

POST OFFICE PROGRESS

1955-6



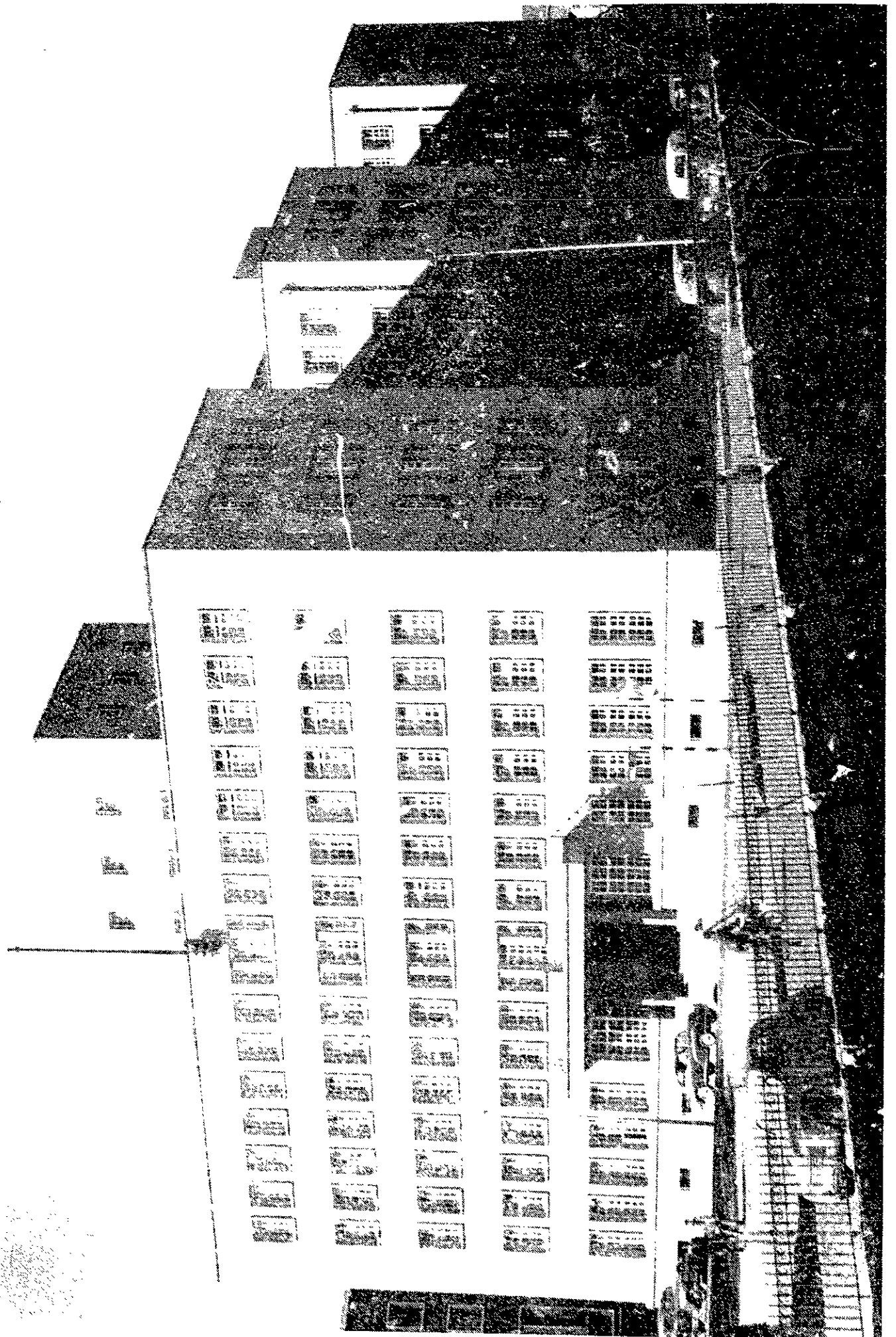
THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, PRETORIA

POST OFFICE PROGRESS

Being the Postmaster-General's
Annual Report for 1955-6



THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, PRETORIA



POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK BUILDING, BLOEMFONTEIN.

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Foreword

I am pleased to say that the Post Office has once again succeeded in meeting most of the numerous demands made on its services during the financial year 1955-56, and in surmounting many of the attendant problems which go hand in hand with the rapid development in our country today. This is borne out by the statistical and other information contained in this report.

The Post Office, to many people, means the postmen who deliver their letters, and the counter clerks and telephonists who attend to their other needs. There are many other services and tasks, some of them highly specialised, which require trained and skilled men and women for their satisfactory completion. The two biggest problems—lack of adequate accommodation and of sufficient trained personnel—continue to retard development.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

As shown in the commercial accounts of the Department there was a profit of £1,285,106 compared with £2,365,378 for 1954-55.

STAFF.

The continued growth of the Department made it necessary to create a post of Deputy Postmaster-General during the year, to which position Mr. A. J. Botes was appointed.

A considerable number of posts in the Post Office was given higher status.

The staff position generally has improved to a certain extent and this situation can be attributed to the response to recruiting drives, enhanced salaries in the various grades and additional facilities for the personnel such as the vacation savings bonus and the housing loan scheme. There are still many vacancies in the different grades, however, and it is difficult to recruit European postmen and messengers at particular points.

A new section has been created in the Department which will deal extensively with matters concerning organization and methods generally. It is confidently felt that good results should flow from this innovation.

Tribute must be paid to the praiseworthy efforts of the staff of all grades during the year under review.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Over 52,000 new telephone services were provided during 1955-56 and there was a notable increase in the number of trunk circuits, in fact the largest of any one year hitherto. New carrier routes and additional wires on existing routes made it possible to add 686 new trunk circuits, bringing the total to 5,689.

Telegraph transmission methods were improved and an international telex service to London was opened. This was later extended to the United States of America and several other countries. A direct radio-telephone service between the Union and Brazil was established and the service through London was extended to several countries.

POSTAL.

The sorting of mail matter posted in Johannesburg has been facilitated by the opening of auxiliary sorting offices at Saxonwold, Cleveland, Brixton and Yeoville and these offices have helped to relieve congestion at the main Johannesburg office. Experimental posting boxes were erected in the business area of Johannesburg with a view to encouraging the posting therein of mail intended for local delivery. In this way such mail is automatically separated from that intended for conveyance by rail or air, with the result that both types of mail can be dealt with more speedily in the sorting office.

Commemorative postage stamps were issued during the year to mark the centenary of Pretoria and also in connection with the special celebrations on the Day of the Covenant.

BUILDINGS.

The development of new business and residential areas is dependent to an appreciable extent on the availability of telephone services and post offices, but the difficulty of obtaining suitable accommodation continues to aggravate the problem of supplying those services to the public. The use of prefabricated structures is on the increase but, although they enable the Post Office to provide additional telephone and postal services, they do not offer the same permanency and scope for future expansion that normally constructed buildings would do.



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Postmaster-General.

December, 1956.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE POST OFFICE

Profit and Loss.

For the financial year 1955-56 the Post Office Commercial Account showed a profit of £1,285,106 compared with a profit of £2,365,378 for 1954-55. The reduced profit was largely attributable to the increase in expenditure, the main reasons for which were—

- (1) higher salary costs;
- (2) increased costs of conveying mails;
- (3) increased interest liability and higher rates of interest;

- (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 £967,208 to £25,522,746, while cash expenditure rose by £1,387,544 to £20,839,940. The volume and continued growth of Post Office business are 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.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
	£	£	£
Postal.....	7,881,000	8,938,776	8,941,431
Telegraphs.....	2,668,933	2,828,922	2,898,859
Telephones.....	12,027,252	12,787,840	13,682,456
TOTAL.....£	22,577,185	24,555,538	25,522,746

Expenditure.

Service.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
	£	£	£
Postal.....	7,910,537	8,444,795	8,923,084
Telegraphs.....	2,446,689	2,557,382	2,656,207
Telephones.....	7,438,718	8,006,635	8,759,234
TOTAL.....£	17,795,944	19,008,812	20,338,525

Turnover.

The cash turnover increased from £210,580,431 in 1954-55 to £217,158,998 in 1955-56.

STAFF

New Post.

During recent years the activities of the Post Office have increased to such an extent that it was decided to create a post of Deputy Postmaster-General. This took effect on the 6th July, 1955.

Staff Employed.

The total number of persons of all grades employed by the Post Office during 1955-56 was 42,410, an increase of 3,270 on the total for the previous financial year. The number includes men employed on telegraph and telephone con-

struction who are paid from Loan Vote funds, temporary employees in excess of the authorised establishment and postal agents. Additional posts in the Department were created and resulted in an increase in the number of persons employed.

Staff Position.

There has been an improvement in the staff position generally and this is attributable in some measure, to the improved salary scales for all grades, the introduction of a vacation savings bonus and a housing loan scheme for public servants. Special attention was given to resignations tendered by young officers and it was found that many of them were attracted to other spheres of employment by higher commencing salaries for, at times, inferior positions, which offered little or no prospects of advancement. The response to personnel advice was encouraging and most of the officers who withdrew their resignations did so as a result of the guidance given them by officers of the Department.

The position in the various staff groups was as follows: —

Post and Telegraph Assistants.

During the financial year 669 post and telegraph assistants left the service, a decrease of 81 compared with the previous year. Of that total, 368 were women, the majority of whom resigned to get married. Eighty per cent of the total were officers earning salaries between £186 and £306 a year. During the same period 91 former post and telegraph assistants were re-appointed in the Post Office, an increase of 21 compared with the number who rejoined the service during the previous year. During the past four years 274 former post and telegraph assistants have been re-appointed in the Post Office.

In order to give relief to areas where the staff position was not satisfactory, a total of 120 post and telegraph assistants was transferred from the Cape Province and the Northern Transvaal. The distribution was 83 to the Witwatersrand, 14 to the Natal District, 15 to the Orange Free State District and 8 to Durban.

Telephone Operators.

The number of resignations by telephonists and the inexperience of the majority of the remaining staff continue to cause anxiety. The number of men and women seeking employment as telephonists has, however, increased noticeably since the beginning of 1956 and the Department has been able to fill vacant posts expeditiously.

There are now 45 blind and 4 physically handicapped persons employed as telephonists on private branch exchanges in government departments. These officers are performing their duties satisfactorily and it is the policy of the Post Office to employ more such handicapped persons whenever suitable vacancies occur.

Uniformed Staff.

There has been no marked change in the position during the year and on the Witwatersrand, in Durban, the Orange Free State and certain parts of the rural areas of the Transvaal it is still difficult to recruit sufficient men to fill all the vacancies in the uniformed grades. In order to maintain satisfactory delivery services and to try to alleviate the position in Johannesburg, Durban and Bloemfontein, it was necessary to continue employing temporary postwomen. As a result of the continued rapid industrial development in the Orange Free State and because it was difficult to obtain suitable European labour, the Department had to employ non-Europeans to deliver correspondence in certain areas.

Engineering Personnel.

At the 31st March, 1956, there were 41 vacant posts in the Higher Professional group, (Engineers), including those related to training duties. A year previously there were 27 vacancies and the increase has placed a heavier burden on the engineers available for the type of work which can be undertaken only by highly qualified men.

In the Lower Professional group there were 438 vacancies, a decrease of 222 compared with the number of vacancies as at the 31st March, 1955. At the close of the year under review there were 570 vacant permanent posts in the Engineering Division. There were 224 more technicians in service than at the end of the previous financial year, and the total of temporary personnel increased by 1,211 to 9,513. A pleasing feature is the decrease by 522 in the number of resignations by both European and non-European staff in comparison with the financial year 1954-55.

The Post Office needs many trained technicians, but such men are not easily obtainable in South Africa and a recruiting mission went overseas during 1955 to recruit technicians for service in the Lower Professional Division of the Department. The effort was successful and 176 trained technicians have already assumed duty in the Engineering Division. These men are readily adapting themselves to local conditions.

Although there was an improvement in some categories in comparison with the previous financial year, there was a shortage of trained and qualified staff in all branches of the division and the position is not yet satisfactory.

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING.

Post and Telegraph Assistants.

During the year under review every possible effort was made to interest scholars, who were due to leave school at the end of the year, in a career in the Post Office and publicity was given to the advantages of such employment, by means of advertisements and articles in the leading newspapers and selected periodicals as well as radio announcements. Brochures containing full information about opportunities awaiting boys and girls in the Post Office were distributed. These steps, coupled with the unceasing efforts of the Department's recruiting officers and the higher commencing salaries authorised from the 1st June, 1955, and again from the 1st February, 1956, resulted in a successful recruiting campaign.

On the 1st April, 1955, 783 probationer post and telegraph assistants, recruited during the previous financial year, were still in training. During the financial year 1955-56 a total of 1,708 recruits joined the Post Office. Of the total of 2,491 who were in training during the financial year, 810 passed the final examination and 315 left the service without attempting to write the final test. At the end of the financial year there were 1,366 learners still in training.

Pupil Technicians.

The engagement of 533 pupil technicians up to the 31st March, 1956, as compared with 431 during the previous year was most encouraging. The total numbers in employment at the 31st March, 1955, and 31st March, 1956, were 1,066 and 1,259 respectively. During the year 180 apprentices and pupil technicians completed their indentures. Of these 20 resigned on termination of the training period.

Telephonists.

The demand for telephone services throughout the country continues to increase and the technique of operating modern telephone exchanges calls for increased efficiency on the part of telephonists. The efforts of the Department to provide an efficient telephone service are hampered by the loss of trained operators, usually woman who resign to get married after only a few years of service. A section has now been established for the purpose of giving special

training to operators and supervisors and it is hoped that this will help to improve the standard of telephone exchange operating.

Messengers.

The Department of Education, Arts and Science has, for many years, provided a free bursary scheme for European messengers and there have been cases where some messengers have availed themselves of this opportunity to such good effect, that they have continued their studies beyond the stage provided by the scheme and have equipped themselves for the more lucrative posts they now hold. Notwithstanding every encouragement from the Post Office, there has been in the last few years a marked lack of interest on the part of messengers in improving their educational qualifications. This is regrettable because advancement in the service is readily available for a youth who has the necessary educational qualifications.

During the year tuition was provided for 749 messengers, but 206 failed to attend the prescribed number of classes or to return a sufficient number of lessons for correction. As a result, penalties amounting to £205. 4s. had to be collected from them.

Workmen's Compensation.

During the period 1st April, 1955, to 31st March, 1956, medical treatment was provided and compensation, in either periodical or lump sum payments, paid to 1,583 employees of the Post Office who were injured in the course of their duties.

Organisation and Method.

For several years the Public Service Commission has paid special attention to certain features affecting the size and efficiency of the Public Service and, among other things, it has created suitable machinery for improving organisation and methods. The Post Office, which today employs approximately one-third of the total staff of the Public Service, is particularly affected by this development and its claims for direct participation in this important work were recently recognised officially by the establishment of its own Organisation and Methods sub-section.

As a result of the unprecedented increase in Post Office activities in recent years and of the shortage of trained staff, many problems have arisen. There is, therefore, considerable scope for work in connection with organisation and method in the Department. Specially selected officers are at present undergoing a course of intensive training and these men will devote their time and energy to research into problems peculiar to the Department. The organisational structure and

working methods of the Post Office will thus be under constant review. It is expected that this step will promote efficiency, economy and sound administration in the future.

Suggestions Scheme.

This scheme has been in operation for many years and its purpose is to encourage suggestions from all ranks of the Post Office which will result

in economy or greater efficiency by the application of mechanical designs, simplification of apparatus and improvement in systems and methods. Awards varying from 5s. to £10, sometimes more, are made to officers.

During the past financial year 52 suggestions were considered and nine were accepted, for which awards totalling £16 were made.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Capital Expenditure on Development.

The amount actually spent during 1955-56 on the development of the telecommunications system was £8,022,135 compared with £6,677,377 during the previous financial year. The Standard Stock Capital Account remained at £5,850,000.

Supply of Materials.

The general position in regard to the supply of material and equipment required for telecommunication purposes was, with few exceptions, fairly satisfactory. Some difficulty was, however, experienced in the case of line material and instruments required for the provision of new telephone services because of the time taken to obtain replenishment of stocks. Wherever possible, local manufacturers are encouraged to supply material to the department and every effort is made to meet their production problems and difficulties. There are indications that the local factories are taking steps to increase their production capacity to keep pace with the growing demand of the department.

Orders valued at £3,435,000 were placed in South Africa and £3,059,000 with overseas manufacturers. The value of material received from South African and overseas sources was £5,797,000. At the end of March, 1956, the value of engineering materials on hand at the various Stores depots was £4,413,000.

Subscribers' Telephone Services.

On the 31st March, 1956, there were 665,669 telephones in use or authorised, compared with 613,525 at the end of the previous financial year.

During the year under review authority was given for the erection of 10,200 miles of new wires in order to provide service for 7,321 farm line subscribers. The number of farm line services

in use or authorised in the 31st March, 1956, totalled 68,998, representing 154,144 miles of wire. The total expenditure incurred during the year in providing service for new farm line subscribers and in the construction of new farm lines in various stages of completion on the 31st March, 1956, was £1,190,913 compared with £1,194,044 during 1954-55 and £1,155,966 during 1953-54.

During the year semi-automatic switching units were installed at 25 points and by the end of 1955-56, 70 of these units were in use.

On the 31st March, 1956, there were 71,602 applicants waiting for telephone service, an increase of 5,639 over the total as at the end of the previous financial year. During 1954-55 there was a decrease of 16,227. The number of applicants waiting for farm line service was 11,700, a decrease of 412. During 1954-55 there was a decrease of 2,876.

Public telegraph and telephone facilities were extended to 57 new offices, involving the erection of 248 miles of new line at a cost of £43,153.

There were 825,076,325 local calls during the year compared with 753,000,000 for the previous year.

In automatic exchange areas where the wires in the existing cables are fully in use, the policy of providing shared telephone facilities was maintained and at the end of the financial year there were 5,559 subscribers with shared service. Tests were carried out at country magneto exchanges and the possibility of introducing shared services at such exchanges is being considered.

Telephone Trunk Services and Transmission.

During 1955-56 there were 54,292,792 trunk calls, an increase of 4,552,806 over the total for the previous year. The number of trunk circuits was increased by 686 and now stands at a total

of 5,689, the largest increase during any financial year. The following important long-distance projects were completed:—

	<i>Circuits.</i>	
	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Bloemfontein-Pretoria.....	2	4
Bloemfontein-Port Elizabeth.....	2	7
Bloemfontein-Cape Town..	2	4
Bloemfontein-East London	2	5
Cape Town-Kimberley....	3	4
Cape Town-Johannesburg.	6	15
Cape Town-Pretoria.....	2	5
Durban-East London.....	2	6
Johannesburg-Kimberley....	2	5
Port Elizabeth-East London	2	13

Major carrier trunk routes were extended by nearly 200 miles and a considerable mileage of less important routes was rebuilt or extended in conjunction with farm line work. Additional wires were erected on many of the main trunk routes for the purpose of providing more carrier systems. Construction of the new Johannesburg-Cape Town carrier route, via Kimberley, is complete except for a gap of about 70 miles which still remains to be bridged between Wolmaransstad and Christiana. This section of the work has been delayed by problems outside the control of the Post Office, relating to the location of the new national road.

Over sixty per cent of the total telephone trunk circuit mileage is provided by means of carrier systems. During the year orders were placed for telephone carrier equipment sufficient for the provision of about 600 channels, for delivery in 1957-58. This equipment includes many new and advanced features (such as the use of transistors in place of valves) which will generally facilitate its installation in country areas where power supplies and suitable accommodation are at a premium. Some of this equipment will operate on frequencies up to 300 kc./sec., the highest frequency which has yet been used on open wire lines anywhere in the world.

The Johannesburg-Pretoria 4,000 mc./sec. micro-wave system is now in experimental operation and is providing valuable data on the performance of these systems under South African climatic conditions. It is possible that such systems will be used for future long-distance trunk services.

Automatic and Manual Exchanges.

Lack of the necessary buildings continued to retard the development of the automatic system.

A new automatic exchange, the first to be installed in the country districts of the Western Province, replaced the manual exchange at Paarl.

A new suite of 28 trunk switchboards was also provided at that centre.

At a number of automatic exchanges the capacities of the existing switchboards were increased and provision made for a total of about 20,100 more subscribers. Similar extensions at other exchanges have been authorised and will, when completed, provide an additional 31,300 subscribers' lines. A new exchange with three times the capacity of the old one, is being installed at Alberton and a new exchange has been authorised for installation at Neale Street, Port Elizabeth, to replace the existing one at North End, the capacity of which will be more than doubled. A suite of 18 trunk switchboards is being installed at East London to replace the existing nine boards.

Important changes are taking place in the method by which subscribers in the Witwatersrand and Vereeniging areas dial each other. When the installation of the necessary equipment has been completed, the present procedure of dialling special prefix digits will no longer apply. The number of manual exchanges to which subscribers connected to the Witwatersrand, Pretoria and Vereeniging automatic systems can dial direct, will be increased. The facility will first be available to Carletonville, Klerksdorp, Kroonstad and Potchefstroom and will gradually be extended to other country exchanges.

For some time past it has been possible for subscribers in Pietermaritzburg to dial direct to subscribers in Durban. During the year the facility was introduced in respect of calls from Durban to Pietermaritzburg.

The following new manual exchanges were completed:—

Klerksdorp ...	1,900 lines	32 switchboards.
Lichtenburg ...	1,000 lines	18 switchboards.
Vryheid ...	1,000 lines	17 switchboards.

At Klerksdorp and Lichtenburg a new method of indicating receipt of a call on the switchboard was introduced on the trunk positions. On magneto switchboards the usual indicators are discs which drop when an incoming call is received. These discs were replaced by flashing lights and jacks and the innovation has led to improved efficiency in operating. This facility will be introduced at the larger exchanges when replacement of the switchboards becomes necessary.

Work commenced on the extension of the switchboard capacities at Potchefstroom and Kroonstad. The intention is to provide 1,040 additional subscribers' lines at each of these centres. The replacement of the existing switch-

board at Virginia by a new one will provide 1,000 lines. Rapid development at Welkom made it necessary to order equipment which will provide a temporary 4,000-line automatic and trunk exchanges to be accommodated in a pre-fabricated building. Extensions to the trunk exchanges at Port Elizabeth and King William's Town were completed and work was started on a new trunk exchange at East London.

At 108 manual exchanges the switchboard capacity was increased by the installation of additional boards or by the provision of more lines on existing boards. A total of 331 new boards was installed to provide 8,900 additional subscribers' lines and to meet trunk operating requirements.

Several of the larger country exchanges have now reached the stage where further expansion, on a manual switching basis is undesirable or uneconomical. Such exchanges will be converted to automatic working as opportunity offers, but the process will be gradual as such conversions are dependent on the purchase of automatic equipment, suitable sites and buildings and the availability of the necessary skilled labour for installation and maintenance of the exchanges.

Underground Cables.

A total expenditure of £1,650,000 was incurred on the laying of underground telephone cables in various part of the Union.

Farm Telephone Lines.

An amount of nearly £1,200,000 was spent during the year on farm line works. On an average 44 major construction gangs were employed continuously on these works and this represents a major proportion of the total labour force available to the Engineering Division for country construction.

Telegraph Traffic and Transmission.

The number of forwarded telegrams handled was 13,068,689, an increase of 60,223 over the total for the previous year. The total includes 733,698 telegrams to overseas destinations, an increase of 2,029 compared with the figure for 1954-55. The number of radiotelegrams transmitted between the Union and ships at sea decreased by 3,781 to 89,298 compared with the previous year.

Because of the serious shortage of staff in the Central Telegraph Office at Johannesburg, an automatic switching unit was designed and installed. This enables suburban and Witwatersrand post offices to dispose of telegrams direct to a distant telegraph office serving the office of

destination. As a result of this, a considerable amount of telegraph traffic by-passes Johannesburg with a consequent elimination of re-transmissions and reduction of delays. Further improvement is expected as additional offices are connected to this system.

As a result of the completion of certain voice-frequency and high-frequency systems, communication was improved between the following centres:—

Johannesburg and Salisbury;
Johannesburg and Welkom;
Johannesburg and Wolmaransstad;
Johannesburg and Piet Retief;
Johannesburg and Lydenburg.
Cape Town and Bloemfontein;
Cape Town and Kimberley;
Cape Town and George;
Cape Town and Vanrhynsdorp;
Cape Town and Mossel Bay;
Cape Town and Piketberg.
Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein;
Durban and Eshowe.

As at the 31st March, 1956, there were 36 voice-frequency and 36 high-frequency systems in use.

The installation of conversion equipment at Cape Town has made possible direct working between the inland telegraph system and London via the radio and submarine cable channels. The United Press service for the South African Press Association was converted from Hellschreiber to teleprinter working and tests were carried out on the Globe-Reuters service with a view to changing from Hellschreiber to teleprinter.

Teleprinter Services.

The number of subscribers to the telex service rose from 754 to 953, an increase of 199 during the past year. On the 2nd May, 1955, an international telex service to the United Kingdom was opened. The service was later extended to the Republic of Ireland and the United States of America via the International Telex Exchange in London. The South African terminal is at Pretoria, whence calls are switched to and from any telex subscriber in the Union. International Telex calls to and from Salisbury, Bulawayo and Windhoek are also switched through Pretoria.

During the year eleven additional private wire teleprinter circuits were provided for commercial and industrial firms, bringing the total as at the 31st March, 1956 to 151.

The number of teleprinters in use departmentally at the end of the year was 590, an increase of 48. There are now 127 country post offices equipped for teleprinter working. This shows an increase of 18 over the previous year.

Radio Services.

In November, 1955, the radiotelephone service was extended to Brazil, on a direct channel from Johannesburg to Rio de Janeiro.

At the close of the financial year the construction of the buildings (including official residences) for the new receiving station at Derdepoort and the new transmitting station at Olifantsfontein, near Pretoria, was well advanced. The erection of the aerial system at Derdepoort has been completed except for coaxial feeders which will be installed after occupation of the buildings.

A radio engineer attended a technical and traffic meeting of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Board in London during April and May, 1955, and took the opportunity of studying the latest developments in Commonwealth communications.

Workshops.

During the year certain essential and specialised components were made in the engineering workshop of the Department at Johannesburg and Cape Town. At Johannesburg 1,300,000 items were made at a cost of £30,000 and 48 at Cape Town costing £8,000. The more important work undertaken included the modification of

switchboards to render them suitable for operation by blind persons, coin boxes and their components for public call offices, various small tools the use of which is peculiar to the Post Office, letter scales and rack equipment for telegraph offices.

Engineering Motor Transport.

The number of departmentally-owned vehicles in use was 282 light delivery trucks, 47 panel vans and 171 three- and five-ton lorries. These vehicles completed 3,489,514 miles at an operating cost of £132,596. During the year 194 departmentally-owned vehicles were withdrawn from service as they had reached the stage where overhaul would not be economical. The majority of the remaining 500 vehicles have reached the stage where withdrawal is imminent. No vehicles were purchased by the Post Office for use by the Engineering Division.

Government Garage Vehicles in Use.

The hired fleet of Government Garage vehicles increased from 1,200 to 1,463 and a total of 14,191,643 miles was covered during 1955-56, at a cost of £624,354.

Accidents to Vehicles Driven by Engineering Personnel.

During the year engineering personnel covered approximately 17,700,000 miles and were involved in 410 accidents mostly of a minor nature. Awards for safe driving were made to 1,270 employees.

POSTAL

Internal Mails.

In order to give the best possible service to the public, the sorting of mail in Johannesburg was further decentralised by the opening of a fourth auxiliary sorting office at Yeoville. The other three were opened at Saxonwold, Cleveland and Brixton during 1953.

As an experiment, distinctively coloured posting boxes intended for mail matter for delivery in Johannesburg and its suburbs have been erected near the ordinary red posting boxes at certain points in the business area of Johannesburg. The object is to separate mail intended for local delivery from that which will be conveyed by train or air. This results in less congestion at the primary sorting stage and accelerates the subsequent sorting processes.

Air Mails.

In February, 1956, an experiment was introduced whereby additional postage stamps are affixed, by the Post Office, to insufficiently prepaid air mail letters. The value of the stamps is recovered by the Department from the senders. The arrangement has been received favourably by the public, but it applies only to overseas air mail matter bearing the names and addresses of the senders.

Postage Stamps.

The centenary of the City of Pretoria was commemorated by the issue, throughout the Union, of specially designed 3d. and 6d. stamps on the 21st October, 1955. The special celebrations held at Pietermaritzburg during December, 1955, in

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Government Garage Vehicles in Use.

The hired fleet of Government Garage vehicles increased from 1,200 to 1,463 and a total of 14,191,643 miles was covered during 1955-56, at a cost of £624,354.

Accidents to Vehicles Driven by Engineering Personnel.

During the year engineering personnel covered approximately 17 700,000 miles and were involved in 410 accidents mostly of a minor nature. Awards for safe driving were made to 1,270 employees.

POSTAL

Internal Mails.

In order to give the best possible service to the public, the sorting of mail in Johannesburg was further decentralised by the opening of a fourth auxiliary sorting office at Yeoville. The other three were opened at Saxonwold, Cleveland and Brixton during 1953.

As an experiment, distinctively coloured posting boxes intended for mail matter for delivery in Johannesburg and its suburbs have been erected near the ordinary red posting boxes at certain points in the business area of Johannesburg. The object is to separate mail intended for local delivery from that which will be conveyed by train or air. This results in less congestion at the primary sorting stage and accelerates the subsequent sorting processes.

Air Mails.

In February, 1956, an experiment was introduced whereby additional postage stamps are affixed, by the Post Office, to insufficiently prepaid air mail letters. The value of the stamps is recovered by the Department from the senders. The arrangement has been received favourably by the public, but it applies only to overseas air mail matter bearing the names and addresses of the senders.

Postage Stamps.

The centenary of the City of Pretoria was commemorated by the issue, throughout the Union, of specially designed 3d. and 6d. stamps on the 21st October, 1955. The special celebrations held at Pietermaritzburg during December, 1955, in

connection with the Day of the Covenant, were commemorated by a specially designed 2d. stamp which was placed on sale at all offices in the Union from the 1st December, 1955.

BUILDINGS.

The new buildings and extensions to existing buildings which were completed during the year provided much needed relief, but the Department's requirements in regard to accommodation for post offices and telephone exchanges are still far in arrear.

Provision was made during the year for seven new major services at an estimated total cost of £182,250 and for these items an amount of £30,700 as for 1955-56 was authorised in the estimates of expenditure from loan funds. The latter amount included £6,800 for the purchase of the post office building at Bronkhorstspuit. In addition to these major services, 39 items at an estimated cost of £2,714,650 were brought forward from previous years; an amount of £519,405, was authorised to cover expenditure on them during the year. The more important buildings completed during 1955-56 were—

Alberton.... New automatic telephone exchange.

Benoni..... Extension to automatic telephone exchange.
 Brits..... Extensions to post office and telephone exchange.
 Klipheuwel.. New prefabricated houses for engineering personnel.
 Robertson.... New post office and telephone exchange.
 Sterkspruit.. Residence for postmaster.

Appreciable benefit resulted during the year from the raising of the maximum amount which could be spent on individual minor building services. A total of 130 such services costing from £100 upwards were completed and of these the Department's Engineering Division handled 81.

The prevailing shortage of telephone exchange accommodation continues to represent one of the greatest obstacles to the development of the telephone system. To assist in overcoming the back-log, the Department has been obliged to resort, in a greater measure, to the use of prefabricated structures where these were suitable for the particular purpose. During the year the Engineering Division was engaged in the erection of about 100 of these buildings.

INVESTMENT FACILITIES

Post Office Saving Bank.

During the year 166,983 new accounts were opened and 160,669 accounts were closed. The accounts closed included 99,304 which had not been used during the past 15 years. The relative balances thereon were transferred to Revenue, pending subsequent claim by the depositors concerned. The total number of accounts remaining open on the 31st March, 1956, was 2,323,709, an increase of 6,314 on the corresponding total at the close of the previous year. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in ordinary accounts at the end of March, 1956, totalled £75,414,973, a decrease of £2,809,417 on the balance at the end of the previous year. At the 31st March, 1956, £6,379,200 was invested in Savings Bank Certificates compared with £7,583,800 as at the end of March, 1955. During 1955-56 interest amounting to £2,474,231 was credited to depositors in respect of ordinary accounts and Savings Bank Certificates. At the close of the financial year the num-

ber of post offices at which savings bank business could be transacted had increased by 37 to a total of 1,521.

Union Loan Certificates.

During the year investments totalled £2,771,582 and capital repayments amounted to £3,749,560. Of the latter amount £1,647,863 was repaid in respect of certificates of the seventh series, many of which reached maturity during 1955-56. The interest paid during the year amounted to £760,860, of which £84,167 was paid on the sixth series, £457,486 on the seventh series, £195,824 on the eighth series and £22,402 on the ninth series.

The capital balances owing to investors as at the 31st March, 1956, were £392,826 in respect of the sixth series, £1,801,721 in respect of the seventh series, £4,070,056 in respect of the eighth series and £9,579,993 in respect of the ninth series. The sale of the tenth series of Union Loan Certificates commenced on the 1st April, 1956.

FINANCIAL SERVICES RENDERED ON BEHALF OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Inland Revenue.

The amount collected on behalf of the Department of Inland Revenue decreased from £1,314,118 during the previous year to £1,301,865 during 1955-56. This was mainly attributable to a decrease in the sale of entertainment tax labels and to a lesser extent of revenue stamps and licences. On behalf of the Department of Customs and Excise the Post Office collected £1,691,477, an increase of £291,510 on the total for 1954-55. Cigarette duty labels to the value of £12,690,118 were sold at post offices, a decrease of £326,811 compared with 1954-55.

Pensions.

Pension payments made on behalf of the Department of Pensions, the South African Railways, and the Provincial Administrations amounted to £27,612,983 which was £3,015,508 more than the previous year. The number of vouchers handled increased from 2,839,042 to 2,949,674. Of these totals 117,693 vouchers amounting to £1,839,623 and 2,953 vouchers amounting to £74,791 were on behalf of the South African Railways and the Provincial Administrations respectively.

Treasury.

Levy Saving Certificates to the value of £21,197 were redeemed on behalf of the Treasury as compared with £33,169 during 1954-55. The sale of Tax Redemption Certificates on behalf of the Treasury amounted to £3,109,305 which is £720,675 less than during 1954-55. Since the scheme started in July, 1941, the Post Office has sold certificates to the value of £16,138,870 up to 31st March, 1956.

National Housing.

An amount of £1,066,519 was collected on behalf of the National Housing Organisation, in respect of rentals and loan redemptions. This represents an increase of £43,030 on the amount for 1954-55. The collections commenced in June, 1946, since which date the Post Office has collected £7,223,452 up to 31st March, 1956.

State Advances Recoveries Office.

During the 1955-56 financial year £180 was collected on behalf of the State Advances Recoveries Office from departmental ex-volunteers in respect of loan repayments. The total amount collected since the inception of the scheme, was £30,187 as at the end of March, 1956.

POST OFFICE TERMINOLOGY

During the year 1955-56 the Post Office Terminology Committee dealt with radiocommunication, television, microwave and miscellaneous Post Office engineering terms. In addition, a comprehensive list of submarine cable terms was completed.

The Committee again co-operated with the Editor of the *Woordebcek van die Afrikaanse Taal* by furnishing a considerable number of

definitions when requested by Dr. P. C. Schoonees to do so. As in the past, close co-operation was maintained with the Vaktaalburo of the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns.

The demand for the Interim List of Post Office Terms has exceeded the limited supply by far and the issue of a Post Office Dictionary some time during 1957 is contemplated.

STATISTICAL TABLES

GENERAL PROFIT AND

To EXPENDITURE:—

	£	£
Cash Payments (Salaries, Wages, Allowances, Maintenance and General)	20,018,533	
Less amount apportioned to Engineering construction works.....	501,415	
	19,517,118	
Contribution in respect of Replacements and Renewals of Telegraph and Telephone Plant (Depreciation).....	821,407	20,338,525
<i>Value of Services for which no Cash Debit is taken:—</i>		
Interest Liability on Capital:—		
Telegraphs.....	112,704	
Telephones.....	2,343,583	
Standard Stock.....	200,169	
Cost of Raising Loans since Union.....	23,193	2,679,649
Value of Government Buildings.....		290,224
Pension Funds: Government Liability:—		
Contributions to Funds.....	701,319	
Pensions Paid from Revenue.....	113,472	
Gratuities.....	5,362	820,153
Unemployment Insurance Fund: Government Liability.....		15,284
Services Rendered by Other Government Departments:—		
Printing and Stationery.....	564,068	
Minor Works and Furniture, Maintenance and Repairs, Rents, Rates and Taxes.....	622,234	
Law Costs and Damages.....	3,000	
Audit.....	5,444	
Minor Services.....	14,531	
Postal Services.....	188,564	1,397,841
TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....		25,541,676
Balance being Profit.....		1,285,106
		<u>£26,826,782</u>

POSTAL PROFIT AND LOSS

To EXPENDITURE:—

	£
Traffic, Operating and Commercial.....	5,660,592
Stores (overhead).....	61,732
Administration and Accounting.....	355,752
Rents, Maintenance of Buildings, Lighting.....	224,004
Interest Liability on Capital Value of Buildings.....	133,503
Pension Liability.....	283,940
Unemployment Insurance Liability.....	5,322
Conveyance of Mails.....	2,533,157
Miscellaneous.....	562,860
TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....	9,820,862
Net Profit.....	253,347
	<u>£10,074,209</u>

LOSS ACCOUNT (Financial Year 1955-56).

BY REVENUE:—

	£	£
Cash Receipts.....		25,522,746
<i>Value of Services for which no Cash Credit is Received:—</i>		
Services Rendered to Government Departments:—		
Postal.....	739,926	
Telegraphs.....	2,628	
Telephones.....	110,115	
Miscellaneous.....	320,486	
		1,173,155
Services Rendered to Provincial Departments:—		
Cape.....	28,150	
Transvaal.....	20,187	
Natal.....	15,814	
Orange Free State.....	8,263	
		72,414
Meteorological Facilities:—		
Broadcast of Weather Reports, etc.....		58,467

£26,826,782

ACCOUNT (Financial Year 1955-56).

BY REVENUE:—

	£	£
Cash Collections from Public:—		
Postage.....	7,516,276	
Ocean Mail Service.....	413,134	
Private Box Rentals and Private Bag Fees.....	215,618	
Savings Bank Revenue.....	383,594	
Postal Order Poundage.....	131,900	
Money Order Commission.....	76,882	
Miscellaneous.....	198,045	
		8,935,449
Free Services to Government Departments.....		1,132,777
Cash Collections from Government Departments: Bag Fees and Box Rentals....		5,983
TOTAL REVENUE.....		<u>£10,074,209</u>

TELEGRAPH PROFIT AND

To EXPENDITURE:—

	£
Traffic, Operating and Commercial.....	1,720,875
Engineering (overhead).....	24,628
Stores (overhead).....	28,391
Administration and Accounting.....	81,640
Maintenance.....	386,056
Rents, Maintenance of Buildings, Lighting.....	93,335
Interest Liability on Capital Value of Buildings.....	43,534
Pension Liability.....	106,986
Unemployment Insurance Liability.....	1,917
Interest on Stores Reserve.....	14,136
Interest on Capital.....	112,704
Contribution for Renewals.....	42,095
Miscellaneous.....	441,579

£3,097,876

TELEPHONE PROFIT AND LOSS

To EXPENDITURE:—

	£
Traffic and Operating.....	2,796,850
Commercial.....	757,042
Engineering (overhead).....	234,341
Administration and Accounting.....	177,211
Stores (overhead).....	122,417
Maintenance.....	3,673,597
Rents, Maintenance of Buildings, Lighting.....	304,895
Interest Liability on Capital Value of Buildings.....	113,187
Pension Liability.....	429,227
Unemployment Insurance Liability.....	8,045
Interest on Stores Reserve.....	186,033
Interest on Capital.....	2,343,583
Contributions for Renewals.....	779,312
Miscellaneous.....	697,198

TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....

Net Profit.....	12,622,938
	1,175,679
	<u>£13,798,617</u>

LOSS ACCOUNT (Financial Year 1955-56).

By REVENUE:—

Cash Collections:—

From Public:—

Telegrams.....	£	£
Registered Address Fees.....	1,626,009	
Miscellaneous.....	20,851	
Teleprinter and Telex Services.....	193,782	
External Telecommunications.....	292,915	
	680,860	

From Government Departments:—

Telegrams.....		2,814,417
Registered Address Fees.....	49,766	
Teleprinter and Telex Services.....	1,259	
	33,417	

Free Services to Government Departments:—

Meteorological Services.....		84,442
Miscellaneous.....	52,467	
	2	
		55,097

TOTAL REVENUE.....

Net Loss.....		2,953,956
		143,920
		<u>£3,097,876</u>

ACCOUNT (Financial Year 1955-56.)

By REVENUE:—

Cash Collections:—

From Public.....

From Government Departments.....

Free Services to Government Departments.....	£	
	13,107,185	
	575,271	
	116,161	

£13,798,617

STAFF

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1. Permanent staff establishment:—			
(a) Authorised posts.....	29,067	30,779	31,460
(b) Officials employed.....	26,944	27,881	30,043
2. Total number of persons employed.....	37,276	39,140	42,410
3. Officials who availed themselves of leave.....	36,205	37,827	41,687
4. Vacation leave:—			
(a) Number of days granted.....	632,704	680,303	722,567
(b) Average per official.....	17.48	17.98	17.33
5. Special leave:—			
(a) Number of days granted.....	88,928	98,114	119,699
(b) Average per official.....	2.46	2.59	2.87
6. Sick absence:—			
(a) Number of days.....	310,487	321,276	351,163
(b) Average per official.....	8.58	8.49	8.42
7. Suggestions submitted by the staff:—			
(a) Total number.....	13	8	74
(b) Number adopted.....	1	2	8
(c) Number of awards.....	2	2	9
(d) Total awards paid.....	£9 7 0	£2 2 0	£16 0 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.

TELEPHONES

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1. Exchanges.....	1,876	1,854*	1,856
2. Public call offices.....	10,686	11,007	11,448
3. Exchange connections:—			
(a) Business.....	140,271	147,705	155,533
(b) Residence.....	200,700	218,337	235,199
4. Farm lines:—			
(a) Number of lines.....	7,088	7,812	8,349
(b) Farmers connected.....	56,963	63,589	68,998
(c) Length of route, in miles.....	130,906	143,944	154,144
5. Party lines (other than farm lines):—†			
(a) Number of lines.....	—	1,097	1,260
(b) Parties connected.....	—	3,986	4,692
6. Total telephone stations.....	565,362	613,525	665,669
7. Telephone calls:—			
(a) Local.....	683,395,506	753,175,034	825,076,325
(b) Trunk.....	46,996,245	49,732,982	54,292,788
(c) Total.....	730,391,751	802,908,016	879,369,113

NOTES.

* Decrease due to closing of agencies which have now been connected to Semi-Automatic Farm Line Units.

† Not shown previously but included under total telephone stations.

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.....	1954 1955 1956	177,688 189,056 204,611	1,397,280 1,458,560 1,556,964	81 171 143	£ 4 179,008 4,245,732 4,455,148	£ 11,192 17,689 10,138	64·3 99·9 54·6
Cape Peninsula.....	1954 1955 1956	77,513 83,363 88,779	575,742 607,029 639,761	59 91 96	1,736,784 1,724,052 1,821,365	435 297 450	6·01 4·13 5·9
Pretoria.....	1954 1955 1956	49,616 53,228 59,595	393,216 421,300 489,172	17 12 28	942,128 1,036,039 1,130,062	179 460 1,230	5·21 12·09 26·1
Durban.....	1954 1955 1956	56,203† 61,317† 66,650†	358,750 426,910 500,300	10 2 8	526,431 636,229 726,573	250 353 367	11·4 13·3 12·1
Port Elizabeth.....	1954 1955 1956	19,897 22,208 23,516	161,188 173,988 182,000	5 6 8	468,478 520,398 591,374	65 60 88	3·3 2·75 3·57
Pietermaritzburg.....	1954 1955 1956	10,516 11,262 11,786	89,688 74,460‡ 30,676‡	1 2 3	219,339 225,702 255,239	19 37 122	2·14 4·17 11·47
Bloemfontein.....	1954 1955 1956	12,347 12,876 13,269	87,393 94,982 98,179	10 5 5	273,952 302,113 318,829	60 95 119	5·5 5·56 8·95
East London.....	1954 1955 1956	10,605 11,019 12,000	82,308 86,115 94,780	5 4 5	232,582 239,755 256,407	73 33 41	7·53 3·31 3·83
Kimberley.....	1954 1955 1956	5,028 5,449 5,725	40,666 50,184 52,610	2 — 2	97,794 104,594 117,152	9 — 8	0·02 — 0·16

NOTES.

* Includes phonogram receipts and estimated amounts for Government services.

† Includes Durban Municipal System.

‡ Accounts rendered quarterly instead of monthly as from January, 1955.

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

1953-54: 11·712.

1954-55: 16·115.

1955-56: 14·07.

INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1. Calls to overseas countries.....	14,607	17,039	16,932*
2. Calls from overseas countries.....	11,984	17,290	14,553*
3. Calls to Rhodesia.....	63,240	67,676	79,030
4. Calls from Rhodesia.....	93,984	103,172	101,765
5. Calls to Lourenco Marques.....	21,330	23,100	23,986
6. Calls from Lourenco Marques.....	19,687	22,212	23,577
7. Calls to Kenya.....	349	325	360
8. Calls from Kenya.....	413	479	529
9. Calls to Belgian Congo.....	198	159	238
10. Calls from Belgian Congo.....	182	208	302

NOTE.

* Decrease due to introduction of Overseas Telex Service.

BROADCASTING AND RADIO LICENCES.

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1. Broadcasting:—			
(a) Licensed Stations.....	11	11	11
(b) Licensed Listeners.....	660,477	717,941	738,310
2. Licensed Radio Stations:—			
(a) Ships.....	244	287	316
(b) Aircraft.....	105	116	156
(c) Private Communication.....	543	609	939
(d) Amateur.....	1,542	1,755	1,821

INSPECTION AT CAPE TOWN AND DURBAN OF SHIPS' RADIO INSTALLATIONS

Radio Installations Licensed by—	NUMBER OF SHIPS INSPECTED.		
	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
Argentina.....	1	—	—
Belgium.....	—	—	1
Bermuda.....	1	—	—
Brazil.....	—	1	5
Canada.....	—	—	—
China.....	—	1	—
Costa Rica.....	1	—	5
Denmark.....	14	15	29
Finland.....	1	9	4
France.....	29	23	27
Germany.....	14	13	29
Great Britain.....	700	739	652
Greece.....	7	5	16
Holland.....	135	161	147
Honduras Republic.....	1	5	2
India.....	2	—	—
Ireland (Republic of).....	—	—	—
Israel.....	2	1	—
Italy.....	53	43	46
Japan.....	28	45	47
Liberia.....	13	15	27
Monrovia.....	—	1	3
Norway.....	123	104	103
Panama Republic.....	41	27	35
Philippines.....	2	—	—
Portugal.....	4	8	26
Sweden.....	59	17	60
Switzerland.....	5	39	6
Turkey.....	—	—	—
Union of South Africa.....	156	121	138
United States of America.....	63	80	86
Uruguay.....	—	1	—
Yugo-Slavia.....	—	3	—
TOTAL.....	1,455	1,477	1,494

TELEGRAPHS

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1. Telegraph offices.....	3,572	3,538†	3,489†
2. Telegraph circuit mileage.....	296,448	298,814	319,528
3. Inland telegrams:—			
(a) Imperial Government.....	5,522	5,097	5,508
(b) Union Government.....	782,305	783,599	794,366
(c) Railway.....	33,919	31,167	9,167
(d) Public paid.....	9,005,930	9,049,221	9,119,237
(e) Press.....	165,427	176,791	189,745
(f) Phonograms.....	2,090,460	2,230,922	2,216,968
(g) Total.....	12,083,563	12,276,797	12,334,991
4. Overseas telegrams:—			
(a) Government.....	19,253	18,329	24,153
(b) Public paid.....	679,174*	713,340*	709,545*
(c) Total.....	698,427*	731,669*	733,698*
(d) Value of public paid messages.....£	692,045	720,010	866,842
5. Total number of telegrams handled.....	12,781,990*	13,008,466*	13,068,689*
6. Radio telegrams to and from ships:—			
(a) Number of messages.....	85,227	93,079	89,298
(b) Number of words.....	2,813,434	2,586,362	2,535,181
(c) Revenue to Post Office.....£	20,184	20,796	20,128

NOTES.

* Includes item 6 (a).

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

† Decrease due to closing of agencies which have now been connected to semi-automatic Farm Line Units.

POSTAL

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1. Post Offices:—			
(a) Money Order Offices.....	—	1,469	1,503
(b) Postal Agencies.....	—	2,002	1,919
(c) Total Number of Offices.....	3,472	3,471	3,422
2. Private Post Bags.....	9,349	9,920	9,892
3. Private Boxes.....	86,639*	95,448*	99,829
4. Posting Boxes other than on P.O. Premises.....	3,230	3,453	3,695
5. Parcel Services:—			
(a) Cash on Delivery:—			
Number of Parcels.....	1,108,451	1,213,560	1,342,945
Trade Charges Collected.....	£2,121,355	£2,428,006	£2,694,499
Revenue to P.O.....	£76,068	£81,610	£91,777
(b) Insured:—			
Number of Parcels.....	2,007,698	2,328,514	2,532,176
Revenue to P.O.....	£43,275	£51,780	£66,355
Compensation Paid.....	£1,129	£1,422	£1,687
(c) Acknowledgment of Posting:—			
Number of Parcels.....	1,028,013	1,055,717	1,346,141
Revenue to P.O.....	£4,283	£4,399	£5,609
Compensation Paid.....	£574	£696	£922
6. Total Articles Handled.....		SEE NEXT PAGE	
7. Undelivered Articles:—			
(a) Number.....	8,633,534	5,500,690	5,934,578
(b) Value of Contents:—			
Currency.....	£31,924	£27,316	£26,766
Other Items.....	£554,948	£507,633	£592,261
(c) Revenue from Sales.....	£1,162	£1,165	£1,110
8. Postage Franking Machines Licensed.....	2,670	3,004	3,305
9. Business Reply Service Licences.....	1,211	1,145	1,049
10. Overseas Mails:—			
Received through Great Britain for South Africa:—			
Mail Bags.....	248,162	262,904	268,478
Parcel Bags.....	194,162	203,132	197,222
Despatched from South Africa through Great Britain:—			
Mail Bags.....	56,444	57,418	49,910
Parcel Bags.....	84,305	34,479	30,384
Received for South Africa otherwise than through Great Britain:—			
Mail Bags.....	44,676	51,944	53,411
Parcel Bags.....	60,793	77,721	87,935
Despatched from South Africa otherwise than through Great Britain:—			
Mail Bags.....	15,727	15,839	15,994
Parcel Bags.....	8,557	9,181	10,839

NOTES.

* Adjusted figures.

Item 1: Excludes Bechuanaland Protectorate Offices.

Item 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. 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, The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Mocambique, 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.	
	1952-53.	1955-56.	1952-53.	1955-56.	1952-53.	1955-56.	1952-53.	1955-56.	1952-53.	1955-56.
1. Letters:—										
(a) Prepaid	318,887,296	368,802,824	27,522,768	36,892,388	32,737,380	54,015,312	2,256,800	6,033,508	381,404,244	465,744,032
(b) Taxed	1,517,048	1,653,132	309,036	233,376	196,664	202,346	25,740	19,500	2,048,488	2,108,444
2. Post cards (single and reply)	10,408,684	9,801,116	821,236	1,237,184	1,454,076	1,866,332	137,020	126,412	12,821,016	13,031,044
3. Newspapers	43,184,076	48,453,028	3,949,244	3,234,088	6,199,232	10,044,944	290,420	744,900	53,622,972	62,476,960
4. Printed and commercial papers; sample packets and literature for the blind	177,388,900	244,007,868	9,683,440	11,626,628	9,314,188	10,448,516	703,196	1,555,320	197,089,724	267,638,332
5. Parcels (including C.O.D. and I.P.):—										
(a) Ordinary	11,253,268	13,243,464	1,434,784	1,383,460	848,640	1,544,764	124,800	426,972	13,661,492	16,598,660
(b) Agricultural	1,708,304	1,556,880	13,520	13,156	4,472	13,260	3,796	66,456	1,730,092	1,649,752
6. Express articles	207,272	318,292	3,848	6,760	4,628	8,580	364	5,252	216,112	338,884
7. Official Correspondence.										
Letters:—										
(a) Unregistered	564,554,848	687,836,604	43,737,876	54,627,040	50,759,280	78,144,144	3,542,136	8,978,320	662,594,140	829,586,108
(b) Registered	35,397,596	39,809,588	379,184	333,632	423,384	505,440	65,000	301,288	36,265,164	40,949,948
8. Other articles:—	3,791,476	5,770,232	62,244	41,444	52,572	58,656	12,220	195,728	3,918,512	6,066,060
(a) Unregistered	14,576,692	52,563,992	69,420	188,708	99,320	156,832	14,664	124,384	14,760,096	53,033,916
(b) Registered	44,200	53,404	2,756	3,952	3,640	3,952	936	988	51,532	62,296
9. Literature for the Blind†	—	37,284	—	1,820	—	624	—	2,496	—	42,224
10. TOTALS	618,364,812	786,071,104	44,251,480	55,196,596	51,338,196	78,869,648	3,634,956	9,603,204	717,589,444	929,740,552
11. Registered articles already included in items 1-6	9,870,484	13,630,084	1,116,128	1,164,852	823,836	1,574,560	111,540	69,160	11,921,988	16,438,656
12. Specially prepaid air mail articles already included in items 1-9:—										
(a) Letters	—	15,296,424	7,581,392	14,312,740	9,113,728	20,503,860	454,064	450,684	17,149,184	50,563,708
(b) Post cards	—	350,584	376,376	615,056	425,204	751,608	27,508	33,280	829,088	1,750,528
(c) Air letters (aerogrammes) ..	—	437,060	4,335,188	6,832,748	4,962,412	7,281,768	197,184	214,916	9,494,784	14,766,492
(d) Second class air mail articles†	—	—	—	249,080	—	1,307,644	—	31,824	—	1,588,548

NOTES.

- * Statistics taken every three years.
† Included under item 5 in 1952-53.
‡ Service introduced, 30/10/53.

COST OF CONVEYANCE OF MAILS WITHIN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
	£	£	£
1. By rail (South African Railways).....	736,442	935,595	926,382
2. By road (S.A.R. Road Motor Services).....	69,459	88,613	84,058
3. By road (private services).....	218,856	237,762	247,837
4. By air.....	191,044	167,799	195,475
5. Total.....	1,215,801	1,429,769	1,453,752

NOTE.

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

WEIGHT OF AIR MAIL TRAFFIC OUTWARD FROM THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
1. South African Airways/Central African Airways (to Rhodesia, etc.)..	336,552	223,596	247,045
2. Sabena.....	5,292	6,394	7,638
3. Springbok Service.....	302,191	312,646	361,075
4. Pan American Airways.....	13,207	17,174	15,593
5. D.E.T.A.....	8,450	8,275	9,772
6. South African Airways (to Lourenco Marques).....	8,150	6,507	7,679
7. EL AL Israel National Airlines.....	3,256	7,349	4,323
8. K.L.M. Royal Dutch Airlines.....	3,430	2,961	3,921
9. Qantas Empire Airways.....	1,855	2,760	2,210
10. U.A.T. (French Airlines).....	—	123	836
11. Total weight of mails.....	682,383	587,785	660,092

NOTE.

Item 10: Service commenced 1st February, 1955.

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

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1. Number of motor cars and trucks.....	841	694	500
2. Vehicle miles run.....	6,339,974	4,997,689	3,489,514
3. Expenditure (including new vehicles and replacements).....£	221,566	168,351	132,596

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1. Savings bank offices.....	1,433	1,484	1,521
2. Ordinary accounts:—			
(a) Opened.....	171,161	163,959	166,983
(b) Closed.....	91,973	175,052	160,669
(c) Remaining open.....	2,328,488	2,317,395	2,323,709
(d) Deposits:—			
Number.....	2,438,937	2,348,767	2,283,289
Value, including interest..... £	39,103,087	36,556,806	34,722,974
(e) Withdrawals:—			
Ordinary:—			
Number.....	475,424	557,552	532,879
Amount..... £	30,867,789	30,542,593	30,430,005
On demand:—			
Number.....	1,983,828	1,970,831	1,932,141
Amount..... £	6,906,227	6,535,579	7,102,385
Total:—			
Number.....	2,459,252	2,528,383	2,465,020
Amount..... £	37,774,016	37,078,172	37,532,391
(f) Balance due to depositors:—			
Amount..... £	78,745,756	78,224,390	75,414,973
Average, per depositor..... £	£33 16 4	£33 15 1	£32 9 1
3. Savings Bank Certificates:—			
(a) Investments..... £	905,200	710,100	363,600
(b) Repayments, exclusive of interest..... £	1,653,900	1,588,000	1,568,200
(c) Balance of investments..... £	8,461,700	7,583,800	6,379,200
4. Accounts transferred:—			
To other Administrations:—			
Number.....	242	272	226
Amount..... £	17,492	26,922	21,157
From other Administrations:—			
Number.....	309	325	264
Amount..... £	39,772	35,149	22,099
5. School Banks:—			
Number of accounts.....	24	20	15
Balance due to depositors..... £	1,075	701	708

NOTE.

Item 2 (/) does not include item 3 (c).

UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1. Investments.....	£ 3,429,914	£ 2,998,141	£ 2,771,582
2. Repayments, exclusive of interest.....	3,943,395	3,333,922	3,749,560
3. Balance of investments.....	17,189,764	16,853,984	15,876,007

WORK PERFORMED ON BEHALF OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF STATE

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1. Free postage:—			
Value.....£	660,887	663,383	794,444
2. Free money orders:—			
Number.....	29,332	30,036	44,424
Value.....£	496,240	447,206	546,223
3. Pension warrants cashed:—			
Number.....	2,806,727	2,839,042	2,949,674
Value.....£	22,923,023	24,597,475	27,612,983
4. Revenue collected:—			
(a) Licences.....£	12,959	12,572	11,327
(b) Revenue stamps.....£	929,409	1,106,593	1,105,191
(c) Entertainment tax:—			
Cape.....£	180,103	194,953	185,347
(d) Customs dues.....£	1,283,704	1,399,967	1,691,477
(e) Fumigation Fees.....£	1	6	6
5. Cigarette duty.....£	12,832,579	13,016,929	12,690,118
6. Tax Redemption Certificates.....£	4,297,434	3,829,980	3,109,305
7. Savings Fund Levy Certificates (redeemed).....£	75,570	33,169	21,197
8. Ex-volunteers: Loan repayments.....£	376	238	180
9. National Housing rentals and loan redemptions.....£	987,332	1,023,489	1,066,519

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL ORDERS

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1. Money orders <i>Issued</i> :—			
(a) On offices in the Union:—			
Number.....	1,780,933	1,923,301	2,078,960
Amount.....£	9,820,061	10,689,189	11,624,998
(b) On other countries:—			
Number.....	87,415	84,272	108,510
Amount.....£	819,419	884,140	1,006,884
(c) Total:—			
Number.....	1,868,348	2,007,573	2,187,470
Amount.....£	10,639,480	11,573,329	12,631,882
(d) Commission.....£	66,158	71,410	76,882
2. Money orders <i>Paid</i> :—			
(a) Issued in the Union:—			
Number.....	1,784,683	1,919,624	2,082,995
Amount.....£	9,806,705	10,662,981	11,661,546
(b) Issued in other countries:—			
Number.....	190,100	193,642	212,695
Amount.....£	1,364,444	1,394,710	1,504,514
(c) Total:—			
Number.....	1,974,783	2,113,266	2,295,690
Amount.....£	11,171,149	12,057,691	13,166,060
3. Postal orders <i>Issued</i> :—			
(a) Number:—			
Union.....	8,221,435	8,425,642	8,628,085
British.....	1,331,443	1,531,704	2,099,402
Total.....	9,552,878	9,957,346	10,727,487
(b) Amount:—			
Union.....£	5,666,456	5,964,609	6,436,761
British.....£	1,020,977	1,141,173	1,295,410
Total.....£	6,687,433	7,105,782	7,732,171
(c) Poundage:—			
Union.....£	94,190	97,773	103,261
British.....£	20,708	23,334	28,639
Total.....£	114,898	121,107	131,900
4. Postal orders <i>Paid</i> :—			
(a) Number:—			
Union.....	7,015,330	7,316,708	7,391,897
British.....	561,158	578,363	639,401
Total.....	7,576,488	7,895,071	8,031,298
(b) Amount:—			
Union.....£	4,509,751	4,836,073	5,110,207
British.....£	485,939	531,586	599,673
Total.....£	4,995,690	5,367,659	5,709,880

EXAMINATIONS ENTERED FOR BY THE STAFF

Examining Body and Examination.

	CENTRES.			ENTRIES.			SUCCESSSES.		
	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS:—									
Trainee Post and Telegraph Assistants' Final Examination.....	110	118	118	1,113	1,021	959	981	902	844
General Division Officers' Examination for Promotion to Clerkships (Final).....	5	1	4	3	1	5	3	1	5
Postmaster-General's Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy.....	8	9	1	81	83	1	22	34	1
Efficiency Test.....	302	124	131	711	308	248	498	228	165
Examination for Appointment as Engineer, Grade IV.....	8	7	6	20	31	22	2	13	17
Superintendents' (Telegraphs) Examination.....	*	*	8	*	*	74	*	*	44
† UNION DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:—									
Mathematics I.....							1	6	20
Mathematics II.....							99	93	26
Mathematics III.....							69	46	29
Mathematics IV.....							36	19	5
Mathematics V.....							6	3	4
Electrotechnics II.....							—	5	—
Telegraphy and Telephony I.....							113	88	35
Telegraphy II.....							76	60	32
Telegraphy III.....							7	3	4
Telephony II.....							81	55	37
Telephony III.....							27	13	9
Telephony IV.....							14	5	2
Radio-communication I.....							50	47	16
Radio-communication II.....							9	9	6
Radio-communication III.....							6	3	1
Transmission I.....							15	14	5
Transmission II.....							4	2	2
Lines I.....							100	85	35
Lines II.....							7	2	2
Technical Electricity I.....							14	13	29
Technical Electricity II.....							74	57	19

NOTES.

* No examinations held.

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

REQUISITIONS DEALT WITH AT THE STORES DEPOTS

Item.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1. Engineering material:—			
Number of issues.....	137,386	161,036	176,625
Number of receipts.....	20,887	21,821	20,490
2. Postal stores:—			
Number of issues.....	131,703	139,605	131,155
Number of receipts.....	16,958	17,539	18,006
3. Postage stamps:—			
Number of requisitions.....	46,289	44,617	46,479
Postage value.....£	5,830,513	5,823,678	5,865,340
4. Postal orders:—			
Number of requisitions.....	17,623	18,086	18,364
Sale value (Union).....£	5,755,693	6,421,593	6,605,038
Sale value (British).....£	1,085,775	1,193,782	1,360,673
5. Union Loan Certificates:—			
Sale value.....£	3,493,543	3,073,690	2,636,400
6. National Savings Stamps:—			
Sale value.....£	321,255	322,848	369,285
7. Revenue stamps:—			
Sale value.....£	3,305,128	3,934,996	4,133,463
8. Tax Redemption Certificates:—			
Sale value.....£	4,702,070	3,915,222	3,031,885
9. Cigarette duty labels:—			
Sale value.....£	13,124,279	13,150,241	13,092,072
10. Entertainment tax labels:—			
Sale value.....£	183,534	197,567	190,773
11. Christmas stamps:—			
Sale value.....£	54,815	56,730	55,854