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POST OFFICE PROGRESS

1952-3

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POST OFFICE PROGRESS

Being the Postmaster-General's
Annual Report for 1952-3



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Foreword

GENERAL

This publication tells the story of the activities and achievements of the Post Office during the year ended the 31st March, 1953, and in many respects corresponds with departmental reports issued during the past few years. Progress has been maintained in all directions but at the same time, much leeway remains to be made up, particularly in the field of telephone development. Difficulties in the way of staff and buildings are still real, if not more pronounced than in the past, and there appears to be no prospect of their being surmounted in the immediate future. The unprecedented expansion and development in all spheres of our national life coupled with the fact that the general public is today making greater use than ever before of the services provided by the Post Office, have placed a severe strain on departmental resources.

In the field of telecommunications we are still faced with a gigantic task in spite of the rapid progress that has been made over the past few years under adverse conditions. For the planning and development of the telecommunications system on a scientific basis it is essential that, apart from building accommodation which is a first requirement and a separate problem on its own, adequate supplies of material, labour and funds should be available. Unfortunately, it is true that since the end of the war, we have had to face from time to time shortages under one or other of these main heads, and some of these difficulties are still with us, with the result that we have never been truly equipped for the task which has been imposed upon us; in the face of these limitations which are not peculiar to the Post Office, the department has been set a formidable task and has often been the target of ill-founded criticism.

I think it must be said that it is largely due to the loyalty and co-operation of the staff of all ranks, that we have succeeded in rendering a reasonably satisfactory service.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

As shown in the commercial account, the operations of the Post Office for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1953, yielded a profit of £1,833,868 as compared with £871,651 for the previous financial year. The enhanced profit is attributable to certain higher postal, telephone and telegraph tariffs which were introduced during 1952 as also to increased business in general.

STAFF

For many years the Post Office has been hampered in its efforts to render a first-class service by its inability to bring its staff up to full strength and the position has been aggravated by the general expansion that has taken place as also by the regular demands for more and better services.

During the year under review efforts to recruit boys and girls for service in the Post Office were intensified. The response, particularly as far as boys were concerned, was, however, disappointing notwithstanding the comparatively attractive salaries and conditions of employment that the Post Office has to offer. Particularly in the engineering branch, staff difficulties again made themselves felt and the shortage of technicians continued to affect adversely the development as well as the maintenance of the telecommunication system. Engineering apprentices in the Post Office are among the most highly paid in South Africa and it is a matter for regret that more youths do not come forward to follow a most interesting career in communication engineering with its almost unlimited possibilities.

On two previous occasions qualified technicians were recruited overseas and consideration will again have to be given to the question of augmenting our depleted engineering staff, for the third time, by the same means.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

I am pleased to be able to report once again that the rate at which telephone connections were provided during the year under review resulted in a further decrease in the number of waiting applicants. The total number of applicants as at the 31st March, 1953, was 95,065 compared with 99,180 at the end of the previous financial year and I may add that, but for the lack of exchange accommodation, the waiting list would have been reduced further.

By the addition to the system during the year of 40,659 telephone stations, which figure includes 5,798 farm line connections, we have now passed the half-million mark. On the 31st March, 1953, there were 520,482 telephone stations in the Union as compared with 232,950 on the 31st March, 1943. Over the same period of ten years farm line services were increased from 20,683 to 52,781.

Another co-axial cable (Cape Town-Paarl) was brought into service during the year and has improved telephone trunk services in the Western Province area generally and enabled direct dialling facilities to be introduced from Cape Town to a number of adjoining country exchanges.

Another milestone in the development of radio-communication in South Africa was reached in September, 1952, when a direct radiotelephone service to Australia was opened by the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs. The number of radiotelephone circuits between Johannesburg and London was increased from two to four and tests are now being conducted for long-distance teleprinter working to New York.

To consolidate the laws relating to the control of radio and to bring them into line with present-day requirements, a new Radio Act (No. 3 of 1952) was passed and came into operation on the 1st January, 1953.

POSTAL

The volume of mail matter handled in the Union is still increasing year by year and the latest census figures show that a daily average of approximately 2,000,000 postal articles are dealt with in the Union.

Throughout the year mails generally were dealt with efficiently and expeditiously and it is unfortunate that far greater publicity is often accorded to the relatively few postal articles that are lost or delayed than to the millions committed to the post and delivered at their correct destinations in the fastest possible time. There is, however, no room for complacency and the whole complicated machinery which has been evolved for the collection, transport and delivery of mails is under constant surveillance; whenever and wherever possible improved services are provided.

In the inland service and to countries in the African Postal Union letters and postcards are still being transported by air at no extra charge to the public whenever such means of conveyance results in expedition. In the external service the introduction during the year of jet-propelled aircraft on the South Africa-United Kingdom route and of a direct air service between South Africa and Australia reduced conveyance times considerably.

BUILDINGS

The lack of accommodation remains one of our most serious problems and I fear that I cannot report an improvement in this direction; on the contrary, the position is deteriorating progressively. At many places throughout the country, the existing accommodation is inadequate to meet ordinary postal requirements with the result that the staff has to work under adverse conditions and the work itself

suffers. An equally serious aspect is that at a number of places, urban as well as rural, telephone development has or will shortly come to a complete standstill because accommodation is not available for the extension of existing exchanges or the establishment of new ones. We are certainly faced with a serious situation calling for extra-ordinary measures if we are to meet to some extent and within a reasonable period the accumulated demands upon us.

POST OFFICE TERMINOLOGY

During the year under review the Terminology Committee continued its work of translating English post office terms into Afrikaans. It busied itself mainly with the translation of technical terms used in the engineering division and the telegraph and telephone branch. Since the completion of the printer's copy of the Preliminary List of Post Office Terms, published in 1951, the Committee has translated some 4,000 terms (mainly technical) into Afrikaans. Much work, however, remains to be done, especially in the field of electricity and related spheres.

CONFERENCES

Two important conferences were attended by Post Office delegates during the year, namely, the Assembly of the International Telecommunication Union at Buenos Aires and the Congress of the Universal Postal Union at Brussels.

At the latter congress the Union of South Africa was elected to membership of the Universal Postal Union Executive Committee, a body consisting of representatives of twenty countries, which meets annually at Berne.


Postmaster-General.

14 NOVEMBER, 1953.

FINANCES OF THE POST OFFICE

Profit and Loss

For the financial year 1952-53 the Post Office Commercial Account showed a profit of £1,833,868 compared with a profit of £871,651 during 1951-52. The enhanced profit was largely attributable to the increase in revenue which resulted mainly from the higher tariffs introduced during 1952 and which more than offset the increase in expenditure.

The main reasons for the increase in expenditure were as follows:—

- (1) Higher salary costs necessitated by the payment of higher cost of living allowances;
- (2) increased rental and miscellaneous payments in respect of Post Office buildings;
- (3) increased mail conveyance charges;

(4) increased interest liability and enhanced rates of interest;

(5) 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 £3,409,290 to £20,710,406, while cash expenditure rose by £2,217,589 to £16,834,622, of which an amount of £960,407 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	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53
	£	£	£
Postal.....	6,333,987	6,630,792	7,448,482
Telegraphs.....	2,094,441	2,293,700	2,552,248
Telephones.....	7,811,348	8,376,624	10,709,676
TOTAL.....£	16,239,776	17,301,116	20,710,406

Expenditure

Service	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53
	£	£	£
Postal.....	6,658,761	6,729,247	7,432,569
Telegraphs.....	1,946,981	2,197,960	2,349,032
Telephones.....	4,649,843	5,314,020	6,647,981
TOTAL.....£	13,255,585	14,241,227	16,429,582

Turnover

The turnover rose from £187,966,203 during 1951-52 to £211,930,683 during 1952-53 mainly as

a result of increases in cash expenditure and the value of pensions paid, money order and savings bank transactions, the issue of tax redemption certificates 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, 1953, was 35,672, an increase of 1,342 compared with the total as at the end of the previous financial year.

Staff Difficulties

Notwithstanding economy measures which are still being consistently applied, the unprecedented commercial expansion and the consequent greater demand for post office services made itself felt to such an extent that the establishment of the department reached a total of 28,448 authorised posts during the year compared with 26,016 for the previous year. The commercial and industrial expansion naturally made greater demands on the staff, but with the assistance of a considerable number of temporary employees, the department was able to maintain a reasonably satisfactory standard of service to the public.

During the period under review 612 post and telegraph assistants, male and female, resigned the service. In an effort to reduce the serious staff shortage, concessions in respect of previous service were offered to former post and telegraph assistants who rejoined the Post Office. This resulted in 75 ex-post office employees returning to the service. The post and telegraph assistant strength was also increased by the transfer to that grade of 187 officers of the general division; a relaxation in educational requirements facilitated this action. The appointment of women clerks has also been made more attractive by the recognition, for salary notching purposes, of previous service up to a maximum of six years from the date on which the candidate obtained the minimum educational qualifications.

The shortage of staff in both the Professional Higher and Lower Divisions remains a serious problem and the resignation of experienced personnel continues at a disturbing tempo. Special recruiting efforts this year have not been as successful as expected and the number of both engineering graduates and new apprentices has fallen far short of requirements. Although the services of the technicians who were recruited overseas during 1951-52 considerably improved the position in the engineering division, there is still a critical shortage of trained staff because suitably qualified boys have not been and are not available in sufficient numbers for enrolment as apprentice telephone and telegraph electricians and mechanics.

As a result of shortage of postmen at Johannesburg and Durban we were forced to continue the employment of temporary postwomen at these centres. Recent relaxations of the minimum educational qualification and recognition of previous service for salary purposes have improved matters at the larger centres. In some country areas, particularly in the Orange Free State, it was impossible to fill all vacancies for postmen and the department was obliged to employ Natives on such duties at a number of places. The inability of the department to recruit messengers in sufficient numbers caused real difficulties in the expeditious delivery of telegrams and from the 1st May, 1952, temporary Native postboys have been appointed for telegram delivery duties where European candidates were not available with the result that the delivery of telegrams is now on a satisfactory basis.

Workmen's Compensation

During 1952-53, medical treatment and compensation were given in 1,524 cases where officers of the department were injured in the course of their official duties.

TRAINING

Post and Telegraph Assistants on Probation

On the 1st April, 1952, the number of probationer assistants in training was 701 and during the past financial year a further 1,401 were recruited, of which 1,085 were admitted to training during January, February and March, 1953. A total of 2,102 probationer assistants received training during 1952-53 at 18 permanent training schools and 82 country post offices. Of this total, 705 completed the final test successfully and on the 31st March, 1953, there were still 1,035 probationer assistants in training. The training period had to be extended in the case of 42 probationer assistants because they had not satisfied the requirements of the final examination within the prescribed time of twelve months. During the financial year, 51 probationers who had passed their final tests resigned before their appointments as post and telegraph assistants could be confirmed and 362 resigned while in training.

Apprentices in the Engineering Division

During the year 1,023 apprentices were in training in departmental schools and in the field. Towards the end of the year 97 boys completed their apprenticeship.

In addition to the training of apprentices, 210 other members of the engineering branch, ranging in rank from Engineer, grade IV, to casual telephone workman were given special intensive courses in various aspects of engineering work. Training was also given to one apprentice from the Northern Rhodesia Post Office and selected courses were provided for seven apprentices of the Department of Transport. The training of radio apprentices has been reintroduced and a basic radio course, held at the Baragwanath training school, was attended by 30 apprentices and electricians.

General

During the year a number of general division officers was appointed as post and telegraph assistants. The position in the latter grade was a major problem, especially on the Witwatersrand, and in order to improve matters the campaign for recruits is being intensified in that area.

Telephone Operators

During 1952-53 there was a noticeable increase in the number of candidates for appointment as male and female telephonists. This is mainly attributable to the improvements in privileges and service conditions, as well as to the relaxation of

the age limit in respect of male telephonists. Leave privileges for both male and female telephonists, grades I and II, have been increased from 26 to 32 days a year; the hours of attendance for men have been reduced from 48 hours weekly on day duty to 42 hours weekly and for female telephonists, grades I and II, from 42 to 39 hours weekly. It is the departmental policy wherever possible, not to employ female telephonists on duty after 6 p.m. and to allow male telephonists to be free from duty on one night each week. The policy of employing blind and other physically handicapped persons as telephonists at private branch exchanges in government departments is being continued and there are now 28 blind and four other disabled persons in service in this capacity.

Messengers' Education

During 1952 a total of 646 departmental messengers received tuition under the Union Education Department's free bursary scheme. Of this number 233 failed to attend the prescribed number of classes or return a sufficient number of papers for correction and consequently penalties to the value of £232. 15s. 2d. were collected from these employees and paid over to the Department of Education, Arts and Science.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS (Telephone, Telegraph and Radio Services)

Engineering Stores

During the first part of the financial year 1952-53 the continued shortages of certain raw materials militated against prompt deliveries, but towards the end of the year the rate of delivery improved. Actual requirements of articles such as wooden poles, steel arms, galvanised iron wire, cables and copper and steel wire exceeded the supply.

Orders valued at £1,673,000 were placed with overseas manufacturers and orders totalling £1,528,300 with South African firms. Telegraph, telephone and radio equipment valued at £6,509,523 was received from both South African and overseas sources during the year.

The prices of engineering equipment continued to rise.

Capital Expenditure on Development

The amount actually spent on the development of the telecommunications system for 1952-53 was £6,450,177 compared with £6,446,476 during the previous financial year. The Standard Stock Capital Account which, at the 1st April, 1952, stood at £5,850,000 remained unaltered. The value of engineering materials held at the stores depots as at 31st March, 1953, was £3,074,829.

TELEPHONES

Subscribers' Telephone Services

The total number of telephones, existing and authorised, as at the 31st March, 1953, was 520,482 compared with 479,823 at the end of the previous financial year, an increase of 40,659. The number of waiting applicants dropped from 99,180 as at the 31st March, 1952, to 95,065 as at the 31st March, 1953, a decrease of 4,115. During 1951 the decrease was 6,710.

The number of farm line services, existing and authorised as at the 31st March, 1953, was 52,781, representing a total of 124,289 miles of wire. During the period 1st April, 1952, to the 31st March, 1953, the erection of 14,434 miles of new wires was authorised, making possible the provision of service for 5,798 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 £1,102,558 compared with £1,024,406 during 1951-52 and £861,856 during 1950-51. The number of waiting applicants for farm line service at the close of the financial year was 16,861—a decrease of 3,361, compared with the total on the 31st March, 1952.

Public telegraph-telephone facilities were extended to 58 new offices during the year. This involved the erection of 266 miles of new line at a cost of £23,826.

During the period under review some 604,000,000 local calls were made as against 525,000,000 during the previous year.

Automatic and Manual Exchanges

Many exchanges are still overloaded, but efforts to ease the position are continuing. Lack of the necessary building accommodation for the extension of telephone exchanges remains a serious problem.

New automatic exchanges were installed at Newlands (Johannesburg) and Hilton Road (Natal) in replacement of an automatic exchange at the former centre and of a manual exchange at the latter. Installation work on the 3,000 line automatic exchange at Bramley and a new automatic exchange at Lyttelton was also commenced during the year.

Facilities have been provided whereby Cape Town subscribers dial direct to the Paarl, Somerset West and Wellington manual exchanges, thereby reducing the delay on calls between these places. Arrangements are in hand to extend direct dialling facilities to a few other exchanges.

The capacity of ten automatic exchanges was increased by a total of 16,000 additional subscribers' lines. Authority has also been issued for extensions to other automatic exchanges, to provide a further 26,000 subscribers with service. The trunk exchange at Johannesburg was enlarged and additional switching equipment installed in the Port Elizabeth trunk exchange in order to effect an improvement in service.

The following new manual exchange works were undertaken during the year:—

Wellington, 1,400 lines;
Bryanston (Johannesburg), 1,200 lines;
Kempton Park, 2,000 lines.

In addition, at 232 exchanges in country areas, the switchboard capacity was increased by the installation of 650 switchboard positions, thereby making provision for 16,600 additional subscribers' lines. The provision of telephone service in the Orange Free State goldfields area is receiving special attention. An exchange with a capacity of 600 lines has been opened at Allanridge and an exchange will be established at New Virginia as soon as the necessary building, for which tenders have been accepted, is available. As an interim measure the capacity of the Odendaalsrus exchange has been increased from 140 to 500 lines and that

of the Welkom exchange from 600 to 1,000 lines. Further increases to 1,200 and 2,000 lines respectively will be made during 1953–54, provided the necessary building accommodation is available in time.

Telephone Trunk Services

The number of telephone trunk calls increased from 42,505,894 to 44,112,252 during 1952–53.

It was possible to provide additional trunk circuits in certain areas, but a great deal remains to be done before the position can be regarded as satisfactory. The number of additional trunk circuits provided during the year was 218. The co-axial cable between Cape Town and Paarl on which work was commenced last year, is now in service and provides 300 telephone circuits which will meet requirements in the Cape Town–Paarl section for many years. Work is still in progress on the Johannesburg–Pretoria co-axial cable.

Lines and Transmission

The major carrier trunk route network of the Union was extended by 260 miles and a considerable mileage of new wires was added to existing carrier trunk routes. During the year the major carrier trunk route between Britstown and Kimberley was completed, leaving the erection of the 150 mile section between Fourteen Streams and Klerksdorp to complete the Johannesburg–Cape Town route. A start was also made on the final section of the Johannesburg–Kroonstad major carrier trunk route. Although there were difficulties caused by railway electrification works and road location, good progress was made with the construction of the second major carrier trunk route from Paarl to Worcester via Gouda and 30 miles were actually completed. Work is well-advanced on the closing of the gaps in the carrier trunk route between Pietermaritzburg and Port Elizabeth which have existed for some years on account of the road construction works and consequent blasting. During the year 25 miles of carrier trunk route between Stutterheim and Cathcart were completed and the remaining five miles are dependent on the completion of road construction during the year. The completion of an urgently needed link between Moorreesburg and Piketberg marked the beginning of the erection of a new carrier trunk route from Cape Town towards Springbok.

The trunk system was expanded by the addition of 40 three-channel and three twelve-channel carrier systems representing an increase of about 12 per cent in the carrier trunk mileage. The carrier telegraph mileage was increased by about 2 per cent.

The broadcast relay network was augmented by a carrier system between Cape Town and Kimberley which, in effect, provides an additional circuit between Johannesburg and Cape Town and a circuit between Johannesburg and Kimberley. Equipment for further circuits between Johannesburg and Kimberley and Cape Town has been installed but cannot be used until the route between Klerksdorp and Warrenton has been completed.

TELEGRAPHS

Traffic

The number of forwarded telegrams dealt with totalled 12,869,911, which is 308,839 less than the total for the previous year.

Communication Systems

Three new Voice Frequency systems were installed between Cape Town and Paarl, Worcester and Cape Town and between Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage. Work was also started on similar systems between the following centres:—

East London–Queenstown;
Durban–Port Elizabeth;
Johannesburg–Potchefstroom;
Johannesburg–Kimberley;
Johannesburg–Port Elizabeth (second system).

Further steps were taken to modernise telegraph circuits between larger centres and rural areas by installing High Frequency systems between—

Johannesburg and Lichtenburg;
Johannesburg and Lydenburg;
Cape Town and Vanrhynsdorp;
Durban and Eshowe;
Durban and Empangeni;
Port Elizabeth and George;
Bloemfontein and Kroonstad.

Work was also begun on a similar system between Bloemfontein and Ladybrand.

As a result of the installation of these modern systems the morse telegraph equipment has, at many rural and suburban post offices, been replaced by teleprinter equipment.

Teleprinters

The number of teleprinters in use departmentally has increased from 386 to 428. Teleprinter working was extended, during the year, to six more country offices, increasing the total of rural offices equipped with modern teleprinters from 73 to 79.

Private Teleprinter and Telex Circuits

Ten additional private wire circuits were provided for industrial and commercial firms during the year, bringing the total of such circuits to 103. During the past twelve months a new, modern type of telex switchboard was installed at Pretoria. This

installation and additional services provided at other centres resulted in an increase of 140 in the number of telex subscribers, the total number now being 423. The capacity of the suites at Durban and Cape Town was doubled and planning is in progress for new switchboards to be installed at Port Elizabeth and Kimberley in the near future. Demands for telex services have also increased in country areas such as Paarl, Wellington, Stellenbosch, Grahamstown, Welkom and Kroonstad. Considerable expansion of the private wire network was effected in order to meet public requirements as well as those of the Departments of Defence and of Civil Aviation.

Registered Telegraphic Addresses

The number of telegraphic addresses recorded at the end of March, 1953, was 19,831 which is 1,682 less than at the end of the previous year; the decrease is mainly attributable to the cancellation of a large number of redundant governmental indicators.

Telegraph Offices

During the year 64 telegraph offices were opened and 77 closed, leaving a total of 3,519 as at the 31st March, 1953.

RADIO SERVICES

New Services

Direct radiotelephone service between the Union and Australia was opened by the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs in September, 1952. This replaced the indirect service via London.

Development

In March, 1953, the number of radiotelephone circuits between Johannesburg and London was increased from two to four. The number of circuits now available for radiotelephone conversations with distant countries is:—

To London.....	5 circuits.
To New York.....	1 circuit.
To Sydney.....	1 circuit.
To Leopoldville.....	1 circuit.
To Elisabethville.....	1 circuit.
To Nairobi.....	1 circuit.

These facilities enable calls to be made from South Africa to most other countries.

Teleprinter tests were commenced in March, 1953, on the United Press service from New York for the South African Press Association with a view to an early conversion from morse to teleprinter working. The tests have been satisfactory.

Good progress is being made with the planning and construction of the new radio stations at Derdepoort and Olifantsfontein. Plans and equipment for the transfer of the radio and telegraph circuits from Voortrekkerhoogte to Pretoria have been completed. A single sideband receiver was installed at Milnerton receiving station for the conversion of the Cape Town-London and Cape Town-New York circuits to this method of operation. At Klipheuwel a transmitter was converted for single sideband operation to New York and London and this system of operation was introduced in February, 1953. A four-channel frequency modulation telegraph system, designed and produced by the Post Office, was installed at Milnerton, Klipheuwel, and the radio central telegraph office at Kodak House, Cape Town, for high-speed keying of the overseas radio telegraph circuits.

In the departmental laboratory at Pretoria many tests of materials and equipment were carried out and experiments conducted. Precision repairs to instruments and transmission equipment were also effected. The new mobile laboratory vans for use in connection with high-frequency transmission tests on multi-channel carrier routes were received and commissioned.

Owing to the low stocks of some of the items necessary for the efficient maintenance and installation of equipment, the departmental workshops at Johannesburg and Cape Town have been called upon, to an increasing extent, to manufacture a wide variety of items. Altogether 2,120,875 items valued at a total of £37,510 were made. Among the more important of these items were 248 lattice masts for the new radio stations at Derdepoort and Olifantsfontein, 19,500 private boxes and 100 letter scales.

POSTAL SERVICES

Internal Mails

According to a census of postal traffic taken during the financial year, 718,000,000 articles of mail matter were handled. This represents an increase of ten per cent on the number of articles handled in 1949 when the previous census was taken.

The postage rate on printed matter posted in the Union, Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland and addressed to inland destinations and to the remainder of the African Postal Union countries was increased from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for two ounces to 1d. for two ounces, as from the 1st May, 1952. This rate was subsequently amended to 1d. for the first two ounces and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for every additional two ounces, as from the 1st July, 1952.

Private box rentals and private bag fees were doubled as from the 1st July, 1952.

Radio Act

A new Radio Act, No. 3 of 1952, came into operation on the 1st January, 1953. The main object of the Act was to consolidate the laws relating to the control of radio and to bring them into line with present-day requirements.

Private Radio Communication

The number of private radio communication licences issued has risen from 426 to 513.

Ships' Radio Stations

The number of ships' radio station licences has risen from 158 to 193.

Amateur Radio Licences

The number of current amateur radio licences is 1,192. The drop in the total compared with that of the previous year is attributable to the fact that approximately 300 persons who held licences during 1952 have not applied for licences under the new Radio Act.

Telecommunications Conference

The Union Post Office was represented at a Plenary Assembly of the International Telecommunication Union which was held in Buenos Aires during the period October-December, 1952. The Assembly was held for the purpose of revising the International Telecommunication Convention which controls the policy of world telecommunications in all its aspects.

External Mails

There was a decline during the year, in the number of gift parcels despatched from the Union to overseas destinations.

To meet increased charges required by intermediate countries, revised rates on parcels addressed to Europe and Canada were introduced on the 1st October, 1952.

Air Mails

In May and June, 1952, jet-propelled passenger aircraft were brought into use on three of the six regular services per week operating between Johannesburg and London. Mails conveyed by these aircraft reach London from five to seven hours earlier than when forwarded by Constellation planes.

A fortnightly air service between South Africa and Australia via Mauritius and Cocos Island was introduced on the 6th September, 1952. Mails forwarded by this service reach Australia within four days as against seven days via Egypt and India.

Universal Postal Union Congress

The Union Government was represented at the XIIIth Congress of the Universal Postal Union, held at Brussels during 1952. The new convention came into operation on the 1st July, 1953.

BUILDINGS

Last year attention was drawn to the fact that new buildings were not being provided at a rate commensurate with the expansion in the Post Office and no improvement in the general position during the past twelve months can be reported. Wherever practicable, accommodation is hired, but there are many centres throughout the country where the Post Office urgently needs new or enlarged accommodation. Neither state-owned nor hired premises can be provided.

Financial provision was made during the year for 16 major building services at an estimated cost of £415,200 of which an amount of £104,900 was included in the estimates for 1952-53. An amount of £395,800 was also made available during the year to cover the revoted services; included in this amount was £105,000 specially allocated for the building of new telephone exchanges and for extensions to existing telephone exchanges. During the year 18 major building services were completed at an approximate cost of £304,700, which includes an amount of £65,000 specially provided for the purchase of a building in Cape Town for the needs of the department's rapidly expanding engineering branch. The more important services completed during the year are as follows:—

Bramble (Johannesburg) New Automatic Exchange.

Mayfair (Johannesburg)	Extensions to Automatic Exchange.
Lyttelton.....	New Automatic Exchange.
Maitland.....	New Postal Stores and Engineering Accommodation.
Moorreesburg.....	New Post Office and Exchange.
Queenstown.....	New Post Office and Exchange.
Ventersburg.....	New Post Office and Exchange.
Walmer.....	New Post Office and Postmen's Delivery Depot.
Warden.....	New Post Office and Exchange.

Apart from the above major services, 67 minor services were completed during the year at an approximate cost of £64,000. These include 21 which were undertaken by the engineering branch and comprise mainly pre-fabricated buildings for telephone exchange and engineering requirements.

INVESTMENT FACILITIES

Post Office Savings Bank

During the year 174,354 new accounts were opened, bringing the total number of open accounts to 2,249,000. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in ordinary accounts at the 31st March, 1953, was £77,416,685—a gain of £1,962,778 on the balance at the end of the previous year.

The balance of amounts invested in savings bank certificates was £9,210,400 as at the end of March, 1953, as against £9,891,800 at the end of the previous year.

The total balance of investments in ordinary savings bank accounts and in savings bank certificates was £86,627,085 on the 31st March, 1953, compared with £85,345,706 at the end of the

previous financial year. During 1952-53 interest amounting to £2,460,613, was credited to depositors in respect of ordinary accounts and certificate investments.

The interest rate on investments in the savings bank was increased, from the 1st April, 1952, from 2½ per cent to 3 per cent per annum on ordinary accounts and from 3 per cent to 3½ per cent per annum on savings bank certificates. The maximum amount that may be invested by any one person in savings bank certificates was increased on the 1st April, 1952, from £1,000 to £10,000.

At the close of the financial year there were 1,415 post offices at which savings bank business could be transacted.

Union Loan Certificates

During the year under review the amount standing to the credit of investors in union loan certificates was reduced from £18,679,169 to £17,703,247. The total interest payments for the year amounted to £1,043,311 of which £506,399 represented interest on the sixth series and £524,077 interest on the seventh series.

As certificates of the sixth and seventh series are still maturing, the number of repayments of these certificates continues to be high. The capital repayments amounted to £1,271,338 for the sixth series and £2,210,020 for the seventh series.

A new series of certificates—the ninth—was placed on sale on the 1st July, 1952. This series, the unit sale value of which is 10s., with a matured value of 12s. 6d. after five years, has proved popular. For the nine months ended the 31st March, 1953, a total of £2,955,510 was invested in this series, compared with £2,284,627 invested in the eighth series during the previous financial year.

POSTAL ORDERS

New Postal Order

A new postal order of a face value of 40s. was placed on sale as from the 1st December, 1952. The poundage payable is 6d.

FINANCIAL SERVICES RENDERED ON BEHALF OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Revenue Collections

The revenue collected on behalf of the Department of Inland Revenue decreased from £1,127,761 in 1951–52 to £1,106,387 in 1952–53, owing primarily to decreased sales of revenue stamps at post offices. Customs and cigarette duty collected on behalf of the Customs Department amounted to £1,169,761 and £11,082,332 respectively, compared with the corresponding amounts of £1,217,256 and £8,412,103 in 1951–52.

Pension Payments

Pension payments on behalf of the Department of Pensions and the Railways Administration increased from 2,870,372 in number and £18,365,072 in value during 1951–52 to 2,918,572 and £20,683,326 respectively during 1952–53.

Levy Savings Certificates

Levy savings certificates to the value of £120,085 were redeemed on behalf of the Treasury during 1952–53, compared with £376,456 during 1951–52.

Tax Redemption Certificates

The sale of tax redemption certificates on behalf of the Treasury increased from £536,475 during 1951–52 to £3,247,374 during 1952–53. The total sales by the Post Office since the inception of the scheme now amount to £4,902,151.

National Housing Rentals and Loan Redemptions

An amount of £966,155 was collected on behalf of the Department of Health during 1952–53, compared with £921,010 during 1951–52. The total amount collected up to the 31st March, 1953, was £4,146,112.

Ex-Volunteers' Loan Repayments

During 1952–53 instalments totalling £1,007 were collected from departmental ex-volunteer employees, on loans made by the State Advances Recoveries Office, compared with £2,607 during 1951–52. The total amount collected since the inception of the scheme is now £29,393.

STATISTICAL TABLES

GENERAL PROFIT AND

To EXPENDITURE:—

	£	£
Cash Payments (Salaries, Wages, Allowances, Maintenance and General).....	15,268,830	
Less amount apportioned to Engineering construction works.....	405,040	
	14,863,790	
Contribution in respect of Replacements and Renewals of Telegraph and Telephone Plant (Depreciation).....	605,385	15,469,175
Salaries and Allowances met from Treasury Vote.....		960,407
<i>Value of Services for which no Cash Debit is taken:—</i>		
Interest Liability on Capital:—	£	
Telegraphs.....	2,697,969	74,332
Telephones.....	55,011,900	1,522,629
Standard Stock.....	5,850,000	173,385
Cost of Raising Loans since Union.....	579,512	17,149
Value of Government Buildings.....	6,967,689	1,787,495
		207,566
Pension Funds: Government Liability:—		
Contributions to Funds.....	401,443	
Pensions Paid from Revenue.....	120,918	
Gratuities.....	6,422	528,783
Unemployment Insurance Fund: Government Liability.....		30,853
Services Rendered by Other Government Departments:—		
Printing and Stationery.....	414,744	
Minor Works and Furniture, Maintenance and Repairs, Rents, Rates and Taxes.....	377,053	
Law Costs and Damages.....	2,250	
Audit.....	4,991	
Minor Services.....	11,582	810,620
TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....		19,794,899
Balance being Profit.....		1,833,868
		<u>£21,628,767</u>

POSTAL PROFIT AND LOSS

To EXPENDITURE:—

	£
Traffic, Operating and Commercial.....	4,764,009
Stores (overhead).....	52,747
Administration and Accounting.....	317,531
Rents, Maintenance of Buildings, Lighting.....	135,739
Interest Liability on Capital Value of Buildings.....	95,481
Pension Liability.....	185,783
Unemployment Insurance Liability.....	10,926
Conveyance of Mails.....	2,012,235
Miscellaneous.....	500,808
TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....	8,075,259
Net Profit.....	319,923
	<u>£8,395,182</u>

LOSS ACCOUNT (Financial Year 1952-53)

BY REVENUE:—

Cash Receipts.....	£	£
		20,710,406

Value of Services for which no Cash Credit is Received:—

Services Rendered to Imperial Government and Union Departments:—

Postal.....	437,010	
Telegraphs.....	1,858	
Telephones.....	81,510	
Miscellaneous.....	261,919	
		782,297

Services Rendered to Provincial Departments:—

Cape.....	33,044	
Transvaal.....	27,442	
Natal.....	13,726	
Orange Free State.....	4,989	
		79,201

Meteorological Facilities:—

Broadcast of Weather Reports, etc.....		56,863
--	--	--------

£21,628,767

ACCOUNT (Financial Year 1952-53)

BY REVENUE:—

Cash Collections from Public:—

Postage.....	6,252,915	
Ocean Mail Service.....	328,415	
Private Box Rentals and Private Bag Fees.....	223,391	
Savings Bank Revenue.....	335,098	
Postal Order Poundage.....	109,818	
Money Order Commission.....	63,341	
Miscellaneous.....	135,504	
		7,448,482

Free Services to Government Departments.....		946,700
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TOTAL REVENUE.....		<u>£8,395,182</u>
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TELEGRAPH PROFIT AND

TO EXPENDITURE:—

£

Traffic, Operating and Commercial.....	1,560,209
Engineering (overhead).....	20,217
Stores (overhead).....	23,924
Administration and Accounting.....	64,148
Maintenance.....	321,557
Rents, Maintenance of Buildings, Lighting.....	56,558
Interest Liability on Capital Value of Buildings.....	31,135
Pension Liability.....	68,944
Unemployment Insurance Liability.....	3,811
Interest on Stores Reserve.....	11,288
Interest on Capital.....	74,332
Contribution for Renewals.....	28,025
Miscellaneous.....	380,604

£2,645,152

TELEPHONE PROFIT AND LOSS

TO EXPENDITURE:—

£

Traffic and Operating.....	1,914,811
Commercial.....	535,478
Engineering (overhead).....	189,764
Administration and Accounting.....	144,151
Stores (overhead).....	116,461
Maintenance.....	3,021,954
Rents, Maintenance of Buildings, Lighting.....	184,756
Interest Liability on Capital Value of Buildings.....	80,951
Pension Liability.....	274,056
Unemployment Insurance Liability.....	16,117
Interest on Stores Reserve.....	162,097
Interest on Capital.....	1,522,629
Contributions for Renewals.....	577,360
Miscellaneous.....	502,537

TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....

Net Profit.....	9,243,122
	1,553,546
	<u>£10,796,668</u>

LOSS ACCOUNT (*Financial Year 1952-53*)

BY REVENUE:—

Cash Collections:—	£	£
From Public:—		
Telegrams.....	1,561,522	
Registered Address Fees.....	18,666	
Miscellaneous.....	163,872	
Teleprinter and Telex Services.....	160,744	
External Telecommunications.....	586,691	
		2,491,495
From Government Departments:—		
Telegrams.....	44,206	
Registered Address Fees.....	1,219	
Teleprinter and Telex Services.....	15,328	
		60,753
Free Services to Government Departments:—		
Meteorological Services.....	51,445	
Miscellaneous.....	1,858	
		53,303
TOTAL REVENUE.....		2,605,551
Net Loss.....		39,601
		<u>£2,645,152</u>

ACCOUNT (*Financial Year 1952-53*)

BY REVENUE:—

Cash Collections:—	£
From Public.....	10,245,659
From Government Departments.....	464,017
Free Services to Government Departments.....	86,992

£10,796,668

POSTAL.

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1. Post Offices.....	3,464	3,471	3,469	3,497
2. Private Post Bags.....	9,796	9,959	10,791	10,617
3. Private Boxes.....	69,099	74,165	90,088	98,009
4. Posting Boxes other than on P.O. Premises.....	2,632	2,874	2,917	3,125
5. Parcels Services:—				
(a) Cash on Delivery:—				
Number of Parcels.....	718,505	776,756	833,262	1,008,208
Trade Charges Collected.....	£1,173,286	£1,309,448	£1,498,630	£1,867,215
Revenue to P.O.....	£46,167	£47,555	£53,252	£63,255
(b) Insured:—				
Number of Parcels.....	1,179,217	1,314,009	1,483,495	1,718,127
Revenue to P.O.....	£24,495	£28,201	£32,191	£37,987
Compensation Paid.....	£96	£249	£260	£428
(c) Acknowledgment of Posting:—				
Number of Parcels.....	659,437	682,023	825,936	760,843
Revenue to P.O.....	£2,748	£2,841	£3,441	£3,170
Compensation Paid.....	£246	£315	£404	£523
6. Total Articles Handled.....	See	next	page.	
7. Undelivered Articles:—				
(a) Number.....	8,722,445	10,046,270	9,955,244	11,375,624
(b) Value of Contents:—				
Currency.....	£26,742	£26,340	£42,283	£35,305
Other Items.....	£440,275	£409,222	£505,482	£529,201
(c) Revenue from Sales.....	£1,134	£1,260	£1,204	£1,166
8. Postage Franking Machines Licensed.....	1,321	1,499	1,777	2,208
9. Business Reply Service Licences.....	846	996	980	1,079
10. Overseas Mails:—				
Received through Great Britain for South Africa:—				
Mail Bags.....	156,315	188,316	210,775	212,285
Parcel Bags.....	144,518	139,591	170,112	168,839
Despatched from South Africa through Great Britain:—				
Mail Bags.....	58,653	52,653	55,895	55,831
Parcel Bags.....	188,921	119,976	118,000	101,750
Received for South Africa otherwise than through Great Britain:—				
Mail Bags.....	49,301	51,075	43,171	42,428
Parcel Bags.....	30,187	32,422	52,876	55,204
Despatched from South Africa otherwise than through Great Britain:—				
Mail Bags.....	17,639	16,728	16,475	14,499
Parcel Bags.....	5,911	5,668	7,690	7,795

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. As from 1952-53 the figures quoted refer to articles handled in the Returned Letter Office, Cape Town, only.

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.	
	1949-50	1952-53	1949-50	1952-53	1949-50	1952-53	1949-50	1952-53	1949-50	1952-53
1. Letters:— (a) Prepaid..... (b) Taxed..... 2. Post cards (single and reply).... 3. Newspapers..... 4. Printed and commercial papers; sample packets and literature for the blind..... 5. Parcels (including C.O.D. and I.P.):— (a) Ordinary..... (b) Agricultural..... 6. Express articles.....	294,811,088 1,541,800 6,622,564 46,095,764 166,204,012 8,999,744 1,531,712 82,160 525,888,844 30,783,064 3,122,704 16,299,400 35,984 576,129,996 6,349,720 — — —	318,887,296 1,517,048 10,408,684 43,184,076 177,388,900 11,253,268 1,708,304 207,272 564,554,848 35,397,596 3,791,476 14,576,692 44,200 618,364,812 9,870,484 — — —	21,057,868 290,732 533,624 3,474,068 4,128,592 1,199,432 624 1,144 30,686,084 264,160 24,856 68,068 364 31,043,532 2,408,328 7,258,472 229,996 3,867,708	27,522,768 309,036 821,236 3,949,244 9,683,440 1,434,784 13,520 3,848 43,737,876 379,184 62,244 69,420 2,756 44,251,480 1,116,128 7,581,392 376,376 4,335,188	32,737,380 196,664 1,454,076 6,199,232 9,314,188 848,640 4,472 4,628 50,759,280 423,384 52,572 99,320 3,640 51,338,196 823,836 9,113,728 425,204 4,962,412	826,696 11,180 19,916 75,452 141,492 8,216 1,612 — 1,084,564 23,036 2,028 8,580 260 1,118,468 117,104 215,852 5,252 73,996	2,256,800 25,740 137,020 290,420 703,196 124,800 3,796 364 3,542,136 65,000 12,220 14,664 936 3,634,956 111,540 454,064 27,508 197,184	336,731,356 1,997,736 7,981,584 55,115,528 178,857,432 11,285,612 1,536,912 86,476 593,592,636 31,314,504 3,173,092 16,414,892 38,116 644,533,240 9,321,156 15,898,168 528,840 9,883,588	381,404,244 2,048,488 12,821,016 53,622,972 197,089,724 13,661,492 1,730,092 216,112 662,594,140 36,265,164 3,918,512 14,760,096 51,532 717,589,444 11,921,988 17,149,184 829,088 9,494,784	
7. Letters:— (a) Unregistered..... (b) Registered..... 8. Other articles:— (a) Unregistered..... (b) Registered..... 9. TOTALS..... 10. Registered articles already included in items 1-6..... 11. Specially prepaid air mail articles already included in items 1-8:— (a) Letters..... (b) Post cards..... (c) Air letters.....										

* Statistics taken every three years.

COST OF CONVEYANCE OF MAILS WITHIN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952 .
	£	£	£	£
1. By rail (South African Railways).....	222,436	1,300,000*	600,000†	625,333
2. By road (S.A.R. Road Motor Services).....	36,541	36,697	60,000†	58,598
3. By road (private services).....	148,307	149,641	158,616	180,519
4. By air.....	177,209	161,948	160,454	182,846
5. Total.....	584,493	1,648,286	979,070	1,047,296

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.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1. South African Airways / Central African Airways (to Rhodesia, etc.).....	255,679	241,438	276,836	303,926
2. Sabena.....	1,751	3,952	3,350	6,655
3. Springbok Service.....	266,488	282,246	313,724	319,629
4. Pan American Airways.....	19,326	8,118	6,060	5,638
5. D.E.T.A.....	6,107	5,499	5,147	4,526
6. South African Airways (to Lourenco Marques).....	9,195	6,493	6,440	6,543
7. Skyways (E.A.), Ltd.....	74	—	—	—
8. EL AL Israel National Airlines.....	1,719	1,565	1,248	1,037
9. South African Airways (to Cairo).....	3,972	—	—	—
10. Suidair International Airways, Ltd.....	239	—	—	—
11. South African Airways (to Lydda).....	—	3,141	—	—
12. K.L.M. Royal Dutch Airlines.....	—	—	—	2,138
13. Qantas Empire Airways.....	—	—	—	1,253
14. Total weight of mails.....	564,550	552,452	612,805	651,345

NOTES.

Item 7: Service 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.

Item 12: Service commenced 6th June, 1952.

Item 13: Service commenced 6th September, 1952.

TELEPHONES

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1. Exchanges.....	1,807	1,814	1,833	1,840
2. Public call offices.....	9,391	9,823	10,116	10,304
3. Exchange connections:—				
(a) Business.....	108,657	116,916	126,116	133,144
(b) Residence.....	120,383	144,982	168,587	183,167
4. Farm lines:—				
(a) Number of lines.....	4,929	5,465	5,995	6,661
(b) Farmers connected.....	36,650	41,608	46,983	52,781
(c) Length of route, in miles.....	90,501	100,225	109,854	124,288
5. Total telephone stations.....	385,064	426,659	479,823	520,482
6. Telephone calls:—				
(a) Local.....	491,982,081	505,879,200	525,379,782	603,930,548
(b) Trunk.....	35,200,484	37,948,193	42,505,894	44,112,252
(c) Total.....	527,182,565	543,827,393	567,885,676	648,042,800

INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE SERVICES

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1. Calls to overseas countries.....	10,557	14,199	15,259	14,184
2. Calls from overseas countries.....	9,847	10,910	11,992	11,012
3. Calls to Rhodesia.....	32,216	43,342	53,797	60,820
4. Calls from Rhodesia.....	48,223	62,462	78,942	83,585
5. Calls to Lourenco Marques.....	16,917	18,307	20,990	19,945
6. Calls from Lourenco Marques.....	17,395	18,665	20,723	19,964
7. Calls to Kenya.....	156	332	476	465
8. Calls from Kenya.....	211	224	309	334
9. Calls to Belgian Congo.....	221	217	224	194
10. Calls from Belgian Congo.....	246	156	231	202

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.	‡ Total Revenue Collections.	Total Revenue Written Off as Irrecoverable.	Amount (in Pence) Written Off per £100 of Revenue Collected.
Witwatersrand.....	1950	134,487*	1,090,030	31	£ 2,349,504	£ 469	4.7
	1951	143,947*	1,134,626	43	2,790,521	523	4.4
	1952	157,453*	1,144,071	8	2,836,470	127	2
	1953	166,908	1,338,768	27	3,807,398	800	5.04
Cape Peninsula.....	1950	56,557	439,726	65	974,433	107	2.63
	1951	60,250	452,589	34	1,151,523	77	1.62
	1952	66,138	487,517	36	1,187,396	145	2.9
	1953	72,508	538,629	35	1,485,134	133	2.15
Pretoria.....	1950	30,116*	218,329	20	502,130	97	4.64
	1951	35,430*	260,460	7	594,804	131	5.3
	1952	40,484	316,170	9	674,552	205	7.2
	1953	44,363	352,936	7	802,295	143	4.27
Durban.....	1950	41,075†	232,600	4	294,600	51	4.1
	1951	43,834†	243,050	3	331,524	162	11.6
	1952	47,927†	260,590	4	375,658	236	15.4
	1953	51,598†	301,000	11	436,583	198	10.9
Port Elizabeth.....	1950	14,013*	113,652	—	256,014	22	2.07
	1951	15,361*	132,120	3	304,453	54	4.27
	1952	18,827*	156,240	—	335,908	18	1.28
	1953	18,337	157,534	—	421,788	44	2.5
Pietermaritzburg.....	1950	7,162	61,285	3	105,593	11	2.66
	1951	7,331	61,596	3	117,573	34	7.11
	1952	8,215	67,020	—	124,925	7	1.44
	1953	9,587	82,764	1	179,344	11	1.49
Bloemfontein.....	1950	6,591*	51,547	3	124,937	26	5.04
	1951	7,878*	59,164	—	164,129	10	1.6
	1952	9,831*	69,920	2	192,943	7	0.87
	1953	10,692	77,280	5	245,031	33	3.01
East London.....	1950	7,050	57,148	—	121,776	1	0.19
	1951	8,274*	63,670	1	156,819	13	0.98
	1952	9,436*	71,869	2	174,442	9	1.24
	1953	10,173	79,745	5	214,332	23	2.58
Kimberley.....	1950	2,731	23,448	1	50,151	2	1.03
	1951	2,992*	25,738	—	58,655	10	1.86
	1952	3,587*	30,822	—	65,663	21	0.03
	1953	4,544	35,741	—	85,413	—	—

NOTES.

* Adjusted figure.

† 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:—

1949-50: 3.0.

1950-51: 4.3.

1951-52: 3.59.

1952-53: 3.55.

TELEGRAPHS

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1. Telegraph offices.....	3,528	3,522	3,532	3,519
2. Telegraph circuit mileage.....	190,000	212,845	247,156	258,094
3. Inland telegrams:—				
(a) Imperial Government.....	4,837	2,875	2,931	2,411
(b) Union Government.....	775,078	701,602	739,885	789,841
(c) Railway.....	9,207	12,083	13,647	24,012
(d) Public paid.....	9,246,877	9,295,993	9,678,985	9,257,921
(e) Press.....	106,158	110,389	124,352	141,422
(f) Phonograms.....	1,636,362	1,709,130	1,855,012	1,950,833
(g) Total.....	11,778,519	11,832,072	12,414,812	12,166,440
4. Overseas telegrams:—				
(a) Government.....	9,071	10,230	15,873	18,885
(b) Public paid.....	646,131*	735,441*	748,065*	684,586*
(c) Total.....	655,202*	745,671*	763,938*	703,471*
(d) Value of public paid messages.....£	571,077	634,292	673,572	656,751
5. Total number of telegrams handled.....	12,433,721*	12,577,743*	13,178,750*	12,869,911*
6. Radio telegrams to and from ships:—				
(a) Number of messages.....	70,356	80,332	83,079	83,277
(b) Number of words.....	1,736,950	2,177,839	2,553,212	2,588,890
(c) Revenue to Post Office.....£	21,286	21,026	22,509	20,936
7. Business reply services registered.....	3	7	7	3

NOTES.

* Includes item 6 (a).

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

BROADCASTING

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1. Licensed broadcasting stations.....	9	10	10	10
2. Licensed listeners to broadcasting.....	531,300	559,245	597,052	628,525
3. Licensed amateur radio stations.....	1,145	1,285	1,441	1,192

INSPECTION AT CAPE TOWN AND DURBAN OF SHIPS' RADIO INSTALLATIONS

Radio Installations Licensed by—	NUMBER OF SHIPS INSPECTED.			
	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
Argentina.....	4	1	4	3
Belgium.....	16	15	6	1
Brazil.....	—	—	—	1
Canada.....	20	5	1	2
Chile.....	—	—	9	—
China.....	—	1	1	—
Cyprus.....	3	1	—	—
Denmark.....	15	5	5	14
Finland.....	7	10	12	3
France.....	25	9	18	18
Germany.....	—	—	—	19
Great Britain.....	873	902	755	684
Greece.....	14	19	24	11
Holland.....	161	101	137	110
Honduras Republic.....	4	1	—	—
India.....	—	—	1	1
Indonesia (Republic of).....	—	33	—	—
Ireland (Republic of).....	—	1	—	2
Israel.....	—	—	—	1
Italy.....	42	50	64	56
Japan.....	—	1	15	17
Liberia.....	2	9	1	9
Norway.....	136	141	117	101
Pakistan.....	—	—	1	—
Panama Republic.....	74	47	54	39
Poland.....	—	—	4	—
Portugal.....	4	12	12	7
Sweden.....	57	41	69	57
Turkey.....	—	—	1	1
Union of South Africa.....	139	126	153	137
United States of America.....	108	73	152	77
TOTAL.....	1,704	1,604	1,616	1,371

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

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1. Number of motor cars and trucks.....	1,281	1,087	1,040	956
2. Vehicle miles run.....	9,674,587	8,368,587	7,615,704	7,219,173
3. Expenditure (including new vehicles and replacements).£	209,418	203,089	217,180	228,202

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1. Savings bank offices.....	1,314	1,357	1,368	1,415
2. Ordinary accounts:—				
(a) Opened.....	174,197	172,962	186,348	174,354
(b) Closed.....	87,278	82,842	166,916	128,492
(c) Remaining open.....	2,093,886	2,184,006	2,203,438	2,249,300
(d) Deposits:—				
Number.....	2,384,091	2,364,076	2,541,948	2,484,926
Value, including interest..... £	36,266,612	37,088,283	39,116,177	40,250,400
(e) Withdrawals:—				
Ordinary:—				
Number.....	470,509	429,892	524,250	507,776
Amount..... £	30,598,184	25,607,128	28,588,276	31,321,713
On demand:—				
Number.....	2,205,272	2,076,991	2,057,087	2,091,266
Amount..... £	7,326,141	8,678,431	7,213,634	6,965,909
Total:—				
Number.....	2,675,781	2,506,883	2,581,337	2,599,042
Amount..... £	37,924,325	34,285,559	35,801,910	38,287,622
(f) Balance due to depositors:—				
Amount..... £	69,336,916	72,139,640	75,453,907	77,416,685
Average, per depositor.....	£33 2 3	£33 0 7	£34 4 10	£38 8 4
3. Savings Bank Certificates:—				
(i) Investments..... £	1,176,000	1,268,600	1,000,700	1,328,300
(ii) Repayments, exclusive of interest..... £	2,305,100	1,816,200	1,829,000	2,009,700
(iii) Balance of investments..... £	11,267,700	10,720,100	9,891,800	9,210,400
4. Accounts transferred:—				
To other Administrations:—				
Number.....	401	411	374	298
Amount..... £	51,684	44,391	36,733	26,121
From other Administrations:—				
Number.....	224	258	311	292
Amount..... £	26,682	31,217	32,906	28,577
5. School Banks:—				
Number of accounts.....	95	72	54	30
Balance due to depositors..... £	7,153	6,396	2,919	1,140

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

UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
	£	£	£	£
1. Investments.....	3,090,768	3,060,601	2,284,627	3,460,090
2. Repayments, exclusive of interest.....	7,825,769	6,086,398	3,700,237	4,436,012
3. Balance of investments.....	23,120,576	20,094,779	18,679,169	17,703,247

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL ORDERS

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1. Money orders <i>Issued</i> :—				
(a) On offices in the Union:—				
Number.....	1,387,509	1,459,284	1,576,380*	1,684,600
Amount.....£	6,951,996	7,365,988	8,304,411	9,126,018
(b) On other countries:—				
Number.....	71,14	75,463	78,438	85,882
Amount.....£	555,673	619,983	680,845	779,687
(c) Total:—				
Number.....	1,458,656	1,534,747	1,654,818*	1,770,482
Amount.....£	7,507,669	7,985,971	8,985,256	9,905,705
(d) Commission.....£	50,706	53,617	59,109	63,341
2. Money orders <i>Paid</i> :—				
(a) Issued in the Union:—				
Number.....	1,381,757	1,453,691	1,577,316	1,680,192
Amount.....£	6,925,963	7,328,283	8,269,876	9,101,221
(b) Issued in other countries:—				
Number.....	146,356	157,190	170,273	182,428
Amount.....£	899,418	1,039,475	1,206,050	1,335,914
(c) Total:—				
Number.....	1,528,113	1,610,881	1,747,589	1,862,620
Amount.....£	7,825,381	8,367,758	9,475,926	10,437,135
3. Postal orders <i>Issued</i> :—				
(a) Number:—				
Union.....	8,623,043	9,771,770	8,643,038	8,472,560
British.....	703,194	794,407	950,836	1,124,304
Total.....	9,326,237	10,566,177	9,593,874	9,596,864
(b) Amount:—				
Union.....£	4,765,944	4,864,568	4,957,098	5,174,104
British.....£	562,179	616,348	756,334	890,147
Total.....£	5,328,123	5,480,916	5,713,432	6,064,251
(c) Poundage:—				
Union.....£	89,086	93,556	90,906	91,845
British.....£	11,578	12,885	15,389	17,973
Total.....£	100,664	106,441	106,295	109,818
4. Postal orders <i>Paid</i> :—				
(a) Number:—				
Union.....	7,754,608	8,709,671	7,485,972	7,279,567
British.....	620,583	725,581	686,414	609,244
Total.....	8,375,191	9,435,252	8,172,386	7,888,811
(b) Amount:—				
Union.....£	4,149,436	4,122,495	4,097,851	4,207,538
British.....£	442,563	468,937	491,678	468,473
Total.....£	4,592,019	4,591,432	4,589,529	4,676,011

* Adjusted figure.

STAFF

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1. Permanent staff establishment:—				
(a) Authorised posts.....	22,916	24,953	26,016	28,448
(b) Officers employed.....	20,590	22,236	23,647	24,513
2. Total number of persons employed.....	30,638	32,304	34,330	35,672
3. Officers entitled to leave.....	28,993	29,765	32,238	34,524
4. Vacation leave:—				
(a) Number of days granted.....	477,365	507,839	542,332*	588,083
(b) Average per officer entitled to leave.....	16.46	17.06	16.82*	17.03
5. Special leave:—				
(a) Number of days granted.....	52,993	72,456	74,284	80,360
(b) Average per officer entitled to leave.....	1.82	2.4	2.3	2.03
6. Sick absence:—				
(a) Number of days.....	234,891	243,995	270,378	285,054
(b) Average per officer entitled to leave.....	8.1	8.01	8.38	8.23
7. Suggestions submitted by the staff:—				
(a) Total number.....	13	11	22	13
(b) Number adopted.....	4	8	7	5
(c) Number of awards.....	5	9	6	6
(d) Total awards paid.....	£9 9 0	£29 8 0	£11 11 0	£14 3 6

NOTES.

* Adjusted figure.

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.			SUCCESSSES.			
	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS:—											
Trainee Post and Telegraph Assistants' Final Examination.....	69	13	24	53	1,190	359	723	747	295	647	705
Post and Telegraph Assistants' Qualifying Examination for Re- appointment.....	16	17	31	40	20	18	54	75	12	48	56
General Division Officers' Examination for Promotion to Clerkships (Final).....	2	3	2	4	2	3	4	7	3	2	3
Postmaster-General's Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy. Efficiency Test.....	2	2	3	9	4	5	6	38	2	1	5
Examination for Appointment as Engineer, Grade IV.....	127	190	56	148	163	298	141	274	200	114	253
Assistant Superintendents' (Telegraphs) Examination.....	8	8	8	6	41	42	37	19	17	10	8
† UNION DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:—	9	*	*	7	4C	*	*	27	*	*	13
Mathematics I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	8	58
Mathematics II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	55	78
Mathematics III.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	36	45
Mathematics IV.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	37	8
Mathematics V.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	9
Electrotechnics I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Electrotechnics II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Electrotechnics III.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telegraphy and Telephony I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	56	73
Telegraphy II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48	57	52
Telegraphy III.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	12	11
Telephony I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	59	45
Telephony II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	37	17
Telephony III.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	8	11
Telephony IV.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	40	32
Radio-communication I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	10	10
Radio-communication II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Radio-communication III.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Physics.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Engineering Drawing.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Transmission I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	28	9
Transmission II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
Lines I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	55	87
Lines II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	16	9
Technical Electricity I.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	21	97
Technical Electricity II.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	66	55

NOTES.

* No examinations held.

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

REQUISITIONS DEALT WITH AT THE STORES DEPOTS

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1. Engineering material:—				
Number of issues.....	129,844	133,255	147,588	147,591
Number of receipts.....	20,415	21,668	20,983	20,664
2. Postal stores:—				
Number of issues.....	76,964	72,590	74,244	126,952
Number of receipts.....	16,976	15,274	15,316	16,694
3. Postage stamps:—				
Number of requisitions.....	45,849	40,091	43,429	43,189
Postage value.....£	4,505,882	5,038,285	5,498,103	5,587,859
4. Postal orders:—				
Number of requisitions.....	14,444	16,926	16,832	18,397
Sale value (Union).....£	4,893,175	4,989,669	5,060,437	5,357,362
Sale value (British).....£	571,095	644,650	792,862	904,034
5. Union Loan Certificates:—				
Sale value.....£	3,131,823	2,901,098	2,211,765	4,458,315
6. National Savings Stamps:—				
Sale value.....£	269,309	247,315	287,523	293,088
7. Revenue stamps:—				
Sale value.....£	2,340,199	2,502,100	2,969,085	3,126,669
8. Tax Redemption Certificates:—				
Sale value.....£	88,923	178,933	1,683,940	3,554,993
9. Cigarette duty labels:—				
Sale value.....£	8,544,322	7,742,098	8,602,065	11,752,618
10. Entertainments tax labels:—				
Sale value.....£	196,595	169,678	173,336	163,773
11. Christmas stamps:—				
Sale value.....£	47,687	49,957	51,303	52,680

WORK PERFORMED ON BEHALF OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF STATE

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1. Free postage:—				
Value.....£	459,854	542,917	551,865	660,887
2. Free money orders:—				
Number.....	25,761	30,012	29,361	31,884
Value.....£	331,248	314,918	478,533	467,079
3. Pension warrants cashed:—				
Number.....	2,691,612	2,634,679	2,870,372	2,918,572
Value.....£	15,668,579	15,500,294	18,365,072	20,683,326
4. Revenue collected:—				
(a) Licences.....£	16,845	17,083	14,845	14,210
(b) Revenue stamps.....£	880,265	926,192	945,517	923,277
(c) Entertainment tax:—				
Cape.....£	183,017	174,885	167,399	169,901
Natal.....£	1	—	—	—
(d) Customs dues.....£	781,058	752,729	1,217,255	1,169,761
(e) Cigarette duty.....£	8,033,548	8,024,257	8,412,103	11,082,332
(f) Fumigation Fees.....£	13	11	5	2
5. Tax Redemption Certificates.....£	90,166	160,682	536,475	3,247,374
6. Savings Fund Levy Certificates (redeemed).....£	188,750	167,232	376,456	120,085
7. Ex-volunteers: Loan repayments.....£	5,831	4,764	2,607	1,007
8. National Housing rentals and loan redemptions.....£	675,339	850,025	921,010	966,155