UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

REPORT

OF THE

POSTMASTER-GENERAL

for the Financial Year 1932-33

PRINTED BY AUTHORITY

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA

DEPARTEMENT VAN POS- EN TELEGRAAFWESE

VERSLAG

VAN DIE

POSMEESTER-GENERAAL

oor die Boekjaar 1932-33

GEDRUK OP GESAG

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, PRETORIA
1933

*5256—6/8/33—650.

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UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

DEPARTMENT OF
POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1932-33.

THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Sir,

I the honour to submit the following report upon the working of the Post, Telegraph Telephone Services of the Union for the year ended 31st March, 1933.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. LENTON.
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office,
Pretoria, 31st March, 1933.

INTRODUCTORY.

The total cash revenue, postal, telegraph and telephone, for 1932-33 amounted to £4,124,956, a decrease of £235,035 or just over five per cent. on the revenue collections in the previous year. The expenditure from Vote (totalling £2,818,201) was, however, reduced by nearly nine per cent., or £270,940, on the previous year. To a considerable extent, of course, this was due to the " cut " in salaries of all grades, and the elimination from the Post Office Vote of all expenditure in connection with Civil Aviation, now provided for by the Defence Department.

On the general " Commercial Account " (see page 46) which brings up all debits and credits besides cash revenue and expenditure, and must be regarded as the general index of the Department's working, there was a favourable balance of £512,180. Examination of this account will show that such services as are under control were reduced in cost, but of course interest and depreciation charges unavoidably increase with the investment of more capital in telegraph and telephone plant each year. The balance of profit on the working of the Department as a whole available to the Treasury for general budget purposes, although slightly less than that in respect of 1931-32, was in all the circumstances of the year very satisfactory.

The Telephone Profit and Loss Account (see page 50) again unfortunately showed a loss, but that has been directly due to restricted commercial activities generally and the unfortunate plight of the farmers. The fall in telephone revenue on the whole—less than 4 per cent.—was not so great as might perhaps have been expected in all the circumstances, and it will quickly be made up as soon as there is any return to better economic conditions. Meanwhile it is noticeable that the introduction of automatic telephones in the Johannesburg area is already having its effect in the reduction of operating costs, an item which hitherto has been an annually increasing one.

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UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.

DEPARTEMENT VAN

POS- EN TELEGRAAFWESE.

VERSLAG VAN DIE POSMEESTER-GENERAAL

OOR DIE BOEKJAAR 1932-33.

SY EDELE DIE MINISTER VAN POS- EN TELEGRAAFWESE.

Edelagbare Heer,

Ek het die eer om onderstaande verslag oor die werksaamhede van die Pos-, Telegraaf- en Telefoondienste van die Unie, gedurende die jaar geëindig op 31 Maart 1933, in te dien.

U dienswillige,

H. J. LENTON,
Posmeester-generaal.

Poskantoor,
Pretoria, 31 Maart 1933.

INLEIDING.

Die totale kontantinkomste gedurende 1932-33 vir pos-, telegraaf- en telefoondienste het £4,124,956 bedra, d.w.s. 'n daling van £235,035 of 'n bietjie meer as 5 persent teenoor die inkomste vir die vorige jaar. Die uitgawe (ten bedrae van £2,818,201) uit die begrotingspos was egter verminder met byna nege persent of £270,940 in vergelyking met die vorige jaar. Hierdie daling was grootliks aan die „ besnoeiing " in salarisse van alle grade toe te skryf, en die verwydering uit die poskantoorbegrotingspos van alle uitgawes in verband met siviele lugvaart waarvoor die Departement van Verdediging nou voorsiening maak. Daar was 'n batige saldo van £512,180 op die algemene „ handelsrekening " (sien bladsy 47) wat benewens kontantinkomste en uitgawes ook alle debet- en kredietbedrae aangee en wat as die algemene indeks van die werking van die Departement beskou moet word. Ondersoek van hierdie rekening sal aantoon dat sodanige dienste as wat onder beheer is, in koste verminder was, maar rente en waardevermindering styg natuurlik onvermydelik met die belegging elke jaar van meer kapitaal in telegraaf- en telefoonuitrusting. Die winssaldo op die werking van die Departement as 'n geheel, wat vir die Tesourie vir begrotingsdoeleindes beskikbaar is, alhoewel 'n bietjie minder as dié vir 1931-32, was onder al die omstandighede van die jaar baie bevredigend.

Die wins- en verliesrekening ten opsigte van telefoondienste (sien bladsy 50) het ongelukkig weer 'n verlies aangetoon, maar dit is direk aan beperkte handelsbedrywighede in die algemeen en die ongelukkige toestand van die boere toe te skryf. Die daling in telefooninkomste oor die algemeen—minder as 4 persent—was nie so groot as wat onder al die omstandighede miskien verwag kon word nie en dit sal gou vergoed word, sodra as daar 'n terugkeer na beter ekonomiese toestande is. Intussen word dit opgemerk dat die invoering van outomatiese telefoons in die Johannesburggebied alreeds die gevolg het van 'n vermindering van bedryfskoste, 'n item wat voorheen jaarliks vermeerder het.

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MAIL SERVICES.

Revenue.

The postage revenue for the year (£1,846,451) is less, by £146,605 than the amount which accrued in 1931/32, and the statistics of the total number of postal articles handled reflect a reduction of 8·2 per cent, in the postings and a reduction of 16·3 per cent. in the number of articles received from other countries.

Expenditure.

The total cost of conveyance of mails during the year amounted to £430,942 as compared with £459,771 in the previous year. The amount for the year under review comprises £165,834 for the carriage of mails outside the Union, i.e. by Ocean Mail Services, etc., and £265,108 for inland services. The last-mentioned figure includes payments of £172,226 and £24,400 to the South African Railway Administration for the conveyance of mails by train and by railway road motor services respectively.

Safety of Mails.

During the year, a Committee, consisting of officers of the Railway Administration and the Post Office, examined carefully the methods followed in the making up, handling, custody and transport of mails with a view to ensuring that the precautions for the safety of mails are adequate. The adoption of some of the recommendations made will reduce the possibility of losses being sustained.

Union Airways Services.

Under the original agreement the internal air mail service, connecting with incoming and outgoing mail steamers and conveying mails between Capetown, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban, Bloemfontein and Johannesburg, was due to terminate in August, 1932, but the contract has been extended until August, 1933, when the question of its further extension or discontinuance will require consideration.

No serious mishaps occurred in the year under review but on three occasions the mails failed to connect with the outgoing steamer at Capetown, in consequence of the aeroplanes having encountered unfavourable weather. On two occasions, due to similar causes, the mails from Capetown to Port Elizabeth, Durban, and the interior were transferred to trains for completion of the journey. During the year 9,865 lb. of mail matter was carried, a decrease of 2,469 lb. as compared with the previous year.

Johannesburg-Durban Air Mail Service.—A direct air mail service between Durban and the Rand Airport commenced on Monday, the 2nd January, 1933, with the flight from Durban. The service operates three times weekly in each direction, viz.: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from Durban, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from the Rand Airport. The scheduled time for the flight is four hours but the journey is frequently completed in a little over three hours.

The quantity of mail matter co[illegible] on the first flight from Durban was:—

	Number of Articles.	*Weight.*
To Johannesburg	416	6 lb. 8½ oz.
To Germiston Station	21	2½ oz.

On the first flight from Rand Airport to Durban the quantity of mail matter conveyed was:—

	Number of Articles.	*Weight.*
From Johannesburg	352	5 lb. 7½ oz.
From Germiston Station	[illegible]	[illegible] oz.

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POSDIENSTE.

INKOMSTE.

Die inkomste ten opsigte van posgeld vir die jaar is £1,846,451, d.w.s. 'n vermindering van £146,605 op die inkomste van 1931-32, en die statistiek van die totale getal posstukke wat behandeling geniet het, toon 'n vermindering van 8·2 persent in geposte stukke en 'n vermindering van 16·3 persent in die getal posstukke wat van ander lande ontvang is.

UITGAWES.

Die totale uitgawes vir die vervoer van poste gedurende die jaar het £430,942 bedra, teenoor £459,771 in die vorige jaar. Die bedrag vir die betrokke jaar sluit in £165,834 vir posvervoer buite die Unie, d.w.s. vir seeposdienste, ens., en £265,108 vir binnelandse dienste. Laasgenoemde bedrag sluit in betalings van £172,226 en £24,400 aan die Suid-Afrikaanse Spoorwegadministrasie vir posvervoer onderskeidelik per trein en padmotor.

VEILIGHEID VAN POSTE.

Gedurende die jaar het 'n komitee bestaande uit beamptes van die Spoorwegadministrasie en die Poskantoor die metodes noukeurig ondersoek wat gevolg word met die opmaak, hantering, bewaring en vervoer van poste, ten einde te verseker dat daar voldoende voorsorgsmaatreëls vir die veiligheid van poste is. Die aanneming van sommige van die aanbevelings sal die moontlikheid van verliese wat gely kan word, verminder.

„UNION AIRWAYS"—DIENS.

Onder die oorspronklike ooreenkoms sou die binnelandse lugposdiens, wat met die inkomende en uitgaande posbote aansluit en wat poste tussen Kaapstad, Port Elizabeth, Oos-Londen, Durban, Bloemfontein en Johannesburg vervoer, in Augustus 1932 beëindig word, maar die kontrak is tot Augustus 1933 verleng, wanneer dit nodig sal wees om die verlenging of beëindiging daarvan verder in oorweging te neem.

Geen ernstige ongevalle het gedurende die betrokke jaar plaasgevind nie, maar by drie geleenthede het die poste nie met die uitgaande posboot by Kaapstad aangesluit nie as gevolg van ongunstige weer wat die vliegtuie aangetref het. By twee geleenthede wat te wyte is aan soortgelyke omstandighede, was die poste vanaf Kaapstad na Port Elizabeth, Durban en die binneland na treine oorgeplaas om die reis te voltooi. Gedurende die jaar is posstukke van 'n gewig van 9,865 pond vervoer—'n vermindering van 2,469 pond in vergelyking met die vorige jaar.

Johannesburg-Durban-lugposdiens.—Met die vliegtog vanaf Durban op 2 Januarie 1933, het 'n regstreekse lugposdiens tussen Durban en die Randse lughawe in werking getree. Die diens word driemaal per week in beide rigtings verskaf, nl. Maandae, Woensdae en Vrydae vanaf Durban en Dinsdae, Donderdae en Saterdae vanaf die Randse lughawe. Die vasgestelde tyd vir die vliegtog is vier uur, maar die reis word dikwels in 'n bietije meer as drie uur voltooi.

Die hoeveelheid posstukke wat op die eerste vliegtog vanaf Durban vervoer was, is as volg:—

	Getal. Posstukke	*Gewig.*
Na Johannesburg.....	416	6 lb. 8½ ons.
Na Germiston-stasie.....	21	2½ ons.

Op die eerste vliegtog vanaf die Randse lughawe na Durban was die hoeveelheid posstukke wat vervoer was, as volg:—

	Getal Posstukke.	*Gewig.*
Vanaf Johannesburg.....	352	5 lb. 7½ ons.
Vanaf Germiston-stasie.....	[illegible]	1 lb. [illegible]

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Unfortunately, succeeding mails in each direction shew substantial decreases, with the exception of the second mail from Durban to Johannesburg:—

	2nd Mail.	*3rd Mail.*
From Durban to Johannesburg.....	11 lb. 3 oz.	1 lb. 5 oz.
From Durban to Germiston Station.....	Nil.	Nil.
From Johannesburg to Durban.....	9½ oz.	2½ oz.
From Germiston Station to Durban.....	Nil.	Nil.

The service is at present experimental, and the agreement with Union Airways Ltd., is due for termination on, or extension from, the 30th June, 1933. One failure of service occurred on this route on the 20th February, 1933, when on its way from Durban the aeroplane was forced by inclement weather to return to the Aerodrome. In order to minimize delay the mails were forwarded by train.

During the three months this service has been in operation the weights of mail matter conveyed in January, February and March were 54 lb., 22 lb., and 31 lb. respectively.

The support given to the service, which was introduced on the urgent representations of the Johannesburg and Durban Commercial Communities, cannot be regarded as encouraging, and unless better results are shewn before the termination of the experimental period, the question of its discontinuance will require to be considered.

De Aar Air Mail.—On the occassion of the opening of the Aerodrome at De Aar on the 18th May, 1932, special arrangements were made for air mails to be conveyed by the "City of Delhi", one of the Imperial Airways Liners, from Capetown and Victoria West to De Aar, and from De Aar to Johannesburg and destinations on the Imperial Airways route beyond the Union. The "City of Delhi" was due to leave Capetown on its ordinary weekly journey and the arrangement made for the call at De Aar on that individual trip was authorized solely in order to mark the occasion of the opening of the new Aerodrome. On the day in question the Capetown to De Aar Mail contained 20 registered letters and approximately 39 unregistered articles. The total weight of the mail was 1 lb. 1½ oz. The Victoria West to De Aar air mail contained 4 registered and 6 unregistered letters and the total weight was 3 oz. The mail from De Aar to Johannesburg contained 18 registered articles for distribution as follows:—

Delhi, India	8
England	8
Moscow, Russia	1
Germany	1

and 40 unregistered articles. The total weight was 1 lb. 6½ oz. There were no other articles of any kind carried to or from De Aar.

Imperial Airways Service.

The transcontinental service has been maintained with remarkable regularity during the past year and it is pleasing to record that the delays, in consequence of adverse weather conditions, which were so frequent during the first three months of 1932, have been experienced only in a minor degree during the past year. The increasing popularity of the service is exemplified by the fact that the average weight of mails despatched per month has increased during the year from 560 lb. to 1,080 lb.

The placing of newer and faster liners on the route is now in hand and the reduction of the journey between London and Capetown from 11 days to 9 days will eventually be accomplished.

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Ongelukkig toon die daaropvolgende poste in beide rigtings 'n aansienlike vermindering, met uitsondering van die tweede pos vanaf Durban na Johannesburg:—

	2de Pos.	*3de Pos.*
Vanaf Durban na Johannesburg.....	11 lb. 3 ons.	1 lb. 5 ons.
Vanaf Durban na Germiston-stasie.....	Nul	Nul
Vanaf Johannesburg na Durban.....	9½ ons.	2½ ons.
Vanaf Germiston-stasie na Durban.....	Nul	Nul

Die diens is op die oomblik eksperimenteel, en die ooreenkoms met die „ Union Airways ", Bpk., verval op 30 Junie 1933, of kan vanaf hierdie datum verleng word. Een mislukking van diens het op hierdie roete op 20 Februarie 1933 plaasgevind, toe die vliegtuig, terwyl dit op weg was vanaf Durban, verplig was om as gevolg van ongunstige weer na die vliegbaan terug te keer. Ten einde vertraging te verminder was die poste per trein aangestuur.

Gedurende die drie maande wat hierdie diens in werking is, was die gewig van posstukke wat in Januarie, Februarie en Maart vervoer is, onderskeidelik 54 lb., 22 lb. en 31 lb.

Die ondersteuning wat gegee is aan die diens, wat op die dringende vertoë van die Johannesburgse en Durbanse handelsgemeenskappe ingevoer was, kan nie as aanmoedigend beskou word nie en tensy daar beter resultate getoon word voor die eksperimentele tydperk verval, sal dit nodig wees om die beëindiging van die diens in oorweging te neem.

De Aar-lugpos.—Toe die vliegbaan op De Aar op 18 Mei 1932 geopen was, was reëlings spesiaal getref om lugp ste met die „ City of Delhi ", een van die vliegtuie van die „ Imperial Airways ", vanaf Kaapstad en Victoria West na De Aar te vervoer, en vanaf De Aar na Johannesburg en bestemmings op die Imperiale lugposroete buite die Unie. De „ City of Delhi " moes op die gewone weeklikse reis vanaf Kaapstad vertrek en reëlings was getref om slegs op daardie enkele reis by De Aar aan te doen ten einde die geleentheid van die opening van die nuwe vliegbaan op te luister. Op die betrokke dag het die lugpos vanaf Kaapstad na De Aar 20 geregistreerde briewe en ongeveer 39 ongeregistreerde stukke bevat.

Die totale gewig van die pos was 1 lb. 1½ ons. Die lugpos vanaf Victoria West na De Aar het 4 geregistreerde en 6 ongeregistreerde briewe bevat en die totale gewig was 3 onse. Die pos vanaf De Aar na Johannesburg het 18 geregistreerde stukke bevat vir versending as volg:—

Delhi, Indië	8
Engeland	8
Moskou, Rusland	1
Duitsland	1

en 40 ongeregistreerde stukke. Die totale gewig was 1 lb. 6½ onse. Daar was geen ander stukke van enige aard na of vanaf De Aar vervoer nie.

Imperiale Lugposdiens.

Die transkontinentale diens was gedurende die afgelope jaar met besondere gereeldheid in stand gehou, en dit is aangenaam om te kan meld dat die vertragings wat so dikwels gedurende die eerste drie maande van 1932 plaasgevind het as gevolg van ongunstige weerstoestande, gedurende die afgelope jaar maar selde ondervind is. Die toenemende populariteit van die diens word bewys deur die feit dat die gemiddelde gewig van poste wat per maand verstuur word, gedurende die jaar van 560 lb. tot 1,080 lb. vermeerder het.

Reëlings word getref om nuwer en vinniger vliegtuie op die roete te plaas en die vermindering van 11 tot 9 dae in die rei[illegible]ssen Londen en Kaapstad sal uiteindelik [illegible] stand gebring word.

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Postcards by Air Mail.

As from 1st October, 1932, the rates for the transmission of postcards by air mail were reduced to 2d. each for destinations within the Union and South West Africa, and to 5d. each for conveyance to places within the British Isles. Half the minimum air mail letter rates were applied in respect of postcards addressed to all other countries.

Floods and Washaways.

During the year no serious floods or washaways causing interruption of air mail services were reported.

In January, 1932, however, heavy rains in the vicinity of the Limpopo River, in Southern Rhodesia, interrupted the Road Motor Service between Fort Victoria and Beit Bridge. This route is used for the conveyance of mails between the Union and Fort Victoria and for a period of several weeks the mails in both directions were diverted via Mafeking and Bulawayo and conveyed by train.

House Deliveries.

The method of delivery of correspondence which required the provision of gate and door receptacles at residential and business premises in Pretoria and Johannesburg, proved so successful that its extension to nineteen other towns in the Union was undertaken during the year.

The saving in time occupied by the postmen on delivery has been so pronounced that a further extension to some of the smaller towns is contemplated.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

Farm Telephone Lines.

Attention was drawn in last year's report to the serious effect of the economic depression on farm telephone line development throughout the Union and the steps which had been taken to enable farmers to retain their telephones. Notwithstanding the liberal policy followed regarding payment of rentals, discontinuances still occurred in large numbers. Between the 1st April, 1930, and 31st March, 1932, 2,779 farm telephones were given up. Coincident with these serious losses, farmers' associations in all parts of the Union demanded substantial reductions of the rentals paid by their members and in many instances reductions of not less than 50 per cent. were sought. It was evident that some definite action was immediately necessary in order to arrest these abnormal losses. After close study of the position, the Department was forced to the conclusiou that whilst the economic depression undoubtedly accounted for the relinquishing of services in such large numbers, the number of people compelled to give up service might be less if the tariff were readjusted. Relief on the basis of a temporary percentage reduction of rentals was considered but not adopted for the reasons that the peculiar incidence of the rental charges would still exist, and that farmers participating in such a form of relief would undoubtedly oppose reversion to the full tariff rentals when normal economic conditions return.

Consideration was then given to the introduction of a uniform tariff, and it was decided to apply a flat rate of £7 per annum per connection to all existing services where rentals in excess of £7 per annum were being paid, thus enabling farmers to retain their services at a price which they could afford, and at the same time assure the Department of a return on its capital outlay. This rate of £7 per party was accordingly introduced as from the 1st January last. Approximately [illegible],000 farmers benefited by the change and it is anticipated that the reduction of rentals from the higher levels to £7 will tend to arrest discontinuances and induce farmers who gave up

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Poskaarte per Lugpos.

Vanaf 1 Oktober 1932 is die tariewe vir die versending van poskaarte per lugpos vir bestemmings binne die Unie en Suidwes-Afrika tot 2d. elk verlaag, en tot 5d. elk vir vervoer na plekke binne die Britse Eilande. 'n Helfte van die minimum tarief vir lugposbriewe is toegepas ten opsigte van poskaarte wat na ander lande geadresseer is.

Oorstromings en Verspoelings.

Gedurende die jaar is daar geen ernstige oorstromings of verspoelings wat die lugposdienste onderbreek het, gerapporteer nie.

In Januarie 1932 het swaar reëns egter in die nabyheid van die Limpoporivier in Suid-Rhodesië die padmotordiens tussen Fort Victoria en Beit Bridge onderbreek. Hierdie roete word gebruik vir die vervoer van poste tussen die Unie en Fort Victoria en vir 'n tydperk van verskeie weke was die poste in beide rigtings per trein oor Mafeking en Bulawayo vervoer.

Aflewering by Wonings.

Die wyse van aflewering van korrespondensie wat die daarstelling van briewebusse by hekke en deure van woonhuise en besigheidspersele in Pretoria en Johannesburg verplig het, was so doeltreffend dat dit gedurende die jaar na neëntien ander dorpe in die Unie uitgebrei was.

Die besuiniging wat teweeggebring is in die tyd wat die briewebesteller op aflewering neem, is so aansienlik dat verdere uitbreiding na sommige van die kleiner dorpies in oorweging geneem word.

TELEGRAAF- EN TELEFOONDIENS.

Plaastelefoonlyne.

In die verslag van verlede jaar was die aandag gevestig op die ernstige gevolge wat die ekonomiese depressie het op die uitbreiding van plaastelefoonlyne oor die hele Unie, en ook op die stappe wat gedoen was om boere behulpsaam te wees om hul telefoons te behou. Nieteenstaande die gunstige beleid wat gevolg word in verband met die betaling van huur, vind opseggings nog besonder baie plaas. Tussen 1 April 1930 en 31 Maart 1932 is daar 2,779 plaastelefoons opgesê. Gelyktydig met hierdie swaar verliese het boerevereenigings in alle dele van die Unie versoek dat aansienlike verminderings aangebring word in die huur wat hul lede moet betaal, en in baie gevalle was die versoeke vir verminderings van minstens 50 persent. Dit was duidelik dat een of ander definitiewe poging onmiddellik aangewend moet word ten einde hierdie abnormale verliese te strem. Na die saak behoorlik ondersoek is, het die Departement tot die besluit gekom dat alhoewel die ekonomiese depressie ongetwyfeld vir die opsê van dienste in sulke groot getalle verantwoordelik is, die getal persone wat genoodsaak was om hul dienste op te sê deur 'n hersiene tarief verminder mag word. Ondersteuning op die basis van 'n tydelike persentasie-vermindering van huur was in oorweging geneem, maar was nie aangeneem nie omdat die eienaardige trefwydte van die huurkoste nog sou bestaan en omdat boere wat aan so'n soort ondersteuning deel sou neem, ongetwyfeld die terugkeer na die volle huurkoste sou bestry, wanneer ekonomiese toestande weer normaal is.

Die invoer van 'n eenvormige tarief was toe oorweeg en dit was besluit om 'n standaardtarief toe te pas, nl. £7 per jaar per aansluiting van alle bestaande dienste waar 'n huur hoër as £7 per jaar betaal word, en sodoende boere in staat te stel om hul dienste te behou teen 'n prys wat hulle kan bekostig. Terselfdertyd verseker dit aan die Departement 'n opbrings vir kapitaaluitgawe. Hierdie tarief van £7 per huurder was gevolglik met ingang van 1 Januarie 1933 ingevoer. Die verandering was tot voordeel van ongeveer 6,000 boere en dit word verwag dat die verlaging van huurgelde van die hoër peil tot £7 tot die stremming van stakings sal strek, en boere wat

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service because of the charges previously paid to apply for reconnection, as soon as their financial position improves. The following figures indicate a satisfactory improvement of the position in this respect during the first three months following upon the introduction of the new rate:—

	During Three Months ended 31st December, 1932.	During Three Months ended 31st March, 1933.
Number of discontinuances	511	411
Number of reconnections	51	176

The reduction involved the surrender of approximately £15,000 per annum, but it is hoped that the major portion thereof will be recovered in due course consequent upon a large proportion of the farmers who have given up service again subscribing to the system as a result of the fixation of the minimum for all new connections at £7 per party per annum.

The farm line system at the 31st March, 1933 comprised:—

Lines.	*Miles of Line.*	*Telephones in use.*
2,637	36,348	14,503

The respective figures at the end of the preceding financial year were 2,534, 34,661, 15,716.

Introduction of "Message Rate" Tariff.

The equipment available in the Johannesburg telephone system consequent upon the establishment of automatic exchanges being designed to meet considerable additional development, active steps were taken during the year to increase the number of subscribers by a vigorous "sales campaign".

The primary step was the replacement of the "measured service" tariff in Johannesburg and on the Witwatersrand by a "message rate" tariff. The former required annual payments of £9 and £7 for business and residential connections respectively, with free quotas of 900 and 600 local calls, and a charge of 1½d. in respect of each additional call.

The new tariff provides for a uniform basic annual payment of £3. 12s., plus 1½d. for every call, and is regarded as more convenient and attractive than the measured service tariff which contemplates payment for a minimum number of calls regardless of the subscriber's actual needs. With the object of making the new rate still more attractive, subscribers throughout the Witwatersrand system may now pay the rental charge quarterly, half-yearly or annually, whilst the call fee accounts are settled monthly.

The result of the change was remarkable, and notwithstanding the adverse financial conditions which existed throughout the year, the increase in the number of subscribers in Johannesburg since the introduction of the new rate has greatly exceeded all expectations. Whilst the sales campaign is in a large measure responsible for the development, it is clearly evident that the new form of tariff, with its easy payment system, is proving very acceptable to a large section of the community which was not disposed to subscribe to the system at the tariffs previously in force, and that, upon the return to normal financial conditions, a further considerable number of new subscribers, particularly in the residential areas, can confidently be looked for.

The new rate has been introduced at Pretoria and Kimberley, where ample plant is also available to meet additional development. The result in Pretoria has been highly satisfactory, and there is no reason to fear that the public at Kimberley will not similarly welcome the change of tariff.

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die diens opgesê het vanweë die koste wat voorheen betaal moes word, sal beweeg om weer om aansluiting aansoek te doen sodra hul finansiële toestand verbeter. Die volgende syfers toon 'n bevredigende verbetering aan van die posisie in hierdie opsig vir die eerste drie maande nadat die nuwe tarief ingevoer was:—

	Gedurende drie maande geëindig op 31 Des. 1932.	Gedurende drie maande geëindig op 31 Maart 1933.
Getal stakings	511	411
Getal heraansluitings	51	176

Die vermindering het veroorsaak dat afstand gedoen is van ongeveer £15,000 per jaar, maar die hoop word gekoester dat die groter gedeelte hiervan ter bekwamer tyd herstel sal word wanneer 'n groot aantal boere wat hul diens opgesê het, weer telefoons sal huur as gevolg van die vasstelling van 'n minimum vir alle nuwe aansluitings teen £7 per huurder per jaar.

Die plaaslynstelsel het op 31 Maart 1933 bestaan uit:—

Lyne.	*Myle van lyn.*	*Telefoons in gebruik.*
2,637	36,348	14,503

Die betrokke syfers teen die einde van die vorige finansiële jaar was—2,534; 34,661; 15,716.

Die Invoer van „ Enkele Oproep "-tarief.

Aangesien die uitrusting wat in die Johannesburgse telefoonstelsel beskikbaar is as gevolg van die daarstelling van outomatiese sentrales, bestem is om aansienlike addisionele uitbreiding tegemoet te kom, was aktiewe stappe in die vorm van 'n lewenskragtige „ verkopingsveldtog " gedurende die jaar gedoen om sodoende meer huurders te werf.

Die eerste stap was om die „ beperkte oproep "-tarief deur 'n „ enkele oproep "-tarief in Johannesburg en op die Witwatersrand te vervang. Onder eersgenoemde was dit nodig om jaarliks £9 en £7 te betaal, respektiewelik, vir besigheid- en woonhuisaansluitings, met vry kwotas van 900 en 600 plaaslike gesprekke, en 'n tarief van 1½d. ten opsigte van elke addisionele oproep.

Die nuwe tarief maak voorsiening vir 'n eenvormige jaarlikse betaling op 'n basis van £3. 12s., plus 1½d. vir elke gesprek, en word beskou as meer gerieflik en aantreklik te wees dan die „ beperkte oproep "-tarief, waaronder betaling gevorder word vir 'n minimum getal oproepe sonder dat die werklike behoeftes van die huurder in aanmerking geneem word. Ten einde die nuwe tarief nog aantrekliker te maak, kan huurders op die Witwatersrand nou hul huur driemaandeliks, halfjaarliks of jaarliks betaal, terwyl die bedrae ten opsigte van gesprekke maandeliks betaal word.

Die gevolg van die verandering was merkwaardig, en nieteenstaande die ongunstige finansiële toestande wat gedurende die jaar geheers het, het die vermeerdering in die aantal huurders in Johannesburg vanaf die inwerkingtreding van die nuwe tarief alle verwagtings ver oortref. Terwyl die uitbreiding grotendeels aan die verkopingsveldtog toe te skrywe is, is dit heeltemal duidelik dat die nuwe tarief, met sy gunstige betalingstelsel, deur 'n groot gedeelte van die publiek wat nie geneig was om teen die tariewe wat voorheen van krag was, telefoons te huur nie, as baie aanneemlik beskou word en dat, met die terugkeer van normale finansiële toestande, dit stellig verwag kan word dat daar 'n aansienlike aantal nuwe huurders, veral in die woonwyke, sal wees.

Die nuwe tarief is in Pretoria en Kimberley ingevoer, waar daar ook volle uitrusting vir addisionele uitbreidng beskikbaar is. Die gevolg in Pretoria is baie bevredigend en daar is geen rede om te vrees dat die publiek in Kimberley sal die verandering van tarief sal verwelkom nie.

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The automatic telephone system is at present being installed throughout the whole of the Cape Peninsula, and in anticipation of the engineering work being completed in December, 1933, it has been decided to apply the message rate tariff within that area from 1st January, 1934.

Witwatersrand Telephone System: Conversion of to Automatic Working.

The six automatic exchanges in the Witwatersrand system which were established towards the end of last financial year continued to operate in a highly satisfactory manner and the results so far achieved fully confirm the Department's anticipations regarding improvements in public service and economies in changing over from the manual to the automatic system. The programme of conversion is being carried a stage further by the installation of new automatic equipment at Jeppe, Turffontein, Orange Grove and Germiston which will be brought into operation early in the new year. The following statement indicates approximately the number of lines which the new Exchanges will serve:—

	Number of Lines to be Connected on Opening.	Number of Lines for which Equipment has been Installed.	Number of Lines to be Accommodated Ultimately.
Jeppe	1,900	2,650	3,800
Turffontein	900	1,700	2,800
Orange Grove	800	1,600	3,150
Germiston	950	1,250	1,550

During the year a good deal of preliminary work was done in regard to the design and manufacture of equipment for the conversion of the Johannesburg central exchange to automatic working, and the installation will be put in hand as soon as the construction of the new Central Post Office building has progressed sufficiently to permit of this being done.

Cape Peninsula Telephone System: Conversion of to Automatic Working.

The installation work in connection with the automatic exchange system in the Cape Peninsula is progressing favourably and the new exchanges will be brought into operation during December, 1933. The date of the change would have been some months earlier except for an unfortunate delay in connection with the Rondebosch building. The number of lines which they will serve is approximately as follows:—

	Number of Lines to be Connected on Opening.	Number of Lines for which Equipment is being Installed Initially.	Number of Lines to be Accommodated Ultimately.
Capetown Central	5,800	9,000	15,000
Sea Point	1,900	3,500	6,200
Woodstock	1,200	2,400	4,800
Rondebosch	1,700	3,000	5,200

In conjunction with the automatic exchange system, new trunk switching equipment is to be installed at Capetown. This equipment has many novel and interesting features, designed with the object of improving the service given to the public and reducing operating costs. When it is brought into use the "Demand" system of trunk operating will be introduced throughout the Western District. This innovation will result in a considerable proportion of trunk calls being put through "on demand"—that is to say the calls will be built up and completed immediately they are asked for by the caller.

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Die outomatiese telefoonstelsel word op die oomblik oor die hele Kaapse Skiereiland geïnstalleer en in afwagting van die voltooiing van die ingenieurswerk in Desember 1933, is dit besluit om die ,, enkele oproep.''-tarief binne daardie telefoonnet vanaf 1 Januarie 1934 toe te pas.

Witwatersrandse Telefoonstelsel: Omsetting na Outomatiese Werking.

Die ses outomatiese sentrales in die Witwatersrandse stelsel wat teen die einde van die laaste finansiële jaar geïnstalleer is, werk op 'n baie bevredigende wyse en die resultate tot dusver bevestig die verwagtings van die Departement in verband met verbeterings in publieke diens en besuinigings in die omsetting van die hand- na die outomatiese stelsel. Die program van omsetting gaan 'n stap verder deur die installasie van nuwe outomatiese uitrusting—wat vroeg in die nuwe jaar in werking gebring sal word—op Jeppe, Turffontein, Orange Grove en Germiston. Die volgende staat dui min of meer die aantal lyne aan wat die nuwe sentrales sal bedien:—

	Getal lyne wat met die opening aangesluit moet word.	Getal lyne waarvoor daar uitrusting geïnstalleer is.	Getal lyne waarvoor uiteindelik voorsiening gemaak kan word.
Jeppe	1,900	2,650	3,800
Turffontein	900	1,700	2,800
Orange Grove	800	1,600	3,150
Germiston	950	1,250	1,550

Gedurende die jaar is heelwat voorlopige werk verrig in verband met die ontwerp en vervaardiging van uitrusting vir die omsetting van die Johannesburgse hoofsentrale om outomaties te werk, en 'n aanvang sal met die installasie gemaak word so gou as die konstruksie van die nuwe hoofposkantoorgebou sover gevorder het om toe te laat dat dit gedoen kan word.

Kaapse Skiereiland Telefoonstelsel: Omsetting na Outomatiese Werking.

Die installasiewerk in verband met die outomatiese sentralestelsel in die Kaapse Skiereiland maak goeie vordering en die nuwe sentrales sal gedurende Desember 1933 in werking gebring word. Die datum van verandering sou 'n paar maande vroeër gewees het as dit nie vir 'n ongelukkige vertraging in verband met die Rondeboschgebou was nie. Die getal lyne wat hulle sal bedien is ongeveer as volg:—

	Getal lyne wat met die opening aangesluit moet word.	Getal lyne waarvoor voorlopig uitrusting geïnstalleer word.	Getal lyne waarvoor uiteindelik voorsiening gemaak kan word.
Kaapstad-sentrale	5,800	9,000	15,000
Seepunt	1,900	3,500	6,200
Woodstock	1,200	2,400	4,800
Rondebosch	1,700	3,000	5,200

In verband met die outomatiese sentralestelsel, sal nuwe skakeluitrusting vir hooflyne in Kaapstad geïnstalleer word. Hierdie uitrusting het baie nuwe interessante kenmerke, wat bestem is om die diens wat aan die publiek verskaf word, te verbeter en die bedryfskoste te verminder. Wanneer dit in werking gebring word, sal die ,, aanvraag ''-stelsel van hooflynwerking oor die hele Westelike Distrik ingevoer word. Hierdie nuwigheid sal as gevolg hê dat 'n aansienlike deel van hooflynoproepe ,, op aanvraag '' deurverbind word, d.w.s. die oproepe sal deurverbind en voltooi word onmiddellik wanneer hulle deur die oproeper gevra word.

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Union–Rhodesia Trunk Service.

Arrangements have been completed between the Administrations of the Union, Southern and Northern Rhodesia for the establishment of inter-territorial telephone trunk service. The erection of wires from either side to the border at Beit Bridge is nearing completion and the service will be available to the public early in 1934. On completion of the work a direct trunk between Johannesburg and Bulawayo will be available which will afford high-grade transmission between the territories. There can be no doubt that this facility will meet a considerable need, and that it will lead to closer commercial and social relations between the territories concerned.

Overseas Telephone Service.

Wireless telephony was first introduced to South Africa in February, 1932, when the service was made available to the public at Capetown, Port Elizabeth and a number of smaller centres in the Western Province as far North as De Aar. Overseas, the range of communication was restricted to England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

It is pleasing to record that since the original opening considerable extension of the service has taken place; the facility being now available in the Union to the following additional large centres:—Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Pietermaritzburg and Durban. These extensions have been rendered possible by the introduction of technical improvements in the Union telephone system which have resulted in speech of a very high grade over the long distance trunk lines.

Rapid strides have also been made overseas, and in addition to the countries with which service was opened initially, telephone users in South Africa are now able to communicate with the Irish Free State (Dublin only), most countries on the European Continent, Egypt, Canada, United States, Cuba, Mexico and certain specially equipped ships on the North Atlantic route.

Considerable use has been made of the service and during the share market boom which occurred in January and February there were 303 and 553 overseas calls respectively.

Facilities for Afrikaans-speaking Telephone Subscribers.

Facilities are being provided which will ensure that any subscriber connected to an automatic exchange in the Witwatersrand system and who desires a call to a manual exchange or to one or other of the special services (i.e. Records, Enquiries, etc.), shall be answered by the operator in Afrikaans should he so desire. In such circumstances the subscriber will dial the special "code" for the particular exchange or special service which he requires, and this will give the indication to the operator by means of a coloured light. The operator will thus be able to identify the language preference of the caller before she answers the call, and will be able to use the language required by the caller in doing so.

"Ideal Homes" Exhibition, London.

At the request of the British Post Office, the Overseas Communications Co. and this Administration co-operated in an Overseas Telephony publicity demonstration in connection with the Ideal Homes Exhibition, London, between the 5th and 30th April, 1932. The use of a high quality microphone was obtained by the courtesy of the African Broadcasting Company, and the opening trials took place on the 5th April shortly after 4.30 p.m. These were confined to officials of the British Post Office, the Overseas Co. and this Administration. On the 7th, a talk between the Earl of Athlone and the Mayor of Capetown was arranged. It is understood that the British Post Office made a sound film of a conversation between officials depicting a telephone call being put through to South Africa. On the 28th April eight individuals were introduced to the service at London between 1.30 p.m. and 2.15 p.m.

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Unie-Rhodesië Hooflyndiens.

Reëlings is voltooi tussen die Administrasies van die Unie en Suid- en Noord-Rhodesië vir die daarstelling van interterritoriale hooflyntelefoondiens. Die aanlê van drade van beide kante na die grens by Beit Bridge is byna voltooi en die diens sal vroeg in 1934 vir die publiek beskikbaar wees. Wanneer die werk voltooi is, sal tussen Johannesburg en Bulawayo 'n direkte hooflyn beskikbaar wees wat 'n diens van hoë gehalte tussen die gebiede sal verskaf. Daar is geen twyfel dat hierdie fasiliteit in aansienlike behoeftes sal voorsien en dat dit tot intieme handels- en maatskaplike betrekkinge tussen die betrokke gebiede sal strek.

Oorseese Telefoondiens.

Draadloostelefoondiens was eers in Februarie 1932 in Suid-Afrika ingevoer en toe was die diens vir die publiek in Kaapstad, Port Elizabeth en 'n aantal kleiner plekkies in die Westelike Provinsie tot by De Aar in die Noorde, beskikbaar gestel. Die gesprekkring oorsee was beperk tot Engeland, Skotland, Wallis, Noord-Ierland en die Eiland van Man.

Met genoeë kan geboekstaaf word dat aansienlike uitbreiding van die diens sedert die oorspronklike opening plaasgevind het; die fasiliteit is nou in die Unie na die volgende addisionele groot plekke beskikbaar: Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Pietermaritzburg en Durban. Hierdie uitbreidings is moontlik gemaak omdat daar in die Unie-telefoonstelsel tegniese verbeterings ingevoer is, wat as gevolg het dat gesprekke oor langafstandhooflyne baie duidelik gehoor kan word.

In oorseese lande is ook groot vooruitgang gemaak, en benewens die lande waarmee die diens voorlopig geopen is, is telefoongebruikers in Suid-Afrika nou in staat om gesprekke te voer met die Ierse Vrystaat (alleenlik Dublin), meeste lande in Europa, Egipte, Kanada, Verenigde State, Cuba, Mexico en sekere spesiale uitgeruste skepe op die Noord-Atlantiese roete.

Daar word op 'n groot skaal van die diens gebruik gemaak, en gedurende die styging in die aandelemark, wat in Januarie en Februarie plaasgevind het, was daar respektiewelik 303 en 553 oorseese gesprekke.

Fasiliteite vir Afrikaanssprekende Telefoonhuurders.

Voorsiening word gemaak vir fasiliteite wat sal verseker dat 'n huurder wat op 'n outomatiese sentrale in die Witwatersrandse stelsel aangesluit is en 'n oproep na 'n handsentrale of na een of ander van die spesiale dienste (d.i. rekords, navrae, ens.) verlang, deur die telefoniste in Afrikaans aangespreek sal word indien hy sulks verlang. Onder sodanige omstandighede moet die huurder die spesiale ,, kode '' skakel vir die besondere sentrale of spesiale diens wat hy verlang, en dit sal deur middel van 'n gekleurde lig aan die telefoniste die aanduiding gee. Die telefoniste sal sodoende in staat wees om te verneem watter taal die oproeper gaan besig voordat sy die oproep antwoord, en sal dus in staat wees om die oproeper in die taal wat verlang word, te antwoord.

,, Ideal Homes ''-tentoonstelling, Londen.

Op versoek van die Britse Poskantoor, het die ,, Overseas Communications Co.'' en hierdie Administrasie saamgewerk in 'n oorseese telefoniepublisiteitsdemonstrasie in verband met die ,, Ideal Homes ''-tentoonstelling, Londen, tussen 5 en 30 April 1932. 'n Mikrofoon van 'n goeie kwaliteit, deur die welwillendheid van die ,, African Broadcasting Company '' verskaf, was gebruik. Proefnemings vir die opening het op 5 April, kort na 4.30 n.m. plaasgevind. Hierdie proefnemings was beperk tot amptenare van die Britse Poskantoor, die ,, Overseas Co.'' en hierdie Administrasie. Op die 7de was reëlings getref vir 'n gesprek tussen die Graaf van Athlone en die Burgemeester van Kaapstad. Dit word verstaan dat die Britse Poskantoor 'n kiankrolprent gemaak het van 'n gesprek tussen amptenare, waardeur 'n oproep wat na Suid-Afrika gemaak is, voorgestel word. Op 28 April tussen 1.30 n.m. en 2.15 n.m. was die diens vir agt persone in Londen gedemonstreer.

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The object of the demonstration was of course to give publicity to the facility and this, to a certain extent, doubtless it did.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH AND RADIOTELEGRAPH CONFERENCES OF MADRID, 1932.

During the period 3rd September to 10th December, 1932, dual Conferences covering Telegraph and Radiotelegraph were held in Madrid. Meetings were arranged simultaneously and in some instances jointly to consider the International Telegraph Convention of St. Petersburg, 1875, and the International Radiotelegraph Convention of Washington, 1927, together with the relative regulations annexed thereto. Eighty countries were represented by 387 Government delegates, in addition to which there were 284 official delegates connected with operating companies, shipping interests and other institutions concerned in communication matters. Broadcasting interests, amateur radio experimenters, the League of Nations, and the International Chamber of Commerce were also represented—the total number of persons attending the two Conferences being 671.

The major results of the Conferences were as follows:—

Combined Convention.—A combined convention entitled the "International Telecommunication Convention of Madrid, 1932", was established covering telegraph, telephone and radio services, including broadcasting and other forms of radiocommunication. The Convention is binding on any particular Government only in regard to those services which are covered by regulations adopted by that Government. There are altogether three sets of regulations annexed to the Convention, viz., telegraph, telephone and radiocommunication, the signing of only one set of which is made obligatory. The Radiocommunication Regulations are divided into two parts—"General" and "Additional"—the adoption of the latter not being compulsory on Governments signing the former only. This, as in the case of the regulations annexed to the International Radiotelegraph Convention of Washington, 1927, was necessitated owing to the United States of America and Canada being able to sign only the General Radiocommunication Regulations due to the fact that in those countries the respective Governments do not operate the international communication services.

Language.—An article was incorporated in the Madrid Convention providing for the admission of the French and English languages in the discussions at Conferences. This is the first occasion in which any language other than French has been officially recognized. Speeches delivered in French will be immediately translated into English, and *vice versa*, by interpreters of the Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union.

Urgent Private Telegrams.—The tariff for Urgent private telegrams was reduced from three times the Ordinary rate to twice the Ordinary rate.

Urgent Press Telegrams.—Provision was made for the acceptance of Urgent Press telegrams at the rate applicable for Ordinary private telegrams.

Deferred Telegrams.—The rule regarding the restriction in the number of figure groups permitted in the text of Deferred telegrams was relaxed in that it no longer applies to figures written in words. Deferred telegrams, which must continue to be expressed wholly in plain language, may now be written in one and the same language chosen from amongst any of the languages admitted for plain language, the single paid service indication LC being adopted in the address instead of the three indications LCO, LCD or LCF according to whether the text of the telegram was written in the language of the country of origin, the language of the country of destination, or in French.

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Die doel van die demonstrasie was natuurlik om die fasiliteit onder aandag van die publiek te bring en dit was ongetwyfeld tot 'n sekere mate suksesvol.

INTERNASIONALE TELEGRAAF- EN RADIOTELEGRAAFKONFERENSIES VAN MADRID, 1932.

Twee konferensies in verband met telegraaf en radiotelegraaf was gedurende die tydperk 5 September tot 10 Desember 1932 in Madrid gehou. Vergaderings was gelyktydig, en in sommige gevalle gesamentlik, gereël om die Internasionale Telegraafverdrag van St. Petersburg, 1875, en die Internasionale Radiotelegraafverdrag van Washington, 1927, saam met die betrokke regulasies wat daaraan geheg is, in oorweging te neem. Tagtig lande was deur 387 Regeringsafgevaardigdes verteenwoordig. Daarenbowe was daar 284 offisiële afgevaardigdes wat werksmaatskappye, skeepvaartbelange en ander inrigtings betreffende verkeersake verteenwoordig het. Uitsaaibelange, amateur-radioproefnemers, die Volkebond en die Internasionale Kamer van Koophandel was ook verteenwoordig. Die totale getal persone wat die twee konferensies bygewoon het was 671.

Die vernaamste resultate van die konferensies was as volg:—

Gesamentlike Verdrag.—'n Gesamentlike verdrag, getiteld die „ International Telecommunication Convention of Madrid, 1932 ", was aangeneem en het betrekking op telegraaf-, telefoon- en radiodienste, met inbegrip van uitsaaidienste en ander soorte radioverkeer. Die verdrag is alleen bindend op enige besondere Regering ten opsigte van daardie dienste waarop die regulasies wat sodanige Regering aangeneem het van toepassing is. Daar is altesame drie stelle van regulasies by die verdrag, nl. telegraaf-, telefoon- en radioverkeer en dit word vereis dat slegs een stel deur 'n handtekening bekragtig moet word. Die regulasies ten opsigte van radioverkeer is in twee dele verdeel—„ algemeen " en „ addisioneel "; Regerings wat eersgenoemde onderteken het is nie verplig om laasgenoemde te aanvaar nie. Soos in die geval van die regulasies wat as 'n bylae tot die Internasionale Radio-telegraafverdrag van Washington, 1927, behoort, was hierdie reëling noodsaaklik weens die feit dat die Verenigde State van Amerika en Kanada slegs in staat is om die algemene regulasies ten opsigte van radioverkeer te onderteken, aangesien die betrokke Regerings in daardie lande nie gebruik maak van die internasionale verkeersdienste nie.

Taal.—'n Artikel was by die Verdrag van Madrid ingelyf wat voorsiening maak vir die toelating van die Franse en Engelse tale in diskussies by die konferensies. Dit is die eerste keer dat enige taal anders as Frans, offisieel erken is. Redevoerings in Frans sal onmiddellik deur vertolkers van die „ Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union " in Engels vertaal word, of andersom na gelang van die geval.

Dringende Privaattelegramme.—Die tarief vir dringende privaattelegramme was van driemaal die gewone tarief na tweemaal die gewone tarief verlaag.

Dringende Perstelegramme.—Voorsiening was gemaak vir die aanname van dringende perstelegramme teen die tarief wat op gewone privaattelegramme van toepassing is.

Uitgestelde Telegramme.—Die reël betreffende die restriksie in die getal syfergroepe wat in die inhoud van uitgestelde telegramme toegelaat word, hoef in soverre dit betrekking het op syfers wat in woorde geskryf is, nie meer nagekom te word nie. Uitgestelde telegramme, wat nog soos voorheen geheel en al in gewone taal uitgedruk moes word, kan nou in een en dieselfde taal geskryf word wat gekies is van enige van die tale wat as gewone taal toegelaat word; die enkele betaalde diensaanwysing LC moet in die adres opgeneem word, i.p.v. die drie aanwysings LCO, LCD of LCF na gelang die inhoud van die telegram òf in die taal van die land van herkoms òf in die taal van die land van bestemming òf in Frans geskryf was.

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Letter Telegrams.—The Weekend Letter Telegram (WLT) Service in the Extra-European System which had been introduced by special agreement between Telegraph Administrations and operating companies interested was cancelled and substituted by a regularised Letter Telegram Service based on a tariff of one-third the per word rate for Ordinary telegrams, subject to a minimum collection equal to 25 words. Two classes of letter telegrams were authorized in the Extra-European System, viz., Daily Letter Telegrams and Night Letter Telegrams, according to whether delivery of this class of telegram is to be effected on the morning of the second day after handing-in or on the morning following the day of handing-in. The Union of South Africa terminal or transit rate on these messages remains one-half the terminal or transit rate charged for Ordinary telegrams.

Code Telegrams.—The new Code Regulations introduced at the Madrid Telegraph Conference will broadly have the following effect:—

(1) The cancellation of the existing 10-letter Code rules.

(2) The admission of 5-letter code words only.

(3) The 5-letter code words will not be subject to any restriction regarding the use of vowels.

(4) The tariff for private code telegrams will be 60 per cent. of the charge for Ordinary telegrams and the tariff for Government Code telegrams 60 per cent. of the quoted Government rate.

(5) Code telegrams will be subject to a minimum charge for five words inclusive of the signature.

(6) Figure groups in code telegrams must not exceed one-half the number of chargeable words contained in the text and signature.

(7) In a mixed telegram of which the text contains both plain language words and code words, the plain language words are counted on the basis of five letters to the word.

(8) The counting of words contained in the address and signature will continue as at present, viz., word groups at 15 letters and figure groups at 5 figures to the word.

Telephones.—The Telephone Regulations are in the main applicable only to countries within the European System, the Extra-European links, whether operated by wire or wireless, being left to be controlled by special arrangements in each case.

Radiocommunication.—No major alterations were made in the wavelengths allotted to the various services, except that scope was given by means of regional arrangement for countries to organize and develop their own radio services provided that interference with other countries does not result.

The question of the allotment of radio wavelengths for broadcasting in Europe and also of the limitation of the power of European broadcasting stations formed the subject of considerable debate. Increased demands were made in the above connection by several European countries, which made it exceedingly difficult to provide all the facilities required for essential services of public communication, shipping, aviation and radio beacons in such a way as to protect these services from interference. It was not possible to find a solution to the matter and a further special European Conference to deal with broadcasting allotments amongst European countries within the general limits laid down at the Madrid Radio Conference was arranged, the meeting to take place not later than the 1st June, 1933.

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Brieftelegramme.—Die naweekbrieftelegramdiens (WLT) in die buite-Europese stelsel wat ingevoer was as gevolg van 'n spesiale ooreenkoms tussen telegraafadministrasies en belanghebbende werksmaatskappye was gekanselleer en vervang deur 'n gereelde brieftelegramdiens gebaseer op 'n tarief van een-derde die „ per woord "-tarief vir gewone telegramme, onderworpe aan 'n minimum koste gelykstaande met 25 woorde. Twee soorte brieftelegramme was in die buite-Europese stelsel toegelaat, nl. daelikse brieftelegramme en nagbrieftelegramme, na gelang die aflewering van hierdie soort telegram òf op die môre van die tweede dag na inhandiging geskied, òf op die môre na die dag van inhandiging. Die eindpunt- of deursendingstarief ten opsigte van die Unie van Suid-Afrika op hierdie telegramme bly een-helfte die eindpunt- of deursendingstarief wat vir gewone telegramme gevorder word.

Geheimskriftelegramme.—Die nuwe geheimskrifregulasies wat in Madrid met die Telegraafkonferensie ingevoer is, sal min of meer die volgende uitwerking hê:—

(1) Die kansellering van die bestaande regulasies ten opsigte van geheimskrif in 10 lettergroepe.

(2) Die toelating van geheimskrifwoorde van slegs 5 letters.

(3) Die geheimskrifwoorde van 5 letters sal nie aan enige restriksie betreffende die gebruik van klinkers onderworpe wees nie.

(4) Die tarief van privaatgeheimskriftelegramme sal 60 persent van die koste vir gewone telegramme wees en die tarief vir Staatsgeheimskriftelegramme 60 persent van die gekwoteerde Staatstarief.

(5) Geheimskriftelegramme sal aan 'n minimum koste gelykstaande met dié vir vyf woorde met inbegrip van die handtekening, onderworpe wees.

(6) Syfergroepe in geheimskriftelegramme moet nie meer wees nie as die helfte van die getal betaalbare woorde wat in die inhoud met inbegrip van die handtekening, bevat is.

(7) In 'n telegram waarvan die inhoud uit woorde in gewone taal en geheimskrif bestaan, word die gewone taal op die basis van vyf letters per woord getel.

(8) Woorde wat in die adres en handtekening voorkom moet soos voorheen getel word, nl. woordgroepe teen 15 letters en syfergroepe teen 5 syfers per woord.

Telefoondiens.—Die telefoon regulasies is hoofsaaklik slegs van toepassing op lande binne die Europese stelsel, maar die buite-Europese skakels, òf die diens bywyse van draad òf draadloos geskied, word oorgelaat om deur spesiale reëlings vir elke besondere geval gekontroleer te word.

Radiokommunikasie.—Daar is geen belangrike veranderings gemaak in die golflengtes wat aan die verskillende dienste toegeken is nie. behalwe dat aan verskillende lande deur streekafbakening ruimte verleen is om hul eie radiodienste te organiseer en uit te brei mits dit nie met dié van ander lande bots nie. Vraagstukke wat betref die toekenning van radiogolflengtes vir uitsaaidienste in Europa asook die beperking van die krag van Europese uitsaaistasies het die onderwerp gevorm van 'n breedvoerige bespreking. Verskeie Europese lande het in hierdie verband hoër eise gestel en gevolglik was dit uiters moeilik om die fasiliteite wat vir noodsaaklike dienste soos openbare kommunikasie, skeepvaart-, lugvaart- en radiorigtingstasies nodig is, op sodanige wyse te verskaf dat die dienste teen storings gevrywaar kan wees. Dit was nie moontlik om 'n oplossing van die saak te vind nie en dit was nodig om 'n verdere buitengewone Europese konferensie te belê om uitsaaitoekennings tussen die Europese lande, binne die algemene perke wat neergelê is by die Radiokonferensie in Madrid, te behandel. Die vergadering moet nie later as 1 Junie 1935 gehou word nie.

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Amateur Radio Experimenters.—The Madrid Conference devoted a good deal of time to the position of and representations made by amateur radio experimenters. Generally it was agreed that in interests of further development they should be allowed reasonable facilities, it being recognized that in the past important contributions to the science of radiocommunication had been made by amateurs. Having regard, however, to the necessities of essential services it was not found possible appreciably to extend the range permitted to them, but nevertheless they were not subjected to any curtailment of scope. In the course of the discussions the question of amateurs being allowed to send messages for third parties between amateur stations in different countries came under notice and the Conference emphatically and unanimously decided that no such arrangement should be permitted.

The Conference besides dealing with the several matters specially mentioned above made a thorough and detailed review of the whole of the international telegraph, telephone and radio relations and practice, and the International Telecommunication Union adopted numerous improvements of an internal character which will make these services even more efficient and valuable than they already are. The Conference successfully performed a large amount of most valuable work for the benefit of Government, commercial and private relations between all the nations of the world.

The changes involved as a result of the Madrid Conferences will operate from the 1st January, 1934, except as regards Urgent Private Telegrams, Deferred Telegrams and Letter Telegrams, the new regulations in respect of which take effect from the 1st April, 1933.

Post Office—Railways (Electrical Communications) Commission.

This Commission was appointed during the year to examine the relations between the Post Office and Railway Administration in the matter of telegraphs and telephones, with special reference to the necessity or otherwise of maintaining and operating two separate systems of electrical communication. After taking evidence and examining the position the Commission reported that it is necessary to maintain and operate on behalf of the Post Office and Railway, respectively, two separate telegraph and telephone systems. The Commissioners found further that while there may not have been in the past any serious cases of over-lapping, either of effort or expenditure, conditions were present that might contribute to both of these undesirable and uneconomical features.

The Commissioners considered that the principle of inter-departmental co-operation, based on clear mutual understanding, should be developed to the highest possible degree, and with this object in view recommended that an inter-departmental committee of technical officers—an engineering and a traffic officer from each Administration—should be constituted. This committee has been appointed and its function will be to put forward recommendations for the greatest measure of common use of the construction, maintenance, operating and supervisory staffs, as well as of the plant and apparatus, of both Departments.

Telegrams to Connect with Northbound Airmails.

The facility which exists for the connection of telegrams with the outgoing airmails from Johannesburg was extended from the 1st May to enable telegrams to connect with the Northbound Airmails at Salisbury (Southern Rhodesia).

Parliamentary Press Telegrams.

From 1st November arrangements were made for the "parliamentary press" rate to be extended to include press telegrams bearing directly on the affairs of the South West Africa Legislative Assembly.

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Amateur-radioproefnemers.—Die Madridse Konferensie het heelwat tyd gewy aan die bespreking van die posisie van amateur-radioproefnemers en die vertoë deur hulle gemaak. Daar was in die algemeen ooreengekom dat in belang van verdere ontwikkeling hulle redelike fasiliteite toegestaan moet word aangesien dit besef word dat deur die samewerking van amatuers in die verlede, belangrike bydraes tot die wetenskap van radiokommunikasie gemaak is. Aangesien die noodsaaklikheid vir essensiële dienste egter nie uit die oog verloor kon word nie, was dit nie moontlik om die perke wat aan hulle toegelaat word, aanmerklik uit te brei nie, maar desnieteenstaande was hulle ook nie aan inkorting onderworpe nie. Gedurende die besprekings het die vraag ontstaan of amateurs toegelaat kan word om boodskappe ten opsigte van derde persone tussen amateurstasies in verskillende lande te sein en die konferensie het nadruklik en eenparig besluit dat sodanige reëlings nie toegelaat moet word nie.

Benewens die sake spesiaal hierbo genoem, het die konferensie die verhouding en werking van die internasionale telegraaf-, telefoon- en radiokommunikasie as 'n geheel in noukeurige hersiening geneem en die ,, International Telecommunication Union " het 'n groot aantal verbeterings van 'n inwendige aard aangeneem wat hierdie dienste meer doeltreffend en waardevol sal maak as wat hulle reeds is. Baie nuttige werk is ten voordele van die verhouding tussen Regerings, tussen handels- en privaatbelange van al die nasies van die wêreld met welslae verrig.

Met uitsondering van dringende privaattelegramme, uitgestelde telegramme en brieftelegramme, ten opsigte waarvan die nuwe regulasies met ingang van 1 April 1933 in werking tree, sal die veranderings as gevolg van die konferensies in Madrid vanaf 1 Januarie 1934 van toepassing wees.

Poskantoor—Spoorweë-kommissie Insake Elektriese Kommunikasies.

Gedurende die jaar is hierdie kommissie benoem om die verhouding tussen die Poskantoor en die Spoorweg insake telegraaf- en telefoondienste te ondersoek, veral wat betref die noodsaaklikheid of andersins van die instandhouding en werking van twee aparte stelsels van elektriese kommunikasie. Die kommissie het die posisie ondersoek en getuies ondervra en daarna gerapporteer dat die instandhouding en werking van twee aparte telegraaf- en telefoonstelsels ten opsigte, onderskeidelik, van die Poskantoor en Spoorweg, noodsaaklik is. Verder is dit deur die kommissie bevind dat alhoewel daar in die verlede nie juis ernstige gevalle van verdubbeling gewees het nie, hetsy van werk of uitgawes, daar sekerlik omstandighede bestaan wat mag bydra tot albei hierdie ongewenste en oneekonomiese verskynsels.

Die kommissie was van mening dat die grondbeginsel van interdepartementele samewerking, op 'n suiwer basis van onderlinge verstandhouding tot die hoogste graad ontwikkel moet word, en met hierdie doel voor oë het hulle aanbeveel dat 'n interdepartementele komitee van tegniese beamptes—'n werktuigkundige en 'n verkeersbeampte van elke Administrasie—in die lewe geroep word. Hierdie komitee is saamgestel, en sy plig sal wees om aanbevelings te maak vir die grootste mate van gesamentlike gebruik van die konstruksie, onderhouds-, bedienings- en toesighoudende personeel, asook van die materiaal en apparaat van albei departemente.

Telegramme vir Aansluiting by Noordwaartse Lugposte.

Vanaf 1 Mei is die bestaande fasiliteite vir die aansluiting van telegramme by lugposte in Johannesburg in werking gebring sodat hulle in Salisbury (Suid-Rhodesië) by die Noordwaartse lugposte kan aansluit.

Parlementêre Perstelegramme.

Reëlings is getref waarby perstelegramme wat in regstreekse verhouding staan met aangeleenthede van die Wetgewende Raad van Suidwes-Afrika vanaf 1 November onder die pe[illegible]gramtarief inbegryp word.

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Telegrams for Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda.

From 1st August it was arranged for telegrams for transmission by the Overland route to Tanganyika and Kenya and Uganda to be accepted on a per word basis.

RADIO SERVICES.

Slangkop Radio.

The work of rehabilitation and erection of a new aerial array was commenced on the 3rd May and completed on 15th June during which period the Maritime services were carried out at Maitland Aero to which point the coast station staff had been transferred for the purpose. Maitland Aero observed continuous attendance and performed the services satisfactorily.

Coastal Radiotelegram Service.

The existing service whereby radiotelegrams are accepted at special rates when addressed to or handed in at telegraph offices and exchanged between Union Coast Stations and vessels coasting between Capetown and Durban in either direction was extended to embrace vessels of Ellerman's City and Hall Lines as from 1st January.

Broadcasting Advisory Committee.

During the year a Broadcasting Advisory Committee was constituted for the purpose of investigating matters in connection with broadcasting and formulating recommendations in connection therewith. The Committee is intended to act as an intermediary between the Government of the various interests concerned in Broadcasting—the African Broadcasting Coy., the listeners, the trade, the press, and so on and to advise the Government on the various points of difficulty that arise in the inter-relations of these interests.

SAVINGS BANK.

The year is noted for the fact that during it the Savings Bank passed out of the depression of the past few years. In the period from June, 1929 to July, 1932, the withdrawals from investments exceeded the deposits by £760,000. From August, 1932, to the 31st March, 1933, however, the deposits for investment exceeded the withdrawals by £438,500.

In 1932-1933 for the first time since 1918-1919 the total amount paid in by depositors (excluding accrued interest added to accounts) exceeded the amount repaid to them, the excess being £337,836.

At the 31st March, 933, the balance due to depositors amounted to £7,361,919, the highest since 1918-1919, and an increase of £601,411 on that at the end of the preceding year. The balance represents an average amount to the credit of each depositor of £13. 8s. 9d. as compared with an average of £13. 1s. 6d. at the 31st March, 1932.

The number of open accounts at the end of the year was 491,111 which was an increase of 29,769 on the number at the end of the preceding year.

Friday Evening Facilities at Certain Offices.—The facility whereby deposits are accepted and Union Loan Certificates sold on Friday evenings was continued during the year at the Capetown, Claremont, Observatory, Salt River, Woodstock, and Durban offices. At the Cape offices 3,348 deposits of the value of £11,667 were accepted and £322. 8s. worth of Union Loan Certificates sold. 399 deposits of the value of £2,023 were paid in at the Durban office.

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Telegramme na Tanganyika, Kenya en Uganda.

Reëlings is vanaf 1 Augustus getref waarby telegramme vir versending deur middel van die oorlandse roete na Tanganyika, Kenya en Uganda, op 'n per-woord-basis aangeneem moet word.

RADIODIENSTE.

Slangkop-radio.

Herstelwerk aan die stasie en daarstelling van nuwe opvangdrade het van 3 Mei tot 15 Junie geduur, en gedurende hierdie tyd was die kusdiens op Maitland-aero verrig deur die personeel van die kusstasie wat vir die doel daarheen verplaas is. Ononderbroke diensure is op Maitland-aero waargeneem en bevredigende dienste is gelewer.

Kus-radiotelegramdiens.

Die bestaande diens waardeur radiotelegramme wat aan 'n telegraafkantoor geadresseer of by so'n kantoor vir oorseining na 'n skip wat heen en weer tussen Kaapstad en Durban vaar, teen buitengewone tariewe aangeneem kan word, is uitgebrei om vanaf 1 Januarie ook die ,, Ellerman's City en Hall "-linies in te sluit.

Adviserende Komitee vir Uitsaaidienste.

Gedurende die jaar is 'n adviserende komitee vir uitsaaidienste gestig wat die ondersoek van sake betreffende uitsaaidienste as oogmerk sal hê, en om aanbevelings in verband daarmee te formuleer. Die doel is dat die komitee as bemiddelaar sal optree tussen die Goewerment en die verskillende liggame wat in die uitsaaidienste belang het, nl. ,, The African Broadcasting Co.", die inluisteraars, die handelaars, die pers, ens., en om die Goewerment van advies te dien insake verskilpunte wat uit hierdie aangeleenthede ontstaan.

SPAARBANK.

Die jaar kan aangemerk word as die jaar waarin die spaarbank die gedruktheid van die afgelope paar jare afgewerp het. Gedurende die tydperk Junie 1929 tot Julie 1932, het die opvragings ten opsigte van beleggings die inlaes met £760,000 oorskry. Vanaf Augustus 1932 tot 31 Maart 1933, het die inlaes vir belegging egter die opvragings met £438,500 oorskry.

In 1932-1933 het die totale bedrag wat inlêers inbetaal het (met uitsondering van opgelope rente wat by rekenings gevoeg was) vir die eerste keer sedert 1918-1919 die bedrag aan hulle terugbetaal, oorskry. Die oorskryding het £337,836 bedra.

Op 31 Maart 1933 het die balans ten gunste van inlêers £7,361,919 bedra, d.w.s. die hoogste sedert 1918-1919 en 'n styging van £601,411 vanaf die einde van die vorige jaar. Die balans toon aan 'n gemiddelde bedrag van £13. 8s. 9d. ten gunste van elke inlêer in vergelyking met die gemiddelde bedrag van £13. 1s. 6d. op 31 Maart 1932.

Aan die einde van die jaar was die getal ope rekenings 491,111, d.w.s. 'n vermeerdering van 29,769 vanaf die einde van die vorige jaar.

Fasiliteite op Vrydagaand by Sekere Kantore.—Gedurende die jaar is volgehou met die fasiliteite wat op Vrydagaande by Kaapstad, Claremont, Woodstock, Soutrivier en Durban beskikbaar is vir die ontvangs van inlaes in die spaarbank en die verkoop van Unieleningsertifikate. 3,348 Geldstortings by die Kaapse kantore het £11,667 bedra, en Unieleningsertifikate ter waarde van £322. 8s. is verkoop. 399 Inlaes, ten bedrae van £2,023 is by die poskantoor op Durban inbetaal.

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Native Depositors.—There are clear indications that the prejudice which exists in the native mind against the Savings Bank is gradually giving way before the persistent efforts made by the Department to encourage natives to save their money and become depositors. At the 31st March, 1933, there were 65,149 native depositors with £495,067 to their credit, an increase of 5,785 and £24,930 respectively, as compared with the position at the 31st March, 1932.

On the 1st February, 1932, an officer possessing the experience and qualifications necessary for the purpose was appointed to visit native compounds, locations, etc., to address the natives on the virtue of thrift, and, in consultation with the European supervisors, to devise means and carry out plans whereby the habit of saving among natives could best be encouraged. The campaign was carried on until the end of September. It was conducted mainly in the Johannesburg area among the large numbers of natives employed by the Municipality. Although it may be argued that a time of depression is not the most favourable to conduct a movement of this kind, yet such a time is not altogether inopportune as people become more careful and more anxious to provide a margin between income and expenditure in periods of economic stress than in prosperity.

Although the services of the Native canvasser terminated in September the results of his efforts were reflected in the increase in the number of accounts opened by natives at the end of the year under review, and the amount standing to their credit. At two of the Johannesburg Municipal native compounds and at the Mines compounds at Brakpan officers of the Department attend on pay-days to accept deposits. Pamphlets in the native languages are handed to the natives with their pay, and posters are exhibited in the compounds and at other places of vantage. Due to the keenness of these officers and the interest aroused by the distribution of literature there was a gain of a considerable number of new depositors during January, February, and March, 1933. At Brakpan alone 282 new native accounts were opened during that period.

Railway Native Compounds.—The collection of deposits on pay-days by officers of the Department at the Pretoria and Point, Natal, railway compounds was continued. The facility has been in operation for a number of years.

Pretoria Municipal Compound.—The Pretoria Municipality has a scheme whereby the pay of its native labourers who so desire is deferred and deposited in their names in the Savings Bank. The scheme is efficiently conducted by the Compound Manager who renders valuable assistance to the Department in making the experiment a success.

Publicity.—During the year the advantages offered by the Savings Bank were brought to general notice by the distribution of large numbers of attractive pamphlets throughout the country. Moreover, Postmasters and the staffs were specially encouraged to increase Savings Bank business in their localities. The results in general were very encouraging, there being at many places a substantial increase in both the numbers of depositors and the amounts deposited.

The Introduction of Thumb-prints.—In June, 1932, the thumb-print system was introduced for native depositors, mainly in order to make it easier for natives to establish their identity when requiring repayment at places where they are not known, and also as a precautionary measure against fraud. The system is primarily intended for illiterate natives, but literate natives also are encouraged to make use of it in their own interests. It is on a strictly voluntary basis, and the scruples of any native who objects to giving his thumb-print are respected. At first there was some disposition in isolated instances to resent the introduction of the scheme, but as it came to be realized that it was quite voluntary and had been adopted in the interests of natives themselves objections died away.

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Naturelle-inlêers.—Daar is duidelike aanduidings dat die vooroordeel wat in die gedagte van die naturel teen die Spaarbank bestaan, stadig oorwin word deur die voortdurende pogings van die Departement om hulle aan te moedig om geld te bespaar en spaarbankinlêers te word. Op 31 Maart 1933 was daar 65,149 inlêers ten oate van wie die saldo £495,067 was wat 'n vermeerdering, onderskeidelik van 5,785 en £24,930 in vergelyking met die posisie op 31 Maart 1932 aandui.

Op 1 Februarie 1932 is 'n amptenaar met die nodige ondervinding en opleiding aangestel om kafferlokasies, compounds, ens., te besoek en die naturelle oor die voordele van spaarsaamheid toe te spreek en om, in oorleg met die blanke opsigters, middele aan te wend en planne uit te voer wat die spaargewoonte by die naturelle sal aanmoedig. Die veldtog het tot aan die einde van September geduur en vernaamlik onder die groot aantal naturelie in die diens van die Johannesburgse Munisipaliteit. Alhoewel dit miskien aangevoer kan word dat 'n tyd van depressie 'n baie ongunstige tyd is om 'n beweging van die aard op tou te sit, is so'n tyd egter ook nie heeltemal ongeleë nie aangesien mense tydens skaarste aan geld sorgvuldiger te werk gaan en meer bewus word van die noodsaaklikheid om te bespaar as wat hulle in voorspoedige tye is.

Hoewel die dienste van die naturelle-werwer in September beëindig is, kan die resultaat van sy werk gesien word in die getal nuwe rekenings wat geopen is en ook die bedrag wat aan die einde van die jaar wat nou in oorsig geneem word, ten bate van naturelle aangeteken was. Geleentheid vir inlaes by twee van die munisipaliteits-compounds in Johannesburg en by die myn-compounds op Brakpan word op betaaldae verskaf deur die aanwesigheid aldaar van amptenare van die Departement. Saam met hulle gasies ontvang die naturelle ook handbiljette in die verskillende kaffertale en daar is aanplakbiljette in die compounds en op ander in-die-oogvallende plekke. Die doelbewuste inspanning wat hierdie amptenare aan die dag gelê het en die aandag wat getrek is deur die verspreiding van lektuur, het gedurende die maande Januarie, Februarie en Maart 1933 'n aansienlike vermeerdering in die aantal inlêers teweeggebring. In Brakpan alleen het die naturelle 282 nuwe rekenings in die tyd geopen.

Naturelle-compounds van die Spoorweë.—By die spoorweg-compounds in Pretoria en Point, Natal, is die invordering van inlaes op betaaldae deur amptenare voortgesit. Hierdie fasiliteit is al vir enige jare in werking.

Munisipaliteits-compound, Pretoria.—Die Pretoria-munisipaliteit het 'n stelsel waarby die lone van naturelle wat dit verlang, teruggehou en in hul name in die Spaarbank gestort word. Die skema word op bekwame wyse deur die compoundbestuurder waargeneem en hy dra baie daartoe by om die onderneming van die Departement deur die proefstadium te help.

Publisiteit.—Gedurende die jaar is die voordele wat die Spaarbank aanbied oor die hele land sterk onder aandag gebring deur die verspreiding van aantreklike biljette. Daarenbowe is posmeesters en die personeel spesiaal aangemoedig om spaarbanksake in hulle distrikte te bevorder. In die algemeen was die uitslae baie aanmoedigend en in 'n menigte plekke het nie net die aantal inlêers nie, maar ook die bedrae wat gestort is, baie vermeerder.

Duimafdrukstelsel Ingevoer.—In Junie 1932 is die duimafdrukstelsel vir naturelle-inlêers ingevoer. Die eintlike doel hiervan was om dit vir naturelle makliker te maak om hulle identiteit te bewys as hulle geld wil terugtrek op plekke waar hulle nie bekend is nie, en ook om hulle sover moontlik teen vervalsing te vrywaar. Hierdie stelsel is veral bedoel vir ongeletterde naturelle, maar geletterdes word ook aangemoedig om in hul eie belang daarvan gebruik te maak. Inlêers gee hul duimafdrukke vrywilliglik en die wat daarteen beswaar maak, word hoegenaamd nie gedwing om dit te doen nie. In die begin was daar 'n paar gevalle waar beswaar teen die stelsel gemaak is op grond dat dit 'n belediging is, maar namate dit bekend geword het dat niemand daartoe gedwing word nie en dat dit in belang van naturelle self ingevoer is, het besware verdwyn

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Payments on Demand.—The facility for payment on demand at any Savings Bank Post Office of sums up to £5 once in four days continues to grow in popularity. The number of payments made and the total amount paid during the year were 483,363 and £1,095,205 as compared with 426,804 and £970,849, respectively, during the preceding year, which represent increases of 56,559 and £124,356 respectively. There is evidence of a tendency on the part of many depositors to deposit money at the beginning of the month only to withdraw it on demand at intervals during the month.

Working Expenses.—The average cost per transaction of working the Bank during the year was 7d; in 1922-1923 it was 1s. 3d.

Investments.—The average rate of interest earned on the Bank's investments during the year was £3. 19s. 8d. per cent. per annum.

Reserve Fund.—The profit made on the working of the Bank during 1932-1933 amounted to £7,796; in addition, a profit of £2,396 was made by the Public Debt Commissioners on the realization of securities. Both sums, amounting to £10,192, were carried to the Reserve Fund, the total in which at the end of the year was £275,459.

The Fund was created to meet depreciation in or losses on realization of the Bank's investments. As experience has shown that such losses are unlikely to be considerable it has been suggested that a limit should be placed on the amount of the Fund, and that its scope should be broadened to permit of withdrawals to cover any deficiency in earnings on investments and to meet interest due to depositors and working expenses. This would enable the Fund to be utilized to stabilise the rates of interest allowed to depositors and avoid frequent changes to meet violent fluctuations on the money market.

Deposits Surrendered to Revenue.—Besides the profits carried to the Reserve Fund as mentioned above, during the year a sum of £13,939 was surrendered to the revenue of the Department, being the deposits in accounts which had not been operated upon for 15 years. Of that sum, £1,805 was claimed by depositors in the course of the year.

Rates of Interest.—The rates of interest on Savings Bank £100 Certificates and the Ordinary Account were reduced from 4 per cent. to 3½ per cent. and from 3½ per cent. to 3 per cent. per annum, respectively, as from the 1st April, 1933.

Savings Bank Certificates.—Owing to the low rate of interest (4 per cent.) allowed on these Certificates as compared with the rates obtainable on similar investments elsewhere, the balance in Certificates dropped from £1,284,800 in January, 1923, to £693,100 in December, 1932. With the freer circulation of money which followed the departure of the Union from the Gold Standard in that month the investments in Certificates went up to £697,900 at the end of January, to £716,000 at the end of February, and to £762,400 at the end of March, 1933.

Union Loan Certificates.—The amount invested in Certificaates was £1,855,269 as compared with £638,132 for 1931-1932 and the total of the principal repaid, £1,137,648, as against £730,344 repaid during the preceding year, resulting in an increase in the value of Certificates held by investors from £4,415,362 to £5,132,982, a difference of £717,620. The amount of the interest included in the repayments was £498,420.

The average rate of investments for the nine months from April to December, 1932, was £44,391. In January, 1933, however, the amount invested increased to £148,784, in February to £231,088, and in March to £1,075,873. The reasons for the increases mainly are—

(*a*) the return of money to the Union as a result of the country's departure from the Gold Standard;

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Uitbetalings op Aanvraag.—Die fasiliteit ten opsigte van uitbetaling op aanvraag by enige spaarbankposkantoor van bedrae tot £5 eenmaal elke vier dae neem nog steeds in populariteit toe. Die getal uitbetalings en die totale bedrag uitbetaal gedurende die jaar was respektiewelik 483,363 en £1,095,205, in vergelyking met 426,804 en £970,849 van die vorige jaar, d.w.s. vermeerderings van respektiewelik 56,559 en £124,356.

Bedryfskoste.—Die gemiddelde koste per transaksie ten opsigte van die bedryf van die Bank gedurende die jaar was 7d.; in 1922-1923 was dit 1s. 3d.

Beleggings.—Die gemiddelde rentekoers op die beleggings van die Bank gedurende die jaar was £3. 19s. 8d. per centum per jaar.

Reserwefonds.—Gedurende 1932-1933 het die winste in verband met die werking van die Bank £7,796 bedra. Hierbenewens was daar 'n wins van £2,396 gemaak by verkoping van sekuriteite deur die Staatskuld-kommissarisse. Albei somme ten bedrae van £10,192 was na die reserwefonds oorgedra, waarvan die totaal aan die einde van die jaar £275,459 was.

Die fonds was gestig ten einde waardevermindering en verliese ten opsigte van die realisering van die beleggings van die Bank te dek. Aangesien ondervinding getoon het dat sodanige verliese waarskynlik nie aansienlik sal wees nie, is dit aan die hand gegee dat die bedrag van die fonds beperk en dat meer geleentheid gegee moet word om terugvorderings toe te laat ten einde enige tekort aan inkomste op beleggings, rente aan inlêers verskuldig en bedryfskoste te dek. Sodoende sal die fonds gebruik kan word om die rentekoers wat aan inlêers betaal word, vas te stel en om herhaalde veranderings veroorsaak deur geweldige skommelings op die geldmark te voorkom. Die bestendigheid van die koerse sal tot voordeel van die populariteit van die Bank strek.

Inlaes na Inkomste Teruggestort.—Benewens die winste teruggestort na die reserwefonds soos hierbo aangetoon, was 'n bedrag van £13,939 gedurende die jaar na die inkomste van die Departement teruggestort. Hierdie bedrag het die inlaes bevat ten opsigte van rekenings waarin daar vir 15 jaar geen transaksies plaasgevind het nie. Van dié bedrag was £1,805 deur inlêers gedurende die loop van die jaar opgevra.

Rentekoerse.—Vanaf 1 April 1933 was die rentekoerse op spaarbanksertifikate (£100) en die gewone rekening respektiewelik van 4 persent tot 3½ persent en van 3½ persent tot 3 persent per jaar verlaag.

Spaarbanksertifikate.—Weens die lae rentekoers op hierdie sertifikate (4 persent) in vergelyking met die rente wat verkrygbaar is op dergelike ander beleggings, het die sertifikaatsaldo gestadiglik gedaal van £1,284,800 in Januarie 1923 tot £693,100 in Desember 1932. In daardie maand het die Unie egter van die goudstandaard afgestap, en het daar meer geld gesirkuleer, sodat beleggings in sertifikate aan die einde van Januarie £697,900, aan die einde van Februarie £716,000 en aan die einde van Maart £762,400 bedra het.

Unieleningsertifikate.—Die bedrag belê in sertifikate was £1,855,269, in vergelyking met £638,132 vir 1931-1932, en die totaal van die terugbetaalde kapitaal £1,137,648, teenoor £730,344 wat gedurende die vorige jaar terugbetaal was, d.w.s. 'n styging in die waarde van sertifikate deur inlêers gehou van £4,415,362 tot £5,132,982, 'n verskil van £717,620. Die bedrag van die rente ingesluit in die terugbetalings was £498,120.

Vir die nege maande April tot Desember 1932 was die gemiddelde beleggings £44,391. In Januarie 1933 het die belegde bedrag egter tot £148,784 gestyg, in Februarie tot £231,088 en in Maart tot £1,075,873. Die vernaamste redes vir die vermeerderings is as volg:—

(*a*) Die terugkeer van geld na die Unie as gevolg van die afstapping van die goudstandaard;

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(*b*) the desire of the public to invest their money in the 16s.–26s. issue of Certificates before the less favourable new issue (i.e. 16s.–24s.) came into force on the 1st April; and

(*c*) the large numbers of the original 15s. 6d. issue which matured and were converted into new Certificates during the three months, especially during March.

The value of matured Certificates (i.e. Certificates held for 10 years or more) repaid during 1932-1933 was £920,510. Of this sum £128,163 was re-invested in 5 per cent. Union Savings Stock, £60,126 in 4 per cent. Union Savings Stock, £317,061 in Union Loan Certificates, £21,220 in £100 Savings Bank Certificates, £19,280 in the Savings Bank Ordinary Account, and £374,660 repaid in cash. Thus 59·3 per cent. was re-invested, and 40·7 per cent. paid out.

In conformity with the Treasury policy of reducing interest rates it was decided to withdraw the 16s.–26s. series of Certificates and to issue another series on less advantageous terms as from the 1st April, 1933.

Union Savings Stock.—This stock was issued at par in 1929 at 5 per cent. for the purpose of providing a suitable investment into which maturing Union Loan Certificates of the 15s. 6d. series could be converted. With the general fall in the rates of interest it was decided that the original rate on the Stock was too high, and it was therefore reduced to 4 per cent. from the 16th February, 1933.

MONEY ORDERS.

The telegraph money order service with Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Irish Free State, Germany, Mauritius, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Tanganyika Territory was resumed during the year and a service with Kenya–Uganda was inaugurated.

An air mail money order service was established with the United Kingdom. The volume of traffic, however, is not very great and it is not considered worth while extending the service to other countries at present.

The sudden departure of the Union from the gold standard did not dislocate the money order service with other countries. Business was suspended for one day only and resumed on the following day on the new basis.

The disappearance of the premium on Union currency resulted in an immediate decrease in number and value of outward Money Orders.

STORES.

Postal Stores.—The economies introduced in the previous financial year were maintained in 1932-33 and very considerable savings in expenditure resulted. As mentioned in my last report, there is a limit to which the curtailment of supplies of postal equipment can be carried and it is extremely probable that within the next year or two fairly heavy expenditure may be necessary on postal stores if reasonable efficiency is to be maintained.

The system of labelling mail-bags, instead of stencilling each bag with the names of the offices of origin and destination, to which I have referred in a previous report, resulted in an appreciable reduction in the quantity of canvas utilised and in the expenditure incurred under this head.

All requisitions for supplies submitted to the Stores Branch continue to receive the most rigid scrutiny and only items the supply of which is definitely justified are issued.

Uniform Clothing.—During the year changes in the organization involved numerous minor amendments in the uniform schedule, but the expenditure on this item of Departmental equipment was not increased by the changes. The position to-day, however, is that the large number of small alterations in the authorized issues has had the effect of complicating the schedule of standard uniform issues considerably and I propose at an early date to review the whole position and to endeavour to simplify the present system.

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(*b*) die begeerte van die publiek om hul geld in die uitreiking van sertifikate van 'n waarde van 16s.-26s. elk te belê alvorens die minder gunstige nuwe uitreiking (d.i. 16s.-24s.) op 1 April in werking getree het; en

(*c*) die groot aantal sertifikate (15s. 6d.) van die oorspronklike uitreiking, wat verval het en wat gedurende die drie maande, en veral gedurende Maart, in nuwe sertifikate omgesit was.

Die waarde van vervalle sertifikate (d.w.s. sertifikate gehou vir 10 jaar of meer) terugbetaal gedurende 1932-1933 was £920,510. Van hierdie bedrag was £128,163 weer in 5 persent Unie-spaareffekte belê, £60,126 in 4 persent Unie-spaareffekte, £317,061 in Unieleningsertifikate, £21,220 in Spaarbanksertifikate (£100), £19,280 in die gewone Spaarbankrekening en £374,660 was in kontant terugbetaal. 59·3 persent was dus weer belê en 40·7 persent was uitbetaal.

In ooreenstemming met die beleid van die Tesourie om rentekoerse te verlaag is dit besluit om die teenswoordige sertifikaatserie terug te trek en vanaf 1 April 1933 'n ander serie op minder voordelige terme uit te reik.

Unie-spaareffekte.—Om voorsiening te maak vir 'n belegging waarin Unieleningsertifikate van die 15s. 6d.-serie wat verval omgesit kan word, is hierdie effekte in 1929 à pari teen 5 persent uitgereik. Met die algemene daling in rentekoerse het dit egter geblyk dat die oorspronklike koers van die effekte te hoog is en derhalwe was dit tot 4 persent verlaag vanaf 16 Februarie 1933.

POSWISSELS.

Die telegrafiese poswisseldiens tussen Groot-Brittanje en Noord-Ierland, die Ierse Vrystaat, Duitsland, Mauritius, Noord-Rhodesië, Nyasaland en Tanganyika-gebied is gedurende die jaar hervat en 'n diens met Kenya en Uganda ingestel.

'n Lugposwisseldiens met die Verenigde Koninkryk is ingestel maar aangesien die verkeer op hierdie gebied nog gering is, word dit nie op die oomblik beskou dat uitbreiding na ander lande die moeite sal loon nie.

Die Unie se skielike afstapping van die goudstandaard het nie die poswisseldiens met ander lande omvergegooi nie. Dit was vir slegs een dag gestaak en die volgende dag op die nuwe grondslag hervat.

Oorseese poswissels het beide in getal en in waarde verminder toe die premie op Unie-geld weggeval het.

VOORRADE.

Posvoorrade.—Die besuinigingsmaatreëls wat in die vorige jaar ingevoer is, is volgehou en dit het aansienlike besparings in die uitgawes teweeggebring. Soos in my laaste verslag vermeld, is daar sekere perke waartoe die voorrade van posuitrusting ingekrimp kan word en dit is hoogs waarskynlik dat uitgawes ten opsigte van posvoorrade binne die volgende jaar of twee baie groter sal moet wees ten einde doeltreffende dienstoestande te behou.

Die gebruik van possak-neketikette, i.p.v. om possakke te letter met die name van kantore van herkoms en bestemming, waarna ek in 'n vorige rapport verwys het, het 'n opmerklike besparing in seil sowel as in die uitgawes onder hierdie hoof veroorsaak.

Alle rekwisisies wat die Voorrade-afdeling bereik, word nog noukeurig nagesien en slegs items wat bepaald noodsaaklik is, word verskaf.

Uniformkleding.—Die veranderings wat gedurende die jaar in die diensorganisasie aangebring is, het baie wysigings van geringe aard in die uniformskedule veroorsaak maar dit het nie die koste in verband met hierdie deel van die departementele uitrusting verhoog nie. Vandag is die skedule van standaard-uniformuitreikings egter baie ingewikkeld as gevolg van al hierdie wysigings en ek neem my voor om binnekort die hele saak in hersiening te neem en 'n poging aan te wend om die teenswoordige stelsel te vereenvoudig.

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Postage and Revenue Stamps.—New designs of Bechuanaland and Swaziland postage and revenue stamps, stamped stationery and postage due stamps were received from the Crown Agents, London, in November and December, 1932, the former being placed on sale on 12th December, 1932, and the latter on 3rd January, 1933.

Additional denominations of 1s. and 2s. 6d. "official" postage stamps were introduced in June, 1932, for the use of Government Departments.

Union Dairy Stamps, value £1,650, were issued during 1932-33.

4d., 1s. and 2s. 6d. Pictorial postage stamps were printed locally for the first time during the financial year.

GOVERNMENT GARAGES.

The economies in the use of motor transport for official purposes, originally introduced by Government Departments in 1930-31, were continued in the year under review and the Garage revenue under this head was reduced correspondingly.

Car mileage was approximately 11,000 lower than in the previous year but commercial vehicle mileage showed an increase owing chiefly to the steady increase in the use of motor vehicles by the Post Office. The number of miles run during the year was as follows:—

Cars	222,575
Commercial vehicles	683,224

The staff employed on the 31st March, 1933, totalled 77 as against 85 at the 31st March, 1932.

Operating costs contiuue to decrease although during the concluding three months of the year the cost of petrol was increased by 1⅛d. per gallon.

The Post Office was responsible for 72 per cent. of the total mileage run by all classes of vehicles, pillar box collections, automatic call office collections and mails accounting for 682,405 miles.

New vehicles costing £2,502 were purchased during the year.

The working of short time was continued at one garage only, staff wastage at other centres having adjusted the force to the necessary figure.

The revenue earned during the year amounted to £30,566 and the expenditure to £27,482.

BUILDINGS.

New Buildings.—Owing to the financial position the funds available for buildings were insufficient to provide for all the pressing requirements awaiting attention, but nevertheless, with the money allotted, it was possible to meet many of the more urgent needs.

In addition to a number of small items, tenders were accepted for certain larger structures including a new post office at Burghersdorp which is to be built on the site of the old premises erected over one hundred years ago. The new building will harmonize with surrounding properties so far as the architectural features are concerned, but the internal arrangements will be entirely modern. Large steel window frames of a type new to post office architecture are being provided in order that as much natural lighting as possible may be available.

At Rondebosch a new telephone exchange building is in hand to provide accommodation for the equipment in connection with the provision of automatic telephones in the Cape Peninsula. A building for similar purposes was erected at Orange Grove to meet the development in that part of Johannesburg.

Prieska, where inadequate premises were hired in the past, was provided with a State-owned post office.

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Pos- en Inkomsteseëls.—Nuwe ontwerpe van die pos- en inkomsteseëls, geseëlde skryfbehoeftes en boeteseëls vir Betsjoeanaland en Swaziland is in November en Desember van die Kroonagente in Londen ontvang. Eersgenoemde is op 12 Desember 1932 en laasgenoemde op 3 Januarie 1933 ter verkoping aangebied.

Addisionele waardes van 1s. en 2s. 6d. „ offisiële " posseëls vir die gebruik van Staatsdepartemente is in Junie 1932 ingevoer.

Unie-suiwelseëls ter waarde van £1,650 is gedurende 1932-33 uitgereik.

4d.-, 1s.- en 2s. 6d.-Prentposseëls is gedurende die finansiële jaar vir die eerste keer plaaslik gedruk.

GOEWERMENTSGARAGES.

Die besuinigings in die gebruik van motorvervoer vir offisiële doeleindes in 1930-31 deur Staatsdepartemente ingevoer, is gedurende die jaar wat nou in oorsig geneem word, volgehou, en garageinkomste het in ooreenstemming daarmee verminder.

Die mylafstande vir motorkarre was ongeveer 11,000 myl minder as wat dit in die vorige jaar was, maar handelsvoertuie het 'n groter mylafstand afgelê wat veral toe te skryf is aan 'n gestadige vermeerdering in die gebruik van motorvoertuie deur die Poskantoor. Die getal myle gedurende die jaar afgelê is as volg:—

Motorkarre	222,575
Handelsvoertuie	683,224

Die personeel wat op 31 Maart 1933 in diens was, het op 77 te staan gekom in vergelyking met 85 op 31 Maart 1932.

Daar is nog steeds 'n daling in bedieningskoste hoewel die prys van petrol gedurende die laaste drie maande van die jaar met 1⅛d. per gallon verhoog is.

Die Poskantoor was verantwoordelik vir 72 persent van die totale mylafstande deur alle soorte motorvoertuie afgelê waarvan 682,405 myl nodig was vir poste, ligtings by straatbriewebusse en insamelings by outomatiese oproepkantore.

Nuwe voertuie ter waarde van £2,502 is gedurende die jaar aangekoop.

Korter werksure het by slegs een garage in werking gebly; op ander plekke het die vermindering in die personeel die werkkragte in ooreenstemming met die vereiste getal gebring.

Vir die jaar is die inkomste £30,566 en die uitgawe £27,482.

GEBOUE.

Nuwe Geboue.—As gevolg van die finansiële toestand was die fondse wat vir geboue beskikbaar gestel is, nie voldoende om voorsiening te maak vir al die dringende benodighede wat die aandag vereis het nie, maar desnieteenstaande was dit moontlik om aan meeste van die ergste behoeftes met die toegekende geld te voldoen.

Benewens 'n aantal geringer items, is tenders ook aangeneem vir sekere groter geboue waaronder ook die nuwe poskantoor op Burghersdorp wat op die standplaas van die ou gebou, wat meer as honderd jaar gelede gebou is, opgetrek moet word. Wat boustyl betref, sal die nuwe gebou hom aanpas by die aangrensende eiendomme maar van binne sal alles geheel en al modern wees. Ten einde soveel lig as moontlik in te laat, sal groot vensters verskaf word met staalrame van 'n tipe wat tot dusver nog nie in die argitektuur van poskantore gebruik is nie.

By Rondebosch is 'n nuwe gebou vir die telefoonsentrale in aanbou om voorsiening te maak vir die uitrusting in verband met die daarstelling van outomatiese telefoons in die Kaapse Skiereiland.

Vir dergelike doeleindes is 'n gebou opgerig in Orange Grove ten einde voorsiening te maak vir die ontwikkeling in daardie deel van Johannesburg.

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Completion of Works Previously Commenced.—Extensions of existing telephone buildings at Bloemfontein and Turffontein were carried out and alterations and additions to the Salt River Post Office premises were completed to provide accommodation for automatic telephone equipment.

Johannesburg.—During the year the foundations of the new general post office at Johannesburg were laid and tenders were invited for the superstructure. The specification provides for the completion of the ground floor five months from the commencement of the work and the fourth floor four months later.

The parcels work in Johannesburg has for some years been conducted partly in McKay's Buildings (for which a rental of £1,728 per annum was paid) and partly in the " Tin Temple " (the annual charge for which is £84). In October, 1932, the Department was able to take over the old Fire Station for a portion of the parcels work, thus saving the rental paid for McKay's Buildings. The completion of the ground floor of the new general post office will allow of its use for the work now performed in the " Tin Temple " the demolition of which, it is understood, is the aim of the municipal authorities. When the fourth floor of the new post office has been completed, a commencement with the installation of automatic telephone equipment for the central exchange will be made.

Capetown.—Extensive alterations were made in the general post office building mainly on the ground floor which was, as far as practicable, adapted to present day requirements. The private boxes, numbering over three thousand, are now conveniently arranged, public needs are adequately met and the accommodation within the sorting office is much more advantageously utilized. The work was carried out with a minimum of inconvenience to the public and without serious discomfort to the staff.

Durban.—The matter of securing additional ground for additions to the Durban Post Office premises received attention late in the year and, although the negotiations have not yet reached finality, there is hope of a successful issue. Fairly heavy expenditure will necessarily be involved but when, in due course, the contemplated extension shall have been completed, there will be accommodation sufficient to meet the continually increasing needs of Durban for many years to come.

Houses for Postmasters.—The Department continued to interest itself in the residential conditions of its officials, but scarcity of funds has precluded much advance being made. Tenders were invited, however, for the erection of houses at Nylstroom and Calvinia and it is expected that the premises will be available for occupation at a very early date. Postmasters are appreciative of the Department's efforts on their behalf and are taking great care of the houses and grounds.

General.—During the year reductions were obtained in the rental of a number of hired premises, an indication that landlords are fully aware of the advantage of having the Government as tenant.

Development is taking place in many of the smaller urban areas and several requests were received for new post offices but, as only a limited sum of money can be voted each year for buildings, it is not possible to satisfy all the demands immediately. Each case is, however, considered on its merits and efforts are made to provide suitable accommodation where such is found to be essential.

Congestion at some points is overcome by alterations to fixtures, a rearrangement of existing furniture or the withdrawal of cumbersome articles and the supply of new equipment. Throughout the year the strictest economy was practised and the cost of repairs and alterations to buildings and equipment and the supply of new furniture fell considerably.

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Prieska, waar daar in die verlede onvoldoende persele gehuur is, het nou 'n poskantoor wat die eiendom van die Staat is.

Voltooiing van Werke waarmee Vroeër 'n Aanvang gemaak is.—Die bestaande telefoongeboue in Bloemfontein en Turffontein is vergroot en die poskantoor op Soutrivier is verander en groter gemaak om voorsiening te maak vir outomatiese telefoonuitrusting.

Johannesburg.—Gedurende die jaar is die fondamente van die nuwe poskantoor in Johannesburg gelê en tenders gevra vir die bou van die bogrondse gedeelte daarvan. Die spesifikasie maak voorsiening vir die voltooiing van die onderste verdieping vyf maande na die werk 'n aanvang geneem het en die vierde verdieping vier maande daarna.

Pakkettewerk in Johannesburg is vir enige jare verdeel gewees tussen twee geboue, nl. die van McKay (waarvoor 'n huur van £1,728 per jaar betaal moes word) en die „ Tin Temple " (waarvoor die jaarhuur £84 is). In Oktober 1932 was die Departement in staat om die ou brandweerstasie vir 'n gedeelte van die pakkettewerk oor te neem en op dié wyse die huur vir McKay se nuwe gebou te bespaar. Wanneer die onderste verdieping van die poskantoor voltooi is, sal dit gebruik kan word vir die werk wat nou in die „ Tin Temple " verrig word. Dit word verstaan dat die munisipaliteit voornemens is laasgenoemde gebou te vernietig. By voltooiing van die vierde verdieping van die nuwe poskantoor sal met die installasie van die uitrusting vir outomatiese telefoons 'n aanvang gemaak word.

Kaapstad.—Uitgebreide veranderings is in die poskantoorgebou gemaak, hoofsaaklik op die grondvloer en sover dit uitvoerbaar was, op sodanige wyse dat dit by hedendaagse behoeftes aanpas. Die privaatbusse waarvan daar meer as drie duisend is, is nou gerieflik gerangskik; aan publieke behoeftes word op 'n doeltreffende wyse voldoen en die kantoorruimte binne die sorteerkamer word nou baie voordeliger gebruik. Die werk was met 'n minimum van ongerief vir die publiek uitgevoer en sonder ernstige ongemak vir die personeel.

Durban.—Die saak van addisionele grond vir vergroting van die Durbanse poskantoorpersele het laat in die jaar aandag geniet en alhoewel die onderhandeling nog nie afgesluit is nie, word die hoop gekoester dat die afloop suksesvol sal wees. Taamlik hoë uitgawes sal natuurlik beloop moet word, maar wanneer die voorgenome aanbouing ter bekwamer tyd voltooi is, sal daar voldoende kantoorruimte wees om die gedurig toenemende behoeftes van Durban vir nog baie jare tegemoet te kom.

Huise vir Posmeesters.—Die Departement stel steeds belang in die toestand van woonhuise vir beamptes, maar die tekort aan fondse het groot vooruitgang in die weg gestaan. Tenders was egter gevra vir die bou van huise op Nylstroom en Calvinia en dit word verwag dat die persele op 'n vroeë datum vir bewoning beskikbaar sal wees. Posmeesters waardeer wat die Departement in hul belang doen, en die huise en gronde word baie goed in stand gehou.

Algemeen.—Gedurende die jaar is verminderings in huur ten opsigte van verskeie gehuurde persele verkry—'n aanduiding dat eienaars ten volle die voordeel besef om die Goewerment as huurder te hê.

Ontwikkeling neem in baie van die kleiner stedelike wyke plaas en verskeie versoeke vir nuwe poskantore was ontvang, maar aangesien slegs 'n beperkte som geld elke jaar vir geboue gestem kan word, is dit nie moontlik om onmiddellik aan al die aanvrae te voldoen nie. Elke geval word egter volgens merite oorweeg en pogings word aangewend om behoorlike kantoorruimte, waar dit as noodsaaklik beskou word, te verskaf.

Tekort aan ruimte op sekere plekke word vermy deur veranderings aan toebehore, omskikking van bestaande meubels of die verwydering van hinderlike artikels en die verskaffing van nuwe uitrusting. Gedurende die jaar is besuiniging ten strengste uitgeoefen en die koste verbonde aan reparasie en veranderings aan geboue en uitrusting en die verskaffing van nuwe meubels het aansienlik verminder.

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Fires and Storms.—The Coerney and Eerste Rivier post offices, which were accommodated in railway premises, were entirely destroyed by fire. Minor outbreaks of fire occurred in the Pretoria and Johannesburg general post offices, but prompt action prevented any serious results. Very little damage was caused by storms.

GENERAL.

Withdrawal of British Silver Coinage.

The Department rendered considerable assistance in the withdrawal of British silver from circulation. The large number of post offices situated in every district in the Union, sometimes in remote areas, provided facilities for the exchange of South African for British coins which no other organization could have offered. As a consequence the Department was responsible for the withdrawal of some £70,000 in British silver coins, which were either paid into the banks at the larger centres or despatched to Pretoria for exchange at the Royal Mint.

The Department was able to give particularly valuable assistance in some of the native areas where it was necessary to extend the facilities for two months beyond the time allowed in urban areas, on account of the longer time taken to make the native population in remote districts acquainted with the new conditions.

Exchange of Gold Coins.

Shortly after the Union's departure from the gold standard the Treasury notified departments that the full exchange value should be allowed for gold coin tendered in payment of services, taxes, etc. Subsequently the arrangement was extended to the exchange of gold coin at places where no banks existed, with the object of enabling people in country places to obtain the full value of such coins still in their possession.

This facility must have been of considerable value to the people in remote country districts, particularly the natives, who, but for the existence of post offices in their areas, might not have been able to obtain the full exchange value of their gold coins. The Department was able to ensure that the possessors of some £8,000 in sovereigns and half-sovereigns reaped the full benefit of their money.

Advertising in Post Offices.

The scheme inaugurated early in 1932 came into operation in the following October in Johannesburg at which point a number of advertisements are prominently displayed on the walls of the public hall and the box lobby. The Department derives a net revenue of £256 per annum from these advertisements, but as objections have been made to the use of post office premises for advertising purposes, it has been decided not to proceed further with the scheme.

Christmas Stamps.

Christmas stamps were again sold during the Christmas season in aid of the fund which is designed to provide sanatoria for tubercular patients. It is pleasant to be able to record that on this occasion, owing to the active propaganda undertaken by the responsible committee and the willing assistance rendered by officials of the Department, the sales were increased very considerably and an amount of £1,701. 3s. 11d. was handed over to the fund after the deduction of the commission which is payable to the Department to cover the cost of the handling, selling and accounting work. The amount contributed to the fund in the previous year was £868. 9s. 3d.

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Brand en Storms.—Die poskantore op Coerney en Eerste Rivier wat in spoorwegpersele gehuisves is, was geheel en al deur vuur vernietig. Vure van minder belang het in die poskantore in Pretoria en Johannesburg uitgebreek, maar onmiddellike behandeling het enige ernstige resultate voorkom. Baie min skade is deur storms veroorsaak.

ALGEMEEN.

Terugtrekking van Britse Silwermunt.

Die Departement was besonderlik behulpsaam met die terugtrekking uit omloop van Britse silwer. Die groot aantal poskantore wat in elke deel van die Unie geleë is en in sommige gevalle in verafgeleë streke, het fasiliteite vir die inwisseling van Suid-Afrikaanse vir Britse munt verskaf, wat geen ander organisasie in staat was om te verskaf nie. As gevolg hiervan was die Departement verantwoordelik vir die terugtrekking van sowat £70,000 in Britse silwermunt, wat òf by die Banke in die groter plekke inbetaal, òf na Pretoria vir inwisseling by die Koninklike Munt gestuur was.

Die Departement was in staat om besonder waardevolle ondersteuning te gee in sommige van die naturellegebiede waar dit nodig was om die fasiliteite vir twee maande bo die tyd wat in stedelike streke toegelaat is, te verleen, aangesien dit 'n langer tyd neem om die naturelle bevolking in verafgeleë distrikte met die nuwe toestande vertroud te maak.

Inwisseling van Goue Muntstukke.

Kort na die Unie van die goudstandaard afgestap het, het departemente kennis van die Tesourie ontvang dat goudmunt wat ten opsigte van dienste, belastings, ens. aangebied word teen die volle waarde ingeruil moet word. Hierdie reëlings is later ook toegepas op plekke waar daar geen banke is nie, ten einde die mense op die platteland in staat te stel om die volle waarde te kry vir goudstukke wat nog in hul besit was.

Hierdie fasiliteit was seker van groot betekenis vir mense en veral in verafgeleë streke vir die naturelle wat, as dit nie vir die poskantore in hul wyke was nie, bes moontlik nie die geleentheid sou gehad het om hul goudgeld teen volle waarde in te wissel nie. Die Departement was in staat om te verseker dat die besitters van omtrent £8,000 in ponde en tiensjielingstukke die volle waarde van hul geld kon inoes.

Advertensies in die Poskantoor.

Die skema wat vroeg in 1932 ingestel is, het in die volgende Oktober in Johannesburg in werking getree, en daar word 'n aantal advertensies aan die mure van die publieke saal en die portaal vir briewebusse prominent vertoon. Die Departement ontvang 'n netto-inkomste van £256 per jaar uit hierdie advertensies, maar aangesien daar beswaar gemaak is teen die gebruik van die poskantoor vir reklamedoeleindes, is dit besluit om nie met die skema voort te gaan nie.

Kersseëls.

Kersseëls is weer met Kersfees verkoop ter stywing van die fonds wat die voorsiening van sanatoria vir teringlyers beoog. Dit is 'n plesier om te kan boekstaaf dat met hierdie geleentheid, dank sy die bedrywige propoganda van die verantwoordelike komitee en die bereidwilligheid van die amptenare van die Departement, die verkopings aansienlik vermeerder is en 'n bedrag van £1,701. 3s. 11d. in die fonds gestort is nadat die kommissie afgetrek is wat tot dekking van koste in verband met hantering, verkoping en die hou van rekenings aan die Departement betaalbaar is. Die bedrag wat in die vorige jaar tot die fonds bygedra was, was £803. 9s. 3d.

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STAFF.

At the beginning of 1933 a scheme of staff reorganization, designed to effect economy in working costs was put into force—the retirement from the public service of some 200 members of the assistant and higher grades being involved.

Under the reorganization the gradings of the uniformed classes were simplified and in certain cases an improvement in pay conditions was effected. The class chiefly concerned was the postmans class, by far the largest adult uniformed class in the Department. The maximum salary obtainable by postmen was raised by £24 per annum at Class I offices and £12 per annum at Class II offices, but the minimum of the scale was lowered in respect of new entrants to the class, who ordinarily would be about 18 or 19 years of age.

Other important features of the reorganization were the absorption of qualified post and telegraph learners who for some time had been awaiting appointment to the established staff, and the greater scope provided for the absorption of messengers, etc., in posts offering life careers.

Postmaster-general's Certificate of Profiency in Radiotelegraphy.

Fourteen candidates entered for the theoretical examination conducted in connection with the above-mentioned certificate in November of last year. Five were successful.

Three candidates who passed the examination held in 1931 have since satisfied the requirements of the practical portion of the test and have been furnished with certificates of proficiency. In addition, three holders of certificates cancelled by the Washington Convention of 1927 have applied for and obtained renewed certificates in terms of the conditions laid down in Government Notice No. 1052 of 26th June, 1931.

Competitive Examination for Appointment to Assistant Engineerships.

Seven candidates entered for the above examination which was conducted in April, 1932. Four were successful and they have all since been promoted to the grade of Assistant Engineers.

Messengers' Continued Education.

On the 31st March, 1933, 529 messengers were taking advantage of the free educational facilities provided by the Union Department of Education. Of this number 331 boys were attending continuation classes and 188 were receiving tuition by means of correspondence courses.

Although the percentage of messengers participating in the free educational scheme was slightly lower than that of the previous year, the actual results attained show an appreciable increase, 76 messengers obtaining the Preliminary Commercial Certificate and 30 boys the National Junior Certificate in Commerce. In addition many subject successes were gained. The reason given by the majority of the messengers when withdrawing from a course of continued study was inability to purchase the necessary text-books.

At the beginning of 1933, re-organization within the Department made it possible to promote 41 messengers to postmanships. Amongst other factors the educational qualifications of these boys were largely responsible for securing their promotion.

At the present time most boys entering the Department have completed the Junior Certificate before appointment to messengerships, but it is pleasing to note that the majority are continuing their studies.

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PERSONEEL.

In die begin van 1933 is 'n skema vir die reorganisasie van die personeel, wat 'n besuiniging in werkskoste beoog het, in werking gebring. As gevolg hiervan moes 200 staatsamptenare wat lede van die assistents- en hoër range was, afgedank word.

Onder die reorganisasie is die gradering van die klasse wat uniforms dra vereenvoudig en in sekere gevalle is verbeterde loonvoorwaardes teweeggebring. Die klas wat hoofsaaklik hierin betrokke was, is die briewebestellers en hulle vorm verreweg die grootste gedeelte van die Departement se volwasse uniformpersoneel. Die salarismaksimum vir briewebestellers by Klas I-kantore is met £24 per jaar verhoog en met £12 per jaar by Klas II-kantore, maar die minimum van die salarisskaal is verlaag ten opsigte van nuwelinge wie se ouderdom in gewone omstandighede omtrent 18 of 19 jaar sal wees.

Ander belangrike kenmerke van die reorganisasie is die opname van gekwalifiseerde pos- en telegraafleerlinge wat al 'n tydlang wag vir aanstellings op die vaste personeel, en die groter voorsiening wat gemaak is vir die opname van bodes, ens. in poste wat vir hulle 'n vaste loopbaan aanbied.

Sertifikaat van die Posmeester-generaal vir Bekwaamheid in Radiotelegrafie.

Veertien kandidate het ingeskryf vir die teoretiese gedeelte van die eksamen wat in November verlede jaar in bovermelde verband afgeneem is. Vyf het geslaag.

Drie van die kandidate wat geslaag het by die eksamen wat in 1931 gehou is, het sedertdien aan die vereistes van die praktiese gedeelte van die toets voldoen en sertifikate van bekwaamheid is aan hulle uitgereik. Bowendien het drie houers van sertifikate wat kragtens die Washington-konvensie van 1927 gekanselleer is, applikasie gemaak om hul sertifikate te laat hernu soos neergelê by Goewermentskennisgewing No. 1052 van 26 Junie 1931, en daar is aan hulle wense voldoen.

Vergelykende Eksamen vir Aanstelling as Assistent-ingenieurs.

Sewe kandidate het vir die bogenoemde eksamen, wat in April 1932 gehou is, ingeskryf. Vier het geslaag en hulle is reeds sedertdien tot die rang van Assistent-ingenieur bevorder.

Voortsettingsklasse vir Bodes.

Op 31 Maart 1933 was daar 529 bodes wat gebruik gemaak het van die fasiliteite vir vry onderwys deur die Unie-onderwysdepartement verskaf. Van hierdie getal het 331 voortsettingsklasse bygewoon en 188 het deur middel van korrespondensiekursusse onderrig ontvang.

Alhoewel die persentasie bodes wat aan die vryonderwysstelsel deelgeneem het, ietwat laer is as in die vorige jaar, was daar meer wat eksamens met sukses afgelê het. Die Preliminêre Handelsertifikaat is aan 76 en die Nasionale Juniorsertifikaat-in-Handel aan 30 toegeken. Daarenbowe het baie in enkele onderwerpe sukses behaal. Die meeste bodes wat hulself aan die voortsettingskursusse onttrek, gee as rede daarvoor dat hulle nie die nodige voorgeskrewe boeke kan bekostig nie.

In die begin van 1933 het reorganisasie binne die Departement dit moontlik gemaak om 41 bodes tot briewebestellers te bevorder. Die bevordering van hierdie seuns is grotendeels te danke aan hulle skoolopleiding.

Op die oomblik het die meeste seuns wat hulle by die Departement aansluit, alreeds die Juniorsertifikaateksamen afgelê maar dit word met genoeë opgemerk dat die meerderheid nogtans hul studies voortsit.

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Conclusion.

I have little to say in addition to the foregoing detailed record except to express appreciation once more of the work of the staff generally throughout the year. In spite of bad times the Department has been able to make some progress in keeping pace with up-to-date developments in communication services and it has been the constant endeavour of all to render postal, telegraph and telephone services as efficiently as possible. Facilities to the public have in a number of directions had to be curtailed in order to meet the necessities of expenditure reduction, but very little serious inconvenience has been caused to the public.

An important staff change was introduced while I was away at the Telecommunications Conference in the appointment of a large number of "sorters" from the uniformed ranks. The scheme has the advantage of opening up increased avenues of promotion for qualified and deserving postmen and messengers, a very desirable feature and I am confident that it will ultimately prove a great success. At the same time it will be understood that in its earlier operation, as in all departures from long-established practice, the scheme may involve some strain and anxiety to the responsible officers, but I have no doubt that in a very few months all the difficulties experienced will be disposed of satisfactorily.

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Slot.

Benewens die voorgaande uitvoerige rekord het ek min te sê behalwe dat ek my waardering nogeens wil te kenne gee vir die werk van die personeel in die algemeen gedurende die jaar. Nieteenstaande slegte tye was die Departement in staat om 'n seker mate van vooruitgang te maak en gelyke tred met moderne ontwikkelings in kommunikasiedienste te hou, en dit was die voortdurende strewe van almal om pos-, telegraaf- en telefoondienste so doeltreffend as moontlik uit te voer. Fasiliteite vir die publiek moes in verskeie rigtings ingekort word ten einde die behoefte aan onkostevermindering tegemoet te kom, maar baie min ernstige ongerief is aan die publiek veroorsaak.

'n Belangrike verandering wat betref die personeel is tydens my afwesigheid by die „ Telecommunications "-konferensie aangebring, n.l. die aanstelling van 'n groot aantal „ sorteerders " vanuit die range van amptenare wat uniforms dra. Die skema het die voordeel dat dit meer openings skep vir bevordering van gekwalifiseerde en verdienstelike briewebestellers en bodes—iets wat besonder gewens is, en ek is oortuig daarvan dat dit uiteindelik 'n groot sukses sal wees. Dit sal egter duidelik wees dat in die begin, soos in alle gevalle waar daar van 'n langbestaande gebruik afgewyk word, die skema 'n sekere mate van inspanning en besorgdheid aan die verantwoordelike amptenare sal besorg; maar ek twyfel nie daaraan nie dat die moeilikhede wat ondervind word in die loop van 'n paar maande op 'n bevredigende wyse uit die weg geruim sal word.

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