

POST OFFICE PROGRESS

1951-2

Gratis



The Government Printer, Pretoria.

POST OFFICE PROGRESS

Being the Postmaster-General's
Annual Report for 1951-2



The Government Printer, Pretoria.

G.P.-S.10456—1952-3—1,100.



THE HON. J. F. NAUDÉ, M.P.,
MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TELEGRAPHS.



MR. L. C. BURKE.
POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

Contents

	PAGE
Foreword.....	v
Finances of the Post Office.....	1
Staff.....	2
Telecommunications.....	3
Postal Services.....	6
Buildings.....	6
Investment Facilities.....	7
Financial Services Rendered on behalf of other Government Departments..	7
Statistical Tables.....	9

Foreword

GENERAL

Efficient and adequate communication services play an important role in our modern way of life and in a young and progressive land such as the Union of South Africa there is an insistent and ever-growing public demand for the extension and improvement of the existing systems of communication: It is the task of the Post Office to provide the country's necessary communication services and to ensure that they are properly maintained. For a considerable number of years shortages of staff, difficulties and delays in obtaining the equipment required for the development of the telecommunication system and the acute shortage of building accommodation have hampered the department in its endeavours to discharge its task competently and to the satisfaction of an exacting and critical clientele. The standard of efficiency has, in these circumstances, been difficult to maintain; at times, apparently insuperable problems have arisen and the danger of a breakdown in certain services has been real but the Post Office has been able to avoid any serious dislocation of service and to maintain a reasonably satisfactory rate of progress. This report gives an insight into many of our day to day problems and indicates our achievements during the financial year which ended on the 31st March, 1952.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

The profit of £871,651 for the financial year 1951-52 as shown in the Commercial Account shows a decrease of £244,628 compared with £1,116,279 for 1950-51. This decrease of £244,628 is largely attributable to the increases in expenditure particularly in the direction of salary costs—as the result of the introduction of improved salary scales and the payment of higher cost of living allowances—, costs of printing and stationery, interest liability and contributions to the loan account in respect of telegraph and telephone renewals and replacements.

STAFF

For a number of years now, the department has been unable to obtain sufficient staff to enable it to discharge its functions properly; improved salaries were introduced throughout the Public Service on the 1st July, 1951, and the working conditions in relation to several grades were made more attractive but there has as yet been no material change in the overall situation.

In the areas of the Witwatersrand, the Orange Free State Goldfields and Durban, staff shortages were severely felt and transfers of personnel to these areas from other parts of the country were unavoidable.

In so far as the delivery of telegrams was concerned great difficulty was experienced during the course of the year in obtaining sufficient European youths to undertake the duties of messenger. In order to prevent the collapse of telegram delivery services the department was faced with no alternative but to resort to the experiment of employing non-European messengers at a number of centres. The step which was taken and which is still of a temporary nature has proved a success in that the delivery problem has been solved for the time being and in that the European youth has been placed in line for other avenues of employment more suited to his potentiality and qualifications. The school leaving qualification of the European youth has been raised and it is logical that his field of employment should be raised commensurately. At those offices where European and non-European messengers are employed, separate facilities and amenities have been made available for the two groups. The European is employed essentially on indoor duties and the non-European on outdoor duties.

On the technical side a serious problem had arisen because trained technical staff in sufficient numbers were simply not available to carry out the telegraph and telephone construction programme which in itself is a formidable task and to maintain the telecommunication system as a whole properly and efficiently. All sources of supply in the Union were tapped but we fell far short of our actual requirements and we had to look for fresh fields of recruitment. There are some 870 South African boys in the training schools of the department; when these lads have completed their course of training and are absorbed into the permanent staff, a wide gap will still remain to be filled. The need for additional technical staff had become an urgent necessity and the department adopted the only course open to it, namely to endeavour to secure as many trained officers as possible from overseas sources. With this object in view a mission consisting of two departmental officers visited most of the European countries during the latter half of 1951 and was successful in engaging the services of 184 technicians, mainly from Holland. The augmentation of the departmental technical staff by these officers has afforded much needed relief and is assisting us in bridging a difficult period. The problem has not been solved, on the contrary, we may be forced during the next year or two to seek further aid from abroad.

Every endeavour has been and will continue to be made to fill the depleted staff ranks. It is the case, however, that commercial and industrial concerns are not bound by the same rules governing rates of remuneration and conditions of employment as in the case of state departments and the Post Office is, therefore, disadvantageously placed in the competition for labour from the available sources of supply.

The reports received from the welfare officers at the nine larger centres of the Union indicate that the recently established departmental welfare organisation is fulfilling a long felt want and is proving beneficial to both the department and the staff.

I also take this opportunity of paying tribute to the valuable services rendered by the St. John Ambulance Association at the first aid post and sick-bay which that Association conducts at the Post Office Engineering Training School at Baragwanath, Johannesburg.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

For the second year in succession I am able to report a reduction in the number of waiting applicants for telephone service. On the 31st March, 1952, the number of applicants stood at 99,180, i.e. 6,710 less than that of twelve months previously. The number of telephone stations in the Union was increased by the record figure of 53,164 during the year, bringing the total to 479,823. Service was given to 5,375 farmers. On the 31st March, 1952, 20,222 farmers were still waiting for service, 651 less than on the 31st March, 1951.

The first co-axial cable to be used in South Africa was brought into service between Durban and Pietermaritzburg during January, 1952. The installation of the terminal equipment, associated with the co-axial cable between Durban and Pietermaritzburg has provided adequate circuits to enable subscribers in Pietermaritzburg to dial direct into the Durban automatic system and thereby obtain a service comparable with the Pretoria-Johannesburg automatic service. In the reverse direction, calls from Durban to Pietermaritzburg will be handled manually for another year or two until the equipment, necessary to enable Durban subscribers to dial direct into the Pietermaritzburg system, becomes available.

POSTAL

The volume of mail matter passing through the post continued to increase steadily and owing to the inadequacy of staff, the department experienced a measure of difficulty in maintaining postal services at the normal high level of efficiency. At most of the large sorting offices, all available members of the staff were required to perform overtime duty almost daily in order to prevent an accumulation of mail matter. At times, however, postal articles, and particularly those falling within the category of second class mail matter, were unavoidably subjected to some delay.

BUILDINGS

The lack of accommodation still remains one of the most vexed questions and there is no indication that the difficulties in this respect can be overcome in the foreseeable future. Large scale expansion of departmental activities has created an ever increasing demand for additional accommodation and at some 250 places throughout the country there is urgent need of extra space. The need for additional state buildings is, however, so great that the Department of Public Works is only able to meet a fraction of our requirements annually. Many offices throughout the country will have to make do with the inadequate space available for a considerable time to come.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

During the past year the centralization of the Savings Bank at Bloemfontein was completed and the mechanical accounting system is now in operation throughout the bank. The provision of direct telegraph services from the Savings Bank to the central telegraph offices at Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban and Bloemfontein has resulted in a substantial acceleration in the handling of telegraphic applications for the withdrawal of sums of money.

POST OFFICE TERMINOLOGY

With the object of fulfilling a long felt need of a standard work of English and Afrikaans terms used in the Post Office, a Post Office Terminology Committee comprising officers in the various branches of the department and representatives of the State Translation Bureau and the Vaktaalburo (van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Kuns en Wetenskap) was appointed during 1948 and charged with the task of translating into Afrikaans all the English terms currently used in the Post Office and of eventually publishing a bilingual list. During August, 1951, the Committee published a preliminary list of post office terms containing the translation from English into Afrikaans of approximately 10,000 terms chiefly used in the Post Office. This authoritative work is doing much to promote the cause of bilingualism in the department. The final objective is the publication of a complete terminological list from Afrikaans into English and from English into Afrikaans, but the completion of this work is still a long way off.

VAN RIEBEECK TERCENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The Post Office played a significant role in connection with the Van Riebeeck Tercentenary celebrations held at Cape Town during the early part of 1952. Apart from participating in the Exhibition Hall and the historical pageant through the streets of Cape Town, subscribers' and public telephone facilities were provided throughout the industrial halls and booths and a special post office called Van Riebeeck at which all classes of post office business were handled, was established at the site of the exhibition. Arrangements were also made for the issue of a special series of postage stamps in commemoration of the occasion; two of the denominations were overprinted with the letters SATISE and SADIPU to mark the South African Tercentenary Stamp Exhibition which was held at Cape Town.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The staff as a whole have once again demonstrated a spirit of unselfish devotion to duty and they have carried the burden often with considerable inconvenience to their personal interests; they have earned the gratitude of the administration and I thank them.


Postmaster-General.

November, 1952.

FINANCES OF THE POST OFFICE

Profit and Loss

For the financial year 1951-52 the Post Office Commercial Account showed a profit of £871,651 as against £1,116,279 during 1950-51. The decrease in profit of £244,628 was largely attributable to—

- (1) increased salary costs as a result of the introduction of revised salary scales and payment of higher cost of living allowances;
- (2) increased costs of printing and stationery;
- (3) increased interest liability; and

- (4) increased contribution to Loan Account in respect of Telegraph and Telephone Renewals and Replacements.

Revenue and Expenditure (Cash Transactions)

Compared with the previous year, Post Office revenue increased by £1,061,340 to £17,301,116 while expenditure rose by £1,046,474 to a total of £14,617,033 of which an amount of £1,003,626 was met from the Treasury vote. The growth of Post Office business is shown in the following comparative tables of revenue earned and expenditure incurred in the operation and maintenance of the three main services of the department:—

Revenue

Service.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
	£	£	£
Postal.....	5,399,283	6,333,987	6,630,792
Telegraphs.....	1,706,853	2,094,441	2,293,700
Telephones.....	6,568,434	7,811,348	8,376,624
TOTALS.....£	13,674,570	16,239,776	17,301,116

Expenditure

Service.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
	£	£	£
Postal.....	5,641,476	6,658,761	6,729,247
Telegraphs.....	1,873,506	1,946,981	2,197,960
Telephones.....	4,551,788	4,649,843	5,314,020
TOTALS.....£	12,066,770	13,255,585	14,241,227

Turnover

The turnover increased from £177,790,701 during 1950-51 to £187,966,203 during 1951-52,

mainly as a result of increases in cash expenditure and the value of pensions paid, money order and savings bank transactions and revenue collections.

STAFF

Staff Employed

The number of persons of all grades employed by the Post Office on a full and part-time basis as at the 31st March, 1952, was 34,330, an increase of 2,026 compared with the number of persons employed on the 31st March, 1951.

Staff Difficulties

The acute shortage of staff which has obtained in the Post Office for many years still persists in spite of the general improvement with effect from the 1st July, 1951, in Public Service scales of remuneration. The wastage of staff as the result of officers retiring, resigning or leaving the service for other causes remains at a high level and new entrants to the service are barely sufficient to compensate for this wastage. The lack of trained technical personnel had reached a critical stage and the department was obliged, during the latter half of 1951, to send two officers to Europe for the purpose of engaging trained technicians for service. As a result of this action 184 technicians were recruited, mainly in Holland, and much needed relief has been afforded.

The inability of the department to recruit European youths to fill the gaps in the telegraph messenger grade gave rise to a serious problem at some of the larger centres. A collapse of telegram delivery services became a real danger and the only way in which the problem could be solved, was to arrange for the temporary employment of non-European messengers.

Welfare Organisation

The welfare organisation of the Post Office is operating in all the nine large centres of the Union, and, although still in the early stages, the work being done has proved beneficial in matters affecting the general well-being of the staff.

Workmen's Compensation

During the financial year 1951-52 medical treatment was provided for and compensation, either in the form of periodical or lump sum payments, was paid to 1,283 officers and employees of the Post Office who were injured in the course of their official duties. During the previous year 1,300 cases were dealt with.

Training—

Post and Telegraph Assistants on Probation

On the 1st April, 1951, the number of learners in training was 700 and, during the year under review, a further 1,031 were recruited. A total

of 1,731 probationers received training in various stages during the financial year 1951-52 at 14 permanent training schools and 29 country offices. Of the probationers who were in training, 648 satisfied the requirements of the final test and on the 31st March, 1952, there were 701 learners who were still required to undergo the test. There was a total wastage of 382 learners.

Apprentices in the Engineering Division

During the year 870 apprentices were in various stages of training in departmental schools and in the field. Towards the end of the year 140 boys completed their period of apprenticeship.

In addition to the training of apprentices, 160 other members of the Engineering Branch, ranging in grade from Temporary Engineer to Casual Telephone Workman were given special intensive courses on various aspects of engineering work. Training was also given to eight Union Defence Force apprentices and a short special course was given to two Aeradio apprentices and three Aeradio technicians.

The hostel associated with the training school in Johannesburg accommodated an average of 109 apprentices and 17 other grades each month.

General

During the year a considerable number of General Division officers was appointed as Post and Telegraph Assistants. Nevertheless, the staff position in the latter grade remained a major problem particularly at Durban, Johannesburg and on the Orange Free State Goldfields.

Telephone Operators

A large number of telephonists left the service in the earlier part of the financial year, but towards the end of the period the number of resignations had decreased. This wastage created a serious problem and it was necessary to transfer telephonists from various parts of the Union to Johannesburg and Durban in order to ensure satisfactory service to the public. Many of the vacancies which existed throughout the Union were filled by temporary employees. The position had improved slightly by the end of the financial year.

Messengers' Education

In conformity with the policy of providing free tuition to Post Office Messengers under the Union Education Department's free bursary scheme, a total of 1,185 messengers was enrolled for tuition during 1951. A number of messengers failed to attend the minimum number of classes or return the minimum number of lectures for correction and penalties were imposed on 261 messengers during 1951, the amount of £240. 18s. being paid over to the Department of Education, Arts and Science.

Examinations

The competitive examination for appointment to the rank of Engineer, Grade IV, was held in February, 1952, and of the 37 entrants 10 were successful.

Examinations for the Postmaster-General's Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy (Aeronautical and Marine) were held in May and November, 1951, and of a total of 41 entrants, 12 were successful. Fifty-one candidates also entered for the practical examination in Radiotelephony (Aeronautical and Marine) and fifty met the requirements.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS (Telephone, Telegraph and Radio Services)

Engineering Stores

During the financial year 1951-52 deliveries of many components such as wire and cables were protracted owing to the shortage of certain raw materials, particularly copper.

Orders valued at £5,497,500 were placed with overseas manufacturers and orders totalling £2,314,000 with South African firms. Telegraph, telephone and radio equipment and apparatus valued at £4,476,900 were received from both overseas and South African sources during 1951-52. The prices of engineering equipment continued to rise; increases in the costs of copper wire, copper-weld wire, lead sleeves, telephone cables, resin-cored solder and plumbers metal were marked.

Capital Expenditure on Development

The amount actually expended on the development of the telecommunications system was £6,446,476 compared with £5,964,396 during the previous financial year. The Standard Stock Capital Account which, at the 1st April, 1951, stood at £5,850,000 remained unaltered. The value of engineering materials held at the Stores depots as at the 31st March, 1952, was £3,646,125.

TELEPHONES

Subscribers' Telephone Services

The total number of telephone services existing as at the 31st March, 1952, was 479,823, compared with 426,639 on the 31st March, 1951. The increase of 53,164 during 1951-52 is the highest ever recorded. The increases during 1949-50 and 1950-51 were 30,605 and 41,595, respectively. The number of waiting applicants dropped from 105,890 as at the 31st March, 1951, to 99,180 as at the 31st March, 1952, a decrease of 6,710. During 1950-51, the decrease was 3,749.

The number of farm line services existing as at the 31st March, 1952, was 46,983, representing a total of 109,855 miles of wires. During the period 1st April, 1951, to 31st March, 1952, the erection of 9,530 miles of new wires was authorised which gave service to 5,375 farmers. The total expenditure incurred in providing service for new farm line subscribers and in the construction of lines in various stages of completion was £1,024,406, as compared with £861,856 during 1950-51 and £743,469 during 1949-50. The number of waiting applicants for farm line service, at the close of the financial year was 20,222—a decrease of 651 compared with the total on the 31st March, 1951.

Public telegraph-telephone facilities were extended to 82 new offices. This involved the erection of 561.2 miles of new line at a cost of £60,190. During 1950-51 64 new offices were opened and 422.5 miles of new line erected at a cost of £43,683.

During the period under review 525,380,000 local calls were made as against 505,879,000 during the previous year.

Automatic and Manual Exchanges

New automatic exchanges were installed and opened at Port Elizabeth, Pietermaritzburg and Silverton (Pretoria) in replacement of the hitherto existing automatic exchanges. The old manual exchange at Vereeniging was replaced by an automatic exchange and a new automatic exchange was provided to give relief in the western area of Pretoria. New automatic trunk exchanges were installed at Port Elizabeth, Durban and Pietermaritzburg and a new manual trunk exchange at Vereeniging.

The capacity of ten automatic exchanges was increased to the extent of providing 32,600 additional subscribers' lines. Authority has been issued for extensions to other automatic exchanges which will provide an additional 28,000 subscribers with service. The trunk exchange at Cape Town was enlarged and work was commenced on the installation of additional switchboards in the Johannesburg trunk exchange.

Additional equipment is being installed as rapidly as possible, but many exchanges are still overloaded and the provision of new services in many areas is limited. In some instances the installation of further equipment is held up on account of lack of new buildings. Some time will elapse before the position can be regarded as satisfactory.

The following larger manual exchange works were authorised or completed:—

Kimberley.....	Additional positions to increase capacity of the manual exchange by 2,000 lines.
Uitenhage.....	New manual exchange for 2,000 lines.
Stellenbosch....	New manual exchange for 2,000 lines.
Witbank.....	New manual exchange for 2,000 lines.
Pietersburg.....	New manual exchange for 2,000 lines.
Bethlehem.....	New manual exchange for 1,800 lines.
Rustenburg.....	New manual exchange for 1,600 lines.

Switchboard capacity was increased at 145 manual exchanges either by the installation of additional switchboards or by the provision of additional indicators. Altogether, 651 new switchboards were installed, making provision for 17,600 additional subscribers' lines. Special attention is being given to the provision of telephone services in the Orange Free State Goldfields area, new exchanges being installed at New Virginia and Allanridge. Additional switchboards will be provided at Odendaalsrus and Welkom as soon as accommodation is available.

Telephone Trunk Services

The number of telephone trunk calls increased from 37,948,193 to 42,505,894 during 1951-52.

The underground cable between Somerset West and Stellenbosch, the installation of which was commenced in 1949-50 and which comprises 300 telephone circuits, is now in service. The first

co-axial cable to be used in South Africa was brought into service between Durban and Pietermaritzburg during January, 1952. This cable provides 300 telephone circuits between the two centres. Work was commenced on the laying of co-axial cables between Cape Town and Paarl and between Johannesburg and Pretoria. The number of additional trunk circuits provided during the year was 368.

Lines and Transmission

The major carrier trunk route network linking the principal towns in the Union was extended by approximately 200 miles and a considerable mileage of new wires was added to existing major carrier trunk routes. The reconstruction of the main trunk route from Pretoria to Beit Bridge was completed, except for the 50 mile section between Pietersburg and Bandelierkop. The main route between Cape Town and Johannesburg was completed as far as Britstown and construction was commenced on the section between Britstown and De Aar. The second portion of the Johannesburg-Kroonstad main route between Parys and Vereeniging was completed. A start was also made on the construction of the second trunk route between Paarl and Worcester via Hermon and Gouda.

The trunk telephone system was expanded by the addition of 50 three-channel and 5 twelve-channel carrier system, thus increasing the carrier circuit mileage by approximately 18,000. The carrier telegraph network was increased by 34,000 miles. A cable from Cape Town to the new transmitting station of the South African Broadcasting Corporation at Brackenfel and three lines from Pretoria to Pietersburg have augmented the broadcast relay network.

TELEGRAPHS

Traffic

The number of telegrams dealt with totalled 13,178,750 which represents an increase of approximately 5 per cent on the previous year's traffic.

Communication Systems

In order to cope with the growing demands for rapid inter-city telegraph, telex and teleprinter private wire facilities, it was necessary to increase the capacity of certain circuits and in two instances, to provide an additional system. The following six projects were authorised and completed during the year:—

Third Johannesburg-Cape Town.....	24 Channel System.
Direct Cape Town-Durban	24 Channel System.

Increase Durban-Pietermaritzburg system from 18 to 24 channels.

Increase Durban-Johannesburg system from 36 to 48 channels.

Increase Durban-Bloemfontein system from 18 to 24 channels.

Increase Durban-East London system from 18 to 24 channels.

In pursuance of the policy of establishing high frequency telegraph systems in rural areas in order to provide a network of high-speed communication systems between country towns and the larger centres, the following circuits have been authorised:—

Johannesburg-Standerton-Volksrust.

Johannesburg-Klerksdorp-Lichtenburg.

Johannesburg-Lydenburg.

Johannesburg-Ermelo.

Pretoria-Nylstroom-Pietersburg.

Cape Town-Piketberg-Van Rhynsdorp.

Durban-Eshowe.

Durban-Empangeni.

Bloemfontein-Brandfort-Hennenman-Kroonstad.

Port Elizabeth-George.

The number of these systems is expected to reach 23 by the end of 1952, representing an increase of 10 over the previous year.

Teleprinters

The number of teleprinters in use in large telegraph offices has increased by 64 bringing the total to 386. Three new direct teleprinter circuits were opened in order to reduce transmission delays to a minimum between Cape Town and Salisbury, Cape Town and Bulawayo and Johannesburg and Windhoek. Teleprinter working was extended to 15 more country post offices and the total has now risen to 73. In 38 suburban offices in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth teleprinters are being installed in order to facilitate prompt disposal of telegrams to and from busy industrial and residential areas. It is hoped that the major part of this work will soon be completed.

Private Teleprinter and Telex Circuits

Twelve additional private wire circuits were provided for industrial and commercial firms during the year, bringing the total of such circuits to 93. The installation of new telex switchboards at Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg enabled 50 waiting applicants to be given service during

the year and work is in progress to provide all waiting and new applicants with service. The capacity of the existing telex switchboards at Bloemfontein and East London is being enlarged, new and larger boards will be installed at Port Elizabeth and Pretoria by the end of 1952 and it is hoped to provide telex facilities at Kimberley early in 1953. Negotiations are being conducted with the object of extending telex services to Southern Rhodesia. Telex subscribers in the Union now number 283.

Registered Telegraphic Addresses

There were 1,570 new indicators registered during 1951-52 and 111 cancellations. The number of registered addresses now stands at 21,513.

Telegraph Offices

During the year 128 telegraph offices were opened and 118 closed, leaving a total of 3,532 as at the 31st March, 1952.

RADIO SERVICES

New Services

A direct radiotelegraph service between Pretoria and Nairobi was opened on the 7th January, 1952, in order to expedite the transmission of telegrams between the two centres.

A ship-shore radiotelephone service was introduced at Durban on the 1st July, 1951. This is similar to the service in operation at Cape Town.

Development

Tests were conducted, during August, 1951, between South Africa and Sydney, Australia, with a view to establishing a direct radiotelephone service. The tests were entirely satisfactory and the service has since been opened.

The Union terminal of the Nairobi radiotelephone service was transferred from Cape Town to Pretoria in September, 1951, and single sideband operation was introduced with extended hours of service. In November, 1951, single sideband operation was also introduced on the Leopoldville-Pretoria radiotelephone channel and the hours of service extended. A new single sideband transmitter and drive were installed at Pretoria Radio and two new single sideband receivers at Derdepoort; these installations resulted in the release of equipment which will be transferred to Cape Town for the conversion of the London and New York radiotelephone services to single sideband operation.

Private Radio Communication

The demand for private communication between points where no landline facilities exist is still increasing and the number of private radio-communication licences issued has risen from 254 to 426.

Ships' Radio Stations

The owners of fishing vessels on the South African coast have taken an interest in radio for safety and communication purposes and 34 licences, in respect of these vessels, were issued during the year. The total number of licensed ships' radio stations now stands at 158. During 1951-52, 1,616 ships' radio installations were inspected by the Post Office.

Amateur Radio Licences

The number of licensed amateur radio stations rose by 156 from 1,285 to 1,441.

Telecommunications Conferences

During the year the Union was represented by two officers of the department at an International Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference held in Geneva. The object of the Conference was to secure an equitable division of radio frequencies amongst the various radio services and countries of the world.

POSTAL SERVICES

Internal Mails

Because of the shortage of staff throughout the country, particularly at the larger centres, much difficulty was experienced in keeping the mail traffic moving expeditiously. The frequency of, and extensions to, delivery services by postmen are governed by the staff position and it was not possible to do much in the direction of providing additional delivery facilities during the twelve months under review.

External Mails

The partial relaxation of import control resulted in an increase in the number of commercial parcels sent to the Union.

An organised postal service was established on the Island of Tristan da Cunha on the 1st January, 1952. The island will, as in the past, rely mainly on the Union for postal communication with the rest of the world.

Air Mails

The airport at East London was closed to traffic on the 1st October, 1951, for reconstructional purposes. In order to avoid the suspension of air mail services to and from East London during the period of reconstruction—approximately 18 months—arrangements were made to convey the air mails by road to and from the aerodrome at King William's Town.

Changes in Postage Rates

Postage rates on correspondence for transmission by air to Japan, China, Formosa and Manchuria were reduced on the 1st December, 1951, from 3s. per half-ounce for letters and 1s. each for air letters and postcards to 1s. 6d. and 9d., respectively.

Owing to the rising costs of the handling and conveyance of parcel mails, both in the Union and overseas, it became necessary to increase the overseas parcel post rates with effect from the 1st October, 1951.

BUILDINGS

The need for additional accommodation throughout the Union has reached such proportions that the rate at which new buildings and extensions to existing buildings are being provided, is totally inadequate to keep pace with the demand. Wherever practicable, accommodation is hired, but the resulting extent of relief is not sufficient to bridge the gap between actual requirements and the accommodation which is being provided by the

Department of Public Works. The lack of adequate accommodation is proving a definite obstacle to the development of communications services, and to telephone services particularly, in both rural and urban areas. In many of the larger centres insufficient space is affecting the satisfactory handling of mail matter and the absence of accommodation, both state-owned and hired, is retarding the extensions of existing facilities at some centres.

Financial provision was made, for the year 1951-52, for thirteen new building services at an estimated cost of £824,000 of which £200,000 was earmarked for accommodation to facilitate the development of telephone services. Twenty-seven items were carried forward from previous years at a revised estimated cost of £2,025,550. In addition to these services post office accommodation was also provided in conjunction with other state buildings at seven centres.

Good progress was made with the new post office and automatic exchange building at Queens-town for which £97,000 had been provided. This building was completed recently. Minor works in connection with post office accommodation, to the extent of £38,224, were undertaken by the Department of Public Works. Fourteen pre-fabricated buildings were erected by the Engineering branch of the Post Office at a total cost of £13,034.

INVESTMENT FACILITIES

Post Office Savings Bank

During the year 186,348 new accounts were opened, bringing the total number of open accounts to 2,203,438. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in ordinary accounts at the 31st March, 1952, was £75,453,906—a gain of £3,314,266 on the balance at the end of the previous financial year. The balance of amounts invested in Savings Bank Certificates was £9,891,800 at the end of March, 1952, as against £10,720,100 at the end of the previous financial year. The total balance of investments in ordinary savings bank accounts and in certificates was £85,345,706 on the 31st March, 1952; at the end of the previous financial year it was £82,859,740. During 1951-52 interest amounting to £2,106,247 was credited to depositors in respect of ordinary accounts and certificate investments.

On the 31st July, 1951, direct teleprinter circuits were opened from the Savings Bank building at Bloemfontein to the central telegraph offices at Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban and Bloemfontein. As a result of this innovation the transmission of telegraphic applications for repayment from depositors' accounts and telegrams to Postmasters authorising payments, has been accelerated. The teleprinter section in the Savings Bank handles up to 5,400 telegrams in a day.

Union Loan Certificates

During the year under review the amount standing to the credit of investors in Union Loan Certificates was reduced from £20,094,779 to £18,679,169. The total interest payments for the year amounted to £868,016 of which £625,434 represented interest on the Sixth Series.

As all Sixth Series certificates will mature by the 30th September, 1954, the number of repayments of these certificates continues to be high. During the past financial year the capital repayments in this Series amounted to £1,719,194, reducing the balance of this series owing to investors to £2,885,196.

The total amount invested in the Seventh Series certificates was £25,386,449 of which £15,711,014 has been repaid. Certificates of this series started maturing on the 3rd October, 1951.

The sales of Eighth Series certificates since the first day of issue—1st October, 1949—have amounted to £7,172,109 of which £1,103,857 has been repaid, interest thereon amounting to £4,071.

The new recording and filing system introduced on the 1st October, 1949, has proved successful and the procedure in the Union Loan Certificate branch in connection with repayments and tracing has been expedited and simplified.

FINANCIAL SERVICES RENDERED ON BEHALF OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Revenue Collections

The revenue collected on behalf of the Department of Inland Revenue increased from £1,118,159 in 1950-51 to £1,127,761 in 1951-52, due primarily to increased sales of revenue stamps at post offices.

Customs and Cigarette Duty revenue collected on behalf of the Customs Department amounted to £9,629,358 in 1951-52, compared with £8,776,986 in 1950-51. Customs dues collected and Cigarette Duty labels sold, reflected increases of £464,526 and £387,846, respectively.

Pension Payments

Pension payments on behalf of the Department of Pensions and the Railways Administration increased from 2,634,679 in number and £15,500,294 in value during 1950-51 to 2,870,372 and £18,365,072, respectively, during 1951-52.

Levy Savings Certificates

Levy Savings Certificates to the value of £376,456 were redeemed on behalf of the Treasury during 1951-52, compared with £167,232 during 1950-51. The increase resulted from the repayment of the certificates issued in respect of the year of assessment ended the 30th June, 1945. These certificates were only redeemable after a period of six years had elapsed and became due for repayment during 1951-52.

Tax Redemption Certificates

The sale of Tax Redemption Certificates on behalf of the Treasury during 1951-52 amounted to £536,475, which represents an increase of £375,793 over the total of £160,682 for 1950-51. The total sales by the Post Office since the inception of the scheme now amount to £1,654,777. The

large increase in sales during 1951-52 was mainly due to purchases by the public totalling over £320,000, during March, 1952, when the regulations regarding the issue of Tax Redemption Certificates were amended and the rate of interest was raised to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum.

National Housing Rentals and Loan Redemptions

The amounts collected on behalf of the Department of Health during 1951-52 totalled £921,010, compared with £850,025 during the previous year. Collections began in June, 1946, since when the average monthly amount collected has increased from approximately £5,500 to over £80,000. The total amount collected up to the 31st March, 1952, was £3,179,957.

Ex-Volunteers' Loan Repayments

The Post Office continued to assist in collecting from its employees, instalments due on loans made to departmental ex-volunteers by the State Advances Recoveries Office. The amount collected during 1951-52 was £2,607 which brought the total collected since the inception of the scheme to £28,386.

STATISTICAL TABLES

GENERAL PROFIT AND

To EXPENDITURE:—	£	£
Cash Payments (Salaries, Wages, Allowances, Maintenance and General).....	13,084,274	
Less amount apportioned to Engineering construction works.....	375,806	
	<hr/>	
	12,708,468	
Contribution in respect of Replacements and Renewals of Telegraph and Telephone Plant (Depreciation).....	529,133	
	<hr/>	13,237,601
Salaries and Allowances met from Treasury Vote.....		1,003,626
<i>Value of Services for which no Cash Debit is taken:—</i>		
Interest Liability on Capital:—	£	
Telegraphs.....	2,439,583	66,508
Telephones.....	49,021,149	1,327,126
Standard Stock.....	5,850,000	171,005
Cost of Raising Loans since Union.....	567,550	16,562
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Value of Government Buildings.....	6,731,901	1,581,201
		199,134
Pension Funds Government Liability:—		
Contributions to Funds.....	355,614	
Pensions Paid from Revenue.....	126,654	
Gratuities.....	10,206	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		492,474
Unemployment Insurance Fund—Government Liability.....		25,342
Services Rendered by Other Government Departments:—		
Printing and Stationery.....	373,770	
Minor Works and Furniture, Maintenance and Repairs, Rents, Rates and Taxes.....	289,657	
Law Costs and Damages.....	1,500	
Audit.....	4,526	
Minor Services.....	10,612	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		680,065
TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....		17,219,443
Balance being Profit.....		871,651
		<hr/>
		<u>£18,091,094</u>

POSTAL PROFIT AND LOSS

To EXPENDITURE:—	£
Traffic, Operating and Commercial.....	5,216,075
Stores (overhead).....	48,003
Administration and Accounting.....	279,388
Rents, Maintenance of Buildings, Lighting.....	104,276
Interest Liability on Capital Value of Buildings.....	91,602
Pension Liability.....	185,466
Unemployment Insurance Liability.....	9,612
Conveyance of Mails.....	1,841,232
Miscellaneous.....	534,915
	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....	7,310,569
Net Profit.....	132,715
	<hr/>
	<u>£7,443,284</u>

LOSS ACCOUNT (Financial Year 1951-52)

BY REVENUE:—

	£	£
Cash Receipts.....		17,301,116
<i>Value of Services for which no Cash Credit is Received:—</i>		
Services Rendered to Imperial Government and Union Departments:—		
Postal.....	372,670	
Telegraphs.....	1,811	
Telephones.....	60,046	
Miscellaneous.....	239,760	
		674,287
Services Rendered to Provincial Departments:—		
Cape.....	18,797	
Transvaal.....	22,436	
Natal.....	14,379	
Orange Free State.....	5,324	
		60,936
Meteorological Facilities:—		
Broadcast of Weather Reports, etc.....		54,755

£18,091,094

ACCOUNT (Financial Year 1951-52)

BY REVENUE:—

	£	£
Cash Collections from Public:—		
Postage.....	5,659,340	
Ocean Mail Service.....	304,217	
Private Box Rentals and Private Bag Fees.....	91,864	
Savings Bank Revenue.....	289,144	
Postal Order Poundage.....	106,295	
Money Order Commission.....	59,109	
Miscellaneous.....	120,823	
		6,630,792
Free Services to Government Departments.....		812,492
TOTAL REVENUE.....		<u>£7,443,284</u>

TELEGRAPH PROFIT AND

To EXPENDITURE:—

	f
Traffic, Operating and Commercial.....	1,416,899
Engineering (overhead).....	14,403
Stores (overhead).....	23,336
Administration and Accounting.....	62,158
Maintenance.....	247,070
Rents, Maintenance of Buildings, Lighting.....	43,449
Interest Liability on Capital Value of Buildings.....	29,870
Pension Liability.....	69,164
Unemployment Insurance Liability.....	3,403
Interest on Stores Reserve.....	9,522
Interest on Capital.....	66,508
Contribution for Renewals.....	30,086
Miscellaneous.....	460,662

£2,476,490

TELEPHONE PROFIT AND LOSS

To EXPENDITURE:—

	£
Traffic and Operating.....	1,455,959
Commercial.....	454,235
Engineering (overhead).....	140,293
Administration and Accounting.....	115,950
Stores (overhead).....	105,984
Maintenance.....	2,406,555
Rents, Maintenance of Buildings, Lighting.....	141,932
Interest Liability on Capital Value of Buildings.....	77,662
Pension Liability.....	237,844
Unemployment Insurance Liability.....	12,327
Interest on Stores Reserve.....	161,483
Interest on Capital.....	1,327,126
Contributions for Renewals.....	499,047
Miscellaneous.....	435,148

TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....

Net Profit.....	7,571,545
	869,961
	<u>£8,441,506</u>

LOSS ACCOUNT (*Financial Year 1951-52*)

BY REVENUE:—

Cash Collections:—	£	£
From Public:—		
Telegrams.....	1,342,563	
Registered Address Fees.....	18,322	
Miscellaneous.....	131,121	
Teleprinter and Telex Services.....	127,915	
External Telecommunications.....	626,441	
		2,246,362
From Government Departments:—		
Telegrams.....	33,700	
Registered Address Fees.....	1,254	
Teleprinter and Telex Services.....	12,383	
		47,337
Free Services to Government Departments:—		
Meteorological Services.....	49,955	
Miscellaneous.....	1,811	
		51,766
TOTAL REVENUE.....		2,345,465
Net Loss.....		131,025
		<u>£2,476,490</u>

ACCOUNT (*Financial Year 1951-52*)

BY REVENUE:—

Cash Collections:—	£
From Public.....	7,956,804
From Government Departments.....	419,820
Free Services to Government Departments.....	64,882

£8,441,506

SUMMARY OF PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS
for the Financial Years 1948-49 to 1951-52.

Account.	Financial Year.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Net Profit.	Net Loss.
		£	£	£	£
General.....	1948-49	13,119,296	13,783,159	663,863	—
	1949-50	14,177,208	14,307,145	129,937	—
	1950-51	15,843,762	16,960,041	1,116,279	—
	*1951-52	17,219,443	18,091,094	871,651	—
Postal.....	1948-49	5,741,141	6,015,396	274,255	—
	1949-50	6,185,585	6,055,526	—	130,059
	1950-51	7,185,087	7,081,221	—	103,866
	*1951-52	7,310,569	7,443,284	132,715	—
Telegraph.....	1948-49	1,956,726	1,674,878	—	281,848
	1949-50	2,102,092	1,756,879	—	345,213
	1950-51	2,186,678	2,163,635	—	23,043
	*1951-52	2,476,490	2,345,465	—	131,025
Telephone.....	1948-49	5,528,571	6,200,027	671,456	—
	1949-50	6,007,490	6,612,699	605,209	—
	1950-51	6,609,020	7,852,208	1,243,188	—
	*1951-52	7,571,545	8,441,506	869,961	—

* For detailed accounts see pages 10 to 13.

POST OFFICE TURNOVER

(Exclusive of internal banking and remittance transactions).

1948-49.....	£
1949-50.....	178,849,482
1950-51.....	179,345,159
1951-52.....	177,790,701
	187,966,203

SUMMARY OF PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS
for the Financial Years 1948-49 to 1951-52.

Account.	Financial Year.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Net Profit.	Net Loss.
		£	£	£	£
General.....	1948-49	13,119,296	13,783,159	663,863	—
	1949-50	14,177,208	14,307,145	129,937	—
	1950-51	15,843,762	16,960,041	1,116,279	—
	*1951-52	17,219,443	18,091,094	871,651	—
Postal.....	1948-49	5,741,141	6,015,396	274,255	—
	1949-50	6,185,585	6,055,526	—	130,059
	1950-51	7,185,087	7,081,221	—	103,866
	*1951-52	7,310,569	7,443,284	132,715	—
Telegraph.....	1948-49	1,956,726	1,674,878	—	281,848
	1949-50	2,102,092	1,756,879	—	345,213
	1950-51	2,186,678	2,163,635	—	23,043
	*1951-52	2,476,490	2,345,465	—	131,025
Telephone.....	1948-49	5,528,571	6,200,027	671,456	—
	1949-50	707,490	6,612,699	605,209	—
	1950-51	6,609,020	7,852,208	1,243,188	—
	*1951-52	7,571,545	8,441,506	869,961	—

* For detailed accounts see pages 10 to 13.

POST OFFICE TURNOVER

(Exclusive of internal banking and remittance transactions).

1948-49.....	£
1949-50.....	178,849,482
1950-51.....	179,345,159
1951-52.....	177,790,701
	187,966,203

POSTAL

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
1. Post Offices.....	3,450	3,464	3,471	3,469
2. Private Post Bags.....	9,534	9,796	9,959	10,791
3. Private Boxes.....	62,366	69,099	74,165	90,088
4. Posting Boxes other than on P.O. Premises.....	2,648	2,632	2,874	2,917
5. Parcels Services:—				
(a) Cash on Delivery:—				
Number of Parcels.....	717,112	718,505	776,756	833,262
Trade Charges Collected.....	£1,148,610	£1,173,286	£1,309,448	£1,498,630
Revenue to P.O.....	£45,726	£46,167	£47,555	£53,252
(b) Insured:—				
Number of Parcels.....	1,072,117	1,179,217	1,314,009	1,483,495
Revenue to P.O.....	£23,347	£24,495	£28,201	£32,191
Compensation Paid.....	£653	£96	£249	£260
(c) Acknowledgment of Posting:—				
Number of Parcels.....	855,775	659,437	682,023	825,936
Revenue to P.O.....	£3,566	£2,748	£2,841	£3,441
Compensation Paid.....	£195	£246	£315	£404
6. Total Articles Handled.....	See	next	page.	
7. Undelivered Articles:—				
(a) Number.....	9,919,676	8,722,445	10,046,270	9,955,244
(b) Value of Contents:—				
Currency.....	£25,338	£26,742	£26,345	£42,283
Other Items.....	£410,198	£440,275	£409,222	£505,482
(c) Revenue from Sales.....	£862	£1,134	£1,260	£1,204
8. Postage Franking Machines Licensed.....	1,188	1,321	1,499	1,777
9. Business Reply Service Licences.....	771	846	996	980
10. Overseas Mails:—				
Received through Great Britain for South Africa:—				
Mail Bags.....	155,865	156,315	188,316	210,775
Parcel Bags.....	127,227	144,518	139,591	170,112
Despatched from South Africa through Great Britain:—				
Mail Bags.....	65,009	58,653	52,653	55,895
Parcel Bags.....	313,029	188,921	119,976	118,000
Received for South Africa otherwise than through Great Britain:—				
Mail Bags.....	62,574	49,301	51,075	43,171
Parcel Bags.....	116,106	30,187	32,422	52,876
Despatched from South Africa otherwise than through Great Britain:—				
Mail Bags.....	14,954	17,639	16,728	16,475
Parcel Bags.....	8,696	5,911	5,668	7,690

NOTES.

Item 1: Excludes Bechuanaland Protectorate Offices.

Items 7 (a) and (b) are in respect of articles which, on account of incorrect or inadequate addresses, could not be delivered to addressees, and include articles returned to senders.

Item 7 (c) is in respect of articles which could not be delivered to addressees or returned to senders.

Item 10: Includes mails in closed bags in transit through the Union to or from South West Africa, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Southern and Northern Rhodesia, Mocambique, Nyasaland and Mauritius.

ARTICLES OF MAIL MATTER HANDLED AT POST OFFICES IN THE UNION *

Class of Mail Matter.	Posted in the Union for delivery in the Union.		Posted in the Union for delivery in other countries.		Received from other countries for delivery in the Union.		Received from other countries in transit through the Union.		Totals of articles handled.	
	1946-47.	1949-50.	1946-47.	1949-50.	1946-47.	1949-50.	1946-47.†	1949-50.	1946-47.	1949-50.
1. Letters:—										
(a) Prepaid.....	275,737,852	294,811,088	19,152,016	21,057,868	19,217,536	20,035,704	—	826,696	314,107,404	336,731,356
(b) Taxed.....	1,444,612	1,541,800	262,600	290,732	210,600	154,024	—	11,180	1,917,812	1,997,736
2. Post cards:—										
(a) Single.....	7,783,412	6,597,136	403,832	533,468	371,852	805,324	—	19,916	8,559,096	7,955,844
(b) Reply.....	13,468	25,428	104	156	52	156	—	—	13,624	25,740
3. Newspapers.....	49,682,412	46,095,764	3,635,996	3,474,068	3,095,768	5,470,244	—	75,452	56,414,176	55,115,528
4. Printed and commercial papers, sample packets and literature for the blind.....	153,432,812	166,204,012	3,050,944	4,128,592	5,137,288	8,383,336	—	141,492	161,621,044	178,857,432
5. Parcels (including C.O.D. and I.P.):—										
(a) Ordinary.....	10,757,708	8,999,744	1,733,420	1,199,432	782,600	1,078,220	—	8,216	13,273,728	11,285,612
(b) Agricultural.....	1,756,404	1,531,712	2,652	624	3,588	2,964	—	1,612	1,762,644	1,536,912
(c) Express articles.....	22,880	82,160	104	1,144	260	3,172	—	—	23,244	86,476
6. Official Correspondence.										
(a) Letters:—										
Unregistered.....	500,631,560	525,888,844	28,241,668	30,686,084	28,819,544	35,933,144	—	1,084,564	557,692,772	593,592,636
Registered.....	34,879,884	30,783,064	837,564	264,160	189,072	244,244	—	23,036	35,906,520	31,314,504
Other articles:—	2,717,832	3,122,704	10,296	24,856	17,836	23,504	—	2,028	2,745,964	3,173,092
(a) Unregistered.....	9,077,546	16,299,400	40,612	68,068	35,516	38,844	—	8,580	9,153,664	16,414,892
(b) Registered.....	167,234	35,984	416	364	1,352	1,508	—	260	169,052	38,116
7. TOTALS.....	547,474,096	576,129,996	29,130,556	31,043,532	29,063,320	36,241,244	—	1,118,468	605,667,972	644,533,240
10. Registered articles already included in items 1-6.....										
11. Specially prepaid air mail articles already included in items 1-8:—										
(a) Letters.....	—	—	5,735,548	7,258,472	2,866,968	8,423,844	—	215,852	8,602,516	15,898,168
(b) Post cards.....	—	—	54,704	229,996	40,508	293,592	—	5,252	95,212	528,840
(c) Air letters.....	—	—	3,260,816	3,867,708	2,792,244	5,941,884	—	73,996	6,053,060	9,883,588
(d) Air mail letter cards.....	—	—	615,056	—	433,368	—	—	—	1,048,424	—
	7,447,492	6,349,720	744,796	2,408,328	574,392	446,004	—	117,104	8,766,680	9,321,156

* Statistics taken every three years.

† Particulars not available.

COST OF CONVEYANCE OF MAILS WITHIN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
	£	£	£	£
1. By rail (South African Railways).....	222,270	222,436	1,300,000*	600,000†
2. By road (S.A.R. Road Motor Services).....	35,691	36,541	36,697	60,000†
3. By road (private services).....	142,301	148,307	149,641	158,616
4. By air.....	182,460	177,209	161,948	160,454
5. Total.....	582,722	584,493	1,648,286	979,070

NOTES.

* Includes arrear payment of £700,000 in respect of financial years 1948-49 and 1949-50.

† Provisional payment.

Item 3: Includes Government Garage charges and postmen's cycle allowances.

AIR MAIL TRAFFIC OUTWARD FROM THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1. South African Airways/Central African Airways (to Rhodesia, etc.).....	242,332	255,679	241,438	276,836
2. Sabena.....	387	1,751	3,952	3,350
3. Springbok Service.....	300,890	266,488	232,246	313,724
4. Pan American Airways.....	16,780	19,326	8,118	6,060
5. D.E.T.A.....	5,261	6,107	5,499	5,147
6. South African Airways (to Lourenco Marques).....	5,463	9,195	6,493	6,440
7. Skyways (E.A.), Ltd.....	174	74	—	—
8. EL AL Israel National Airlines.....	—	1,719	1,565	1,248
9. South African Airways (to Cairo).....	—	3,972	—	—
10. Suidair International Airways, Ltd.....	—	239	—	—
11. South African Airways (to Lydda).....	—	—	3,141	—
12. Total weight of mails.....	571,287	564,550	552,452	612,805

NOTES.

Item 5: Service commenced 25th May, 1948.

Item 6: Service commenced 26th May, 1948.

Item 7: Service commenced 12th August, 1948, and withdrawn 13th July, 1949.

Item 8: Service commenced 13th June, 1949, by Universal Airways and taken over by EL AL Israel National Airlines as from 1st November, 1950.

Item 9: Service commenced 20th August, 1949, and withdrawn 15th January, 1950.

Item 10: Service commenced 14th September, 1949, and withdrawn 5th January, 1950.

Item 11: Service commenced 8th May, 1950, and withdrawn 29th April, 1951.

POSTAGE RATES FOR ORDINARY MAIL MATTER POSTED IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA AS AT 31st MARCH, 1952.

Class of Mail Matter.	DESTINATION.		
	* AFRICAN POSTAL UNION COUNTRIES.		Foreign Countries (other than those shown under African Postal Union Countries).
	Union of South Africa, South West Africa, Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland.	Angola, Belgian Congo, French Cameroons, French Equatorial Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Mada- gascar, Mocambique, Nyasa- land, Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia.	
Letters.....	2c. for the first oz. and 1d. for each additional oz.	2d. per oz.	4½d. for the first oz. and 3d. for each additional oz.
Letter cards.....	2d. each.	2d. each.	4½d. each.
Postcards.....	1d. each.	2d. each.	3d. each.
Newspapers.....	½d. per 4 oz. per copy. Limit of weight for each packet 1 lb.	½d. per 4 oz. per copy. Limit of weight for each packet 1 lb.	1d. per 2 oz.
Printed papers.....	½d. per 2 oz.	½d. per 2 oz.	1d. per 2 oz.
Commercial papers (ac- counts, receipts, invoices, etc.).....	1d. per 2 oz.	1d. per 2 oz.	1d. per 2 oz. with a minimum of 4½d.
Sample packets.....	1d. per 2 oz.	1d. per 2 oz.	1d. per 2 oz. with a minimum of 2d.

* Letter mails for destinations within the Union of South Africa, to South West Africa and to the other African Postal Union countries specified carried by air, whenever worthwhile expedition in delivery results. (No additional postage for air transmission required and no special inscription or air mail label necessary.)

TELEPHONES

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
1. Exchanges.....	1,808	1,807	1,814	1,833
2. Public call offices.....	9,147	9,391	9,823	10,116
3. Exchange connections:—				
(a) Business.....	102,581	108,657	116,916	126,116
(b) Residence.....	122,531	130,383	144,982	168,687
4. Farm lines:—				
(a) Number of lines.....	4,380	4,929	5,465	5,995
(b) Farmers connected.....	32,199	36,650	41,608	46,983
(c) Length of route, in miles.....	77,705	90,501	100,225	109,854
5. Total telephone stations.....	354,459	385,064	426,659	479,823
6. Telephone calls:—				
(a) Local.....	466,635,472	491,982,081	505,879,200	525,379,782
(b) Trunk.....	33,024,395	35,200,484	37,948,193	42,505,894
(c) Total.....	499,659,867	527,182,565	543,827,393	567,885,676

INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE SERVICES

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
1. Calls to overseas countries.....	9,487	10,557	14,199	15,259
2. Calls from overseas countries.....	8,791	9,847	10,910	11,992
3. Calls to Rhodesia.....	24,306	32,216	43,342	53,797
4. Calls from Rhodesia.....	32,920	48,223	62,462	78,942
5. Calls to Lourenco Marques.....	17,599	16,917	18,307	20,990
6. Calls from Lourenco Marques.....	18,565	17,395	18,665	20,723
7. Calls to Kenya.....	184	156	332	476
8. Calls from Kenya.....	293	211	224	309
9. Calls to Belgian Congo.....	155	221	217	224
10. Calls from Belgian Congo.....	216	246	156	231

TELEPHONE BUSINESS AND REVENUE FIGURES IN THE LARGEST URBAN EXCHANGE SYSTEMS

Exchange System.	Year Ended 31st March.	Number of Telephone Stations.	Number of Accounts Rendered.	Number of Insolvencies.	Revenue Outstanding at End of Year.	†Total Revenue Collections.	Total Revenue Written Off as Irrecoverable.	Amount (in Pence) Written Off per £100 of Revenue Collected.
Witwatersrand.....	1949	126,772	1,071,972	17	£ 1,596	£ 2,205,931	£ 210	2
	1950	134,275	1,090,030	31	2,210	2,349,504	469	4.7
	1951	143,948	1,134,655	43	2,972	2,790,521	523	4.4
	1952	157,441	1,144,071	8	7,625	2,836,470	127	2
Cape Peninsula.....	1949	54,548	433,928	23	1,089	934,376	81	2
	1950	56,557	439,726	65	1,866	974,433	107	2.63
	1951	60,250	452,589	34	1,636	1,151,523	77	1.62
	1952	66,138	487,517	36	1,800	1,187,396	145	2.9
Pretoria.....	1949	27,154	207,440	—	1,032	476,436	29	1.5
	1950	30,016	218,329	20	1,263	502,130	97	4.64
	1951	32,810	260,460	7	2,765	594,804	131	5.3
	1952	40,484	316,170	9	3,564	674,552	205	7.2
Durban.....	1949	39,171*	213,320	2	1,467	270,249	33	3
	1950	41,075*	232,600	4	1,791	294,600	51	4.1
	1951	43,834*	243,050	3	3,672	331,524	162	11.6
	1952	47,927*	260,590	4	4,076	375,658	236	15.4
Port Elizabeth.....	1949	12,971	110,460	—	237	237,405	12	1
	1950	13,950	113,652	—	242	256,014	22	2.07
	1951	15,758	132,120	3	303	304,453	54	4.27
	1952	19,311	156,240	—	405	335,908	18	1.28
Pietermaritzburg....	1949	6,790	58,102	—	280	99,803	6	1.5
	1950	7,162	61,285	3	320	105,593	11	2.66
	1951	7,331	61,596	3	187	117,573	34	7.11
	1952	8,215	67,020	—	161	124,925	7	1.44
Bloemfontein.....	1949	6,185	50,613	1	83	114,529	11	2
	1950	6,742	51,547	3	89	124,937	26	5.04
	1951	8,051	59,164	—	175	164,129	10	1.6
	1952	10,052	69,920	2	346	192,943	7	0.87
East London.....	1949	6,761	53,846	1	81	113,568	4	1
	1950	7,050	57,148	—	101	121,776	1	0.19
	1951	8,383	63,670	1	279	156,819	13	0.98
	1952	9,571	71,869	2	377	174,442	9	1.24
Kimberley.....	1949	2,571	21,433	2	7	46,231	14	7
	1950	2,731	23,448	1	99	50,151	2	1.03
	1951	3,323	25,738	—	105	58,655	10	1.86
	1952	3,750	30,822	—	24	65,663	21	0.03

NOTES.

* Includes Durban municipal system.

† Includes phonogram receipts and estimated amounts for Government services.

The estimated average amounts written off per £100 of revenue collected, stated in pence, are as follows:—

1948-49: 2.3.

1949-50: 3.0.

1950-51: 4.3.

1951-52: 3.59.

TELEGRAPHS

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
1. Telegraph offices.....	3,488	3,528	3,522	3,532
2. Telegraph circuit mileage.....	157,000	190,000	212,845	247,156
3. Inland telegrams:—				
(a) Imperial Government.....	5,343	4,837	2,875	2,931
(b) Union Government.....	698,814	775,078	701,602	739,885
(c) Railway.....	8,981	9,207	12,083	13,647
(d) Public paid.....	9,485,302	9,246,877	9,295,993	9,678,985
(e) Press.....	102,782	106,158	110,389	124,352
(f) Phonograms.....	1,462,336	1,636,362	1,709,130	1,855,012
(g) Total.....	11,763,558	11,778,519	11,832,072	12,414,812
4. Business reply services registered.....	6	3	7	7
5. Overseas telegrams:—				
(a) Number of paid messages.....	719,308	646,131	735,441	748,065
(b) Value..... £	601,053	571,077	634,292	673,572
(c) Government.....	11,267	9,071	10,230	15,873
6. Radio telegrams to and from ships:—				
(a) Number of messages.....	70,655	70,356	80,332	83,079
(b) Number of words.....	1,552,449	1,736,950	2,177,839	2,553,212
(c) Revenue to Post Office..... £	23,631	21,286*	21,026*	22,509
7. Total number of telegrams handled.....	12,494,133	12,433,721	12,577,743	13,178,750

NOTES.

* Adjusted figure.

Item 3 (b): Telegrams paid for from the votes of the departments concerned.

Item 6 (a) included in item 5 (a).

BROADCASTING

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
1. Licensed broadcasting stations.....	8	9	10	10
2. Licensed listeners to broadcasting.....	509,774	531,300	559,245	597,052
3. Licensed amateur radio stations.....	1,033	1,145	1,285	1,441

INSPECTION AT CAPE TOWN AND DURBAN OF SHIPS' RADIO INSTALLATIONS

Radio Installations Licensed by—	NUMBER OF SHIPS INSPECTED.			
	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
Argentina.....	8	4	1	4
Australia.....	1	—	—	—
Belgium.....	9	16	15	6
Canada.....	43	20	5	1
Chile.....	—	—	—	9
China.....	—	—	1	1
Cyprus.....	—	3	1	—
Denmark.....	17	15	5	5
Finland.....	6	7	10	12
France.....	18	25	9	18
Great Britain.....	843	873	902	755
Greece.....	21	14	19	24
Holland.....	91	161	101	137
Honduras Republic.....	—	4	1	—
India.....	—	—	—	1
Indonesia (Republic of).....	—	—	33	—
Ireland (Republic of).....	—	—	1	—
Italy.....	12	42	50	64
Japan.....	—	—	1	15
Liberia.....	—	2	9	1
Mauritius.....	1	—	—	—
Norway.....	70	136	141	117
Pakistan.....	—	—	—	1
Panama Republic.....	49	74	47	54
Poland.....	—	—	—	4
Portugal.....	3	4	12	12
Sweden.....	39	57	41	69
Turkey.....	—	—	—	1
Union of South Africa.....	84	139	126	153
United States of America.....	213	108	73	152
Yugoslavia.....	1	—	—	—
TOTAL.....	1,529	1,704	1,604	1,616

MOTOR TRANSPORT OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE ENGINEERING BRANCH OF THE POST OFFICE

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
1. Number of motor cars and trucks.....	1,255	1,281	1,087	1,040
2. Vehicle miles run.....	10,771,856	9,674,587	8,368,587	7,615,704
3. Expenditure (including new vehicles and replacements)...£	423,382	209,418	203,089	217,180

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
1. Saving bank offices.....	1,273	1,314	1,357	1,368
2. Ordinary accounts:—				
(a) Opened.....	178,584	174,197	172,962	186,348
(b) Closed.....	66,269	87,278	82,842	166,916
(c) Remaining open.....	2,006,967	2,093,886	2,184,006	2,203,438
(d) Deposits:—				
Number.....	2,503,105	2,384,091	2,364,076	2,541,948
Value, including interest.....£	40,248,076	36,266,612	37,088,283	39,116,177
(e) Withdrawals:—				
Ordinary:—				
Number.....	405,852	470,509	429,892	524,250
Amount.....£	30,772,400	30,598,184	25,607,128	28,588,276
On demand:—				
Number.....	2,306,234	2,205,272	2,076,991	2,057,087
Amount.....£	8,568,761	7,326,141	8,678,431	7,213,634
Total:—				
Number.....	2,712,086	2,675,781	2,506,883	2,581,337
Amount.....£	39,341,161	37,924,325	34,285,559	35,801,910
(f) Balance due to depositors:—				
Amount.....£	70,994,629	69,336,916	72,139,640	75,453,907
Average, per depositor.....	£35 7 6	£33 2 3	£33 0 7	£34 4 10
3. Savings Bank Certificates:—				
(i) Investments.....£	1,986,500	1,176,000	1,268,600	1,000,700
(ii) Repayments, exclusive of interest.....£	2,200,300	2,305,100	1,816,200	1,829,000
(iii) Balance of investments.....£	12,396,800	11,267,700	10,720,100	9,891,800
4. Accounts transferred:—				
To other Administrations:—				
Number.....	389	401	411	374
Amount.....£	50,797	51,684	44,391	36,733
From other Administrations:—				
Number.....	249	224	258	311
Amount.....£	31,475	26,682	31,217	32,906
5. School Banks:—				
Number of accounts.....	145	95	72	54
Balance due to depositors.....£	20,988	7,153	6,396	2,919

NOTE.

Item 2 (f) does not include item 3 (iii).

UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
1. Investments.....	£ 2,699,969	£ 3,090,768	£ 3,060,601	£ 2,284,627
2. Repayments, exclusive of interest.....	6,564,506	7,825,769	6,086,398	3,700,237
3. Balance of investments.....	27,855,577	23,120,576	20,094,779	18,679,169

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL ORDERS

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
1. Money orders <i>Issued</i> :—				
(a) On offices in the Union:—				
Number.....	1,324,686	1,387,509	1,459,284	1,575,380
Amount.....£	6,481,075	6,951,996	7,365,988	8,304,411
(b) On other countries:—				
Number.....	81,908	71,147	75,463	78,438
Amount.....£	578,087	555,673	619,983	680,845
(c) Total:—				
Number.....	1,406,594	1,458,656	1,534,747	1,653,818
Amount.....£	7,059,162	7,507,669	7,985,971	8,985,256
(d) Commission.....£	48,104	50,706	53,617	59,109
2. Money orders <i>Paid</i> :—				
(a) Issued in the Union:—				
Number.....	1,329,278	1,381,757	1,453,691	1,577,316
Amount.....£	6,478,569	6,925,963	7,328,283	8,269,876
(b) Issued in other countries:—				
Number.....	150,091	146,356	157,190	170,273
Amount.....£	892,296	899,418	1,039,475	1,206,050
(c) Total:—				
Number.....	1,479,369	1,528,113	1,610,881	1,747,589
Amount.....£	7,370,865	7,825,381	8,367,758	9,475,926
3. Postal orders <i>Issued</i> :—				
(a) Number:—				
Union.....	8,336,156	8,623,043	9,771,770	8,643,038
British.....	649,543	703,194	794,407	950,836
Total.....	8,985,699	9,326,237	10,566,177	9,593,874
(b) Amount:—				
Union.....£	4,468,565	4,765,944	4,864,568	4,957,098
British.....£	519,147	562,179	616,348	756,334
Total.....£	4,987,712	5,328,123	5,480,916	5,713,432
(c) Poundage:—				
Union.....£	84,380	89,086	93,556	90,906
British.....£	10,734	11,578	12,885	15,389
Total.....£	95,114	100,664	106,441	106,295
4. Postal orders <i>Paid</i> :—				
(a) Number:—				
Union.....	7,565,145	7,754,608	8,709,671	7,485,972
British.....	593,697	620,583	725,581	686,414
Total.....	8,158,842	8,375,191	9,435,252	8,172,386
(b) Amount:—				
Union.....£	3,910,972	4,149,456	4,122,495	4,097,851
British.....£	423,093	442,563	468,937	491,678
Total.....£	4,334,065	4,592,019	4,591,432	4,589,529

STAFF

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
1. Permanent staff establishment:—				
(a) Authorised posts.....	20,855	22,916	24,953	26,016
(b) Officers employed.....	20,111	20,590	22,236	23,647
2. Total number of persons employed.....	30,767	30,638	32,304	34,330
3. Officers entitled to leave.....	27,818	28,993	29,765	32,238
4. Vacation leave:—				
(a) Number of days granted.....	453,025	477,365	507,839	592,332
(b) Average per officer entitled to leave.....	16.28	16.46	17.06	18.68
5. Special leave:—				
(a) Number of days granted.....	50,907	52,993	72,456	74,284
(b) Average per officer entitled to leave.....	1.83	1.82	2.4	2.3
6. Sick absence:—				
(a) Number of days.....	229,257	234,891	243,995	270,378
(b) Average per officer entitled to leave.....	8.02	8.1	8.01	8.38
7. Suggestions submitted by the staff:—				
(a) Total number.....	10	13	11	22
(b) Number adopted.....	2	4	8	7
(c) Number of awards.....	2	5	9	6
(d) Total awards paid.....	£7 7 0	£5 9 0	£29 8 0	£11 11 0

NOTES.

Item 1 does not include Engineering Officers paid from Capital Vote Funds, temporary and casual employees engaged in addition to the authorised establishment, and postal agents.

Item 2 includes the three classes of employees excluded from Item 1.

Item 3 includes Engineering Officers paid from Capital Vote Funds, but excludes postal agents who are not entitled to leave.

EXAMINATIONS ENTERED FOR BY THE STAFF

Examining Body and Examination.	Centres.				Entries.				Successes.			
	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS:—												
Trainee Post and Telegraph Assistants' Final Examination....	14	69	13	24	616	1,190	359	723	515	771	295	647
Post and Telegraph Assistants' Qualifying Examination for Re-appointment.....	8	16	17	31	17	20	18	54	12	11	12	48
General Division Officers' Examination for Promotion to Clerkships (Final).....	12	2	3	2	15	2	3	4	15	2	3	2
Postmaster-General's Certificate of Proficiency in Radio-telegraphy.....	—	2	2	3	—	4	5	6	—	1	2	1
Efficiency Test.....	99	127	190	56	241	163	298	141	168	148	200	114
Examination for Appointment as Engineer, Grade IV.....	8	8	8	8	42	41	42	37	11	20	17	10
Assistant Superintendents' (Telegraphs) Examination.....	*	9	*	*	*	40	*	*	*	12	*	*
†UNION DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:—												
Mathematics I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	4	19	8
Mathematics II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	133	42	60	55
Mathematics III.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	138	42	65	36
Mathematics IV.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	18	37	17
Mathematics V.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	5	9	3
Electrotechnics I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Electrotechnics II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—
Electrotechnics III.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	209	—	—	—
Telegraphy and Telephony I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	42	85	56
Telegraphy II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	107	48	114	57
Telegraphy III.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	6	22	12
Telephony I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	133	46	117	59
Telephony II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	16	37	20
Telephony III.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	5	8	8
Telephony IV.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	76	40	75	40
Radio-communication I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	1	2	10
Radio-communication II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Radio-communication III.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—
Physics.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	9	28	17
Engineering Drawing.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	1
Transmission I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	171	46	76	55
Transmission II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	2	16	4
Lines I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	92	14	21	25
Lines II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	146	40	66	41
Technical Electricity I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Technical Electricity II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOTES.

* No examinations held.

† Statistics in respect of "Centres" and "Entries" not available.

REQUISITIONS DEALT WITH AT THE STORES DEPÔTS

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
1. Engineering material:—				
Number of issues.....	144,444	129,844	133,255	147,588
Number of receipts.....	18,885	20,415	21,668	20,983
2. Postal stores:—				
Number of issues.....	118,472	76,964	72,590	74,244
Number of receipts.....	19,132	16,976	15,274	15,316
3. Postage stamps:—				
Number of requisitions.....	37,218	45,849	40,091	43,429
Postage value..... £	4,712,577	4,505,882	5,038,285	5,498,103
4. Postal orders:—				
Number of requisitions.....	15,385	14,444	16,926	16,832
Sale value (Union)..... £	4,564,232	4,893,175	4,989,669	5,060,437
Sale value (British)..... £	535,366	571,095	644,650	792,862
5. Union Loan Certificates:—				
Sale value..... £	894,435	3,131,823	2,901,098	2,211,765
6. National Savings Stamps:—				
Sale value..... £	220,106	269,309	247,315	287,523
7. Revenue stamps:—				
Sale value..... £	2,852,049	2,340,199	2,502,100	2,969,085
8. Tax Redemption Certificates:—				
Sale value..... £	69,418	88,923	178,933	1,683,940
9. Cigarette duty labels:—				
Sale value..... £	7,657,707	8,544,322	7,742,098	8,602,065
10. Entertainment tax labels:—				
Sale value..... £	193,178	196,595	169,678	173,336
11. Christmas stamps:—				
Sale value..... £	48,811	47,687	49,957	51,303

WORK PERFORMED ON BEHALF OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF STATE

Item.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.
1. Free postage:—				
Value..... £	444,137	459,854	542,917	551,865
2. Free money orders:—				
Number.....	29,412	25,761	30,012	29,361
Value..... £	383,459	331,248	314,918	478,533
3. Pension warrants cashed:—				
Number.....	2,603,672	2,691,612	2,634,679	2,870,372
Value..... £	14,475,768	15,668,579	15,500,294	18,365,072
4. Revenue collected:—				
(a) Licences..... £	18,522	16,845	17,083	14,845
(b) Revenue stamps..... £	1,051,901	880,265	926,192	945,517
(c) Entertainment tax:—				
Cape..... £	187,177	183,017	174,885	167,399
Natal..... £	2	1	—	—
(d) Customs dues..... £	1,387,563	781,058	752,729	1,217,255
(e) Cigarette duty..... £	7,548,507	8,033,548	8,024,257	8,412,103
(f) Fumigation fees..... £	10	13	11	5
5. Tax Redemption Certificates..... £	74,931	90,165	160,682	536,475
6. Savings Fund Levy Certificates (redeemed)..... £	267,280	188,750	167,232	376,456
7. Ex-volunteers: Loan repayments..... £	6,653	5,831	4,764	2,607
8. National Housing rentals and loan redemptions..... £	451,185	675,339	850,025	921,010