the preceding year to £5,843,187 at the end of March, 1922. As against this drop of £571,082, there was an increase of £211,600 in the certificate account balance for the same period.

(ii) *Savings Bank Certificates*.—As the advance in the rate of interest on certificates from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 4 per cent., which was made in October, 1920, failed in its object of checking the continued shrinkage of the balance, the rate was further increased to 5 per cent. on the 1st October, 1921. The new rate approximated to the rates obtainable in connection with other investments of a similar kind. The amount invested, which had fallen from £981,700 in 1911 to £571,000 in September, 1921, rose to £733,600 at the end of December, 1921, and to £822,500 by the end of March, 1922—an increase of £251,500 in six months.

(iii) *Penny Banks*.—The transactions of school penny banks during 1921 fell considerably below those of preceding years, owing mainly to the prevailing depression, but also as regards the Transvaal, to the adoption of the savings club system in place of penny banks at a number of schools. The savings clubs have not been introduced at

any of the Natal schools, consequently the falling-off in that Province is much less marked than in the Transvaal. The following are the returns for the calendar year 1921 in respect of the elementary schools in the Transvaal and Natal, the two Provinces in which the penny bank scheme shows the greatest development.

STATISTICS OF PENNY BANKS, 1921.

Province.	Number of Accounts Open.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Transferred to Accounts in Pupils' Own Names.	Credit Balance.	Number of Pupils on the Roll.	Number of Depositors.
Transvaal.....	370	£ 3,914	£ 2,019	£ 3,370	£ 3,802	46,172	13,768
Natal.....	147	2,844	790	2,275	2,033	21,179	8,277
TOTAL.....	517	6,758	2,809	5,645	5,835	67,351	22,045

(iv) *Natives*.—The following are the numbers of accounts remaining open at the 31st March, 1922, in the names of natives and the total amounts at credit:—

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK—NATIVE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS, 1921-22.

Province.	Number of Accounts.	Amount.
Cape.....	5,405	£ 49,070
Transvaal, Orange Free State, and Northern Cape.....	9,499	78,951
Natal.....	1,939	20,917
TOTAL.....	16,843	£148,938

The balance due to natives fell by £2,390 during the year 1921-22, while the number of accounts remaining open increased by 1,114. A scheme was devised having for its object the extension of facilities for the acceptance of deposits from natives at the larger of the South African Railways native compounds. The experiment gives promise of success, and with further development considerable progress is anticipated.

7. *Union Loan Certificates*.—The total amount invested in Union Loan Certificates during 1921-22 was £340,592, as compared with £728,687 for the preceding year, and the total repaid £338,373, as compared with £241,013 for 1920-21.

The following statement gives details of the transactions:—

UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES—APPROXIMATE ISSUES AND REPAYMENTS,
1920-21 AND 1921-22.

Heading.	Cape and O.F.S.	Trans- vaal.	Natal.	South- West Africa.	Union.
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of certificates issued—					
£1.....	22,328	21,729	8,175	928	53,160
£5.....	1,632	771	50	27	2,480
£10.....	17,120	10,718	5,440	318	33,596
£25.....	28,074	14,043	8,041	97	50,255
Over £25.....	111,264	58,563	30,306	968	201,101
Total issues—					
1921-22.....	180,418	105,824	52,012	2,338	340,592
1920-21.....	399,918	219,610	103,832	5,327	728,687
Total repayments—					
1921-22.....	189,832	90,084	56,180	2,277	338,373
1920-21.....	142,071	65,859	31,629	1,454	241,013

The purchases of certificates made by savings clubs during the year were satisfactory, and compare not unfavourably with the purchases made from the initiation of the movement in August, 1920, to the 31st March, 1921, as shown in the following returns for the two periods:—

SALE OF UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES TO SAVINGS CLUBS,
1920-21 AND 1921-22.

Province.	1st August, 1920, to 31st March, 1921.		1st April, 1921, to 31st March, 1922.	
	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.
Cape and Orange Free State....	14,104	£ 10,931	13,499	£ 10,462
Transvaal.....	14,681	11,378	12,685	9,831
Natal.....	4,189	3,246	5,782	4,481
TOTAL.....	32,974	£25,555	31,966	£24,774

III. TELEGRAPHS.

1. *Offices.*—The number of telegraph offices in the Union (including those worked by the Railway Department) on the 31st March, 1922, was 1921, being an increase during the year of 64.

2. *Traffic*.—Subjoined is a comparative statement of the traffic for 1913, 1920-21, and 1921-22:—

NUMBER OF ORDINARY AND PRESS TELEGRAMS, 1913 TO 1921-22.

Class.	1913.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Ordinary Telegrams—			
Paid.....	4,946,707	6,318,709	5,635,929
Government, Imperial, and Military..	339,600	315,372	263,621
Railway Service.....	577,592	360,562	191,029
Press Telegrams—			
Messages.....	306,530	262,226	252,759
Words.....	41,197,632	33,564,928	32,858,670

3. *Revenue*.—Telegraph revenue for the year reached the sum of £495,936, which is a decrease of £33,582 on the previous year, but is greater by £120,198 than in the year 1913. The value of free telegraph services rendered to other Government Departments of the Union and to the Imperial Government was £43,076. This is a decrease in value of £6,806 on the figure for 1921.

4. *Cable Delays*.—The delay on submarine traffic was considerably reduced, the time occupied in the transmission of full-rate cablegrams exchanged with Europe via the western route averaging 18 hours and deferred traffic 2 days.

5. *Cable Traffic*.—The statistics of cablegrams sent from the Union are given in the following table:—

CABLEGRAMS FROM THE UNION, 1913 TO 1921-22.

Heading.	1913.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Cablegrams.....	121,481	133,628	135,354	159,487
Value.....£	110,819	178,851	152,398	159,383

6. *Cable Interruptions*.—Interruptions to cables occurred during the year as follows:—

ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA—

Sierra Leone-Bathurst	4 days in April, 1921.
Bathurst-St. Jago	1 day in May, 1921.
Lagos-Accra	18 days in May, 1921.
Mossamedes-Benguela	7 days in July, 1921.
Bonny-Lagos	24 days in August-September, 1921.
Sierra Leone-Bathurst	9 days in September, 1921.
Mossamedes-Benguela	10 days in November-December, 1921.

ON THE EAST COAST OF AFRICA—

Zanzibar-Aden	4 days in April, 1921.
Zanzibar-Aden	54 days in June-August, 1921.
Zanzibar-Aden	51 days in September-October, 1921.
Zanzibar-Aden	2 days in November, 1921.

7. *Wireless Telegrams*.—Despite the falling off of traffic on the land lines there was a slight increase in radio-telegraphic traffic. The figures for the years 1913, 1920-21, 1921-22 were as follows:—

WIRELESS TELEGRAMS, 1913, 1920-21, AND 1921-22.

Heading.	1913.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Messages.....	6,044	12,123	12,235
Words.....	68,837	154,453	196,449
Value.....£	2,008	4,505	4,595

The amounts mentioned indicate the revenue derived by the Post Office for the services of the coast stations at Slangkop, Durban, and Port Elizabeth, but do not take into account the charges for ship stations.

8. *New Wireless Stations*.—The wireless stations at Jacobs and Port Nolloth were taken over from the Admiralty on the 15th December, 1921. The station at Port Nolloth will not be worked normally pending the result of deliberations in connection with the Imperial wireless chain scheme. Though under the control of the Post Office, both stations will be available for naval purposes when required.

9. *Inspection of Ships' Wireless Installations*.—In accordance with an arrangement entered into between the Imperial Government and the Governments of the Dominions, two wireless inspectors were appointed towards the close of the year for the purpose of examining installations fitted on merchant ships. By 31st March, 1922, 68 ships had been visited at Cape Town and 117 at Durban.

IV. TELEPHONES.

1. *Development*.—During the year a sum of £400,000 was placed at the disposal of the Post Office for the expansion of the telephone system. By the 31st March, 1922, the number of subscribers' telephone lines in use had been increased by 3,233, which left 2,588 applications for service still to be met. Of the latter figure, 621 applications were for farmers' telephone circuits, involving the erection of 6,000 miles of line. 680 miles of farmers' line were actually erected in the course of the year.

A new building was under construction at Overport to meet telephone development in the environs of Durban. The exchange will be of the automatic type.

2. *Trunk Lines and New Telephone Offices*.—441 miles of line were built to extend the trunk system to 38 offices not previously connected, and communication facilities were extended to 29 additional offices by their connection to the trunk circuits.

3. *Rural Telephone Lines: Private Construction.*—The policy of assisting farmers to build lines at their own expense was continued. Material was offered at cost price, and farmers were given the option of either having lines erected by the Department and being charged with the cost, or of building their own lines under the guidance of departmental engineers.

4. *Automatic Exchanges.*—Reference was made in the previous year's report to the prevailing high prices quoted by manufacturers of automatic telephone exchange plant as compared with pre-war prices, and to the advisability of suspending action in regard to the substitution of automatic installations at various centres, in place of the existing manually operated equipment. It has since been decided not to proceed with the installation of automatic systems at Johannesburg and Cape Town until lower costs prevail. Tenders for the Port Elizabeth and Pietermaritzburg automatic system have been accepted since the year under review closed.

5. *Telephone Traffic.*—During the year ended 31st March, 1922, the capacity of existing switchboards at exchanges was increased as under:—

Exchange.	Increase in provision for Subscribers' Exchange Connections.	Exchange.	Increase in provision for Subscribers' Exchange Connections.
Turffontein	200	Kimberley	200
Mayfair	200	East London	200
Krugersdorp	100	Pietermaritzburg	200
Springs	100	Minor Exchanges	210
Brakpan	100		
Claremont	60		
Muizenberg	100		
Bloemfontein	400	Total	2,070

As the equipment at Springs and Brakpan, which was of the "magneto calling and auto clearing" type, no longer met the growing needs of these communities, new switchrooms were provided, in which were installed up-to-date "central battery" exchange equipment.

To afford further relief, arrangements are in hand for opening a new branch exchange at Jeppe. This will provide for a large number of waiting applicants in the Jeppe area and ease the position at the central exchange, from which approximately 700 lines will be transferred. The equipment thus thrown spare will be available for the growing needs of Johannesburg proper.

The number of junction lines linking Johannesburg and the East Rand exchanges was increased, but the need for more lines on both the East and West Rand is pressing. Good progress is being made on the East Rand in the laying of underground ducts and cable.

6. *Long-distance Telephony.*—1895 miles of metallic circuit were added to the trunk system, and a further 1,031 miles were arranged by superimposition on new and existing circuits.

Consideration is being given to methods of further increasing the

traffic carrying capacity of the existing trunk telegraph-telephone lines by:—

- (a) The introduction of multiplex operation on telegraph lines whereby the number of traffic channels on one wire may be increased from two to eight.
- (b) Equipping telegraph lines with automatic apparatus of the printing type, thus increasing the speed of transmission and the operator's load.
- (c) "Compositing" trunk circuits by arranging for the working of telegraphs on each of the two wires which form a trunk circuit.
- (d) Arranging trunk lines for use as "carrier current" circuits. This is one of the latest developments in telephony, and permits of a number of simultaneous conversations over one trunk line, in both directions, without interference or overhearing.

A change in the method of trunk operating between Johannesburg and Pretoria was made during the year, resulting in improved service between these centres. Approximately 2,000 trunk calls are handled daily over the Johannesburg-Pretoria trunk lines.

Attention is being given to the improvement of speech between the Transvaal and Natal, and more particularly between the Witwatersrand and the Natal coal-mining areas and Durban.

By the interpolation in the trunk lines of thermionic valve repeaters, it will be possible to amplify the volume of speech over the existing lines and make extensions possible to places at present outside the range of communication.

It is estimated that during the year 95,356,245 local calls were dealt with by a staff of 932 telephonists. The increase in the operating personnel for the year was 16. Trunk calls are estimated at 5,428,797.

7. *Telephone Statistics.*—The actual extension effected during the year is shown below:—

Heading.	At 31st March, 1921.	At 31st March, 1922.	Increase.
Exchanges.....	549	583	34
Exchange connections.....	35,662	33,891	2,229
Exchange extensions.....	4,966	5,106	140
Private branch exchanges.....	390	426	36
Private branch exchange junctions.....	1,130	1,283	153
Private branch exchange extensions....	4,935	5,261	326
Public call offices.....	2,346	2,656	310
Rural party lines.....	192	267	75
Rural party mileage.....	1,938	2,618	680
Rural party stations.....	877	1,225	348
Telephones in use.....	48,362	51,849	3,487
Miles of working wire.....	130,752	146,631	15,879

The mileage of routes and wires on the 31st March was as follows:—

Heading.	At 31st March, 1921.	At 31st March, 1922.
	Miles.	Miles.
Telegraph routes.....	12,884	9,349*
Telegraph wire.....	44,183	41,415†
Telegraph superimposed circuits.....	6,687	10,305
Telephone trunk routes.....	3,351	4,160
Superimposition trunk wire.....	3,410	9,822
Telephone trunk wire—		
(a) Carried on purely telephone routes.....	10,595	16,265
(b) Carried on telegraph-telephone routes.....	16,861	21,288
(c) Telegraph-telephone wire used for trunk purposes..	7,832	7,520
TOTAL TRUNK WIRE.....	35,338	45,073
Telephone exchange wire.....	95,414	102,679
Total exchange and trunk wire (working).....	130,752	146,631
Telephone wire spare.....	10,137	12,106

* Decrease due to revision of statistics relative to routes on railway property.
† Decrease due to wires now forming part of superimposed circuits.

The capital expenditure and the revenue earned were as follows:—

Heading.	At 31st March, 1921.	At 31st March, 1922.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Capital expenditure.....	3,006,873	3,402,742	395,869
Revenue—			
Cash collections.....	682,431	735,667	53,236
Value of services provided for Government departments.....	53,030	60,036	7,006
TOTAL REVENUE.....£	735,461	795,703	60,242

8. *Locust Warnings.*—To afford assistance in combating the locust pest, arrangements were made for the telephone system to be used free of charge by the public to advise magistrates and police officials of the movements of swarms of locusts.

9. *Industrial Unrest.*—During the industrial disturbances on the Witwatersrand telegraph communication was maintained throughout between Johannesburg and the larger centres, but in the later stages, owing to their isolation, communication with certain smaller offices in the affected area was interrupted. The grave developments resulted in a large increase in telegraph traffic at most offices in the Union for a few days. Wireless communication was established between the

more important centres but need for its utilization did not arise. Considerable disorganization of the Witwatersrand telephone service also occurred. Communication between Johannesburg and East and West Rand offices was partially or totally interrupted between the 10th and 15th of March. The exchanges at Mayfair and Brakpan were in the hands of the strikers for a few days, and operation was suspended. The equipment was not interfered with. Direct trunk communication from Johannesburg to all the principal towns, except Pretoria, was interrupted from the 10th to the 17th March, but communication was maintained to several of the places by other routes.

V. GENERAL.

1. *Staff.*—(i) *General.*—The number of employees of all grades on the 31st March, 1922, was as follows:—

Administrative and clerical division officers ...	3,520
General division officers	4,305
Learners in training	361
Local persons and railway officials performing post office work	2,923

The wastage of staff in the administrative and clerical division during the year through resignations, retirements, dismissals, deaths, and transfers to other Departments was 19.34 per cent. and in the general division 25.08 per cent. 32 officers were retired on account of failing health, and 27 by reason of their having reached superannuation age. 182 permanent officers were retired owing to their posts being abolished, and 474 temporary employees, whose services were no longer required, were paid off.

(ii) *Sick and Holiday Leave.*—Absences on sick leave aggregated 69,013 days, averaging 7.89 days per officer or 2.16 per cent., while absences on holiday leave aggregated 219,452 days, averaging 26.26 days per officer.

(iii) *Post and Telegraph Learners.*—An expenditure of £25,000 was incurred on the training of learners.

(iv) *Engineering Learners.*—During the year a thorough co-ordinated course for the instruction of engineering learners in the practice and rudimentary theory of the Department's engineering work was instituted. For this instruction and the supervision of learners at Johannesburg and Cape Town special officers have been allocated, while at the smaller centres the work is cared for as part of various officers' duty.

(v) *Continuation Classes for Messengers.*—Provision was also made for the improvement of the education of the Department's messengers attending continuation classes. A day continuation school was opened in Johannesburg in August, with an enrolment of 111 messengers. The boys are divided into four groups, each attending classes for two periods of three hours each per week. The tuition is free, and the Department contributes towards the cost of books, and ensures the messengers taking advantage of the facilities provided for them by regarding the period of attendance at school as part of their official duty. The Department still maintains continuation classes for these lads in the Post Office, Cape Town, in order to fit them better for permanent employment. Much commendable keenness is being displayed by the boys, a number of whom are well on the way to

attaining the University Junior Certificate standard, which marks a considerable advance on the educational qualifications with which they entered the Department's service. On the whole, the results are very encouraging and many lads in after-life will be enabled to look back with gratitude to these efforts on their behalf.

(vi) *Technological Examinations*.—These examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute were held at 14 different centres. 75 candidates entered; 48 were successful in the first grade and 17 in the final grade, thus showing the satisfactory total of 86 per cent. of passes.

An examination was held in September for the purpose of filling vacancies at repeater stations. Seven out of the eight candidates who entered were successful.

"Efficiency tests," which had been suspended for some time, were resumed. 549 officers were put through the written and practical examinations, and of these 422 met the requirements.

There were 36 examinations of candidates for employment as telephonists held at 33 different centres; 219 candidates competed, and 147 were successful.

2. *Stores*.—Although prices have been reduced considerably, they are still much higher than the pre-war figure. The following instances illustrate the percentage advance in the cost of certain items as compared with the pre-war rates:—Insulators, 145 per cent.; poles, 157 per cent.; switchboards, 100 per cent.; telephones, 53 per cent.; wire (copper), 24 per cent.; spindles, 142 per cent.

Considerable purchases of telegraph and telephone material were made from Disposal Board stocks at a price much below the ruling market rate. Advantageous purchases were also made from the British Post Office.

3. *Buildings*.—New State-owned Post Office buildings were provided at Clocolan, Dannhauser, Louis Trichardt, Riversdale, Rondebosch, Somerset East, and Zastron, including residences for the postmasters at Dannhauser and Louis Trichardt. A lengthy programme of extensions and alterations to existing premises was undertaken at Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, and various other centres, but, owing to the accumulation of building requirements during recent years and the limitation of expenditure, there are numerous urgent works still held in abeyance.

The rental paid for premises hired for departmental purposes reached £21,868.

STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

I. SUMMARIZED PARTICULARS OF POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE BUSINESS, 1919-20 TO 1921-22.

Description.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Mails—			
Revenue.....£	1,370,755	1,573,190	1,662,154
Expenditure.....£	1,408,543	1,973,240	1,889,525
Offices open.....	2,684	2,771	2,793
Posting receptacles.....	1,056	1,074	1,083
Private post bags in use.....	3,548	2,747	3,486
Private boxes let.....	28,852	31,680	29,916

Description.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Mails—(continued.)			
Main posts running.....	284	280	268
Branch posts running.....	1,247	1,272	1,236
Cost of inland mail conveyance.....£	181,143	345,793	354,791
Cost of ocean mail service.....£	153,751	152,699	153,948
Undeliverable articles dealt with.....	1,887,807	2,265,011	2,161,888
Money orders issued.....	444,060	433,078	416,696
Amount.....£	3,549,881	3,271,225	2,896,910
Commission.....£	30,325	26,778	25,508
Money orders paid.....	425,381	412,813	347,389
Amount.....£	2,998,101	3,417,430	2,283,073
Postal orders issued.....	3,347,766	2,968,770	2,762,273
Amount.....£	1,974,031	1,734,692	1,571,252
Poundage.....£	21,353	20,363	18,162
Postal orders paid.....	3,002,910	2,699,544	2,348,563
Amount.....£	1,707,723	1,556,597	1,267,818
Postal drafts issued.....	10,583	13,381	14,998
Commission.....£	314	401	455
Savings Bank—			
Accounts open.....	307,486	306,655	302,141
Amount to credit of depositors—			
In ordinary accounts.....£	6,386,289	6,414,269	5,843,187
In certificates.....£	693,500	610,900	822,500
Deposits.....	518,415	488,433	388,836
Amount including interest.....£	4,374,458	4,353,378	3,750,275
Withdrawals.....	285,816	258,761	242,406
Amount.....£	4,961,044	4,235,397	4,294,803
Balance due to depositors.....£	7,079,789	7,025,169	6,665,687
Union Loan Certificates—			
Balance due to holders—			
Units.....	2,072,313	2,696,616	2,708,177
Amount.....£	1,606,043	2,089,827	2,098,837
Telegraphs and Telephones—			
Telegraph offices open.....	1,781	1,857	1,921
Telegrams "forwarded".....	7,634,423	7,256,869	6,343,338
Revenue: Telegraphs.....£	475,231	529,518	495,936
Revenue: Telephones.....£	523,641	682,431	735,667
Expenditure.....£	978,819	1,371,235	1,313,060
Capital Account—			
Telegraphs.....£	1,283,104	1,314,919	1,346,321
Telephones.....£	2,533,818	3,006,873	3,402,742
Miles telegraph wire.....	43,938	44,183	41,415*
Miles telephone wire.....	131,061	140,889	158,737
Working.....	123,620	130,752	146,631
Spare.....	9,206	10,137	12,106
Miles of telegraph-telephone wire.....	7,603	7,882	7,520
Public call offices.....	2,242	2,346	2,656
Telephone exchanges.....	468	549	583
Exchange lines.....	30,069	33,662	35,891
Telephones in use.....	43,022	48,362	51,849
Telephone calls.....	94,643,080	94,895,000	95,356,245
Telephone trunk calls.....	4,000,000	4,015,000	5,428,797
General—			
Total amount of money dealt with.....£	25,000,000	26,000,000	25,425,000
Revenue collected for other departments..£	1,108,439	1,288,158	1,153,729
"Free services" rendered.....£	300,455	307,073	276,117
Persons employed†.....	10,148	10,942	11,109
Full-time staff.....	7,579	8,159	8,186

* Decrease due to lines now forming part of superimposed circuits.
† Excluding mailcart drivers, native runners, and others.

II. DEPARTMENTAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1921-22, COVERING 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 Expenditure: Cash payments.....	£3,202,585	By Revenue: Cash Receipts.....	£2,893,757
Value of services for which no cash debit is taken—		Value of services for which no cash credit is received—	
„ Interest Liability on Capital—		„ Services rendered to Imperial Government and Union Departments—	
From loan acts for telephones.....	£112,099	Postage.....	£140,161
From loan acts for telegraphs.....	35,647	Telegrams.....	39,885
From revenue funds—Telephones.....	17,990	Telephones.....	55,149
From revenue funds—Telegraphs.....	18,906	Miscellaneous.....	10,293
For stores reserve.....	16,219		245,488
Value of Government buildings.....	49,334		
	250,195	„ Services rendered to Provincial Administrations—	
„ Pension Funds: Government Liability—		Cape.....	£6,602 £3,021 £895....
To contributors to funds.....	61,602	Transvaal.....	6,010 2,161 2,943....
To non-contributors.....	9,217	Natal.....	3,278 437 459....
	70,819	O.F.S.....	2,939 1,294 590....
„ Services rendered by other Departments—			30,629
Printing and stationery.....	56,568		
Minor works and furniture, maintenance and repairs, rents, rates, and taxes.....	71,641	Amount apportioned to capital for direction and supervision of telephone and telegraph construction work..	50,275
Law costs and damages.....	650	„ Balance.....	436,313
Minor services.....	404		
	129,263		
„ Miscellaneous—			
Control and Audit Office services.....	3,600		
	£3,656,462		£3,656,462

III. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, FINANCIAL YEAR 1921-22.

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
(a) Postal—		Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone—	
Postage.....	£1,402,760	Salaries, wages, and allowances.....	£2,365,543
Commission on money orders.....	22,428	Subsistence and transport.....	52,699
Poundage on postal orders.....	18,199	Uniforms, etc.....	28,974
Private box and bag rents.....	44,786	Conveyance of mails.....	508,739
Ocean mail service receipts.....	100,155	Maintenance of telegraph and telephones.....	99,357
Miscellaneous.....	18,650	Purchase and maintenance of transport.....	30,279
Savings bank revenue.....	55,176	Technical furniture and fittings.....	15,182
	£1,662,154	Postage stamps.....	11,950
(b) Telegraphs—		Depreciation of telegraph and telephone stores.....	1,919
Ordinary paid and Press messages.....	426,358	Postal stores.....	34,582
Registered address fees.....	8,070	Incidental.....	6,150
Miscellaneous.....	61,508	Technical training—Salaries, wages, and allowances.....	46,462
	495,936	Technical training—Contingent services.....	749
(c) Telephones—			
Private wire and exchange rentals.....	386,193		
Subscribers' call fees.....	257,911		
Call office receipts.....	76,713		
Miscellaneous.....	14,850		
	735,667		
TOTAL REVENUE.....	£2,893,757	TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....	£3,202,585

IV. REVENUE COLLECTED FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS DURING 1921-22.

Inland Revenue.						Customs and Excise.		Agricultural Department.	Total.
Licences.	Revenue Stamps.	Warm-bath Tickets.	Transvaal Poll Tax.	Cape Entertainments Tax.	O.F.S. Entertainments Tax.	Customs Dues.	Cigarette Stamps.	Fumigation Fees.	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
110,496	330,250	1,181	58,450	35,708	44	305,496	312,090	14	1,153,729

V. SUMMARY OF TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CAPITAL ACCOUNT
AT 31ST MARCH, 1922.

Heading.	From Loan Funds.	From Revenue Funds.	Total.
	£	£	£
Telegraphs.....	882,797	463,524	1,346,321
Telephones.....	2,940,126	462,616	3,402,742
TOTAL.....£	3,822,923	926,140	4,749,063

VI. POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—(a) SUMMARIZED PARTICULARS OF POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK BUSINESS, YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH, 1922.

Particulars.	Number.	Amount.	Particulars.	Number.	Amount.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Savings Bank offices open.....	721	—	Average cost of each transaction.....	—	—
Accounts opened—			Orange Free State and Northern Cape accounts trans-		
Ordinary.....	40,399	—	ferred from—		
Trust fund.....	155	—	Cape Town to Pretoria.....	27,825	516,901 5 7
Accounts closed—			Cape Town certificates to Pretoria.....	724	72,400 0 0
Ordinary.....	44,900	—	Fees collected—	—	—
Trust fund.....	168	—	For replacing lost deposit books.....	—	83 16 0
Accounts remaining open—			For issuing special warrants.....	—	952 12 0
Ordinary.....	301,119	—	For issuing special warrants on Johannesburg		
Trust fund.....	1,022	—	by telephone.....	—	—
Deposits—			For re-transferring certificates without notice.	—	—
Ordinary.....	386,239	3 466,506 6 8	Penny bank accounts.....	559	541 10 0
Trust fund.....	2,597	57,619 9 0	Dormant accounts.....	44,129	7 128 2 0
Withdrawals—			Deceased depositors—Claims paid.....	1,176	28,478 6 2
Ordinary.....	241,325	4,198,148 8 11	Cross entry transactions—		83,704 5 8
Trust fund.....	1,081	96,654 13 6	Deposits.....	115,109	—
Certificates—			Withdrawals.....	94,907	—
Issued.....	—	372,400 0 0	Lost books replaced.....	857	—
Repaid.....	—	160,800 0 0	Special warrants issued.....	19,052	282,383 16 3
Interest added to depositors' accounts—			Special warrants issued by telephone.....	15,508	220,484 7 8
Ordinary and trust fund.....	—	199,595 8 11	Circular warrants issued.....	217	6,884 0 0
Certificates.....	—	26,554 0 0	Telegraphic warrants issued.....	83,271	1,653,386 7 3
Balance due to depositors—			Transferred to revenue (accounts having no trans-		
Ordinary accounts.....	—	5,765,896 7 7	actions for fifteen years).....	5,459	45,588 2 0
Trust fund accounts.....	—	77,290 18 8	Re-transferred from revenue.....	184	686 3 9
Certificate accounts.....	—	822,500 0 0	Recovered from Departmental Vote.....	—	748 16 0
Amount invested with Public Debt Commissioners..	—	6,437,108 11 11	Inter-Province transfers of accounts.....	266	7,751 18 5
Average amount due to each depositor—			Transfers of accounts—		
In ordinary and trust fund accounts.....	—	19 6 9	From other States.....	499	37,304 12 3
In all accounts.....	—	22 1 3	To other States.....	853	100,070 19 7
Average rate of interest on investments at the 31st	—	3 16 9	Stock dividend credited.....	1,002	7,794 15 0
March, 1922.....					

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—(b) 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.	Remaining Open.
	Number.	£	Number.	£	Current Account.	Certificate Account.	£ s. d.	Number.	Number.	Number.
1917-18.....	526,525	3,862,339	230,692	3,591,106	£ 6,553,538	£ 663,700	22 13 10	51,286	38,357	288,833
1918-19.....	533,433	4,107,832	232,172	3,688,596	6,972,875	744,900	22 15 7	52,880	35,610	306,103
1919-20.....	518,415	4,374,458	285,816	4,961,044	6,386,289	693,500	20 15 5	56,843	55,460	307,486
1920-21.....	438,433	4,353,378	258,761	4,325,397	6,414,269	610,900	20 18 4	47,454	48,285	306,655
1921-22.....	388,836	3,723,721	242,406	4,294,803	5,843,187	822,500	19 6 9	40,554	45,068	302,141

(c) SAVINGS BANK CERTIFICATES.

Year.	Certificates Issued.	Certificates Repaid.	Balance due to Certificate Holders.
	£	£	£
1917-18.....	160,600	166,900	663,700
1918-19.....	242,300	161,100	744,900
1919-20.....	201,000	252,400	693,500
1920-21.....	139,000	221,600	610,900
1921-22.....	372,400	160,800	822,500

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—(d) ACCOUNTS TRANSFERRED FROM AND TO THE SAVINGS BANKS OF OTHER ADMINISTRATIONS, 1921-22.

Name of Administration.	Transferred from the Union of South Africa.			Transferred to the Union of South Africa.				
	No.	£	s.	d.	No.	£	s.	d.
Mozambique.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southern Rhodesia.....	89	4,033	13	10	66	2,656	14	6
South-West Africa.....	10	644	0	8	8	723	8	2
United Kingdom.....	754	95,388	5	1	423	33,905	6	1
India.....	—	—	—	—	2	79	3	6
TOTAL.....	853	£100,070	19	7	499	37,364	12	3

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—(e) CASH ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1921-22.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance, 1st April, 1921—			Cash paid.....	3,813,774	11 11
Ordinary account.....	6,414,269	4 1	Less 1920-21 warrants cashed....	25,757	0 4
Certificate account.....	610,900	0 0			
				3,788,017	11 7
Cash received.....	3,228,604	4 1	Add 1921-22 warrants issued but not cashed.....	22,346	6 0
Inter-Province transfers.....	17,751	18 5			
Official entries.....	89,729	4 5	Inter-Province transfers.....	3,810,363	17 7
Re-transfers from—			Official entries.....	17,751	18 5
Revenue.....	686	8 9	Transfers to—	89,729	4 5
Certificate account.....	160,800	0 0	Revenue.....	4,558	2 0
			Certificate account.....	372,400	0 0
Certificates issued.....			Certificates re-transferred.....		
Interest allowed on—			Balance due to depositors on the 31st March, 1922—		
Ordinary accounts.....	198,595	8 11	Ordinary accounts.....	5,843,127	6 3
Certificates account.....	26,554	0 0	Certificate account.....	822,500	0 0
				6,665,687	6 3
				£11,121,290	8 8

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—(f) BALANCE-SHEET AT 31ST MARCH, 1922.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance due to depositors and certificate-holders on the 31st March, 1922.....	6,665,687	6 3	Funds lodged with the Public Debt Commissioners for investment	6,437,108	11 11
Warrants issued but not cashed by the 31st March, 1922.....	22,346	6 0	Interest added to depositors' accounts for 1921-22, due by the Public Debt Commissioners.....	226,149	8 11
			Cash in Postmaster-General's deposit account.....	24,775	11 5
	<u>£6,688,033</u>	<u>12 3</u>		<u>£6,688,033</u>	<u>12 3</u>

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—(g) STATEMENT RECONCILING THE TOTAL FIGURES FOR THE YEAR 1921-22 WITH THE CASH ACCOUNT FIGURES SHOWN ON THE 31ST MARCH, 1922.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance due to depositors and certificate-holders on the 31st March, 1922, as per Savings Bank ledgers.....	6,665,687	6 3	Balance due to depositors and certificate-holders on the 31st March, 1922, as per Accountant's ledgers.....	6,461,884	3 4
Outstanding warrants on the 31st March, 1922.	22,346	6 0	Interest added to depositors' accounts for the year 1921-22.....	226,149	8 11
	<u>£6,688,033</u>	<u>12 3</u>		<u>£6,688,033</u>	<u>12 3</u>

VII. UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES.—APPROXIMATE ISSUES AND REPAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR 1921-22.

Province.	Denominations.					Total Issues.		Repayments.	
	£1.	£5.	£10.	£25.	Over £25.	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.
Cape and Orange Free State.....	£ 22,328	£ 1,632	£ 17,120	£ 28,074	£ 111,264	232,797	£ 180,418	244,944	£ 189,832
Transvaal.....	21,729	771	10,718	14,043	58,563	136,547	105,824	116,238	90,084
Natal.....	8,175	50	5,440	8,041	30,306	67,113	52,012	72,490	56,180
South-West Africa.....	928	27	318	97	968	3,016	2,338	2,938	2,277
UNION.....	£53,160	£2,480	£33,596	£50,255	£201,101	439,473	£340,592	436,610	£338,373

Balance: Units, 2,708,177; Amount, £2,098,837. 3s. 6d.