

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

BRIDGED ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

epartment of Posts and Telegraphs

Year ended 31st March, 1923

PRETORIA

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING AND STATIONERY OFFICE 1924

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Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

Year ended 11st March, 1923.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL: E. A. STURMAN, C.B.E.

I.—FINANCIAL SUMMARY.

1. Revenue.—The total cash revenue collected during the year in respect of postal, telegraph, and telephone services totalled £2,997,973, an increase of £104,216 on the previous year. The increase was due chiefly to the extension of the telephone service. There was a further decrease in telegraph revenue, attributable to some extent to the increased use of telephone facilities.

Revenue was collected by the Post Office from the sale of licences (£109,435), revenue stamps (£334,653), cigarette labels (£460,692), Customs dues (£303,377), Transvaal poll tax (£27,913), and Cape and Orange Free State entertainments tax (£55,140), a total of £1,291,854, compared with £1,153,729 during the previous year. The gross revenue, therefore, collected by the Post Office amounted to £4.289,827, while, in addition, pension warrants amounting to £750,000 (Treasury) and £91,265 (Railways and Harbours) were pard by the Department.

"Free services," amounting to £281.056, were rendered to other Government Departments, including Provincial Administrations (£40.826).

2. Expenditure.—Expenditure fell from £3,202,585 in 1921-22 to £2,785,791 in 1922-23, the principal decreases being in salaries (£300.015), conveyance of mails (£61.437), and steres and materials (£27,631).

3. General.—The following is a comparison of revenue and expenditure for the past three years:—

Financial Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure,	Surplus.	Deficit.
1920–21 1921–22 1922–23	\pounds 2,785,139 2,893,757 2,997,973	£ 3,345,225 3,202,585 2,785,791	£ 	£ 560,086 308,828

The revenue shows a steady increase, due chiefly to telephones, while expenditure has been substantially reduced by retrenchment, reorganization, and the exercise of rigid economies in every possible directions optimization using a watermarked evaluation copy of CVISION PDF Compressor

II.—Postal.

- 1. Intend Mail Services—(i) Postal Facilities.—The number of post offices transacting public business on the 31st March, 1923, was 2,805, including offices in Basutoland and Swaziland administered by the Union, an increase of 12 in comparison with the previous year. The main and branch posts other than those on the railway systems were as follows:—Main posts, 260; branch posts, 1,251. The total number of private post-bags in use at the close of the financial year was 3,832, as against 3,486 at the end of the previous year.
- (ii) Cost of Conveyance of Mails.—The cost of mail conveyance during the year, exclusive of the ocean mail service, was £281,933.
- (iii) Interruptions of Service.—The mail service was interrupted by washaways on the railway at Godwan River on the 20th January; at Riet River and Bekkersfontein on the 14th-15th February; and at Pokwani on the 14th February, 1923. Serious and protracted washaways in South-West Africa caused heavy delay in March and April, and the sea route from Cape Town to that territory had to be resorted to for some time.
- (iv) Travelling Post Office.—The travelling post office service between Johannesburg and De Aar was reduced to five trips a week in both directions, owing to a curtailment of the train service.
- 2. Ocean Mail Service—(i) United Kingdom Service.—A comparative soft ment showing the mails conveyed between the United Kingdom and South Africa during the last four years is appended:—

	To South Africa.				From South Africa.				
Description,	1919,	1920-21,	1921-22.	1922-23.	1919.	1920-21,	1921–22.	1922-23.	
Mail Bags	55,717	87,027	94,672	105,2~1	17,504	25,406	28,270	29,515	
Parcel Receptacles	38,116	49,818	54,255	56,540	3,796	5,880	4,791	4,411	

(ii) Overseas Services other than through the United Kingdom: -

	To South	ı Africa.	From South Africa.		
Description.	1921-22,	1922-23.	1921–22.	1922-23.	
Mail Bags Parcel Receptacles	5,589 5,660	5,011 10,272	4,412 1,518	4,228 2,671	

(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. The traffic continues to

show a gratifying expansion. During the year arrangements were made for the direct exchange of parcels with Holland:—

1919.	1920–21.	1921–22.	1922–23.
118,565 261,138	160,200 418,793	168,116 425.256	170,651 482,043
379,703	578,993	593,372	652,694
	261,138	261,138 418,793	261,138 418,793 425.256

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

Destin ₄tion.	Mail Bags.	Parcel Receptacles
Union of South Africa. South-West Africa. Bechuanaland Protectorate. Rhodesia and Congo. Nyasaland and East Coast. Mauritius. Various. Sea Post Office. Madeira, St. Helena, and Ascension.	81,508 2,655 154 18,097 846 113 57 1.841	52,843 337 3,325 35
Total	105,271	õ6,54 0

(v) Octward Mails.— he mails conveyed from South Africa to the United Ki om, Maderia, and foreign countries (by contract packet) were di d as follows:—

Destination.	Mail Bags.	Parcel Receptacles.
United Kingdom	21,589 1.186 3,761 2,979	4,411
Total	29,515	4,411

(vi) Ocean Meil Contract.—Arrangements were made in August, 1922, for continuance of the Union-Castle mail contract until the 30th September, 1924. The co-operation of the British Post Office in this matter is much appreciated. The payment to the contractors for the mail conveyance—shared by the United Kingdom, the Union, Bechuanaland, and Rhodesia—amounts to £198,000 per annum, of which the Union's share is approximately £56,790. But, against this, certain receipts from other users of the service are to be deducted, leaving the net cost to the Union of the ocean mail contract, with all the advantages in regard to special rates and facilities for the shipment of South African produce which are incorporated in it, at approximately £37,000 per annum.

(vii) Articles of Mail Matter handled at Post Offices in the Union, 1922-23:—

Mail Letters. Post Cards. Newspapers.	Post	Nowe-	Book and Sample	and		Regis- tered		Official Corre-	Total.	
	Packets, Printed Matter.				Articles. Articles. spe					
Posted Received In transit	,000. 120,881 123,128 47,171	,000. 6,285 5,885 1,626	,000. 26,408 27,742 11,024	$\begin{array}{c} ,000,\\ 52,278\\ 47,338\\ 10,557 \end{array}$,000. 3,553 3,606 2,263	,000. 678 601 575	,000. 2,525 2,455 1,347	3,536 2,600 104	,000. 14,656 11,880 2,268	,000. 227,267 222,637 76,831
TOTAL.	297,180	13,796	65,174	110,173	9,422	1,854	6,327	6,240	28,804	526,73

- 3. Undeliverable Correspondence.—The number of undeliverable letters and other articles dealt with in the Returned Letter Office and by postmasters during the year was 2,440,173.
- 4. Missing Persons.—The Department continues to use the machinery at its disposal for the purpose of finding the whereabouts of missing relatives and friends, and requests for assistance to this end are received from different parts of the world. In many cases inquiries at the last place of residence of the person sought for, or publication in the weekly departmental circular to postmasters, led to the discovery of the person sought.
- 5. Money Orders, Postal Orders, and Postal Drafts—(i) Money and Postal Orders issued and paid, 1922-23:—

Issued.	Pa	Paid.		id.	. Commission	
Number, Value	Number.	Value	Number.	Value.	or Poundage.	
-		£		£	£	
1,425 - 1,560	682	$\begin{array}{c} 2,104,789 \\ 14,203 \end{array}$	783	2,494	21,802	
		1,274,932		5,062	18,636	
	Number, Value 352,696 2,406,902 1,425 41,560 41,308 393,454	Number, Value Number. 352,696	Number, Value Number, Value Second	Number, Value Number, Value Number. 352,696 2,706,902 358,900 2,104,780 783 1,425 11,560 682 14,203	Number, Value Number, Value Number, Value, Solution	

^{*} To and from the United Kingdom only,

(ii) Number and Value of Money Orders issued in the Union of South Africa for Payment in Other Countries, and vice versa, 1922-23:—

		-			
Money Order Exchange with		in the	Issued in Other Countrie for Payment in the Union		
	No.	alue.	No.	Value.	
AnstraliaCanadaCeylon	5,365 61 ₊ 28	£ 21,730 3,176 196	2,426 611 32	£ .10,669 1,838 92	
Hong Kong	$\begin{array}{c} 65 \\ 154 \\ 12,033 \\ 99 \\ 512 \end{array}$	288 995 178,886 505 3.671	20 361 270 307 142	28 1,945 1,851 669 2,087	
Mozambique	318 288 407 898	3,071 1,832 1,042 3,728 9,532	454 454 74 52 4,139	2,208 712 457 30,175	
St. Helena	$\begin{array}{c} 29 \\ 692 \\ 62,254 \\ 6,694 \end{array}$	170 7,670 371,109 11,969	146 5,068 11,984 1,828	3,034 35,961 90,504 7,512	
Zanzibar	$\frac{14}{90,464}$	£616,572	27,928	£189,786	

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

Heading.	Number.	Amount.
Issued in Rhodesia—Payable in other countries, " Mozambique—Payable in other countries, " South-West Africa—Payable in other countries, " other countries—Payable in Rhodesia, " other countries—Payable in Mozambique, " other countries—Payable in South-West Africa Exchanged between various other countries	786 116 1,682 222 55 63 101	\$ 8,934 294 5,802 1,368 216 606 525
Total	3,025	£17,745

- (iv) Summary.—The total money order and postal order issues amounted to £4,091,314, the payments to £3,393,924, and the combined revenue from psundage and commission to £40,438, as compared with £4,468,162, £3,550,891, and £43,670 respectively during the previous year.
- (v) Number and Value of Postal Orders issued and paid throughout the Union for the years 1921 to 1923:—

	Isst	ied.	Paid.		
Year.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
1921 1922	2,968,770 2,762,273 3,015,402	£ 1,734,692 1,571,252 1,569,398	2,699,544 2,348,563 2,603,624	$\frac{\pounds}{1,555,597}$ $1,267,818$ $1,274,932$	

- (vi) Postal Drafts.—The number of demands made in respect of postal drafts drawn was 17,639. The number of drafts honoured was 3,434; the amount collected £4,543, and the revenue earned £530.
- 6. Savings Bank—(i) General.—The unfavourable economic conditions reflected in the report for the previous year continued, with the result that the deposits were 59,769 fewer and £191,409 less than in 1921-22. The withdrawals, whilst less both in number and amount than last year, were in excess of the deposits by £737,577, thus reducing the balance due to depositors from £5,843,187 at the end of the preceding year to £5,105,610 at the end of March, 1923. Another unfavourable feature disclosed is the large decrease in the number of accounts, viz., 288.331 at the end of 1922-23, compared with 302,141 at the end of 1921-22.
- (ii) Savings Bank Certificates.—The large increase in the demand for certificates, which commenced with the raising of the interest from 4 per cent. to 5 per cent. in October, 1921, continued throughout 1922, and on the 31st January, 1923, the balance due to certificate holders amounted to £1,284,800, the highest figure ever reached. The rate of interest was reduced to 4 per cent. on 1st February, 1923, and the balance due to holders fell in two months to £1,229,700.
- (iii) Penny Banks.—The transactions of School Penny Banks show a reduction as compared with the previous year, the falling off being most marked in respect of the Transvaal schools, where pointed out in the last report, the Penny Bank returns are advergaffected by the large number of Union Loan Certificate School Savings Clubs. In Natal schools, where only the Penny Bank system is in operation, the position was fairly well maintained, the credit balance having dropped only by £111 and the number of depositors by 269, while the number of school accounts increased from 147 to 152. The small number of Penny Banks in the Cape is due to the adoption of the School Savings Club scheme in preference to the Penny Bank

system. The following are the returns for the four Provinces for in calendar year 1922:—

STATISTICS OF PENNY BANKS, 1922.

Province.	Number of Accounts.	Deposits.	With- drawals.	Transferred to Accounts in Pupils' Own Names.	Credit Balance.	Number of Depositors.
Transvaal Natal Cape O.F.S	333 152 29 16	£ 2,349 2,461 945 74	£ 1.135 818 883 92	£ 2,186 1,828 81 44	£ 2,863 1.922 782 157	10,746 8,008 815 583
TOTAL	530	5,829	2,928	4,139	5,724	20,152

(iv) Natives.—While the number of accounts remaining open in the names of natives in the Cape fell from 5,405 at the 31st March, 1922, to 5,009 at the 31st March, 1923, and the credit balance from £49,070 to £44,803, the corresponding figures in respect of the Transvaal, Orange Free State, and Northern Cape increased from 9,499 to 10,171 and £78,951 to £80,869, and the Natal figures from 1,939 to 2,047 and from £20,917 to £21,211. It is gratifying to find that the number of accounts in respect of the Union as a whole went up from 16,843 to 17,227, an increase of 384. The following are the number of accounts and the credit balances at the end of the financial year:—

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—NATIVE ACCOUNTS, 1922-23.

Province.	Number of Accounts.	Amount.
Cape	5,009 10,171 2,047	£ 44,803 80,869 21,211
Тотац	17,227	£146,883

The scheme adopted for the acceptance of deposits from natives at the larger South African Railways native compounds has proved a success, and there is ample evidence that the facility is much appreciated by the natives.

DEPOSITS COLLECTED AT NATIVE COMPOUNDS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st march, 1923.

S.A.R. Compound.	Number of New Accounts.	Number of Deposits.	Total Amount Deposited.
Pretoria. Newtown, Johannesburg. Germiston. Bloemfontein. Greyville, Natal. Point, Natal. Pietermaritzburg.	51 26 19 4 67 27 18	164 162 57 10 154 46 46	£ 350 335 178 24 563 124 125
TOTAL	212	676	1,699
	*		

7. Union Loan Certificates.—The total amount invested in Union Loan Certificates during 1922-23 was £1,784,043, as compared with £340,592 for the preceding year, and the total repaid £274,340, as compared with £338,373 for 1921-22.

Details of the transactions are shown in Annexure VII.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE SALE OF UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES TO SAVINGS CLUBS FROM THE INCEPTION OF THE CLUB SYSTEM TO THE 21st march, 1923.

			rch, 1922.	sist Ma.	rch, 1923.
Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amound.
14,104 14,581 4,189	£ 10,931 11,378 3,246	13,499 12,685 5,782	£ 10,462 9,831 4,481	9,378 13,195 1,672	7,268 10,226 1.296
32,974	25,555	31,966	24,774	24,245	18,790
_	14,104 14,681 4,189	£ 14,104 10,931 14,981 11,378 4,189 3,246	£ 14,104 10,931 13,499 14,981 11,378 12,685 4,189 3,246 5,782	£ £ £ 14,104 10,931 13,499 10,462 14,981 11,378 12,685 9,831 4,189 3,246 5,782 4,481	£ £ £ 14,104 10,931 13,499 10,462 9,378 14,581 11,378 12,685 9,831 13,195 4,189 3,246 5,782 4,481 1,672

III.—TELEGRAPHS.

1. Offices.—The number of public telegraph offices in the Union at 31st March, 1923, including those worked by the railway, was 1,931, an increase of ten during the year.

2. Traffic.—The following is a comparative statement of the traffic dealt with during 1921-22 and 1922-23:—

Class.	1921–22.	1922-23.
Ordinary telegrams—	·	
Paid	5,583,170	5,063,894
Government, Imperial, and Military	263,621	206,617
Railway Service	191,029	30,499
Press telegrams—		
Messages	252,759	219,250
Words	32,858,670	28,502,500

- 3. Revenue.—Telegraph revenue for the year amounted to £457,007, representing a decrease of £38,929 on the preceding year. The amount is, however, £81,269 more than revenue earned during 1913. The value of telegraph services rendered to other Government Departments and to the Imperial Government was £33,966, a decrease on the 1922 figure of £9,120.
- 4. Cable Delays.—The time occupied in transmission of full-rate traffic to and from Europe averaged about 3½ hours, and about 14½ hours on deferred cablegrams.
- 5. Cable Traffic.—The particulars of cablegrams dispatched from the Union are as follows:—

Heading.	1913.	1920-21.	1921 -22.	1922–23.
Number of cablegrams	121,481	135,354	159,487	169,678
Value£	110,819	152,398	159,383	159,827

6. Wireless Telegrams.—A slight increase in radio-telegraph traffic was again manifested. Particulars for the years 1913, 1921-22, and 1922-23 are appended:—

Heading.	1913.	1921–22.	1922–23.
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	6,644	12,2 3 5	12,629
	68,837	196,449	198,622
	2,008	4,595	4,660

The amounts represent the revenue earned at the Union coast stations, and do not include the charges for ship stations.

7. New Wireless Station.—A wireless station with small range was established at East London on the 20th December, 1922, to facilitate harbour working. It deals only with traffic for East London and the immediate vicinity.

- 8. Amateur Wireless Installations.—It was found necessary during the year to make arrangements for the inspection of amateur wireless installations. Some restrictions will probably have to be imposed upon these installations when it comes to making arrangements for broadcasting services, regulations for which are now under consideration.*
- 9. Weather Forecasts by Wireless.—In the interests of navigation, arrangements have been made whereby masters of vessels in the vicinity of the South African coast can send, free of charge, radio advices of weather in their locality, and thus enable the Meteorological Department to distribute the forecasts through the Union radio stations in order that timely protective measures may be taken by vessels at sea over a wide area.
- 16. Automatic Telegraph Apparatus.—During the year multiplex machine telegraphs were successfully introduced between Cape Town and Johannesburg, resulting in much more expeditious handling of telegraph traffic and the release of wires for telephone trunk purposes. It is the intention to extend the system to Bloemfontein, East London, Queenstown, and Port Elizabeth.
- 11. Long-distance Wireless Telegraph Station.—An agreement was entered into on the 6th September, 1922, with the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, Ltd., London, for the erection and working of a high-power wireless telegraph station in this country. The agreement was entered into subject to ratification by Parliament, and early in the 1923 Session a Bill, styled the South African Radio Station Bill, was presented to and subsequently passed by the Assembly.

It is provided in the agreement that a South African wireless telegraph company shall be formed under the management of a Board of Directors, of which four members at least, for purposes of effecting a quorum, are to be resident in the Union. One of these four members is to be managing director of the company, and one is to be nominated by the Government as its representative on the Board. The station, which will be equipped with the most modern type of wireless installation, will, when it is completed, rank as one of the largest in the world, and will be capable of direct communication and duplex commercial working with high-power stations in Great Britain and other parts of the world.

Throughout the discussion and negotiations with the company's representatives, Dr. H. J. van der Byl, the Government Scientific and Technical Adviser, was present, and his advice and assistance in connection with this highly complicated subject were of the greatest value.

IV.—TELEPHONES.

1. Development.—£500,000 was placed at the disposal of the Post Office for development of the telephone system during the year. Statistics of the development resulting from the expenditure of this amount are given in paragraph 6 below. The increases under the various headings are substantial, yet on the 31st March, 1923. the applications for service which the Department had been unable to

^{*} These regulations have since been published Government Notice No. 1308 dated 3/3/23.

provide numbered 1,478. It is, however, expected that these will be disposed of in the course of next year. At the end of March, 1922, there were 2,588 applicants awaiting service.

- 2. Trunk Lines and New Telephone Offices.—1,627 miles of new trunk line were built to extend the system to 59 offices not previously connected, and communication was established with 39 additional offices by their connection to adjacent trunk circuits.
- 3. Rural Telephone Lines—Private Construction.—The Department continued its policy of assisting farmers to build their own telephone lines at cost price, but the financial stringency in all parts of the country prevented much advantage being taken of the opportunities offered. At the close of the year under eview, however, 22 lines, totalling 150 miles and serving 34 farmers, had been constructed.
- 4. Automatic Exchanges.—Small automatic exchanges were established during the year at Waterkloof (Pretoria) and Camps Bay (Cape Town), and the working of these systems has been satisfactory. Considerable progress was made with the automatic exchange at Overport (Durban), and this exchange was opened early in April, 1923.
- 5. Telephone Traffic.—To provide for normal development of the systems in the larger urban areas, considerable additions to existing switching equipment were made. Provision was made for a further 840 subscribers' exchange connections at Johannesburg and 420 at Yeoville. An exchange of 1,680 lines was erected at Jeppe for the purpose of relieving the congestion at the Johannesburg Central Exchange, and was opened on the 23rd September, 1922.

In the Cape Town area an exchange building is in course of erection at Woodstock, in which will be installed manual equipment for 1,120 lines to provide for waiting applicants in that area, and to take over a number of Woodstock subscribers at present served from Cape Town Central Exchange, thus providing for normal increase of subscribers in the central area. Arrangements are also in hand for the opening of a manual exchange at Sea Point, which will provide for 560 subscribers. Claremont exchange is urgently in need of relief, and it has been decided to open a manual exchange at Wynberg for 420 subscribers. The work of installing these exchanges was commenced during the year, and it is expected that they will be ready for service during 1923-24. Additions to, or extensions of, switching equipment have been made at 38 smaller centres.

It is hoped to inaugurate a telephone service between Johannesburg and Cape Town by means of the telegraph lines made spare by the use of multiplex telegraph apparatus. Pending the arrival of certain necessary apparatus, direct trunk service between Cape Town and Beaufort West, Beaufort West and De Aar, and De Aar and Kimberley was arranged.

Rearrangement of telegraph circuits enabled a direct Johannesburg-Bloemfontein telephone trunk to be provided which, later on, will bring practically the whole of the Transvaal into touch with the southern portion of the Orange Free State. The necessary repeaterapparatus has been placed on order. During the year repeaters were introduced into the Transvaal-Natal trunks at Dundee, and as a result the greater portions of the two Provinces are now able to communicate. Previously the utmost limit of speech was Johannesburg to Durban. The repeaters have been working successfully since they were brought into service, and there will be extensive use of this apparatus for future long-distance telephone lines.

During the year under review approximately 100,349,560 local

and 5,916,145 trunk calls were handled.

6. Telephone Statistics.—The extension effected during the year is shown below:—

Heading.	At 31st March, 1922.	At 31st March, 1923
Exchange connections. Exchange extensions. Prive branch exchanges. Private branch exchange junctions. Private branch exchange extensions. Public call offices. Rural party lines. Rural party line mileage. Rur.l party line stations. Total number of telephones in use, i.e. rented telephones. Miles of working wire.	583 35,891 5,106 426 1,283 5,261 2,656 267 2,618 1,225	648 38,325 5,412 461 1,407 5,697 3,076 325 3,102 1,544 55,704 157,677

The mileage of routes and wires on the 31st March, 1923, was as follows:—

Heading.	At 31st March, 1922.	At 31st March, 1923
	Miles.	Miles.
Pelegraph routes	9,349	9,335
Pelegraph wire	41,415	41,932
relegraph superimposed circuits	10,305	10,783
Telephone trunk routes	4,160	4,215
Superimposition trunk wire	9,822	10,857
relephone trunk wire—	10.005	35,000
(a) Carried on purely telephone routes	16,265	17,090
(b) Carried on telegraph-telephoneroutes	21,288	23,208
(c) Telegraph-telephone wire used for trunk purposes	7,520	7,936
TOTAL, TRUNK WIRE	45,073	48,234
Tclephone exchange wire	102,679 146,631	109,446 157,677

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

Heading.	At 31st March, 1922.	At 31st March, 1923.
Capital expenditure	£ 3,402,742	£ 3,902,420
Revenue— Cash collections Value of services provided for Government departments	735,667 60,036	799,590 67,012

V.—GENERAL.

1. Staff—(i) Retrenchment and Reorganization.—During the whole of the year steady progress was made with a reorganization of the Department, in the course of which it was found that 90 established officers of various grades were redundant. These officers were retired from the Public Service with the benefits in each case provided under their respective pension laws. The staff is unfortunately still larger than the work requires, and further rearrangements are in contemplation which will have their effect during the next financial year. Meanwhile, by the unavoidable retirements already mentioned, and by not filling vacancies caused by resignations, dismissals, deaths, and normal superannuation, the established staff has been reduced by over 500 posts.

Some important changes were made in the process of reorganiza-Rearrangement of the Postal Survey districts reduced the number from seven to five; the post office and the telegraph office in Johannesburg, previously under separate controllers, although in the same building, were combined under a postmaster; and a similar arrangement was made in Cape Town: the Savings Bank Department and the Money Order Office were brought under the accountant, three or four highly paid posts being thereby abolished; and considerable changes were made in the headquarters administrative offices in anticipation of complete rearrangement there to follow next year. important step was the setting up of an office in Cape Town to control the southern area and enable many matters to be disposed of without reference to headquarters. This has resulted in considerable economy and saving of time, while the large and important post offices in Cape Town and the southern part of the Union are under closer control, and public convenience is better served, in that inquires and complaints of all kinds can be dealt with to finality without delay.

⁽ii) Sick and Holiday Leave.—During the year holiday leave aggregating 187,760 days was granted, averaging 24.70 days per officer. Sick absences totalled 51,334 days, averaging 6.75 days per officer.

(iii) Technological Examinations, etc.—The educational activities fostered by the Department with the purpose of increasing the efficiency of its officers, resulted in the successes given below:—

Examinations and Examining Body.	No. of Centres.	No. of Examination Entries.	No. Successful.	Distinctions.
Department of Posts and Telegraphs— Telegraph Learners' Entrance Telephonists' Entrance Efficiency Test Learners' Telegraph Test Engineers' Learners' Practical Examinations Postmaster-General's Certificate in Radiotelegraphy	2 13 59 44 11	15 35 180 1,230 144	11 12 120 839 86	
Union Education Department— Preliminary Technical Certificate A B B B II II Advanced National Technical Certificate I. """ """ """ """ """ """ """	11 8 2 1 1	55 47 10 4 1 2	34 19 6 1 1 2	1 Exhibition. 1 National Prize.
City and Guilds of London Institute— Telephony, Grade ITelephony, FinalTelegraphy, Grade I	9 6 8	26 12 27	18 6 15	7 First Class. 9 First Clas
Telegraphy, Final	$\frac{3}{2}$	5 2	5 2	Medal. 4 First Class.

(iv) Messengers—Training and Prospects.—The Department cantinues to exercise a close supervision over the welfare of its messengers, and every endeavour is made to improve their educational qualifications in order that they may be able to take up better positions in the Post Office or in private employment. Monthly bonuses are given as an incentive to the regular attendance of messengers at continuation classes, and, as a result, it is found that at most of the larger centres the whole of the messengers attend regularly and their progress is thus ensured.

The Cape Town school has proved a great success, and facilities are now provided for advancement up to the University Junior Certificate. Attendance at the school is in official time and compulsory. At Johannesburg and Pretoria the boys similarly attend school as a portion of their official duty. Quarterly progress reports rendered by teachers are received through the Pretoria Juvenile Affairs Board, and steps are being taken to obtain similar reports through the Johannesburg Board.

All possible outlets of permanent employment in the Post Office are being made available for the youths of the Department. Messengers have the first claim to vacancies for postmen, paper-keepers, and postmen-sorters; and telegraph learnerships and engineer's learnerships are given to messengers whenever possible. Many boys secure employment on telegraph and telephone construction work with a view to subsequent absorption as established workmen.

(v) Staff Savings Fund.—As the Commissioner for Inland Revenue early in 1922 decided that in future he would deal with income taxpayers direct and not through their Departments in system.

was introduced whereby officers of the Department could provide against their income tax liability by monthly deductions on the salary-sheets, the amounts so collected being placed to the credit of the individuals in a trust account in the Post Office Savings Bank. On receipt of the income tax assessment form the credit, plus interest earned, is thus immediately available to meet the tax payment.

Since its introduction the trust fund has acquired a broader basis, and officers may now use the fund for any purpose. The staff has largely availed itself of this departmental facility for the encourage-

ment of thrift.

2. Stores.—Little difficulty is now being experienced in obtaining supplies of an ordinary nature. Prices still continue on the downward grade, and this has enabled the reduction of the Stores Suspense Capital by £50,000. Many items, however, are still above pre-war cost, as shown in the following percentage increases on pre-war rates in the case of purchases during the year:—Insulators, 24; poles, $15\frac{1}{2}$; switchbards, 78; telephones, 50; wire-copper, 21; spindles, 21.

Funds have been voted to provide a new stores depot at Port Elizabeth, and the building was expected to be completed about June, 1923. When occupation is taken the unsatisfactory conditions under which the work has been carried on at Port Elizabeth for many years past will disappear, and the King's warehouse will be released to the Government for other purposes. As regards East London, new store premises have been rented by the Government, and removal thereto was effected in January. An amount was voted during the year for the new store required at Durban, but building operations have been deferred pending negotiations for a suitable site.

After continued representations from the Witwatersrand Commercial Exchange it was agreed to call for tenders in Sout's Africa for telegraph and telephone material, but the experiment proved a failure from the Department's point of view. In the first instance, the lowest local tenders received amounted to only £800 out of a total of £18,000 worth of material required, and as regards the other items the lowest local quotations were 12.65 per cent. higher than the lowest oversea tenders. In the second instance, the result was similarly unsatisfactory, and during the extra time which had to be allowed to local firms and agents the Department suffered a loss of £2,000 owing to the rise in price of electrolytic copper during the period. These results show that at present it is more economical for the Department to purchase direct from the manufacturers through the High Commissioner's Office in London, where excellent machinery exists for effecting purchases expeditiously and in the cheapest market.

The following requisitions were dealt with at the various depots in the Union:—

Engineering.—Issues, 59,440; receipts, 24,985.

Postal.—Issues, 31.330; receipts. 12,287.

Postage Stamps and Stamped Stationery.—Number of requisitions, 18,076; postage value, £2.062,407.

Postal Orders.—Issues, 3,067,655: sale value, £1,599,432. Revenue Stamps.—Issues, 5,240,820; sale value, £623,220.

3. Buildings.—The Loan Estimates provided for new post office buildings at twelve centres, new stores depot premises at Durban and Port Elizabeth, and automatic telephone exchange buildings at Parkview and Rosebank (Johannesburg) but none of these works was

completed within the year. New State-owned offices were erected at Ottosdal and Winterton, and improved premises were hired at numerous places throughout the Union, including a town parcel delivery office at Johannesburg. There are still over fifty major buildings works, of greater or lesser degree of urgency, the erection of which has to be held over until funds become available.

4. Work Performed for other Departments.—Among the numerous free services undertaken for other Government Departments and Provincial administrations, those deserving of particular mention are:—

•	Number.	Value.
Money orders. Telegrams. Telephones.	66,308 206,617 	£ 393,454 33,966 67,012

Free postage, according to statistics taken, amounted to £163,128. The following revenue was collected for other Departments:— Inland Revenue Department, £527,750; Customs and Excise Department. £764,086.

STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

I.—SUMMARIZED PARTICULARS OF POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE BUSINESS, 1920-21 to 1922-23.

Description.	1920-21.	1921-2 2 .	1922-23.
1. Posts. Revenue	1,573,190 1,973,240 2,771 1,074 2,747 31,680 280 1,272 345,793 152,699 2,265,011	1,662,154 1,889,525 2,793 1,083 3,486 29,916 268 1,236 354,791 153,948 2,161,888	1,741,376 1,643,617 2,805 1,095 3,832 30,538 260 1,251 281,933 165,369 2,440,173

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		<u></u>	
Description.	1920–21.	1921–22.	1922-23.
	le nombre de la compressión dela compressión de la compressión de la compressión de la compressión dela compressión de la compressión de l	and a surface of the	de la companya del companya del companya de la comp
1. Posts (continued).	DEFT. Voca T	Jo-th-Teltona.	
Money orders issued	499 070	416,696	420,429
Amount	3,271,225	2,896,910	2,521,916
Commission \mathfrak{L}	26,778	25,508	21,802
Money orders paid	412,813	347,389	359,582
Amount£	3,417,430	2,283,073	
Postal orders issued		2,762,273	2,118,992
Amount	2,968,770		3,015,402
Amount£	1,734,692	1,571,252	1,569,398
Poundage£	20,363	18,162	18,636
Postal orders paid	2,699,544	2,348,563	2,603,624
$oxed{Amount}$	1,556,597	1,267,818	1,274,932
Postal drafts issued	13,381	14,998	17,639
Commission£	401	455	530
2. Telegraphs and Telephones.			
Capital account—			
${f T}$ elegraphs ${f \pounds}$	1,314,919	1,346,321	1,382,131
$egin{array}{ccccc} ext{Telephones} & .$	3,006,873	3,402,742	3,902,420
$ ext{Telegraphs} ext{ ext{ ext{\pounds}}}$	529,518	495,936	457,007
Tolonhorog			
Telephones£	682,431	735,667	799,590
Expenditure£	1,371,235	1,313,060	1,142,174
Telegraph offices	1,857	1,921	1,931
Telegrams forwarded	7,256,869	6,343,338	5,520,260
Miles telegraph wire	44,183	41,415*	41,932
Miles telephone wire	140,889	158,737	168,610
Telephone exchanges	549	583	648
Public call offices	2,346	2,656	3,076
Exchange lines	33,662	35,891	38,325
Telephones	48,362	51,849	
Telephone calls			55,704
Telephone trunk calls	94,895,000 4,015,000	95,356,245 5,428,797	100,349,560 5,916,145
3. Savings Bank.			
Accounts open	306,655	302,141	288,331
Deposits	488,433	388,836	329,067
Amount including interest£		3,750,275	
Withdrawals	4,353,378		3,532,732
	258,761	242,406	223,491
Amount£	4,235,397	4,294,803	4,269,889
Balance due to depositors—	0.13.4.000	H 0.0 30-	
In ordinary accounts£	6,414,269	5,843,187	5,105,610
In certificates£	610,900	822,500	1,229,700
4. Union Loan Certificates.			
Balance due to holders			i i
Units	2,696,616	2,708,177	4,654,613
Amount£	2,089,827	2,098,837	3,607,325
5. General.			
Total amount of money dealt with.£ Revenue collected for other depart-	26,000,000	25,425,000	25,756,949
	1 000 150	1 159 500	1 001 054
ments	1,288,158	1,153,729	1,291,854
"Free services" rendered	307,073	276,117	281,056
Persons employed †	10,942	11,109	10,800
Full-time staff	8,159	8,136	7,836
	<u>, </u>		,,,,,,

^{*} Decrease due to lines now forming part of superimposed circuits. † Excluding mail-cart drivers, native runners, and others.

II.—DEPARTMENTAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1922-23, 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	ACMITAT DIFFERENCE TELEBRANE
C.P		

£3,333,877		£3,333,877	<i>3</i> :
009	in the Union	102,598	Balance
	". Estimated amount of Customs duties on purchases made by the Posts and Telegraphs Department from duty-paid stocks	3,425	Miscellaneous— Control and Audit Office services
54,248	". Amount apportioned to capital for the salaries of professional, technical, and clerical officers of the Engineering Division paid out of revenue, but proper to telephone and telegraph construction works	112,128	repairs, rents, rates, and taxes
40,826	Orange Free State 2,478 1,077 517 4,072		Services rendered by other Departments— Printing and stationery
	", Selvices femore Telegrams. Telephones. Cape £15,876 £2,439 £990 19,305 Transvaal 7,631 1,617 3,589 12,837 Natal 3.644 426 542 4,612	65.659	Pension Funds: Government Liability— To contributors to funds
240,230	Union Departments— Postage	200	Interest Liability on Capital— From Loan Acts for telephones
	Value of services for which no cash credit is received—		Value of services for which no cash debit is taken—
£2,997,973	By Revenue: Cash receipts£2	£2,785,791	o Expenditure: Cash paymentsf:
NO H	AND BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, FOR WHICH	TO T	INCLUDING THE VALUE OF SERVICES RENDERED ACTUAL PAYMENTS WERE MADE.

IIDEPARTMENTAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1922-23, 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	ACTIL BAVATONIC WIDDE MADE
II.—		

£3,333,877	33	£3,333,877	•
009	in the Union	102,598	Balance
	". Estimated amount of Customs duties on purchases made by the Posts and Telegraphs Department from duty-paid stocks	3,425	Miscellaneous— Control and Audit Office services
54,248	", Amount apportioned to capital for the salaries of professional, technical, and clerical officers of the Engineering Division paid out of revenue, but proper to telephone and telegraph construction works.	000 450 232 112,128	Minor works and furniture, maintenance and repairs, rents, rates, and taxes
40,826	ate 2,478 1,077 517		rendered by other Departments—g and stationery
	", Selvices formation Telegrams, Telephones. Cape £15,876 £2,439 £990 19,305 Transvaal 7,631 1,617 3,589 12,837 Natal 3,644 426 542 4,612	544 115 65,659	", Pension Funds: Government Lability— To contributors to funds
240,230	Services rendered to Imperial Government and Union Departments— Postage. Telegrams. Telephones. Miscellaneous. Services rendered to Imperial Government and £133,499 31,892 Felephones. 13,465		From Loan Acts for telephones
	Value of services for which no cash credit is received—		Value of services for which no cash debit is taken—
£2,997,973	By Revenue: Cash receipts£2,	£2,785,791	o Expenditure: Cash payments
ICE, NO	ING THE WHOLE OF THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE POST OFFICE, AND BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, FOR WHICH NO	COVER ED TO	II.—DEPARTMENTAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1922-23, CO- INCLUDING THE VALUE OF SERVICES RENDERED ACTUAL PAYMENTS WERE MADE.
		The state of the s	

	1366-65
	YEAR
	FINANCIAL
	PENDITURE.
	AMD
1	III.—REVENUE

	£1,854,119 41,384 20,318 447,302 335,012 16,083 8,651	35.44 5,344 35,423 499		£2,785,791		
RE, FINANCIAL YEAR 1922-23. EXPENDITURE.	Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone—— Salaries, wages, and allowances. Subsistence and transport. Thiforms, etc. Conveyance of mails. Maintenance of telegraphs and telephones. Purchase and maintenance of transport. Technical furniture and fittings.	Depreciation of telegraph and telephone stores. Postal stores. Incidental Technical training—Salaries, wages, and allowances. Technical training—Contingent services.				
XPENDITURE,		457 007	799.590	£2,997,973		
UE AND EX	£1,459,019 20,015 18,637 45,219 123,453 22,293 52,740	£403,747 7,993 45,267	£411,814 289,660 82,596 15,520			
III.—REVENUE		SSages	rentals		,	
RE	Postal— Postage Commission on money orders Poundage on postal orders Private box and bag rentals Ocean mail service receipts Miscellaneous	Telegraphs—Ordinary paid and Press ressages Registered address fees Miscellaneous	(c) Telephones— Exchange and private wire rentals Subscribers' call fees			
		a	[a]		1	

IV.—REVENUE COLLECTED FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS DURING 1922-23.

Total.	Agricul- tural Depart- ment.	lxcise.	s and H	Custon		tment.	ue Depart	nd Reven	Inlaı	
Total.	Fumi- gation Fees.	Cigar- ette Stamps.	Patent Medi- cines.	Cus- toms Dues.	O.F.S. Enter- tain- ments Tax.	Cape Enter- tain- ments Tax.	Trans- vaal Poll Tax.	Dauns	Revenue Stamps.	Licen- ces.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,291,85	18	460,692	17	303,377	143	54,997	27,913	609	334,653	109 435

v.—summary of telegraph and telephone capital account at 31st march, 1923.

Heading.	From Loan Funds.	From Revenue Funds.	Total.
	£	£	£
Telegraphs	914,982	467,149	1,382,131
Telephones	3,389,180	513,239	3,902,419
Тотаl£	4,304,162	980,388	5,284,550

-POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK-(a) SUMMARIZED PARTICULARS OF POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK BUSINESS FOR THE

	Amount.	25 8. d. 316 5 0 1 34 0 1 34 75 2 0 854 4 0 1,181 0 0 6,175 4 2 20,483 19 1 76,229 10 0 179,316 12 7 6,249 10 0 5,135 12 8 624 13 2 85 0 0 27,737 8 8 32,810 0 0 56,870 19 11 8,008 10 11
	Number.	41,297 1,117 1,117 1,117 1,118 1,527 1,527 1,616 1,062 1,062 1,062 1,062 1,062 430 447 447 447 447 1,062 1,062 1,062 430
31sт мавсн, 1923.	Particulars.	Average amount of interest earned on investments. Average cost of each transaction. Fees collected— For replacing lost deposit books. For issuing special warrants on Johannesburg by telephone. For issuing duplicate certificates without notice. For issuing duplicate certificates. For issuing duplicate certificates. Demy Bank accounts. Decased depositors—Claims paid. Cross-entry transactions— Deposits Withdrawals. Lost books replaced. Special warrants issued. Special warrants issued by telephone. Special warrants issued by telephone. Telegraphic warrants. Telegraphic warrants. Telegraphic warrants. Telegraphic warrants. Telegraphic warrants. Telegraphic warrants. Transferred from revenue and paid to depositors. I osses made good from Departmental Vote. Inter-Province transfers of accounts. Transfers of accounts— From other Administrations. Stock dividends credited to depositors' accounts.
YEAR ENDED 3	Amount.	\$\frac{\epsilon}{2}\$ s. d. \frac{\epsilon}{2}\$ \$\frac{3}{44}\$10,762 17 7 44,141 10 8 4,220,469 6 4 49,419 12 2 298,000 0 0 0 298,000 0 0 0 177,407 1 11 49,943 1 8 5,031,158 7 7 7,4,451 10 4 1,229,700 0 0 6,326,258 0 10 \frac{17}{21}\$
	Number.	222,586 9055 119 50,522 1,020 3° :51 16 222,586 905 905
web	Particulars.	Sevings Bank offices open Accounts opened— Ordinary Trust fund Codinary Trust fund Codinary Trust fund Trust fund Trust fund Trust fund Cordinary Trust fund Cordinary Trust fund Cordinary Trust fund Cordinary Trust fund Cordinary and trust fund Cordinary and trust fund Cordinary accounts Cordinary and trust fund accounts Trust fund accounts Cordinary and trust fund accounts

(b) general statement of transactions in depositors' accounts.

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	£	-			Balance due to Depositors.	1	Average Amount to Credit of	/ / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /	Accounts.	
Year.	Deposits and Interest.	ts and rest.	Withdrawals.	awals.	Current Account.	Certificate Account.	each Depositor in Current Account.	Opened.	Closed.	Remaining Open.
	Number.	얘	Number.	લક	ડર	બ	£ s. d.	Number.	Number.	Number.
1918–19	533,433	4,107,832	232,172	3,638,596	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	488,433	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.
1922-23	329,067	3,532,312	223,491	4,269,889	5,105,610	1,229,700	17 14 2	36,826	50,636	288,331
		-			-					

(c) SAVINGS BANK CERTIFICATES.

Year.	Certificates Issued.	Certificates Repaid.	Balance Due to Certificate Holders.
			
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
1922–23	705,200	298,000	1,229,700

(d) ACCOUNTS TRANSFERRED FROM AND TO THE SAVINGS BANKS OF OTHER ADMINISTRATIONS DURING THE YEAR 1922-23.

Administration.		nsferred t of South				sferred fro of South		
United KingdomSouthern RhodesiaSouth-West Africa	No. 375 63 9	Amo £ 28,272 3,183 1,353	s. 16 3 19	d. 9 10	No. 465 68 21	Amo £ 53,548 2,359 963 £56,870	6 9 10	d. 9 1 1

(e) CASH ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1922-23.

њ 8.				4 269 888 18 6		6,335,309 17 11	£10,903,198 16 5	
PAYMENTS. £ s. d.	Cash paid	Add 1922-23 warrants issued but not cashed	3,474,047 16 1 Inter-Province transfers	Transfers to—— 5,135 12 8 Revenue	Certificates retransferred to Current Account	31st March, 1923— Ordinary Account		
	i i i	6,665,687 6 3	¢	3,304,961 6 7 705,200 0 0	227,350 3 7		£10,903,198 16 5	
	Salance 1st April, 1922— Ordinary Account 5,843,187 6 3	unt	o 77 o		Certificate Accounts			N PD

(f) BALANCE-SHEET AT 31ST MARCH, 1923.

LIABILITIES. Balance due to depositors and certificate holders on the	£	s.	d.	ASSETS. £ s. d. Funds lodged with the Public Debt Commissioners for invest-
31st March, 1923	39,048 179,249	6	11 9 9	Interest added to depositors' accounts for 1922–23 due by the Public Debt Commissioners 227,350 3 7
£6,	,553,608	4		£6,553,608 4 5

(g) STATEMENT RECONCILING THE TOTAL FIGURES FOR THE YEAR 1922-23 WITH THE CASH ACCOUNT FIGURES SHOWN ON THE 31st MARCH, 1923.

	£	s.	d.	,	£ s. d.
Balance due to depositors and certificate holders on the S1st March, 1923, as per savings bank ledgers	6,335,309 39,048			Balance due to depositors and certificate holders on the 31st March, 1923, as per accountant's ledger 6,14 Interest added to depositors' accounts for the year 1922-23 22	2 P 2 P 2 P 2 P 2 P 2 P 2 P 2 P 2 P 2 P
					
£	6,374,358	4	8	£6,37	4,358 4 8,
		 ,			

VII.---UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES---APPROXIMATE ISSUES AND REPAYMENTS DURING THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST MARCH, 1923.

4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	est.		. 0	16 5	61 4	12 9		11 6	
	Interest.		12,639 0	5,906 16	3,308	113 12		22,467 11	
		s, d.	٥	0	9	9		9	
Total Repayments.	Amount.	જ જો	146,853 4 0	81,322 6	44,247 17	1,916 11		274,339 18 6	
Total	Units.		189,488	104,932	57,094	2,473	-	353,987	
		s. d.	0	9	9	9		9	-
Total Issues.	Amount.	अ रे	1,059,857 6 0	417,420 8	296,633 11 6	10,151 14 6		1,544,811 7 6 2,301,991 1,784,043 0 6	
Ē	Units.		1,367,532	538,607	382,753	13,099		2,301,991	
	•	s. d.	9	0	9	မှ	1	9	-
	Over £25.		930,360 7 6 1,367,532	346,865 4	259,683 2	7,902 13		1,544,811 7	7,00
		s. d.	ဗ	9	9	9		0 01	
		જ જો	68,219 7	35,049 7	18,929 7	949 7			
		ક. જ. જ.	0	0	0	0		0	
	£10.		32,705 0 0	15,817 15 0	10.462 10 0	341 0 0		59,326 5 0 123,147	
	£5.		0	9	0	9		0	
3			5,270 0 0	1,662 7 6	860 5 0	65 17 6		7,858 10 0	
	£1.		0	9	9	0		0	
1.9			,3,282 11 0	18,025 14 6	6,698 6 6	892 16		48,899 8 0	
Province		Cape and	Free State	Transvaal	Natal.	Africa		UNION.	ле

Balance: Units, 4,654,613; amount, £3,607,325. 1s. 6d.