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Report

[Extract from the volume of "Annual Departmental Reports"
for the period 1923-24.]



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Department of Posts and Telegraphs

Year ending 31st March, 1924

PRETORIA

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING AND STATIONERY OFFICE

1925

1695—2/3/25—170

583.1

Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1924.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL: LT.-COL. 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 amounted to £3,179,410, an increase of £181,437 on the previous year. Telephone revenue showed an increase of £93,640, while Ocean Mail Service receipts increased by £42,033. Telegraph revenue dropped to the extent of £23,906, due to decreased traffic, the development of the telephone service and decreased receipts from the Railway Administration.

The revenue collected included the following items for other Departments: licences (£105,792), revenue stamps (£325,369), cigarette labels (£507,847), patent medicine stamps (£74,449), customs dues (£326,409), Transvaal poll tax (£31,631), Cape and Orange Free State entertainments tax (54,992), a total of £1,426,505, compared with £1,291,854 during the previous year. The gross revenue, therefore, collected by the Post Office amounted to £4,605,915, while in addition, pension warrants amounting to £1,159,797 (Treasury) and £92,000 (Railways and Harbours) were paid by the Department.

“Free Services” amounting to £268,372 were rendered to other Government Departments, including Provincial Administrations (£32,380).

2. *Expenditure*.—Expenditure totalled £2,734,621, a fall of £51,170 on the previous year.

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

Financial Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	£	£	£	£
1921-22.....	2,893,757	3,202,585	—	308,828
1922-23.....	2,997,973	2,785,791	212,182	—
1923-24.....	3,179,410	2,734,621	444,789	—

II. POSTAL.

1. *Inland Mail Services*—(i) *Postal Facilities*.—The number of post offices transacting public business on the 31st March, 1924, was 2,887, including offices in Basutoland and Swaziland administered by the Union, an increase of 82 in comparison with the previous year. The main and branch posts, other than those on the railway systems, were as follows:—Main posts, 256; branch posts, 1,255. The total number of private post bags in use at the close of the financial year was 3,575, as against 3,832 at the end of the previous year. There were 40,600 private boxes installed, of which 31,923 were let.

(ii) *Cost of Conveyance of Mails*.—The cost of mail conveyance during the year, exclusive of the Ocean Mail Service, was £245,545. A new agreement with the Railway Administration was concluded under which the cost in respect of mails carried by rail will amount to approximately £137,000 per annum, a reduction of £29,000 on the previous payment.

(iii) *Interruption of Services*.—Heavy floods in the Transkei in July caused dislocation of mail services in that district for a week. Beyond this there was no serious interruption of mail services. In November the post-cart from Hertzogville to Christiana was struck by lightning, both horses being killed and the native driver rendered unconscious.

(iv) *Loss of Mails*.—In July the Elliotdale-Bityi post-cart was carried away in crossing Buwa River; the mails were recovered, with the exception of the Darabe-Bityi bag. A similar catastrophe befell the Gqaga-Clarkbury post-cart at Xuka River, when the Gqaga mail was lost. The mail-bags on the Klipdam-Boetsap post-cart caught fire, from some unknown cause, and the mails for Boetsap and Blesmanspost, including 9 registered articles and 4 parcels were destroyed.

(v) *Travelling Post Office*.—Travelling post office vans were attached to the regular trains running between Cape Town and Johannesburg via Orange Free State. The train service operated five days weekly from June to November inclusive and six days weekly for the remainder of the year.

(vi) *Faster Mail Services*.—Accelerated transmission of inland mail matter resulted from the introduction on the 26th November of a fast twice-weekly train service connecting Cape Town with the chief centres in the Transvaal, Orange Free State and Natal. Considerable benefit also accrued to certain centres in connexion with the transmission of oversea correspondence.

(vii) *Early Posting of Mail Matter*.—The Department made representations to the Associated Chambers of Commerce emphasizing the desirability of posting mail matter early in the day, especially so far as the staff employed in the large sorting offices was concerned. Owing to the habit of commercial communities of posting their correspondence at closing time, the number of officers retained for this class of work during the evening hours is disproportionately large, and consequently the evening leisure of these men is much curtailed. In order to alleviate this position and to lessen the possibility of delay to correspondence posted by commercial houses, the Associated Chambers have been requested to prevail upon their members to post their correspondence at intervals during the day.

and to arrange for the posting of as much matter as possible before noon, with a special effort to post before 3 p.m. articles coming within the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate.

DEPT. VAN POST-EN-TELEGRAFIESE

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.			
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Mail Bags.....	87,027	94,672	105,271	116,312	25,406	28,270	29,515	32,630
Parcel Receptacles.....	49,818	54,255	56,540	60,496	5,880	4,791	4,411	3,983

(ii) *Oversea Services other than through the United Kingdom*:—

Description.	To South Africa.		From South Africa.	
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Mail Bags.....	5,011	5,739	4,228	4,545
Parcel Receptacles.....	10,272	13,428	2,071	2,101

(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.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Dispatched.....	160,200	168,116	170,651	211,224
Received.....	418,793	425,256	482,043	701,636
TOTAL EXTRA UNION TRAFFIC..	578,993	593,372	652,694	912,860

The extraordinary increase in the number of parcels received was probably due principally to the fact that high freights have accustomed merchants and others to import lighter classes of goods through the post. The increase of parcels from England approximated 80,000. Trade with Germany and other continental countries having revived to some extent, there was a marked increase in the parcel traffic from those quarters, while the traffic from America and the Far East also showed substantial improvement.

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

Destination.	Mail Bags.	Parcel Receptacles.
Union of South Africa.....	89,738	56,971
South-West Africa.....	2,188	281
Bechuanaland Protectorate.....	160	—
Rhodesia and Congo.....	20,849	3,243
Nyasaland and East Coast.....		
Mauritius.....	968	—
Various.....	177	—
Sea Post Office.....	61	1
Madeira, St. Helena, and Ascension.....	2,171	—
TOTAL.....	116,312	60,496

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

Destination.	Mail Bags.	Parcel Receptacles (full).
United Kingdom.....	23,625	3,983
Madeira.....	1,260	
Europe.....	4,470	
Various.....	3,275	
TOTAL.....	32,630	3,983

(vi) *Articles of Mail Matter handled at Post Offices in the Union, 1923-24*:—

Mail Matter.	Letters.	Post Cards.	News-papers.	Book and Sample Packets, Printed Matter.	Parcels.		Registered Articles.	Express Articles.	Official Articles.	Total.
					Ordinary.	Agriculture.				
	,000.	,000.	,000.	,000.	,000.	,000.	,000.		,000.	,000.
Posted in Union— For delivery in Union	122,467	6,045	23,915	62,521	3,708	723	2,489	3,432	16,752	238,623
For abroad...	10,101	428	1,093	1,924	211	—	302	1,352	117	14,177
Received— From abroad..	13,896	772	5,152	5,312	702	—	416	208	290	26,540

(vii) *Delivery of South African Mails in London*.—By the resumption of the pre-war practice of off-loading the South African mails at Southampton immediately the steamer arrives and before

being berthed, the delivery of the English Mail has been considerably expedited. The South African letters are now delivered in London before noon on Mondays instead of late in the evening.

3. *Undeliverable Mail Matter*.—The number of undeliverable letters and other mail articles dealt with in the Returned Letter Office and by postmasters was 2,449,000. In these property to the approximate value of £62,748 was found, including £937 in bank notes and coin. Sales of unreturnable articles realized £279.

4. *Penny Postage*.—The demand by the public for reversion to the penny post continued as insistent as ever, but the heavy loss which would be involved at the outset presents too formidable a figure to be faced under present conditions.

5. *New Issue of Postage Stamps*.—Designs for the proposed new postage stamps for the Union were under consideration, but no decision was announced in regard to their final acceptance.

6. *Concrete Pillar-boxes*.—During the latter part of 1922 the Department approached South African manufacturers for the supply of concrete pillar posting boxes in place of the iron boxes, which had hitherto been obtained from overseas. The Hume Pipe Company, which had already manufactured satisfactory concrete telephone cabinets, undertook the supply, and after many tests the first pillar-box was supplied on trial in July. This proving satisfactory, an order was placed for 20 similar boxes at a cost of £21. 5s. each, as against £37. 4s. 6d., the landed cost of the imported iron boxes.

7. *Postal Franking Machines*.—Representations were received regarding the introduction in the Union of franking machines for denoting the prepayment of postage, in place of adhesive stamps. These machines, which are already in extensive use by business firms in Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, India, Peru, and the United States of America, can be operated by hand to a capacity of 1,000 to 3,000 envelopes per hour, or by electric motor up to 40,000 per hour. Chambers of Commerce have been notified that if firms desire to instal such machines, their use will be facilitated and licensed under similar conditions to those applied in other countries.

8. *Postal Route Map*.—A new postal route map has been issued embodying various improvements on the old model. A feature of the new map is that it is indexed relatively to the alphabetical list of offices contained in the periodical supplements to the *Post Office Guide*, thus enabling the exact position of any post office to be readily found from the map reference indicator shown against the name of the office in the supplement.

9. *Money Orders, Postal Orders, and Postal Drafts*—(i) *Money and Postal Orders Issued and Paid. 1923-24*:—

Heading.	Issued.		Paid.		Void.		Commission or Pounds.
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	
Money Orders—		£		£		£	£
Ordinary.....	374,778	2,144,397	365,502	2,071,051	598	1,318	20,402
*Cable.....	1,591	22,575	675	14,222	—	—	—
†Free.....	42,637	244,195	—	—	—	—	—
Postal Orders.....	3,032,674	1,635,796	2,611,703	1,342,053	—	6,263	19,493

* To and from the United Kingdom only.

† For Government purposes: Estimated.

(ii) *Number and Value of Money Orders Issued in the Union of South Africa for Payment in other Countries and vice versa, 1923-24:—*

Money Order Exchange with	Issued in the Union.		Issued in other Countries for payment in the Union.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£
Australia.....	5,301	23,895	2,551	11,943
Canada.....	672	3,488	746	1,911
Ceylon.....	32	219	39	84
Hong Kong.....	59	266	31	97
India.....	10,425	137,910	276	2,332
Kenya.....	145	855	521	5,769
Mauritius.....	100	595	355	1,346
Mozambique.....	372	2,218	101	725
New Zealand.....	396	2,539	431	2,235
Norway.....	321	1,254	123	1,389
Nyasaland.....	548	4,849	82	1,170
Rhodesia.....	1,272	11,344	4,809	37,718
St. Helena.....	27	245	285	7,492
South-West Africa.....	634	9,505	9,073	54,031
United Kingdom.....	58,627	339,475	12,013	88,181
United States of America.....	7,447	13,152	2,304	9,851
Zanzibar.....	12	73	12	43
TOTAL.....	86,390	£551,882	33,752	£226,317

(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 to other countries.....	702	8,195
„ Mozambique—Payable to other countries.....	187	688
„ South-West Africa—Payable in other countries....	1,428	4,364
„ other countries—Payable in Rhodesia.....	226	1,309
„ „ —Payable in Mozambique.....	44	175
„ „ —Payable in South-West Africa....	112	1,201
Exchanged between various other countries.....	132	705
TOTAL.....	2,831	£16,637

(iv) *Summary*.—The total money order and postal order issues amounted to £4,046,963, the payments to £3,427,326, and the combined revenue from commission and poundage to £39,895 as compared with £4,600,310, £3,393,924, and £40,438 respectively during the previous year.

(v) *Number and Value of Postal Orders Issued and Paid throughout the Union for the Three Years 1922-24*:—

Year.	Issued.		Paid.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£
1922.....	2,762,273	1,571,252	2,348,563	1,267,818
1923.....	3,015,402	1,569,398	2,603,624	1,274,932
1924.....	3,032,674	1,635,706	2,611,703	1,342,053

(vi) *Postal Drafts*.—The number of demands made in respect of postal drafts drawn was 16,525. The number of drafts honoured was 3,134, the amount collected £3,944, and the revenue earned £495. These figures show a decrease on the totals for the previous year, when £4,543 was collected on 3,434 drafts out of a total of 17,639 issued.

10. *Savings Bank*—(i) *General*.—For the first time since 1920-21 the figures show an upward tendency. As compared with the previous year the number of deposits increased by 42,403 and the amount by £5,492, while the number of the withdrawals went up by 10,027, and the amount decreased by £852,399, leaving an increase in the balance due to depositors in the current account of £120,314. The number of new accounts opened was 5,971 more than in 1922-23, and the number closed 9,089 less, the number remaining open being 1,252 more than the corresponding figures on the 31st March, 1923. During the preceding year the number of accounts closed exceeded those opened by 13,810. An interesting feature is the substantial increase in the number of deposits and withdrawals, with but slight increase in the amount of deposits, but with a considerable decrease in the amount of withdrawals, reducing the average deposit from £10. 14s. 8d. to £9. 10s. 6d., and the average withdrawal from £19. 2s. 1d. to £14. 12s. 8d., as compared with the averages for 1922-23. The reduction in the average of each withdrawal is no doubt due in some measure to the introduction of the system of payment on demand.

(ii) *Savings Bank Certificates*.—The fall in the balance held in certificates from £1,229,700 to £1,018,900 during the period under review was due to the reduction of the rate of interest from 5 per cent. to 4 per cent., which took effect on the 1st February, 1923. The shrinkage, which set in immediately on the reduction of the interest, was expected to continue as long as the ruling rate of interest compared unfavourably with the rate allowed by other institutions on a similar class of investment.

(iii) *Payment on demand.*—This system was introduced on the 1st April, 1923, and proved very popular with depositors. Not more than £2 may be paid on demand, and not more than one such payment may be made in four days. During the year, 76,323 payments were made totalling £106,869. The number of payments at short notice made at the head offices by special warrant fell during the year by 50 per cent., and withdrawals by telegraph by over 30 per cent., as compared with the preceding year. As the charge of 1s. 3d. made for withdrawal by telegraph is less than the actual cost of the service, the reduction in the number of telegraphic withdrawals owing to the introduction of the demand system represents a considerable saving.

(iv) *Transfer of the Natal Savings Bank to Pretoria.*—On the 1st April, 1923, the Head Office of the Savings Bank and Union Loan Certificates at Pietermaritzburg was closed down, and the records were transferred to the Head Office at Pretoria. The change resulted in a considerable saving in administrative charges, without impairing the efficiency of the service rendered to depositors and certificate holders.

(v) *Staff Savings System.*—During the year this system was in operation enabling the members of the Post Office staff to have deductions made from their salaries through the pay-sheets for deposit in the Savings Bank. The scheme was devised as a means for the accumulation of money to meet the Income Tax, providing money for a holiday, to facilitate the practice of thrift in general, and to meet foreseen or unforeseen contingencies. During the year the sum of £2,761 was deducted from salaries. The system is well patronized, and steps are being taken to extend its operations to the Police Department.

(vi) *Penny Banks.*—The following reflects approximately the activities of the Penny Banks in the elementary schools of the several Provinces for the calendar year 1923.

Province.	Number of Accounts.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Transferred to Accounts in Pupils' Own Names.	Credit Balance.	Number of Depositors.
		£	£	£	£	
Transvaal.....	323	2,384	884	1,900	2,572	8,774
Natal.....	152	2,296	601	1,678	1,917	7,699
Cape.....	32	1,914	1,311	105	890	Not available
O.F.S.....	12	64	36	51	115	835
TOTAL.....	519	6,658	2,832	3,734	5,494	—

(vii) *Natives.*—While the number of accounts in the names of natives and the total amount to their credit at the 31st March, 1924, in the Cape fell slightly as compared with the position on the 31st March, 1923, there was a notable advance both in the number of accounts and in the amount in the combined returns for the Transvaal, Natal, Orange Free State, and Northern Cape, the number increasing from 12,218 to 13,961, and the amount from £102,080 to £119,863, an increase of 1,743 and £17,783 respectively. These

figures compare very favourably with those for 1922-23, when the number of accounts in respect of the Union as a whole increased by 384, while the amount decreased by £2,055, as compared with the preceding year. The following statement gives the number of accounts open and the credit balances at the end of the financial year:—

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—NATIVE ACCOUNTS, 1923-24.

Area.	No. of Accounts.	Amount.
Cape.....	4,552	£ 44,552
Transvaal, Natal, Orange Free State, and Northern Cape	13,961	119,863
TOTAL.....	18,513	£164,415

The scheme started in 1922 whereby officials of the Department attended on pay days at various South African Railway native compounds for the acceptance of deposits made further progress, the number of deposits increasing from 676 in 1922-23 to 720 in the period under review, and the amount from £1,699 to £2,000. The following statement shows the new accounts opened, and the collections made at each centre.

DEPOSITS COLLECTED AT NATIVE COMPOUNDS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1924.

S.A.R. Compound.	Number of New Accounts.	Number of Deposits.	Total Amount Deposited.
Pretoria.....	40	196	£ 449
Newtown, Johannesburg.....	19	85	212
Germiston.....	27	114	443
Greyville, Natal.....	94	248	671
Point, Natal.....	30	64	182
Pietermaritzburg.....	2	13	43
TOTAL.....	212	720	£2,000

11. *Union Loan Certificates.*—The total amount invested in Union Loan Certificates during the financial year was £1,074,628, and the amount repaid £401,297, as compared with £1,784,043 and £274,340, respectively, during the preceding year.

Details of the transactions in the several Provinces are shown in

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE SALE OF UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES TO SAVINGS CLUBS FROM THE INSPECTION OF THE CLUB SYSTEM TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1924.

Province.	1st August, 1920, to 31st March, 1921.		1st April, 1921, to 31st March, 1922.		1st April, 1922, to 31st March, 1923.		1st April, 1923, to 31st March, 1924.	
	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Cape and Orange Free State....	14,104	10,931	13,499	10,462	9,378	7,268	5,591	4,472
Transvaal.....	14,681	11,378	12,685	9,831	13,195	10,226	13,763	11,010
Natal.....	4,188	3,246	5,782	4,481	1,672	1,296	2,190	1,752
TOTAL.....	32,974	25,555	31,966	24,774	24,245	18,790	21,544	17,234

In April, 1923, the price of a certificate was raised from 15s. 6d. to 16s., in keeping with the better financial conditions prevailing, and notification of the increase gave a remarkable stimulus to investments, the last month's purchases at the lower rate reaching 988,783 units, a tribute incidentally to the effective publicity methods pursued by the Central Committee.

III.—TELEGRAPHS.

1. *Offices.*—The number of public telegraph offices in the Union at 31st March, 1924, including those worked by the Railway, was 2,103, an increase of 72 during the year.

2. *Traffic.*—The following is a comparative statement of the traffic dealt with during 1922-23 and 1923-24.

Class.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Ordinary telegrams—		
Paid.....	5,063,894	4,946,344
Government, Imperial, and Military.....	206,617	215,698
Railway service.....	30,499	4,690
Press telegrams—		
Messages.....	219,250	214,161
Words.....	28,502,500	27,840,930

3. *Revenue.*—Telegraph revenue for the year amounted to £433,101, representing a decrease of £23,906 on the preceding year. The value of telegraph services rendered to other Government Departments and to the Imperial Government was £39,141.

4. *Cable Traffic.*—The particulars of cablegrams dispatched from the Union are as follows:—

Heading.	1913.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Number of cablegrams.....	121,481	159,487	169,678	186,217
Value.....£	110,819	159,383	159,827	170,249

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE SALE OF UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES TO SAVINGS CLUBS FROM THE INSPECTION OF THE CLUB SYSTEM TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1924.

Province.	1st August, 1920, to 31st March, 1921.		1st April, 1921, to 31st March, 1922.		1st April, 1922, to 31st March, 1923.		1st April, 1923, to 31st March, 1924.	
	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Cape and Orange	14,104	10,931	13,499	10,462	9,378	7,268	5,591	4,472
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Number of cablegrams.....	121,481	159,487	169,678	186,217
Value.....£	110,819	159,383	159,827	170,240

5. "*Catching the Mail*" *Telegram Service*.—From the 1st January, 1924, telegrams have been accepted within the Union for transmission by telegraph to Cape Town and thence by post to/via the United Kingdom at the following reduced rates:—

1s. 6d. for the first *thirty* words and 1d. per word thereafter, plus postage (and registration fee if registered).

These telegrams may be handed in during office attendance after the ordinary closing of the mail, but not later than 3 p.m. on Fridays. No late posting fee is leviable.

6. *Cable Letter Telegram Service*.—This was introduced with Great Britain and Ireland on the 1st September, 1923, at one-quarter the full rate, with a minimum charge of 10s. per message. The messages, which must be written in plain language, are dealt with by telegraph throughout subject to a minimum delay of 48 hours, after which normal transmission and delivery are accorded to them. Cablegrams tendered for disposal by this service are required to bear the chargeable indication DLT as the first word in the address.

7. *Multiplex Machine Telegraphs*.—Machine telegraph working has been extended to circuits between Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, East London, and Queenstown, and between Cape Town, East London, and Queenstown, and has resulted in an acceleration of traffic, at the same time releasing further wires for telephone trunks which otherwise could only have been provided at heavy cost. Similar extensions to Durban and Port Elizabeth are proposed for the near future. The Creed tape printing system has been installed at Bloemfontein and Pietermaritzburg mainly to facilitate the dispatch of press telegrams. Secondary cell installations have been provided at Port Elizabeth, King William's Town, East London, and Queenstown, in order to cope with growing traffic needs, particularly in respect of machine telegraph working.

8. *Pneumatic Tubes*.—Pneumatic tubes are now in use between the Cape Town telegraph office and the offices of the *Cape Argus*, Reuters, the Eastern Cable Company, the Houses of Parliament, and the Stal Street Post Office. Equipment is on order for similar tube services at Bloemfontein between the post office and the office of *The Friend*, and at Port Elizabeth to connect the *Eastern Province Herald* office with the local post office.

9. *Wireless Telegrams*.—There was a slight decrease in radio-telegraph traffic as compared with 1922-23. Particulars for the years 1913, 1922-23, and 1923-24 are appended:—

Heading.	1913.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Messages.....No.	6,044	12,629	11,346
Words.....No.	68,837	198,622	180,031
Value.....£	2,008	4,660	4,146

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

Arrangements are in hand for a wireless telegraph service between Pretoria and Bloemfontein. The service will be auxiliary to that provided by the ordinary telegraph lines, and will form an important link for emergency communications in the Union. Details of a wireless service between Pretoria and Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, have been decided upon, but further action is dependent upon the decision of the Rhodesian Administration.

10. *Broadcasting*.—Applications were received for broadcasting stations at Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg. A marked increase in the number of private wireless licences was anticipated.

IV.—TELEPHONES.

1. *Development*.—During the year about £500,000 was expended on the extension of the telephone system, which has been most helpful in bringing the telephone to a number of isolated communities as also to a large extent overtaking the arrears of exchange lines. So immense is the area of the country, however, and so constant are the demands, that a large expenditure for a number of years will be necessary before it can be said that facilities are adequate.

2. *Trunk Lines and New Telephone Offices*.—2,398 miles of new trunk line were erected, and telephone trunk service was provided to 274 additional offices.

3. *Increase of Equipment*.—The switchboard equipment at exchanges, particularly in the larger urban areas, was augmented, and large increases of the cable and distribution systems were carried out to relieve congested areas, and permit of the provision of service to waiting applicants. The position at Cape Town was greatly relieved by the opening of the exchanges at Woodstock and Sea Point, and similar relief was provided at Claremont by the establishment of the new Wynberg exchange. By re-arrangement of telegraph circuits the Department was enabled to secure 280 additional miles of trunk circuit.

4. *Telephone Repeaters*.—Progress has been made in the provision of a telephone line between Johannesburg and Cape Town. The work involves the introduction of repeater stations at Klerksdorp, Kimberley, De Aar, Beaufort West, and Touws River, and by means of these stations the Department hopes to link up the major portion of the Transvaal and Orange Free State with the Western Province. Provision is also being made for other repeater stations to be established to enable towns in the grain area around Bethlehem to communicate with Durban.

5. *Automatic Exchanges*.—An automatic exchange of the relay type has been installed at Cambridge, East London. The equipment is for 80 lines, but it can readily be increased to 300 lines. An exchange, of the Western Electric pattern, has been installed at Overport, near Durban. The first consignment of a large automatic exchange of the Siemens type for Port Elizabeth arrived during March, 1924. The initial equipment is for 2,260 lines, but it is designed for an ultimate capacity of 4,000. The Exchange was expected to be in working order during October. A similar exchange was on indent for installation at Pietermaritzburg with provision for 1,840 lines at opening and an ultimate capacity of 3,000. The

buildings for automatic exchanges at Parkview and Rosebank, Johannesburg, were completed and the installation therein of Ericsson's rotary type of exchange was being proceeded with. The line provision is 400 at opening and 700 eventual.

6. *Reduced Charges for Night Trunk Calls.*—Since the 1st April, 1923, the public has been enabled to make trunk calls between the hours of 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. at two-thirds of the regular tariff rates. This concession meets a real need.

7. *Farm Telephone Lines.*—During the year 116 new farm lines, totalling 818 miles in length, were provided for 677 farmers. The Department recognizing the desirability in the interests of agricultural development, of the greatest possible expansion of the farm telephone system, was engaged on the preparation of revised conditions and reduced rates for this class of service and purposed launching an intensive campaign of farm line development on the 1st April, 1924. By the active co-operation of the farmers in the supply of rough labour and road transport in connexion with the erection of their lines, and their willingness to undertake responsibility for the removal of ordinary line faults it will be possible to pass on to them substantial reductions in the rental charges. The sum of £300,000 has been placed by Government at the disposal of the Department for expenditure in connexion with farm line development during the financial years 1924-25 and 1925-26, and it is confidently anticipated that those years will witness a large increase in farmers' telephone lines throughout the Union, to the lasting benefit of rural development.

8. *Construction Work.*—Having in view the Government's instructions for the exercise of economy, especially in regard to expenditure on construction works, the Department arranged for the unskilled work of hole-digging, erecting poles and planting stays in connexion with the reconstruction of a telegraph and telephone line between Caledon and Swellendam—a 76-mile route—to be let out to a contractor. The experiment proved a complete success, the financial saving being approximately £1,000. The services of 12 departmental employees were saved, the completion of the route was expedited by two months, and the contract work was efficiently performed. A similar policy in connexion with other construction works was adopted and in these cases also the tenders showed substantial saving upon the original estimate of departmental costs.

9. *Thefts of Telephone Apparatus.*—Synchronizing with the outbursts of broadcasting enthusiasm in the Union, thefts of hand micro-telephones and other items of apparatus from public call offices have been somewhat numerous at certain centres, and there is little doubt that these depreciations are attributable to amateur wireless experimenters, probably mostly juveniles.

10. *Fire in Cape Town Telephone Exchange.*—An outbreak of fire occurred on the 26th July in the Central Telephone Exchange at Cape Town, which put the whole of the multiples out of action. The cause appeared to have been the fusing of a wire at the back of the main switchboard. The outbreak itself was fortunately confined to a very small area, but extensive damage resulted to the hundreds of cables in the exchange. Within two days all the 5,000 connexion which had been put out were restored.

11. *Pretoria Hail Storm*.—Very considerable damage was caused to departmental plant by the unprecedented hail storm which swept over Pretoria on the afternoon of Christmas Day, 1923. The hail stones, which were exceptionally large, demolished practically all open wires in that portion of the town where the storm was most severe. 450 subscribers' lines were destroyed and the eastern trunk lines to Witbank, Premier Mine, etc., and the Pretoria-Germiston-Johannesburg trunk route were thrown out of commission. The devastated area was approximately four miles wide and from six to seven miles long. The work of clearing the masses of tangled and broken wires was commenced as soon as the storm had abated and on Boxing Day all available construction men in Pretoria were called out for duty. On the following day the local staff was reinforced by 60 men from Johannesburg. The men worked from daylight to dark, and carried on at high pressure until the 5th January, by which date the situation had allowed of the return of 46 of the men to Johannesburg. It was not, however, until March that the last of the men could be released. The expenditure incurred in repairing the extensive damage amounted to approximately £4,485.

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

Heading.	At 31st March, 1923.	At 31st March, 1924.
Exchanges.....	648	787
Exchange lines and extensions.....	43,737	46,783
Private branch exchanges.....	461	489
Private branch exchange extensions.....	5,697	6,095
Public telephones.....	3,076	3,462
Farm line mileage.....	3,102	3,920
Farm lines (No. of parties connected).....	1,544	2,221

The mileage of routes and wires on the 31st March, 1924, was as follows:—

Heading.	At 31st March, 1923.	At 31st March, 1924.
Routes—		
Telegraph.....	9,335	9,347
Telephone trunk.....	4,215	4,584
Wire—		
Telegraph.....	41,932	40,696
Telephone trunk.....	48,234	54,024
Superimposed Circuits—		
Telegraph.....	10,783	12,646
Telephone trunk.....	10,857	11,939
Telephone exchange wire.....	109,446	118,381

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

Heading.	At 31st March, 1923.	At 31st March, 1924.
Capital expenditure.....	£ 3,902,420	£ 4,422,080
Revenue—		
Cash collections.....	799,590	893,230
Value of services provided for Govern- ment Departments.....	67,012	68,042

V.—GENERAL.

1. *Staff*—(i) *Retrenchment and Reorganization*.—As indicated in the last annual report the staff, notwithstanding the retrenchments that had been effected, was still in excess of requirements at the close of the financial year, and consequently early in the new year the Government invited a limited number of the older post and telegraph assistants to retire voluntarily on pension, granting them compensation in terms of their respective Pension Acts for the abolition of their posts. Certain reorganization in other sections of the Department resulted in further retirements, and many vacancies which occurred through ordinary wastage were not filled. Altogether 151 officers were retrenched, while the permanent establishment was reduced by 219 posts. The need for retrenchment has now been fully met, and it is not likely that any further premature retirements of the established staff will be necessary.

Some important changes were made in the process of reorganization. From the 1st November, 1923, the Under-Secretary and Assistant Under-Secretary were retired, their places being taken by three Assistant Secretaries on a lower scale of pay. Two of these Assistant Secretaries have been placed in charge of the Northern and Southern Areas respectively, whilst the third is responsible for the central administration, which deals with general departmental matters affecting the whole Union. From the 1st July, 1923, the "functional" system under which separate branches existed for telephone commercial, telephone traffic, and telegraph traffic work, was abolished, the posts of General Traffic Superintendent and General Commercial Superintendent at headquarters being dispensed with and the work brought under the control of the Chief Clerk, Telegraphs. The Divisional Commercial and Traffic Superintendents were similarly dispensed with, their duties and staffs being amalgamated with those of the District Surveyors and the Postmasters at Johannesburg and Cape Town. The midland surveying district was absorbed in the eastern district, with the surveyor's headquarters at Port Elizabeth. The Engineering and Accounting Divisions were reorganized, whereby it was found possible to abolish several highly-paid posts.

(ii) *Pay*.—During the year the Government decided, in consequence of the adverse financial position of the country, coupled with the falling cost of living, to reduce all scales of pay by approximately 10 per cent. The concession was made, however, that the new scales should not apply to the existing staff until promotion to a higher

grade is secured. This reduction applied to all departments of the public service.

(iii) *Sick and Holiday Leave*.—During the year holiday leave aggregating 168,591 days was granted, averaging 22.31 days per officer employed. Sick absences totalled 5,234 days, averaging 6.12 days per officer employed.

(iv) *Examinations*.—The examinations conducted by or under the auspices of the Department with the purpose of increasing the efficiency of its officers resulted in the successes given below:—

Examinations and Examining Body.	Number of Centres.	Number of Examination Entries.	Number Successful.	Distinctions.
<i>Department of Posts and Telegraphs—</i>				
Telephonists' Entrance.....	7	30	22	
Telegraph Tests.....	31	237	84	
Efficiency Tests.....	34	76	53	
Postmaster - General's Certificate for Radio-Telegraphy.....	4	9	3	
Official Languages.....	27	Eng. 3 Dutch. 44	Eng. 1 Dutch. 20	
<i>Union Education Department—</i>				
Preliminary Technical Certificate.....	6	63	18	
National Technical Certificate, I.....	5	43	26	Junior Exhibition £5 and 3 Distinctions.
National Technical Certificate, whole....	1	8	5	Senior Exhibition £10.
Advanced National Technical Certificate.	1	1	1	
<i>City and Guilds of London Institute—</i>				
Telephony, Grade I.....	11	27	19	5 First Class. 2 Bronze Medals.
Telephony, Final.....	5	6	5	2 Special Money Prizes.
Telegraphy, Grade I.....	11	24	20	1 First Class. 9 First Class. 1 Bronze Medal.
Telegraphy, Final.....	6	7	7	1 Special Money Prize.
Magnetism and Electricity.....	2	3	3	3 First Class.
Motor-car Engineering.....	1	1	1	
Electrical Engineering.....	1	1	1	

(v) *Messengers' Welfare*.—Attendance and progress at the Cape Town Messengers' School continued highly satisfactory. When the school was started in 1919 the majority of the messengers were in Standard VI or below, whereas to-day the school is practically a Standard VIII one. Of the 76 messengers who entered for the examinations, 36 passed into Standard VIII and 9 into Standard VII. The roll was 115, and of these 74 were in Standard VIII, 28 in VII, 12 in VI, and 1 in V. The annual prize distribution was made by the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.

As regards messengers at other points in the Union the Department continued to do everything in its power to assist the boys to improve their educational qualifications, and the system of awarding monthly bonuses for regular attendance at continuation classes was in operation. During the year the bonuses paid amounted to £183. The Posts Office keeps in touch with the Juvenile Affairs Boards through its departmental representatives thereon, and the liaison thus provided has proved of advantage to both organizations.

(vi) *Postal Classes*.—Two members of the Johannesburg Post Office have been conducting gratuitously, for the benefit of the

junior officers of the staff, classes of instruction in the many phases of the department's work. This commendable enterprise has been rewarded by a larger percentage of passes in the efficiency test prescribed in the Public Service Regulations, and has naturally increased the general efficiency of the office.

(vii) *Awards for Suggestions*.—The scheme of granting awards for suggestions from the staff in regard to departmental practice, apparatus, stationery, etc., continued to be popular. During the year, 199 suggestions were investigated, of which 12 were adopted either wholly or partially.

(viii) *South African Corps of Signals*.—The Defence Department has established a signal corps for the Union, the personnel to be recruited mainly from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, with the Postmaster-General in command as Director of Signals and the Chief Engineer as Assistant Director. The corps embraces wireless, cable, air-line, and brigade sections.

2. *Stores*.—Supplies of all classes of telegraph and telephone material came forward more freely, and while prices were still above pre-war figures, there was a downward tendency throughout the year. In November a further opportunity was afforded local merchants to tender for a quantity of material. The result, while a slight improvement on the two former instances, in that local merchants secured orders to the value of £7,100 out of a total of £54,700, was far from satisfactory to the Department financially as the delay occasioned by calling for tenders locally involved a loss of approximately £500 on certain copper items due to market fluctuations. Had an indent for the items been sent to the High Commissioner in London in the usual way, the orders would have been placed when electrolytic copper stood at £61. 3s. 9d. per ton. At the time of placing the order with the local merchant the price of copper had advanced to £68. 15s. per ton. The erection of the new stores depot and offices at Port Elizabeth was completed and occupation taken in July. The concentration of all stores work under the one roof has resulted in greater efficiency and economy in staff. A mezzanine floor has been erected in the Johannesburg store, providing much needed additional accommodation. No decision was arrived at as to the site on which the proposed stores depot at Durban should be erected.

The following requisitions were dealt with at the various depots during the year:—

Engineering.—Issues. 62,299; receipts, 28,520.

Postal.—Issues. 42,851; receipts. 14,729.

Postage Stamps and Stamped Stationery.—Number of requisitions, 21,433; postage value. £2,128,627.

Postal Orders.—Issues. 2,972,220; sale value, £1,646,095.

Revenue Stamps.—Issues. 5,017,440; sale value, £674,430.

The work of the stamps distribution section at Pretoria was increased by the further introduction of stamps or labels for the purpose of collecting taxation. During the year Patent Medicine Tax Labels, Assize Stamps, and Native Squatters' Tax (Transvaal) Stamps were introduced.

3. *Buildings*.—The erection of new state-owned post office buildings was completed at Bloemhof, Isipingo, Nelspruit, Rouxville, Senekal, Sunnyside (Pretoria), Upington, Volksrust, Vryheid, and

Woodstock; and those for Ermelo, Fordsburg, Naauwpoort, and Smithfield were nearing completion. Buildings were erected also for automatic telephone exchanges at Parkview and Rosebank (Johannesburg) and for the new stores depot and offices at Port Elizabeth. Additional accommodation was provided at various offices, and new premises were built, purchased, or hired at numerous smaller places throughout the Union. Considerable headway was made with the erection of the six-storey annexe to the General Post Office, Pretoria, and the much-needed accommodation therein will probably be ready for occupation before the end of the next financial year. Plans have been taken in hand for the erection on the Parade Ground at Cape Town of a spacious Post Office annexe, which will be linked up with the present General Post Office building by overhead corridors. The new accommodation has been a pressing necessity for some years past, to afford relief from the cramped, unhealthy, and generally unsatisfactory conditions of the existing premises, especially in the parcel section, and to remove the congestion at the counters and otherwise facilitate public business.

4. *Government Central Garages.*—In pursuance of the Treasury policy of maintaining Government garages at the larger centres, the post office motor vehicles and garage equipment at Pretoria, Cape Town, and Johannesburg were handed over to the control of the Manager of Government Garages.

5. *Work performed for other Departments.*—Of the various free services rendered to other Government Departments and Provincial Administrations, the following items are worthy of mention:—

Heading.	Number.	Value.
Money orders.....	42,637	£ 244,195
Telegrams.....	215,698	35,465
Telephones.....	—	68,042

Free postage, according to statistics taken, amounted to £145,420. The following revenue was collected for other Departments: Inland Revenue Department, £517,784; Customs and Excise Department, £908,705.

The sales by postmasters, on behalf of the Treasury, of Union 5 per cent. Local Registered Stock, 1929-39, amounted to £66,202.

6. *Payment for Official Telegraph and Telephone Services.*—With a view to economy and the provision of a closer check on the use of telegraph and telephone facilities by Government officers, the Treasury decided that Departments should pay for these services, which have hitherto been rendered free, and arrangements have been formulated for the payment to be introduced from the commencement of the next financial year.

7. *Withdrawal of Worn British Silver Coin.*—Arrangements were made at the instance of the Royal Mint, Pretoria, for the interception of worn British silver coin of .925 standard, received by postmasters, and during the nine months the withdrawal was in operation such coin to the value of £11,435 was handed over to the Mint authorities in exchange for new Union silver coin.

8. *Franking Abuses.*—The restriction of abuses of the postal franking privilege continued to receive close attention, but under existing conditions the Department has been unable to maintain a satisfactory check upon irregular franking.

The Select Committee on Public Accounts confirmed its 1922 resolution that overprinted stamps should be introduced for official postages, similar to the system followed, with economical effects, by the Australian Commonwealth since 1902, but the Treasury is not yet disposed to sanction the adoption of this system in the Union. As regards evasions of postage on the part of the public, these are undoubtedly widespread, and although the regulations stipulate that public servants receiving unstamped correspondence concerning the private business or interests of the senders should report such cases to the Postmaster-General, it is evident that this requirement is not generally observed. It is probably the case that members of the public omit to repay postage in the *bona fide* belief that all correspondence addressed to Government Departments can pass through the post free, whether it is on the public service or not, and steps are being taken to remove this erroneous impression and thus stop the loss to revenue hitherto sustained through the irregular practice.

9. *Civil Aviation.*—The *Union Aviation Act* was passed in 1923 ratifying the International Air Convention and making provision for the control, regulation, and encouragement of flying within the Union. The administration of the Act is assigned to the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs. The Civil Air Board appointed under the Act has the Postmaster-General as chairman. The Board recommended that a weekly air mail service between Pretoria and Cape Town be inaugurated for an experimental period of three months, operated by the South African Air Force, but for financial reasons this could not be adopted. The Government, however, was prepared to consider any aviation scheme put forward by a company technically and financially able to undertake the work, and would grant every facility possible to assist such a project. Although air services in the Union would not be a payable proposition at the outset, their utility between the more populous centres and also in linking up outlying districts has to be recognized and their ultimate adoption, as has already been demonstrated in many other countries, is bound to follow in due course.

STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

I.—SUMMARIZED PARTICULARS OF POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE BUSINESS, 1921-22 TO 1923-24.

Description.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
1. <i>Posts.</i>			
Revenue.....£	1,662,154	1,741,376	1,853,079
Expenditure.....£	1,889,525	1,643,617	1,613,426
Post offices open.....	2,793	2,805	2,887
Posting receptacles other than at post offices.....	1,083	1,095	1,111
Private post bags.....	3,486	3,595	3,575

Description.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
1. Posts—continued.			
Private boxes.....	29,916	30,538	31,923
Main posts.....	268	260	256
Branch posts.....	1,236	1,251	1,265
Cost of inland mail conveyance.....£	354,791	281,933	245,545
Cost of ocean mail service.....£	153,948	165,369	200,022
Undeliverable articles.....	2,161,888	2,440,173	2,449,000
Money orders issued.....	416,696	420,429	419,006
Amount.....£	2,896,910	2,521,916	2,411,167
Commission.....£	22,428	20,015	20,402
Money orders paid.....	347,389	359,582	366,177
Amount.....£	2,283,073	2,118,992	2,085,273
Postal orders issued.....	2,762,273	3,015,402	3,032,674
Amount.....£	1,571,252	1,569,398	1,635,796
Poundage.....£	18,199	18,637	19,493
Postal orders paid.....	2,348,563	2,603,624	2,611,703
Amount.....£	1,267,818	1,274,932	1,342,053
Postal drafts issued.....	14,998	17,639	16,525
Commission.....£	455	530	495
2. Telegraphs and Telephones.			
Capital account—			
Telegraphs.....£	1,346,321	1,382,131	1,448,763
Telephones.....£	3,402,742	3,902,420	4,422,080
Revenue—			
Telegraphs.....£	495,936	457,007	433,161
Telephones.....£	735,667	799,590	893,230
Expenditure.....£	1,313,060	1,142,174	1,121,195
Telegraph offices.....	1,921	1,931	2,103
Telegrams forwarded.....	6,343,338	5,520,260	5,380,893
Miles telegraph wire.....	41,415	41,932	40,696
Miles telephone wire.....	158,737	168,610	184,344
Telephone exchanges.....	583	648	787
Public call offices.....	2,656	3,076	3,462
Exchange lines.....	35,891	38,325	41,003
Telephones.....	51,849	55,704	60,187
Telephone calls.....	95,355,245	100,349,560	106,747,000
Telephone trunk calls.....	5,428,797	5,916,145	6,595,000
3. Savings Bank.			
Accounts open.....	302,141	288,331	289,583
Deposits.....	388,836	329,067	371,470
Amount, including interest.....£	3,723,721	3,532,312	3,537,804
Withdrawals.....	242,406	223,491	233,513
Amount.....£	4,294,803	4,269,889	3,417,490
Balance due to depositors—			
In ordinary accounts.....£	5,843,187	5,105,610	5,225,924
In certificates.....£	822,500	1,229,700	1,018,900
4. Union Loan Certificates.			
Balance due to holders—			
Units.....	2,708,177	4,654,613	5,494,344
Amount.....£	2,098,837	3,607,325	4,280,656
5. General.			
Total amount of money dealt with...£	25,425,000	25,756,949	26,000,000
Revenue collected for other depart- ments.....£	1,153,729	1,291,854	1,426,505
“Free services” rendered.....£	276,117	281,056	268,372
Persons employed*.....	11,109	10,800	10,769
Full-time staff.....	8,186	7,836	7,761

* Excluding mail-cart drivers, native runners, and others.

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21.—DEPARTMENTAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1923-24, 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.

By Expenditure: Cash payments.....	£2,734,621	By Revenue: Cash receipts.....	£3,179,410
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.....	£147,841	Postage.....	£124,558
From Loan Acts for telegraphs.....	38,523	Telegrams.....	33,498
From Revenue funds—Telephones.....	22,067	Telephones.....	62,167
From Revenue funds—Telegraphs.....	19,276	Miscellaneous.....	15,769
For stores reserve.....	16,392		235,992
Value of Government buildings.....	54,051		
	298,150	„ Services rendered to Provincial Departments—	
Pension Funds: Government Liability—		Postage. Telegrams. Telephones.	
To contributors to funds.....	62,709	Cape.....	£8,918
To non-contributors.....	7,073	Transvaal.....	6,525
		Natal.....	2,708
Services rendered by other Departments—		Orange	
Printing and stationery.....	22,629	Free State.....	2,711
Minor works and furniture, maintenance and repairs, rents, rates, and taxes.....	75,650		698
Law costs and damages.....	650		644
Minor services.....	736		4,053
	99,665		32,380
Miscellaneous—		„ 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.....	56,931
Control and Audit Office services.....	3,209		
Balance.....	299,336		
	£3,504,763		£3,504,763

III.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, FINANCIAL YEAR 1923-24.

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
(a) Posts—		Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone—	
Postage.....	£1,521,829	Salaries, wages, and allowances.....	£1,853,685
Commission on money orders.....	20,402	Subsistence and transport.....	41,929
Poundage on postal orders.....	19,493	Uniforms, etc.....	18,343
Private box and bag rentals.....	45,811	Conveyance of mails.....	445,567
Ocean mail service receipts.....	165,486	Maintenance of telegraphs and telephones.....	324,427
Miscellaneous.....	39,261	Purchase and maintenance of transport.....	8,575
Savings bank revenue.....	40,797	Technical furniture and fittings.....	7,049
	<u>£1,853,079</u>	Postage stamps.....	3,133
(b) Telegraphs—		Depreciation of telegraph and telephone stores.....	1,564
Ordinary paid and Press messages.....	400,238	Postal stores.....	14,553
Registered address fees.....	8,077	Incidental.....	5,543
Miscellaneous.....	24,786	Technical training—Salaries, wages, and allowances.....	8,957
	<u>£433,101</u>	Technical training—Contingent services.....	917
(c) Telephones—		Administration of Aviation.....	479
Exchange and private wire rentals.....	443,734		
Subscribers' call fees.....	335,181		
Call office receipts.....	96,945		
Miscellaneous.....	17,370		
	<u>893,230</u>		
	<u>£3,179,410</u>		<u>£2,734,621</u>

IV.—REVENUE COLLECTED FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS DURING 1923-24.

Inland Revenue Department.					Customs and Excise.			Agricultural Department.	Total.
Licences.	Revenue Stamps.	Transvaal Poll Tax.	Cape Entertainments Tax.	O.F.S. Entertainments Tax.	Customs Dues.	Patent Medicines.	Cigarette Stamps.	Fumigation Fees.	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
105,792	325,369	31,631	54,854	138	326,409	74,449	507,847	16	1,426,505

V.—SUMMARY OF TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CAPITAL ACCOUNT AT 31st MARCH, 1924.

Heading.	From Loan Funds.	From Revenue Funds.	Total.
	£	£	£
Telegraphs.....	975,128	473,625	1,448,763
Telephones.....	3,858,335	563,744	4,422,079
TOTAL.....£	4,833,473	1,037,369	5,870,842

VI.—POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK—(a) SUMMARIZED PARTICULARS OF
BUSINESS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1924.

Particulars.	Number.	Amount.		
		£	s.	d.
Savings Bank offices open.....	755	—		
Accounts opened—				
Ordinary.....	42,670	—		
Trust fund.....	129	—		
Accounts closed—				
Ordinary.....	41,425	—		
Trust fund.....	122	—		
Accounts remaining open—				
Ordinary.....	288,570	—		
Trust fund.....	1,013	—		
Deposits—				
Ordinary.....	369,064	3,310,861	11	5
Trust fund.....	2,406	60,157	9	1
Withdrawals—				
Ordinary.....	232,377	3,363,350	0	8
Trust fund.....	1,141	54,140	2	9
Certificates—				
Issued.....	—	214,800	0	0
Repaid.....	—	425,600	0	0
Interest added to depositor's accounts—				
Ordinary and trust fund.....	—	166,784	19	9
Certificates.....	—	49,811	5	10
Balance due to depositors—				
Ordinary accounts.....	—	5,142,850	15	11
Trust fund accounts.....	—	83,072	18	10
Certificate accounts.....	—	1,018,900	0	0
Amount invested with Public Debt Commissioners at 31st March, 1924.....	—	6,032,608	4	5
Average amount due to each depositor—				
In ordinary and trust fund accounts.....	—	18	0	11
In all accounts.....	—	21	11	4
Average amount of interest earned on investments.....	—	3	17	2
Average cost of each transaction.....	—	0	1	1
Fees collected—				
For replacing lost deposit books.....	—	70	10	0
For issuing special warrants.....	—	477	7	0
For issuing special warrants on Johannesburg by tele- phone.....	—	521	11	3
For retransferring certificates without notice and issuing duplicate certificates.....	—	989	5	0
Penny Bank accounts.....	514	6,214	12	5
Dormant accounts.....	37,108	17,864	4	6
Decreased depositors—Claims paid.....	985	56,723	9	9
Cross-entry transactions—				
Deposits.....	102,815	—		
Withdrawals.....	91,167	—		
Lost books replaced.....	705	—		
Warrants issued—				
Ordinary.....	76,588	1,799,538	0	9
Special.....	14,692	295,438	19	8
Telegraphic.....	49,142	900,989	6	2
Demand.....	76,323	106,868	18	5
Circular.....	118	3,951	0	0
Transferred to revenue (accounts having no transaction for fifteen years).....	9,282	3,986	19	7
Retransferred from revenue and paid to depositors.....	288	725	9	5
Losses made good from Departmental Vote.....	—	143	1	3
Inter-Province transfers of accounts.....	114	10,175	7	11
Transfers of accounts—				
From other Administrations.....	378	30,860	0	5
To other Administrations.....	378	38,885	9	4
Stock dividends credited to depositors' accounts.....	1,107	8,511	13	6

(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.
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	6,386,239	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	36,326	50,636	288,331
1923-24.....	371,470	3,537,804	233,518	3,417,490	5,225,924	1,018,900	18 0 11	42,799	41,547	289,583

(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
1923-24.....	214,800	425,600	1,018,900

(d) ACCOUNTS TRANSFERRED FROM AND TO THE SAVINGS BANKS OF OTHER ADMINISTRATIONS DURING THE YEAR 1923-24.

Administration.	Transferred to the Union of South Africa.		Transferred from the Union of South Africa.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s d.		£ s d.
United Kingdom.....	303	26,080 13 0	313	35,047 10 4
Southern Rhodesia.....	65	3,060 4 0	55	2,950 0 5
South-West Africa.....	10	1,719 3 8	10	887 18 7
	378	30,860 0 8	378	38,885 9 4

(f) BALANCE-SHEET AT 31ST MARCH, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance due to depositors and certificate holders on the 31st March, 1924.....	6,244,823 14 9	Funds lodged with the Public Debt Commissioners for investment.....	6,032,608 4 5
Warrants issued but not cashed by the 31st March, 1924	24,135 16 11	Interest added to depositors' accounts for 1923-24 due by the Public Debt Commissioners.....	216,596 5 7
		Cash in Postmaster-General's Account.....	19,755 1 8
	£6,268,959 11 8		£6,268,959 11 8

Balance: Units, 5,494,344; amount, £4,280,656. 3s.