

POST OFFICE PROGRESS

1957-8



THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, PRETORIA

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Being the Postmaster-General's
Annual Report for 1957-8



THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, PRETORIA

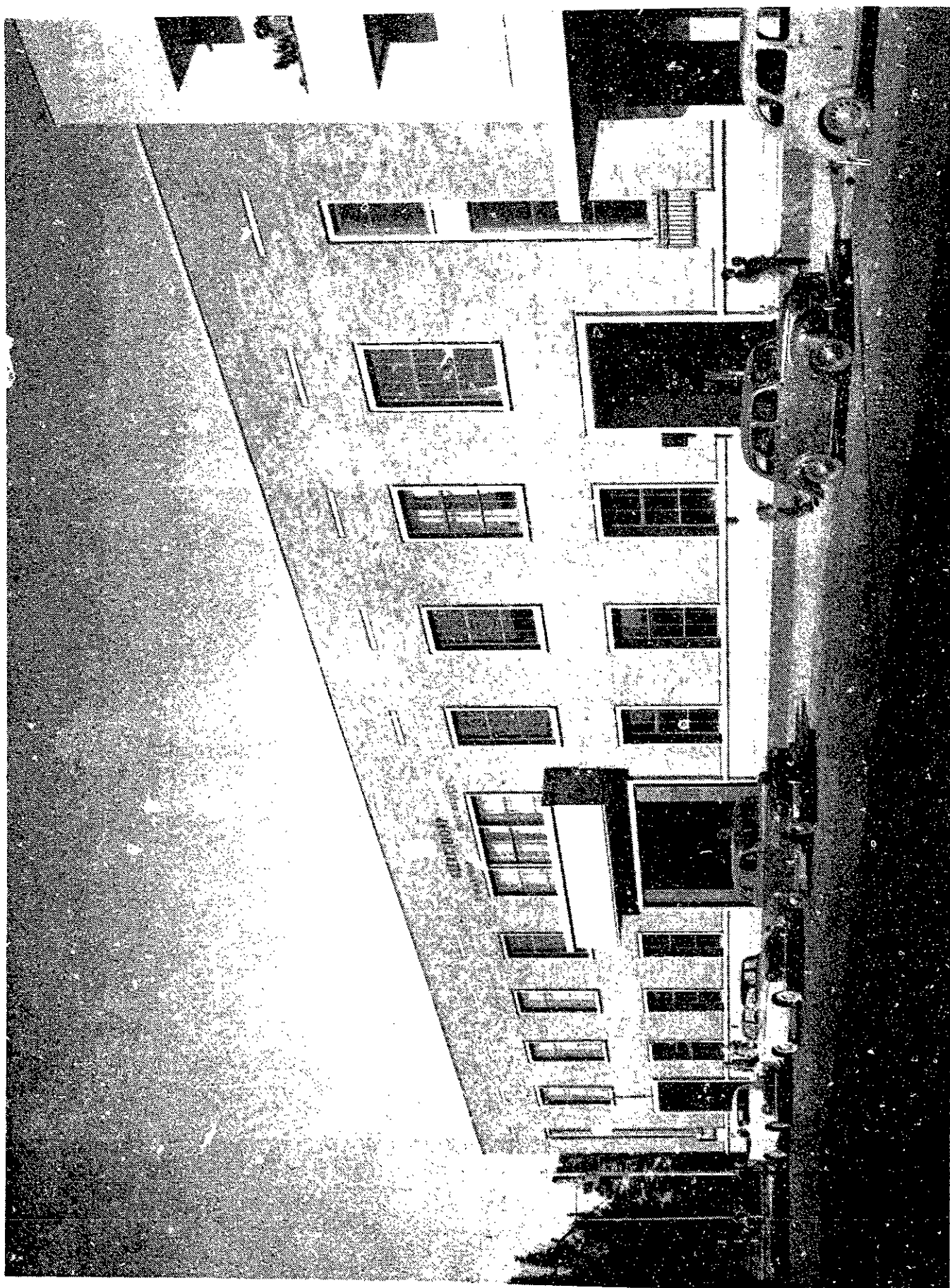


Dr. the Hon. A. HERTZOG, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.

(Photo de Wilt, Pretoria.)

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Post Office, Klerksdorp.

Foreword.

In presenting the annual report of the Union Post Office for the period 1st April, 1957, to 31st March, 1958, I am happy to record that the year under review has once again been marked by progress in all spheres of Post Office activity.

Efficient and adequate postal and telecommunication services are becoming increasingly important in our modern way of life and it is not surprising therefore that, notwithstanding the achievements of the Post Office in past years, there remains an insatiable demand for the extension and improvement of the services which it is called upon to provide.

The Post Office is essentially a business organisation and is naturally anxious to meet the requirements of the public at all times and at short notice. The development and extension of our services are, however, governed by the amount of money voted therefor, from year to year and, to remain within the limits of annual appropriations, the Department is obliged to select for immediate attention from the list of actual requirements, only those works which deserve the highest priority. At the same time, the Department is alive to its responsibilities and with the resources at its disposal has done, and will continue to do, everything in its power to meet the demands of the public, either individually or collectively.

We like to believe that the Post Office is not an aloof and inanimate organisation. It is closely associated with the daily life of every person and the activities of every undertaking. Appreciating, as it does, that the co-operation and goodwill of the public are its greatest assets and prerequisites for rendering an efficient service, the Department has in recent times and in many ways endeavoured to promote good relations with its customers. It is gratifying to record that the emphasis which has been placed on courtesy has had encouraging results.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

The commercial account of the Post Office for the financial year 1957-58 showed a profit of £1,279,847 compared with £1,133,993 for the previous financial year.

STAFF.

I am pleased to be able to report that the staff position generally has improved, largely as a result of working conditions having been made more attractive in recent years. Wastage among women, who resigned to marry, remained high but a large number of officers who had left the service, were re-employed. I should like to pay tribute to the endeavours of the 45,600 men and women employed in the Post Office. Without their enthusiasm, loyalty and devotion to duty, it would not have been possible to maintain such a high standard of service.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

An amount of £9,097,000 was spent on the development of the telecommunications system. This is the largest amount ever spent on telecommunications services in one year. The number of telephone subscribers increased by 59,933—a record figure.

During the year forty-eight new telephone and telegraph offices were opened; local calls increased by sixty-three million. There are now 6,820 trunk lines—an increase of 530. The direct dialling system has been further extended and good progress has been made with the microwave radio system to be established between Johannesburg, Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp.

The telegraph system has been improved by the installation of automatic switching units at Durban and Cape Town. Many of the larger teleprinter offices are now able to dispose of their traffic direct to central telegraph offices without manual retransmission and further extensions are planned. For the first time in the history of the Union Post Office, the telegraph service showed a profit.

The radio telephone service has been extended to another eight countries. New ultra-modern radio transmitter and receiver stations at Olifantsfontein and Derdepoort were brought into operation, making the provision of additional external services possible. The Department also assisted the South African National Committee for the Geophysical Year with the bringing of their tracking camera into operation at Olifantsfontein.

POSTAL.

Considerable expansion of Germiston as a mail transit office has taken place. This has benefitted many places in the Eastern Transvaal, Natal and the Orange Free State, which are connected by rail with Germiston. It has also brought much needed relief to the Johannesburg Post Office.

BUILDINGS.

A number of major building services, valued at £900,000 were completed during the year. Sixteen buildings estimated to cost over £800,000 were under construction as at the 31st March, 1958. It was necessary to hire fifty-three additional buildings during the year to relieve the Department's accommodation needs.

INVESTMENT FACILITIES.

During the year 163,136 new Post Office Savings Bank accounts were opened and at the end of the financial year there were almost two and a half million depositors with a total credit balance of £73,474,887. Many of the depositors also invested in Savings Bank Certificates, the total amount of such investments to their credit at the end of the year being £4,987,900. The total investment in Union Loan Certificates during the year was slightly less than £5,000,000 and the amount standing to the credit of investors was £17,673,699 as at 31st March, 1958.

ORGANISATION AND METHODS.

The Organisation and Methods Section of the Post Office undertook further important investigations during the year. As a result thereof it was again possible to effect substantial savings and to improve the standard of the Service. In view of the diverse nature of the Department's activities, it will take some time before all the contemplated investigations have been completed.

GENERAL.

Mr. L. C. Burke retired as Postmaster-General on 19th April, 1958. Mr. B. D. C. van Rooyen, formerly Under-Secretary, Staff and General, succeeded me as Deputy Postmaster-General.

As a result of the reconstitution of the Cabinet, the Honourable Dr. A. Hertzog replaced the Honourable J. J. Serfontein as Minister of Posts and Telegraphs on 23rd October, 1958. We welcome Dr. Hertzog and wish him a fruitful and happy term of office. He is assured of our loyal support.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. J. R. van Rooyen', with a horizontal line underneath.

Postmaster-General.

December, 1958.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE POST OFFICE.

Profit and Loss.

For the financial year 1957-58 the Commercial Account of the Post Office showed a profit of £1,279,847 compared with a profit of £1,133,994 for 1956-57. Telephone revenue showed a considerable increase but income was partly offset by an increase in expenditure.

The main reasons for the increase in expenditure were once again higher salary costs and increased contributions to the Loan Account in respect of Telegraph and Telephone Renewals and Replacements.

In calculating the profit on a commercial basis increased provision also had to be made for interest liability and higher rates of interest.

Revenue and Expenditure (Cash Transactions).

Compared with 1956-57, Post Office revenue increased by £2,289,773 to £30,651,810, and cash expenditure rose by £1,660,816 to £24,928,208. 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.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
	£	£	£
Postal.....	8,941,431	9,597,720	10,046,477
Telegraphs.....	2,898,859	3,228,518	3,522,535
Telephones.....	13,682,456	15,535,799	17,082,798
TOTAL.....	25,522,746	28,362,037	30,651,810

Expenditure.

Service.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
	£	£	£
Postal.....	8,923,084	9,986,921	10,542,665
Telegraphs.....	2,656,207	2,906,195	2,977,988
Telephones.....	8,759,234	10,374,276	11,407,555
TOTAL.....	20,338,525	23,267,392	24,928,208

Turnover.

The cash turnover increased from £227,188,631 in 1956-57 to £228,137,094 in 1957-58. These amounts do not include the £13,124,915 in 1956-57 and £13,575,297 in 1957-58 in respect of cigarette duty labels sold by the Post Office on credit, the cash value of which was paid direct to the Department of Customs and Excise by the purchasers.

SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

Postal Orders.

The additional denomination postal order, viz. £5, which was introduced on the 1st October, 1957, has proved to be very popular.

INVESTMENT FACILITIES.

Post Office Savings Bank.

During the financial year 1957-58, 163,136 new accounts were opened and 134,656 closed. The accounts which were closed included 71,172 which had not been operated on during the past 15 years and in respect of which the balances were transferred to the revenue account pending subsequent claim by the depositors concerned. The total number of accounts remaining open as at the 31st March, 1958, was 2,395,217—an increase of 2 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, 1958, was £73,474,887—a decrease of £1,207,958 compared with the balance on 31st March, 1957. As at the 31st March, 1958, the balance of amounts invested in savings bank certificates was £4,987,900 as against £5,498,100 at the end of the previous financial year. On the 31st March, 1958, the total balance of investments in ordinary savings bank accounts and in savings certificates was £78,462,787, compared with £80,180,945 at the end of the previous financial year. During 1957-58 interest amounting to £2,650,672 was credited to depositors in respect of ordinary accounts and certificate investments.

At the close of the financial year there were 1,555 post offices at which savings bank business could be transacted.

Union Loan Certificates.

The amount standing to the credit of investors in Union Loan Certificates increased from £16,842,741 to £17,673,699. Investments during the year totalled £4,836,776 and repayments of capital £4,005,818. The total amount of interest paid during the year was £770,982, including £26,641, £72,308, £309,620 and £359,030 in respect of the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth series, respectively.

In view of the fact that a large portion of the certificates of the eighth and ninth series reached maturity during the 1957-58 financial year, 74 per cent of the capital repayments, i.e. £2,967,612, represented certificates of these two series. The capital balances standing to the credit of investors on the 31st March, 1958, in respect of the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth series were £214,369, £441,112, £1,048,812 and £6,950,203, respectively.

The sales of tenth series certificates have proved very satisfactory. Since the first day of their issued, viz. 1st April, 1956, investments totalled £10,036,587 of which £1,041,830 has been repaid. Interest paid in respect of these certificates amounted to £2,226. 12s. 9d.

FINANCIAL SERVICES RENDERED ON BEHALF OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

Inland Revenue.

Revenue collected on behalf of the Department of Inland Revenue increased from £1,328,983 in 1956-57 to £1,448,568 in 1957-58. This was mainly attributable to the increased sales of revenue stamps and entertainment duty labels at post offices. Customs duties collected on behalf of the Department of Customs and Excise amounted to £1,791,098 compared with £1,679,748 during 1956-57. Cigarette duty labels to the value of £13,710,540 were sold at post offices during 1957—a increase of £287,826 as compared with the sales of the previous year.

Pensions.

The value of pensions paid out at post offices on behalf of the Department of Pensions, the South African Railways and Harbours Administration and Provincial Administrations decreased

from £28,160,768 during 1956-57 to £28,011,044 during 1957-58, and the number of vouchers decreased from 3,033,074 to 3,024,676. During the financial year under review 105,046 pension vouchers totalling £1,918,759 and 4,710 totalling £124,596 were paid on behalf of the South African Railways and Harbours Administration and the Provincial Administrations, respectively.

Treasury.

Levy Savings Certificates valued at £12,947 were redeemed on behalf of the Treasury during 1957-58 as compared with £14,370 during 1956-57. Tax Redemption Certificates sold on behalf of the Treasury during 1957-58 amounted to £3,265,137 which is £159,037 more than that sold during the previous year. The total sales by the Post Office since the inception of the scheme in July, 1941, amount to £22,510,107 up to 31st March, 1958.

National Housing.

An amount of £1,233,725 was collected on behalf of the National Housing Organisation during 1957-58. in respect of rentals and loan

redemptions, compared with £1,112,793 during 1956-57. Since June, 1946, when the first collections were made on behalf of the National Housing Organisation, a total amount of £9,569,970 has been collected.

STAFF.

Staff Employed.

As shown in the statistical section, the total number of persons employed by the Post Office increased from 45,425 during 1956-57 to 45,603 during 1957-58. These figures include men employed on telegraph and telephone construction work who are paid from Loan Vote funds, temporary employees engaged in excess of the authorised establishment and postal agents. Additional posts were created in some sections, but in others it became possible to abolish posts as a result of reorganization and improved methods of work.

In an endeavour to reduce the loss of staff, special attention was given to young employees who resigned in order to take up employment outside the service. Investigation revealed that in most cases the incentive for resignation was the attraction of high commencing salaries. In the majority of cases, however, the higher salaries offered were for inferior types of employment in which there were virtually no prospects of future advancement. The response to personal appeals to remain in the service was encouraging and a large number of the officers were persuaded to withdraw their resignations.

STAFF POSITION.

Post and Telegraph Assistants.

During the year 696 trained Post and Telegraph Assistants left the service. The majority of these were women, most of whom resigned for the purpose of marriage. During the same period 69 former Post and Telegraph Assistants were re-appointed and the clerical staff was further strengthened by the transfer and appointment of 30 officers from the General Division.

The shortage of trained personnel continued to be felt on the Witwatersrand, in the Orange Free State and in Natal. To maintain a reasonable standard of service in these areas, the Department was forced to transfer experienced officers from Cape and Transvaal districts.

Telephone Operators.

During the period under review, there were more men and women available for employment as telephonists than in previous years. Even in Johannesburg, where the Department previously experienced difficulty in recruiting sufficient candidates, particularly towards the end of the year, there was a satisfactory flow of applicants for employment throughout the year.

One of the Department's chief problems was the considerable wastage of staff occasioned by the resignation and desertion of telephonists. Every effort was made to retain the services of those who were performing their duties satisfactorily and it was encouraging to find that the Department's efforts were successful in many instances as evidenced by the number of telephonists who had subsequently withdrawn their resignations.

The numbers of blind and physically handicapped persons employed as telephonists on small private branch exchanges in Government Departments are now 57 and 8, respectively.

Uniformed Personnel.

Although the position in respect of uniformed staff was maintained on a satisfactory level at most centres, difficulty was still experienced in recruiting sufficient suitable candidates for appointment as postmen in Durban, Bloemfontein, on the Witwatersrand and the Orange Free State goldfields. At some centres, the Department was compelled, as a temporary expedient, to make use of the services of non-Europeans for the delivery of mail matter. Notwithstanding the difficulties encountered, a reasonably satisfactory delivery service was maintained throughout the Union.

Engineering Personnel.

The number of trained technicians on the 31st March, 1958, was 1,931, which included 294 officers occupying supervisory posts. The number of technicians employed increased by 77 as compared with the previous year.

Every effort was made to secure the services of former technicians and other qualified men to serve in the Engineering Division, which is still faced with a shortage of trained technicians. Nine former technicians were re-employed during the year and seven immigrants were recruited overseas. In this regard mention must be made of the invaluable assistance rendered by the Immigration Attachés at The Hague, Holland, and Cologne, Germany.

During the year 120 officers and employees underwent specialised courses of training; this is 27 more than during the previous financial year.

Messengers.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Department is doing everything possible to encourage Messengers to further their studies by means of the free bursary scheme, there is still room for improvement. Of a total of 539 Messengers who received tuition, 169 failed to attend the prescribed number of classes or to return a sufficient number of papers for correction, with the result that penalties amounting to £170 8s. 0d. were collected from defaulters.

Workmen's Compensation.

During the year 1957-58, medical treatment was administered and compensation paid in the form of either periodical or lump sum payments, to 2,351 officers and employees of the Post Office who were injured in the course of their official duties.

Welfare.

The Department, through the efforts of its Welfare Officers, has done everything possible to assist the younger officers transferred to the larger cities to adapt themselves to city life. The Welfare Officers have made special endeavours to cater for the needs of these young men and women by arranging accommodation for them in pleasant surroundings, meeting them on arrival and keeping in close touch with them after they have settled down. The young officers are assisted with their problems and are given advice on matters affecting their welfare. This scheme has undoubtedly contributed much to the happiness and contentment of the younger group of officers who, owing to the exigencies of the service, have had to be transferred from their home towns.

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING.

Post and Telegraph Assistants.

It is pleasing to report that the recruitment of Post and Telegraph Assistants and Woman Assistants (Executive Branch) during the year under review was more successful than during the previous year. In an endeavour to acquire the services of every possible candidate, no effort was spared in trying to stimulate the interest of children leaving school in a career in the Post Office. Full use was made of advertising media such as newspapers, periodicals and the radio. Brochures containing full information on every aspect of a Post Office career were distributed among vocational guidance officers and others who dealt with prospective candidates. In addition, attractive pamphlets containing information intended to awaken the interest of scholars, were placed at the disposal of departmental recruiting officers for distribution at all high schools visited by them. These steps, coupled with the combined efforts of the recruiting team, resulted in the success achieved.

On 1st April, 1957, there were 1,429 learners in training and from that date onward 1,920 candidates were recruited, of whom 1,691 commenced their training during the first three months of 1958. Probationers who left the service before attempting the final examination totalled 510 and 1,459 passed the final test. Of the latter number 162 resigned before their appointments were confirmed. There were still 1,380 learners in training on 31st March, 1958.

Pupil Technicians.

During the year 363 Pupil Technicians were recruited compared with 493 during the previous year, but wastage owing to resignations reduced the net gain to 275. Of these, 87 were matriculated compared with 61 matriculants recruited during the previous year. During the year, 170 pupils completed their training and were appointed as Telecommunications Technicians, while there were 1,254 pupils in training in departmental schools and in the field.

Organisation and Methods.

During the year under review the administrative and clerical sections of the Chief Engineer's office and of all the Divisional Engineers' offices were investigated. With the co-operation of all concerned it was possible to improve procedures. This, in turn, permitted a reduction in staff and the abolition of temporary assistance which was employed in order to deal

with the increase in work. The consequent savings amounted to £9,400 per annum. The General Division sections of the Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria and Durban offices were investigated with a view to their reorganisation and the co-ordination of related transport needs. The success of the undertaking can be judged by the fact that it was possible to abolish 254 posts and hence save £56,957 per annum. An amount of £25,564 was saved by the elimination of overtime and casual labour, and a further £14,763 per annum by the elimination of certain transport costs.

The nine large telegraph offices are at present being investigated with a view to improving the service, to introducing automatic switching and mechanising certain procedures. At the beginning of these investigations there was so much confidence of success that it was decided not to seek authority for the creation of forty additional clerical posts which were justified under the existing accepted norms of staff assessment; it has since been possible to do without these posts. In addition, twenty-five other posts have been abolished, resulting in a saving on these alone of £11,870 per annum. With the development of automatic switching, it will be possible to surrender more posts and as soon

as conditions become more stabilised, new norms for the assessment of staff for telegraph offices will be evolved. In addition to these staff savings, it was also possible to make available much needed accommodation in at least three large telegraph offices and to cancel building proposals in Johannesburg, estimated at £1,200. Certain new procedures have resulted in a considerable saving of telegraph equipment.

A team of O. and M. Officers is at present reviewing the Unit System of the Post Office which forms the basis of executive staff assessment for all departmental post offices and also the grading of post offices. This task encompasses practically the whole field of the executive activities of the Post Office and will take a long time to complete. Several other special investigations of major and minor importance were undertaken by the O. and M. Section.

The results achieved so far have come up to expectation and with the expansion of activities in the Organisation and Methods field it is expected that the quality of the service will continue to be improved and that further savings in staff and of money will be effected.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Capital Expenditure on Development.

During 1957-58 an amount of £9,097,050 was spent on the development of the telecommunications system, compared with £8,794,011 during the previous year. The Standard Stock Capital Account was increased to £6,350,000 compared with £5,850,000 at the end of the previous financial year.

Subscribers' Telephone Services.

There were 775,274 telephones in use or authorised on the 31st March, 1958, compared with 715,341 at the end of the previous financial year—a record increase of 59,933.

In order to provide service for 5,192 farm line subscribers authority was given for the erection of 11,583 miles of new wires. There were 80,721 farm line services in use or authorised on the 31st March, 1958, representing 177,970 miles of wire. The total expenditure during the year on the provision of service for new farm line subscribers and in the construction of new farm lines in various stages of completion at the end of March, 1958, was £1,267,149, compared with £1,390,170 during 1956-57 and

£1,190,918 during 1955-56. An average of 43 major construction gangs consisting of 250 European and 1,250 non-European employees were employed continuously on farm line construction work.

Semi-automatic switching units were installed at 27 points and on the 31st March, 1958, there were 123 units in use.

The number of applicants waiting for telephone service decreased by 24,646, leaving a total of 33,700 as at 31st March, 1958. During the previous financial year there was a decrease of 13,256. The number of applicants waiting for farm line service as at 31st March, 1958, was 4,383, a decrease of 2,705, as compared with last year's figure.

Public telegraph and telephone facilities were provided at 48 new offices, which involved the erection of 227 miles of new line at a cost of £26,723.

There were 936,000,000 local calls during the year compared with 873,464,000 for the previous year.

During the year the policy of providing shared telephone facilities in areas where wires are not available in the existing cables was extended to certain country magneto exchanges. At the end of the financial year there were altogether 20,807 subscribers with shared service which is 7,951 more than in the previous year

Telephone Trunk Services and Transmission.

There was an increase in the number of trunk calls from 59,800,000 in 1956-57 to 68,000,000 in 1957-58. In order to meet the demand and to improve the service, 530 additional trunk lines were provided, bringing the total to 6,820. The additional circuits included a number for direct subscribers' dialling as well as the following long-distance trunk lines:—

	<i>Circuits.</i>	
	Increase.	Total.
Johannesburg-Bloemfontein.....	1	15
Johannesburg-Kimberley.....	4	9
Cape Town-East London.....	1	4
Cape Town-Port Elizabeth.....	1	13
Pretoria-Kimberley.....	2	3

The trunk telephone network was extended further by the installation of nineteen 12-channel and eighteen 3-channel carrier systems and by the addition of 295 miles of main carrier route. A new co-axial cable system with an initial capacity of 300 circuits was placed in service between Johannesburg and Vereeniging in order to augment the existing subscriber dialling facilities and to provide additional trunk extensions for the route to Bloemfontein and the South. A fairly large proportion of these additional facilities was required for a new trunk exchange installed at Welkom during the course of the year; the first of its kind outside the large urban centres.

The propagation tests for the Johannesburg-Potchefstroom-Klerksdorp microwave radio system were successfully completed, enabling the sites for the terminal and repeater stations to be fixed. Steps have also been taken to acquire the land and to erect the buildings for the equipment which is on order.

A completely new procedure for tracing faults on trunk lines was introduced during the year and it is expected that this will result in more

efficient detection and clearance of trunk faults with a corresponding improvement in the trunk service.

Automatic and Manual Exchanges.

Difficulties continue to be experienced in regard to the provision of suitable buildings for the housing of automatic exchanges and this is retarding development.

A new automatic exchange was provided at Mondeor (Johannesburg) and the manual exchange at Welkom was replaced by an automatic exchange. The capacity of six automatic exchanges was increased and provision was made for the connection of approximately 13,400 additional subscribers. Work has also commenced on extensions to other automatic exchanges which will ultimately provide an additional 34,780 subscribers' lines. A new exchange of 7,400 lines is also being installed in Johannesburg which will bring considerable relief to the City and the central areas.

The direct dialling system which enables subscribers at automatic exchanges to dial direct to country manual exchanges was extended. Subscribers in the Witwatersrand, Pretoria and Vereeniging systems are now able to dial direct to the exchanges at Bethal, Delmas, Middelburg (Tvl.), Odendaalsrus, Pietersburg, Rustenburg, Welkom and Orlando. These are additional to those previously reported. Subscribers in the Cape Peninsula can dial direct to Brackenfel, Durbanville, Knellsvier, Malmesbury and Strand. The service was also extended to subscribers at Welkom who can now dial direct to Allanridge, Hennenman, Odendaalsrus and Virginia. It is the intention to extend the facility during 1958-59 to include a number of other manual exchanges and the subscribers at Paarl, Durban and Bloemfontein will be included in the scheme.

In regard to the policy of providing subscriber trunk dialling with automatic metering, a new system known as Variable Time Interval Metering will be introduced in conjunction with the installation of new automatic exchanges at Klerksdorp, Worcester, Pietersburg and Bethlehem. This system makes it possible for trunk calls to be charged for on the basis of actual duration and not in multiples of three minutes as is the case at present. When the opportunity offers, this method of metering calls will also be introduced at other centres, including the larger urban areas; initially it will apply to calls from

automatic exchanges to manual exchanges up to 120 miles distant, and from automatic exchanges to other automatic exchanges up to 170 miles apart.

The switchboard capacity at 159 exchanges was increased, either by the installation of additional switchboards or by the provision of additional lines on existing switchboards. Altogether 418 new switchboards were installed to provide 14,000 additional subscribers' lines. The following are among the major switchboard works carried out during the financial year:—

Carletonville: Seven additional switchboards; capacity increased by 300 lines.

Cradock: Three additional switchboards; capacity increased by 300 lines.

Estcourt: A new exchange of 13 switchboards was installed and the number of lines increased by 340.

Grahamstown: Three additional switchboards; Capacity increased by 420 lines.

Middelburg (Tvl.): A new exchange of 20 switchboards was installed and the number of lines increased by 340.

Orkney: Six additional switchboards; capacity increased by 400 lines.

Oudtshoorn: A new exchange of 20 switchboards was installed and the number of lines increased by 480.

Rustenburg: Six additional switchboards; capacity increased by 400 lines.

Cables.

An amount of £1,618,809 was spent on the extension of the cable network in various parts of the Union. Two new types of cable were placed on order during the financial year 1957-58, viz., a polythene insulated and sheathed underground cable (10, 15, 28 and 53 pair) for subscribers' distribution in place of paper insulated lead-covered cable, and a polyvinyl-chloride sheathed aerial cable with a built-in stranded support wire. Considerable savings in construction and maintenance costs are expected to result from the use of these cables.

Telegraph Traffic and Transmission.

The number of forwarded telegrams handled was 12,351,883 which is 65,080 more than during the previous financial year. The total includes 812,516 telegrams to overseas destinations (including ships at sea) which is 19,320 more than in 1956-57. The number of radio

telegrams transmitted between Union coastal radio stations and ships at sea was 99,135, which is 15,642 less than for the previous year.

During the year inter-city telegraph communications were improved by the completion of a voice-frequency system between Cape Town and East London.

Registered Telegraphic Addresses.

On the 31st March, 1958, there were 22,154 registered telegraphic addresses which is 170 more than at the end of the previous financial year.

Teleprinter Services.

The number of subscribers in the Union's telex service rose from 1,075 to 1,296, an increase of 221. During the year the international telex service was extended to Belgium, Germany, Holland and Italy. On the 31st March, 1958, the service was available to 21 overseas countries. The growth of the international telex service is indicated by the increase in the number of calls during the past two years. During 1956-57 there were 14,172 calls lasting 118,438 minutes and during 1957-58 there were 22,764 calls lasting 183,919 minutes.

As a result of the successful introduction of an automatic switching unit in the Central Telegraph Office, Johannesburg, during 1956, similar units were installed at Durban and Cape Town. This has made it possible to connect 90 of the larger teleprinter offices in the Transvaal, Natal and Cape Province to the switching units and these offices are now able to dispose of their traffic direct to other Central Telegraph Offices without manual re-transmission. Further preliminary planning for a Union-wide fully automatic telegraph network, which will include both departmental and rented teleprinter services, has been completed. A detailed specification for the Johannesburg exchange, the first to be installed, has been prepared and forwarded to the contractors.

A new 100-line manual telex exchange was installed at East London and the 60-line telex switchboard recovered from there was used to establish a new telex exchange at Welkom to cater for the growing demand in that area.

Ten additional private wire teleprinter circuits were provided for industrial and commercial firms during the year and the number of private wire teleprinter circuits on the 31st March, 1958, totalled 178. At the close of the financial year

there were 644 teleprinters in use departmentally, an increase of 19. The number of country offices equipped for teleprinter working totalled 150, which is 10 more than at the end of the previous financial year.

Radio Services.

The radio telephone service was extended to Algeria, Gambia, Ghana, Hong Kong, Morocco, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Tunisia (all via London).

A total of 35,634 calls (17,724 outgoing and 17,910 incoming) was disposed of during the financial year. In addition 3,300 calls were made between the Union and ships at sea, which is 1,400 more than during 1956-57. The demand for this service has increased considerably.

The installation of equipment in the new transmitter and receiver buildings at Olifantsfontein and Derdepoort was completed and all transmissions previously made from Voortrekkerhoogte were transferred to the new departmental station at Olifantsfontein.

Telex channels to London were increased from six to nine and one of these will be subdivided to provide three slow-speed leased circuits. A 24-hour teleprinter service to Leopoldville was leased to the Department of Civil Aviation.

The Hellschreiber service for the South African Information Services is now in operation to Brussels, Cologne, London, Nairobi, Paris and The Hague for one hour daily.

Assistance was given to the South African National Committee for the Geophysical Year to enable them to put their satellite-tracking camera into operation at Olifantsfontein. The Telecommunication Research Laboratory was also assisted in locating and operating terrestrial wideband noise-measuring and recording equipment at Derdepoort.

Maintenance.

Several of the investigations to promote efficiency in the Engineering Division which commenced during 1956-57 have been completed. Among these are the installation of telephones and other subscribers' equipment; the laying and jointing of underground cable and the design of special equipment for construction and maintenance of vehicles. Steps are being taken to implement the recommendations and several other investigations are also in progress, which

will result in greater all-round efficiency and more economical work methods.

Detailed studies of automatic exchange maintenance methods have also been made and, as a result, a large number of changes in work methods, routine overhauls, tests, procedures, etc., have been proposed and many of these are now being applied. These changes will cause appreciable reductions in maintenance costs and will result in a better telephone service.

Engineering Laboratory.

During the year 550 investigations and jobs of various kinds were undertaken. The design and development of several items of special test gear for the workshops, for cable jointers and for transmission systems were completed. A new standard telephone for use in South Africa was also tested and accepted.

Workshops.

With the expansion of the telecommunications network, it was again necessary for the departmental workshops to manufacture a considerable number of special components. In addition, the workshops, situated in various centres in the Union, undertook the repair of about 250,000 items of equipment.

Engineering Motor Transport.

A total of 147 departmentally-owned vehicles were withdrawn from service as their overhaul or repair was considered uneconomical. Of this number four were damaged in accidents. The majority of the remaining 161 vehicles purchased more than ten years ago are expected to be withdrawn from service during 1958-59. A total of 1,095,445 miles was covered by these vehicles at a cost of £35,825. The hired fleet of Government Garage vehicles increased from 1,844 to 2,247 units and 20,567,440 miles were covered at a cost of £874,494.

Accidents.

Engineering personnel covered approximately 21,662,885 miles during the year and were involved in 614 accidents, which is one accident for every 35,281 miles. Members of the public were held responsible for 297 of these accidents and drivers of the Engineering Division for 317, many of which were of a minor nature. The departmental drivers were therefore responsible for one accident in every 68,337 miles.

Awards for safe driving were received by 1,317 drivers.

Electronics Industry.

Agreements were entered into at the end of 1957 with four overseas firms for the manufacture in South Africa of automatic telephone and trunk exchange equipment, dial and magneto telephones, telegraph equipment, automatic telegraph exchanges, protectors, carrier telephone systems, microwave systems, co-axial cable

systems, trunk entrance cables, etc. The object of the agreements is to stimulate and ensure the manufacture of telecommunication equipment in the Union. There will be a progressive increase in the number of articles manufactured and it is hoped that in ten years' time about 70 per cent of our automatic exchange, telephone apparatus and trunk equipment requirements will be manufactured in South Africa.

POSTAL.

Internal Mails.

An important step towards the expedition of the conveyance of mail matter for certain destinations, has been the considerable expansion of Germiston Post Office as a mail transit office during the year. Germiston is an important railway junction and is ideally situated as a transit centre for mails. This applies especially to mails exchanged with places served by rail in the Eastern Transvaal Highveld and some on the Natal and Orange Free State railway lines. This step has long been contemplated, but it was only recently that the Department succeeded in acquiring suitable premises close to the railway station to accommodate a large transit office.

As a direct result of the expansion at Germiston the post offices at Springs and Balfour, Transvaal, have ceased to function as the main transit offices for the Eastern Transvaal Highveld and the South Eastern Transvaal, respectively. The postal activities at these centres have now been restored to the handling of incoming mails for local delivery and of locally posted correspondence. The step has also brought much needed relief to the Johannesburg post office because a considerable volume of mail which previously flowed into that office is now concentrated on Germiston. This diversion was very necessary, as the volume of correspondence posted in Johannesburg makes it increasingly difficult to handle the work in the available accommodation and to treat transit mails in time for re-despatch by the first available trains.

Air Mails.

An additional fortnightly air service between South Africa and Australia via Mauritius and Cocos Island was introduced on the 27th November, 1957. The use of the direct flights which

now operate weekly, in addition to the air service via Italy and India, has resulted in an improved air mail service to Australasia.

External Mails.

Direct Agents' Bags.

A new service has been introduced whereby publishers, booksellers, etc., may post newspapers, periodicals and books in bulk to their agents in other countries. This service, which is known as the Direct Agents' Bag Service, facilitates the task of the sender as it is no longer necessary for him to despatch printed matter for the same addressee in a large number of individual packets in order to comply with the maximum weight restriction for this type of mail. Under this system printed papers may be up in fewer packets and placed in a mail bag which is then addressed direct to the agent.

Parcel Post Rates to Countries of the African Postal Union.

Member countries of the African Postal Union decided to increase the handling and conveyance charges on parcels by 1d. per lb. and consequently it became necessary to increase the parcel rates from South Africa to the countries or territories concerned with effect from the 1st October, 1957.

Geophysical Year.

As a contribution towards this important event a Post Office agency was opened for three days on Marion Island and a special datestamp was supplied for the purpose of cancelling postage stamps on first day souvenir covers sent by philatelists and collectors.

BUILDINGS.

Major building services, the total cost of which is estimated at £908,000, were completed during the year under review. The most important of these services are the following:—

- (a) New post office buildings at Bothaville, Klerksdorp and Kroonstad.
- (b) New radio receiving and radio transmitting stations at Derdepoort and Olifantsfontein, respectively.
- (c) Extensions to the automatic telephone exchange buildings at Muizenberg, Springs, Walmer (Port Elizabeth) and Wynberg.
- (d) Official quarters for the post office personnel at Jan Kempdorp, Keimoes, Kranskop, Sasolburg and Welkom.

Sixteen buildings, at a total estimated cost of £833,800 were under construction as at 31st March, 1958. The most important of these are:—

- (a) New post office buildings at Nylstroom, Odendaalsrus, Oudtshoorn, Pietersburg, Potgietersrus, Port Shepstone, Riversdale and Volksrust.

- (b) New automatic telephone exchange buildings at Kempton Park and Kimberley (temporary prefabricated building).

- (c) Official quarters for the post office personnel at various centres.

Financial provision to the extent of £19,200 was made in the Loan Vote Estimates in respect of 16 new services, the total estimated cost of which is £976,100. In addition, funds were made available for the financing of 39 services which have been carried forward from previous programmes. The 16 new services are in respect of six post office buildings, five automatic telephone exchange buildings, major extensions and improvements to three automatic telephone exchange buildings and a number of official residences for post office personnel. Altogether 145 services of a minor nature in respect of which Revenue Funds have been utilised, were completed. Of these 121 were undertaken by the Post Office (Engineering Division). The acquisition of 53 hired buildings for various purposes was a considerable contribution towards relieving the Department's accommodation needs.

POST OFFICE TERMINOLOGY COMMITTEE.

During the year under review Mr. J. F. Dick, Under-Secretary, Posts and Chairman of the Committee since its inception in 1948, retired on superannuation, but continued as Chairman.

The task of editing the new Post Office Dictionary was entrusted to the Secretary and

the work is almost ready to go to press. The Committee again co-operated with the *Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal* by furnishing a considerable number of definitions.

STATISTICAL TABLES

GENERAL PROFIT AND

To EXPENDITURE:—

	£	£
Cash Payments (Salaries, Wages, Allowances, Maintenance and General).....	24,477,290	
Less amount apportioned to Engineering construction works.....	558,972	
	23,918,318	
Contribution in respect of Replacements and Renewals of Telegraph and Telephone Plant (Depreciation).....	1,009,890	24,928,208
<i>Value of Services for which no Cash Debit is taken:—</i>		
Interest Liability on Capital:—		
Telegraphs.....	157,482	
Telephones.....	3,023,132	
Standard Stock.....	226,839	
Cost of Raising Loans since Union.....	26,205	
		3,433,658
Value of Government Buildings.....		342,568
Pension Funds: Government Liability:—		
Contributions to Funds.....	900,457	
Pensions Paid from Revenue.....	109,000	
Gratuities.....	7,800	
		1,017,257
Unemployment Insurance Fund: Government Liability.....		12,264
Services Rendered by Other Government Departments:—		
Minor Works and Furniture, Maintenance and Repairs, Rents, Rates and Taxes.....	666,069	
Law Costs and Damages.....	2,500	
Audit.....	5,424	
Minor Services.....	17,723	
		691,716
Postal Services.....		190,033
TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....		30,615,704
Balance being Profit.....		1,279,847
		<u>£31,895,551</u>

POSTAL PROFIT AND LOSS

To EXPENDITURE:—

	£
Traffic, Operating and Commercial.....	6,619,164
Stores (overhead).....	85,804
Administration and Accounting.....	401,656
Rents, Maintenance of Buildings, Lighting.....	239,785
Interest Liability on Capital Value of Buildings.....	157,581
Pension Liability.....	342,892
Unemployment Insurance Liability.....	4,155
Conveyance of Mails.....	2,834,911
Miscellaneous.....	690,517

£11,376,465

LOSS ACCOUNT (*Financial Year 1957-58*).

BY REVENUE:—

	£	£
Cash Receipts.....		30,651,810
<i>Value of Services for which no Cash Credit is Received:—</i>		
Services Rendered to Government Administrations—		
Postal.....	742,861	
Telegraphs.....	4,838	
Miscellaneous.....	348,467	
		1,096,166
Services Rendered to Provincial Administrations—		
Cape.....	28,385	
Transvaal.....	20,676	
Natal.....	15,773	
Orange Free State.....	8,272	
		73,106
Meteorological Facilities:—		
Broadcast of Weather Reports, etc.....		74,469

£31,895,551

ACCOUNT (*Financial Year 1957-58*).

BY REVENUE:—

	£	£
Cash Collections from Public:—		
Postage.....	8,505,649	
Ocean Mail Service.....	377,393	
Private Box Rentals and Private Bag Fees.....	233,452	
Savings Bank Revenue.....	435,503	
Postal Order Poundage.....	143,404	
Money Order Commission.....	87,336	
Miscellaneous.....	257,605	
		10,040,342
Free Services to Government Departments.....		1,164,254
Cash Collections from Government Departments: Bag Fees and Box Rentals....		6,135
		11,210,731
TOTAL REVENUE.....		165,734
Net Loss.....		<u>£11,376,465</u>

TELEGRAPH PROFIT AND

To EXPENDITURE:—

	£
Traffic, Operating and Commercial.....	1,815,478
Engineering (overhead).....	28,539
Stores (overhead).....	31,405
Administration and Accounting.....	96,826
Maintenance.....	464,478
Rents, Maintenance of Buildings, Lighting.....	99,910
Interest Liability on Capital Value of Buildings.....	51,385
Pension Liability.....	121,290
Unemployment Insurance Liability.....	1,406
Interest on Stores Reserve.....	13,955
Interest on Capital.....	157,483
Contribution for Renewals.....	63,519
Miscellaneous.....	496,240
TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....	3,441,914
Net Profit.....	151,765
	<u><u>£3,593,679</u></u>

TELEPHONE PROFIT AND LOSS

To EXPENDITURE:—

	£
Traffic and Operating.....	3,732,400
Commercial.....	932,406
Engineering (overhead).....	277,905
Administration and Accounting.....	224,616
Stores (overhead).....	141,285
Maintenance.....	4,522,814
Rents, Maintenance of Buildings, Lighting.....	326,374
Interest Liability on Capital Value of Buildings.....	133,601
Pension Liability.....	553,075
Unemployment Insurance Liability.....	6,702
Interest on Stores Reserve.....	212,884
Interest on Capital.....	3,023,132
Contributions for Renewals.....	946,371
Miscellaneous.....	763,759
TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....	15,797,324
Net Profit.....	1,293,817
	<u><u>£17,091 141</u></u>

LOSS ACCOUNT (Financial Year 1957-58).**BY REVENUE:—****Cash Collections:—****From Public:—**

Telegrams.....	1,924,939
Registered Address Fees.....	40,906
Miscellaneous.....	193,436
Teleprinter and Telex Services.....	412,638
External Telecommunications.....	845,881

3,417,800

From Government Departments:—

Telegrams.....	63,583
Registered Address Fees.....	2,639
Teleprinter and Telex Services.....	38,514

104,736

Free Services to Government Departments:—

Meteorological Services.....	66,306
Miscellaneous.....	4,837

71,143

£3,593,679**ACCOUNT (Financial Year 1957-58).****BY REVENUE:—****Cash Collections:—**

From Public..... 16,403,783

From Government Departments..... 679,015

Free Services to Government Departments..... 8,343

£17,091,141

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1. Savings bank offices.....	1,521	1,539*	1,555
2. Ordinary accounts:—			
(a) Opened.....	166,983	168,887	163,136
(b) Closed.....	160,669	125,859	134,656
(c) Remaining open.....	2,323,709	2,366,737	2,395,217
(d) Deposits:—			
Number.....	2,283,289	2,252,881	2,163,609
Value, including interest..... £	34,722,974	33,694,785	31,848,826
(e) Withdrawals:—			
Ordinary:—			
Number.....	532,879	484,435	479,667
Amount..... £	30,430,005	27,959,750	27,394,785
On demand:—			
Number.....	1,932,141	1,898,523	1,861,478
Amount..... £	7,102,385	6,467,163	5,661,999
Total:—			
Number.....	2,465,020	2,382,958	2,341,145
Amount..... £	37,532,391	34,426,913	33,056,784
(f) Balance due to depositors:—			
Amount..... £	75,414,973	74,682,845	73,474,887
Average, per depositor.....	£32 9 1	£31 11 1	£30 13 6
3. Savings Bank Certificates:—			
(a) Investments..... £	363,600	393,900	318,900
(b) Repayments, exclusive of interest..... £	1,568,200	1,275,000	829,100
(c) Balance of investments..... £	6,379,200	5,498,100	4,987,900
4. Accounts transferred:—			
To other Administrations:—			
Number.....	226	232	242
Amount..... £	21,157	16,304	19,538
From other Administrations:—			
Number.....	264	291	287
Amount..... £	22,099	18,076	20,375
5. School Banks:—			
Number of accounts.....	15	15	15
Balance due to depositors..... £	708	848	797

NOTE.

Item 2 (f) does not include item 3 (c).
* Adjusted figure.

UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1. Investments.....	£ 2,771,582	£ 5,200,257	£ 4,836,776
2. Repayments, exclusive of interest.....	3,749,560	4,233,523	4,005,818
3. Balance of investments.....	15,876,007	16,842,741	17,673,699

WORK PERFORMED ON BEHALF OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF STATE

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1. Free postage:—			
Value.....£	794,444	794,444	794,444
2. Free money orders:—			
Number.....	44,424	48,156	48,257
Value.....£	546,223	791,981	804,686
3. Pension warrants cashed:—			
Number.....	2,949,674	3,033,074	3,024,676
Value.....£	27,612,983	28,160,768	28,011,044
4. Revenue collected:—			
(a) Licences.....£	11,327	9,378	9,115
(b) Revenue stamps.....£	1,105,191	1,137,548	1,236,973
(c) Entertainment tax:—			
Cape.....£	185,347	182,057	202,479
(d) Customs dues.....£	1,691,177	1,679,748	1,791,098
(e) Fumigation Fees.....£	6	17	16
5. Cigarette duty.....£	12,690,118	13,431,714	13,719,540
6. Tax Redemption Certificates.....£	3,109,305	3,106,100	3,265,137
7. Savings Fund Levy Certificates (redeemed).....£	21,197	14,370	12,947
8. Ex-volunteers: Loan repayments.....£	180	175	162
9. National Housing rentals and loan redemptions.....£	1,066,519	1,112,793	1,233,725

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL ORDERS

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1. Money orders <i>Issued</i> :—			
(a) On offices in the Union:—			
Number.....	2,078,960	2,117,879	2,075,029
Amount..... £	11,624,998	12,171,511	12,070,283
(b) On other countries:—			
Number.....	108,510	98,561	93,287
Amount..... £	1,006,884	922,095	905,619
(c) Total:—			
Number.....	2,187,470	2,216,440	2,168,316
Amount..... £	12,631,882	13,093,606	12,975,902
(d) Commission..... £	76,882	87,207	87,336
2. Money orders <i>Paid</i> :—			
(a) Issued in the Union:—			
Number.....	2,082,995	2,138,716	2,071,114
Amount..... £	11,661,546	12,143,951	12,039,448
(b) Issued in other countries:—			
Number.....	212,695	214,961	210,049
Amount..... £	1,504,514	1,559,622	1,480,257
(c) Total:—			
Number.....	2,295,690	2,353,677	2,281,163
Amount..... £	13,166,060	13,703,573	13,519,705
3. Postal orders <i>Issued</i> :—			
(a) Number:—			
Union.....	8,628,085	8,911,786	9,175,255
British.....	2,099,402	2,409,077	2,257,349
Total.....	10,727,487	11,320,863	11,432,604
(b) Amount:—			
Union..... £	6,436,761	6,774,316	7,385,764
British..... £	1,295,410	1,338,510	1,295,651
Total..... £	7,732,171	8,112,826	8,681,415
(c) Poundage:—			
Union..... £	103,261	107,779	113,726
British..... £	28,639	31,190	29,677
Total..... £	131,900	138,879	143,403
4. Postal orders <i>Paid</i> :—			
(a) Number:—			
Union.....	7,391,897	8,800,151	9,065,415
British.....	639,401	679,055	649,431
Total.....	8,031,298	9,479,206	9,714,846
(b) Amount:—			
Union..... £	5,110,207	6,717,853	7,336,452
British..... £	599,673	669,833	754,551
Total..... £	5,709,880	7,387,686	8,091,003

STAFF.

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1. Permanent staff establishment:—			
(a) Authorised posts.....	31,460	33,699	34,452
(b) Officials employed.....	30,043	31,823	32,752
2. Total number of persons employed.....	42,410	45,425	45,603
3. Officials who availed themselves of leave.....	41,687	44,358	46,311
4. Vacation leave:—			
(a) Number of days granted.....	722,567	751,020	783,334
(b) Average per official.....	17.33	16.93	16.91
5. Special leave:—			
(a) Number of days granted.....	119,699	151,020	157,645
(b) Average per official.....	2.87	3.40	3.404
6. Sick absence:—			
(a) Number of days.....	351,163	382,870	451,730
(b) Average per official.....	8.42	8.63	9.75
7. Suggestions submitted by the staff:—			
(a) Total number.....	74	124	91
(b) Number adopted.....	8	23	14
(c) Number of awards.....	9	23	14
(d) Total awards paid.....	£16	£47	£18

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.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1. Exchanges.....	1,856	1,885	1,867
2. Public call offices.....	11,448	11,903	12,296
3. Exchange connections:—			
(a) Business.....	155,528	162,160	170,349
(b) Residence.....	235,199	248,116	270,591
4. Farm lines:—			
(a) Number of lines.....	8,349	9,002	9,475
(b) Farmers connected.....	68,998	75,529	80,721
(c) Length of route, in miles.....	154,144	166,388	177,970
5. Party lines (other than farm lines):—			
(a) Number of lines.....	1,260	1,567	1,559
(b) Parties connected.....	4,692	5,753	6,163
6. Total telephone stations.....	665,669	715,341	775,274
7. Telephone calls:—			
(a) Local.....	825,076,325	873,463,701	936,909,852
(b) Trunk.....	54,292,788	59,800,171	68,069,441
(c) Total.....	879,369,113	933,263,872	1,004,979,293

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.....	1956 1957 1958	204,611 220,407 246,833	1,556,964 1,612,776 1,887,648	143 169 108	£ 4,455,148 4,897,274 5,329,273	£ 10,138 11,716 9,362	54·6 57·4 42·2
Cape Peninsula.....	1956 1957 1958	88,779 91,837 97,398	639,761 663,575 695,350	96 102 124	1,821,365 2,031,789 2,187,817	450 1,050 1,047	5·9 12·4 11·5
Pretoria.....	1956 1957 1958	59,595 61,418 62,557	489,172 501,920 511,125	28 27 19	1,130,062 1,229,412 1,391,453	1,230 1,718 1,327	26·1 33·5 22·9
Durban.....	1956 1957 1958	66,650† 71,880† 79,040†	500,300 530,000 570,000	8 15 26	726,573 799,482 939,886	367 578 456	12·1 17·7 11·6
Port Elizabeth.....	1956 1957 1958	23,516 24,735 26,106	182,000 183,276 190,800	8 2 8	545,490 591,064 620,499	88 138 234	3·57 5·46 9·05
Pietermaritzburg.....	1956 1957 1958	11,786 12,275 12,738	30,676‡ 31,556‡ 78,890§	3 4 7	255,239 282,957 332,036	122 99 146	11·47 8·29 10·6
Bloemfontein.....	1956 1957 1958	13,269 13,973 14,931	98,179 102,050 102,012	5 6 11	318,829 372,177 380,320	119 96 142	8·95 6·19 8·9
East London.....	1956 1957 1958	12,000 12,809 13,473	94,780 97,724 100,229	5 10 5	256,407 277,483 304,703	41 148 53	3·83 9·1 4·1
Kimberley.....	1956 1957 1958	5,725 5,808 6,065	52,610 53,937 54,344	2 3 1	117,152 131,358 149,325	8 11 15	0·16 2·009 2·4

NOTES.

* Includes phonogram receipts and estimated amounts for Government services.

† Includes Durban Municipal System.

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

§ Accounts rendered monthly instead of quarterly as from June, 1957.

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

1955-56: 14·07.
1956-57: 16·893.
1957-58: 13·7.

INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1. Calls to overseas countries.....	16,932	16,470*	17,724
2. Calls from overseas countries.....	14,553	13,083*	17,910
3. Calls to Rhodesia.....	79,030	85,772	84,214
4. Calls from Rhodesia.....	101,765	125,446	136,676
5. Calls to Lourenco Marques.....	23,986	29,035	31,412
6. Calls from Lourenco Marques.....	23,577	29,023	30,082
7. Calls to Kenya.....	360	357	322
8. Calls from Kenya.....	529	470	577
9. Calls to Belgian Congo.....	238	223	232
10. Calls from Belgian Congo.....	30	287	259

NOTE.

* Decrease due to introduction of Overseas Tele Service.

BROADCASTING AND RADIO LICENCES.

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1. Broadcasting:—			
(a) Licensed Stations.....	11	11	11
(b) Licensed Listeners.....	738,810	800,094	848,145
2. Licensed Radio Stations:—			
(a) Ships.....	316	367	444
(b) Aircraft.....	156	177	223
(c) Private Communication.....	939	1,127	1,261
(d) Amateur.....	1,821	1,875	1,915

INSPECTION AT CAPE TOWN AND DURBAN OF SHIPS' RADIO INSTALLATIONS.

Radio Installations Licensed by—	NUMBER OF SHIPS INSPECTED.		
	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
Argentina.....	—	2	—
Australia.....	—	1	1
Belgium.....	1	3	3
Bermuda.....	—	2	1
Brazil.....	5	—	—
Costa Rica.....	5	8	1
Denmark.....	29	39	22
Egypt.....	—	—	3
Finland.....	4	2	4
France.....	27	48	50
Germany.....	29	24	50
Great Britain.....	652	765	725
Greece.....	16	7	3
Holland.....	147	161	163
Honduras Republic.....	2	1	—
India.....	—	1	—
Republic of Ireland.....	—	—	4
Israel.....	—	—	1
Italy.....	46	53	34
Japan.....	47	49	45
Liberia.....	30	24	28
Norway.....	103	100	106
Panama Republic.....	35	39	14
Philippines.....	—	1	—
Poland.....	—	11	1
Portugal.....	26	15	9
Russia.....	—	8	11
Spain.....	—	1	—
Sweden.....	60	56	63
Switzerland.....	6	—	—
Tunisia.....	—	1	—
Union of South Africa.....	138	70	108
United States of America.....	86	77	96
Yugo-Slavia.....	—	2	2
TOTAL.....	1,494	1,571	1,548

TELEGRAPHS.

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1. Telegraph Offices.....	3,489	3,470	3,463
2. Telegraph circuit mileage.....	319,528	384,725	376,479
3. Inland and inter-territorial telegrams accepted:—			
(a) Commonwealth and British Governments.....	5,508	3,286	2,904
(b) Union Government.....	794,366	778,650	831,674
(c) Railway service.....	9,167	6,632	8,076
(d) Public paid.....	11,336,205	10,504,842	10,504,536
(e) Press.....	189,745	200,197	192,177
(f) Total.....	12,334,991	11,493,607	11,539,367
4. Overseas telegrams (outgoing)*:—			
(a) Government.....	24,153	25,389	29,060
(b) Public paid.....	709,544	767,807	783,456
(c) Total.....	733,698	793,196	812,516
5. Total number of telegrams accepted at Union offices.....	13,068,689	12,286,803	12,351,883

* Includes radiotelegrams.

POSTAL.

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1. Post Offices:—			
(a) Money Order Offices.....	1,503	1,508	1,521
(b) Postal Agencies.....	1,919	1,887	1,805
(c) Total Number of Offices.....	3,422	3,395	3,326
2. Private Post Bags.....	9,892	10,950	10,101
3. Private Boxes.....	99,829	107,148	110,426
4. Posting Boxes other than on P.O. Premises.....	3,695	3,800	3,930
5. Parcel Services:—			
(a) Cash on Delivery:—			
Number of Parcels.....	1,342,945	1,374,949	1,401,977
Trade Charges Collected.....	£2,694,499	£2,631,028	£2,907,537
Revenue to P.O.....	£91,777	£115,526	£130,193
(b) Insured:—			
Number of Parcels.....	2,532,176	2,577,992	2,422,075
Revenue to P.O.....	£66,055	£72,349	£70,668
Compensation Paid.....	£1,687	£2,210	£3,832
(c) Acknowledgment of Posting:—			
Number of Parcels.....	1,346,141	1,376,653	1,170,461
Revenue to P.O.....	£5,609	£5,736	£4,877
Compensation Paid.....	£922	£1,294	£1,182
6. Total Articles Handled.....		SEE NEXT PAGE	
7. Undelivered Articles:—			
(a) Number.....	5,934,578	5,919,056	6,555,484
(b) Value of Contents:—			
Currency.....	£26,766	£29,381	£26,972
Other Items.....	£592,261	£673,369	£653,730
(c) Revenue from Sales.....	£1,110	£1,260	£956
8. Postage Franking Machines Licensed.....	3,305	3,783	4,109
9. Business Reply Service Licences.....	1,049	1,306	1,606
10. Overseas Mails:—			
Received through Great Britain for South Africa:—			
Mail Bags.....	268,478	295,275	295,838
Parcel Bags.....	197,222	164,068	165,432
Despatched from South Africa through Great Britain:—			
Mail Bags.....	49,910	41,851	42,960
Parcel Bags.....	30,384	26,392	24,509
Received for South Africa otherwise than through Great Britain:—			
Mail Bags.....	53,411	45,319	49,784
Parcel Bags.....	87,935	82,901	85,208
Despatched from South Africa otherwise than through Great Britain:—			
Mail Bags.....	15,994	14,104	15,809
Parcel Bags.....	10,839	10,050	11,052

NOTES.

Item 1: Excludes Bechuanaland Protectorate, Swaziland and Basutoland 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, Moçambique, and Mauritius.

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

Class of Mail.	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..... (b) Taxed.....	318,887,296 1,517,048	368,802,824 1,653,132	27,522,768 309,036	36,892,388 233,376	32,737,380 196,664	54,015,312 202,346	2,256,800 25,740	6,033,508 19,500	381,404,244 2,048,488	465,744,032 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..... (b) Agricultural.....	11,253,268 1,708,304	13,243,464 1,556,880	1,434,784 13,520	1,383,460 13,156	848,640 4,472	1,544,764 13,260	124,800 3,796	426,972 66,456	13,661,492 1,730,092	16,598,660 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..... (b) Registered.....	564,554,848 35,397,596 3,791,476	687,836,604 39,809,588 5,770,232	43,737,876 379,184 62,244	54,627,040 333,632 41,444	50,759,280 423,384 52,572	78,144,144 505,440 58,656	3,542,136 65,000 12,220	8,978,320 301,288 195,728	662,594,140 36,265,164 3,918,512	829,586,108 40,949,948 6,066,060
8. Other articles:— (a) Unregistered..... (b) Registered.....	14,576,692 44,200	52,563,992 53,404	69,420 2,756	188,708 3,952	99,320 3,640	156,832 3,952	14,664 936	124,384 988	14,760,096 51,532	53,033,916 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..... (b) Post cards..... (c) Air letters..... (d) Second class air mail articles†	— — — —	15,296,424 350,584 437,060 —	7,581,392 376,376 4,335,188 —	14,312,740 615,056 6,832,748 249,080	9,113,728 425,204 4,962,412 —	20,503,860 751,608 7,281,768 1,307,644	454,064 27,508 197,184 —	450,684 33,280 214,916 31,824	17,149,184 829,088 9,494,784 —	50,563,708 1,750,528 14,766,492 1,588,548

NOTES.

* Statistics taken every three years.

† Included under item 4 in 1952-53.

‡ Service introduced, 30/10/53.

COST OF CONVEYANCE OF MAILS WITHIN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
	£	£	£
1. By rail (South African Railways).....	926,382	958,264	933,010
2. By road (S.A.R. Road Motor Services).....	84,058	86,307	95,800
3. By road (private services).....	247,837	252,582	242,969
4. By air.....	195,475	223,610	248,304
5. Total.....	1,453,752	1,520,763	1,520,083

NOTE.

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

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

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
1. South African Airways/Central African Airways (to Rhodesia, etc.)....	247,045	307,946	337,309
2. Sabena.....	7,638	8,042	4,856
3. Springbok Service.....	361,075	373,781	390,987
4. Pan American Airways.....	15,593	17,717	19,172
5. D.E.T.A.	9,772	10,943	11,819
6. South African Airways (to Lourenco Marques).....	7,679	8,854	9,026
7. EL AL Israel National Airlines.....	4,323	964	197
8. K.L.M. Royal Dutch Airlines.....	3,921	5,008	3,059
9. Qantas Empire Airways.....	2,210	2,803	2,606
10. U.A.T. (French Airlines).....	836	1,181	1,229
11. South African Airways (to Australia).....	—	—	1,220
12. Total weight of mails.....	660,092	737,239	781,480

NOTE.

Item II: Service commenced 25th November, 1957.

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

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1. Number of motor cars and trucks.....	500	308	161
2. Vehicle miles run.....	3,489,514	2,208,603	1,095,445
3. Expenditure (including new vehicles and replacements).....£	132,596	94,645	35,825

EXAMINATIONS ENTERED FOR BY THE STAFF

	CENTRES.			ENTRIES.		SUCCESSES.		
	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
Examining Body and Examination.								
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS:—								
Trainee Post and Telegraph Assistants' Final Examination.....	118	129	166	959	1,355	844	1,282	1,391
General Division Officers' Examination for Promotion to Clerkships.....	4	5	—	5	5	5	5	—
Postmaster-General's Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy.....	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	—
Efficiency Test.....	131	47	31	248	156	165	105	69
Examination for Appointment as Engineer, Grade IV.....	6	6	6	22	17	17	5	6
Superintendents' (Telegraphs) Examination.....	8	*	*	74	*	44	*	*
† DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND SCIENCE:—								
Mathematics I.....						20	30	31
Mathematics II.....						26	82	70
Mathematics III.....						29	55	54
Mathematics IV.....						5	25	4
Mathematics V.....						4	11	3
Electrotechnics II.....						—	1	3
Telegraphy and Telephony I.....						35	82	80
Telegraphy II.....						32	76	52
Telegraphy III.....						4	9	8
Telephony II.....						37	73	46
Telephony III.....						9	16	6
Telephony IV.....						2	10	2
Radio-communication I.....						16	37	24
Radio-communication II.....						6	11	6
Radio-communication III.....						1	9	3
Transmission I.....						5	14	9
Transmission II.....						2	4	1
Lines I.....						35	84	71
Lines II.....						2	3	6
Technical Electricity I.....						29	28	34
Technical Electricity II.....						19	67	55

NOTES.

* No examinations held.

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

TRANSACTIONS DEALT WITH IN STORES DEPOTS

Item.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1. Engineering material—			
Number of issues.....	176,625	185,176	181,698
Value of issues.....£	6,907,000	7,403,000	7,727,000
Number of recoveries.....	20,490	22,285	25,300
Value of recoveries.....£	800,000	1,068,000	1,104,800
Orders placed overseas.....£	3,059,000	3,591,000	3,200,000
Orders placed in South Africa.....£	3,435,000	3,312,000	2,843,000
Value of material received.....£	5,797,000	6,933,000	6,863,000
Stock as at 31st March.....£	4,413,000	5,019,000	5,235,000
Sold to other departments and administrations.....£	56,000	65,000	50,500
2. Postal stores—			
Number of issues.....	131,155	134,065	131,225
Number of recoveries.....	18,006	18,171	15,522
Expenditure.....£	932,000	982,000	1,081,000
3. Postage stamps—			
Value.....£	5,865,340	6,173,845	6,503,885
4. Postal orders—			
Value (Union).....£	6,605,038	6,894,275	7,737,336†
Value (British).....£	1,360,673	1,401,794	1,350,251
5. Union Loan Certificates—			
Value.....£	2,636,400	6,750,800*	4,899,820
6. National savings stamps—			
Value.....£	369,285	371,946	367,620
7. Revenue stamps—			
Value.....£	4,133,463	3,168,320	3,695,745
8. Tax redemption certificates—			
Value.....£	3,031,885	2,987,505	3,266,685
9. Cigarette duty labels—			
Value.....£	13,092,072	14,209,843	14,459,971
10. Entertainment tax labels—			
Value.....£	190,773	181,285	201,818
11. Christmas stamps—			
Value.....£	£55,854	57,686	53,631

* Initial issue of 10th series.

† Initial issue of £5 postal order.