1891. VICTORIA.

REPORT

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH

DEPARTMENT

FOR THE TRAL

1890.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND

Eg Buthethy: BOBT. S. DRAIN, GOTERNMENT PRISTRE, MELBOURNE. No. 53.-(58.66.)-4112.

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PRÉCIS OF REPORT FOR 1890.

The number at the end of the paragraph denotes the page upon which details will be found.

Postal (the actual Revenue cannot be stated, but the amount received for the sale of stamps. £592.954 G Telegraphic 138,969 3 Commission on Money Orders and Postal Notes 14,262 18 Parcel Post 8,238 9 Telephone Exchanges 36.808 7 11 (ix)

EXPENDITURE.

9

4

Salaries and Wages			£302,157	18	0	
Contingencies			121,312	1	4	
Telegraph Lines			24,938	8	7	
Inland Mail Services (including #	35.548	naid to				
the Railway Department)			123,911	13	10	
Foreign Mails			49,721	19	0	
Gratuities to Masters of Vessels			1.857	-2	6	
Duplicate Cable Subsidy			13,885	3	7	

The expenditure in 1889 for similar items was £595,849 11s. 1d. The increase in 1890 was £41,934 15s. 9d., or 7 per cent. (ix)

INCREASE OF BUSINESS.

The number of Letters shows an increase of 14,429,180 over those despatched and received in 1889; of newspapers an increase of 2.066,273, and of packets, 681,028. (x)

The Parcel Post business shows an increase in 1890 of 12 per cent, over that of 1889, (xi)

TRIEGRAPH MATTERS.

New Lines-98 miles of line and 300 miles of Wire. Total mileage of existing lines. 4.000 ; of wires, 8,720. Number of stations opened, 18. Total number of stations, 344, exclusive of 404 Railway Telegraph Stations. (xvi)

Telephone Lines-395 miles of poles : 7,104 miles of wires : 65 miles of aerial cables ; 10 miles of underground cable

LOCAL TELEORAME

In Victoria-Number 2,594,565; value £88,466 14s. 10d. (Exclusive of O.H.M.S. messages. (xvii)

EUROPEAN AND EASTERN MESSAGES.

Total number to and from Victoria, 22,149; value, £117,652 3s. 10d.

Total number to and from all Australasian Colonics, 67,066; value, £331.468 2s. 11d. (xvii)

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

Number of subscribers to the Central Exchange, 1,769; Ballarat, 126; Bendigo, 70; Geelong, 143; Malvern, 45; Windsor, 53; Warrnambool, 54; Brighton, 54; Hawthorn, 13 (xiii)

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

The new buildings for the electric lighting are now completed, and the electric light is again brought into operation. (xv)

POSTAL CONFERENCE HELD IN SYDNEY IN FEBRUARY, 1891.

Report and précis of the decisions arrived at, &c. (xxxi)

COST OF OCEAN MAIL SERVICE.

Cost of Victoria, £33,888 14s. 8d. Amount received for Postage, Transit Rates, and Parcel Post, £37,779 8s. 6d. Surplus, £3,890 13s. 10d. (xix)

San Francisco Line.

Amount paid by Victoria, £6,495 19s. 5d. Received for Postages £1,943 10s. 11d. Deficit, £4,552 8s. 6d. (xx)

Torres Straits Service.

Amount paid by Victoria, £39 11s. 3d. (xx)

DEAD LETTERS.

Received	in D.L.O			 	464,637	
		Packets		 	28,296	
	**	Newspapers	***	 	122,872	(xx)

MISSING LETTERS.

Number of inquiries dealt with, 4,139. (xxi)

NEW BUILDINGS.

New post and telegraph offices crected, 16. In the course of crection and approaching completion, 6.

Eighty buildings rented by the Department at a total rental of £5,222. (xix)

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT.

Total number employed (exclusive of Mail Contractors, Postmasters not on the establishment, and persons not regularly engaged), 2,859. Females (included in the above number), 368. (xxii)

NEW OFFICES.

Post Offices	 	 	84	
Telegraph Offices, Postal	 	 	15	
Railway	 	 	40	
Money Order Offices	 	 	31	St. Barlet
Savings Banks	 	 	29	(xxiii)

TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFICES.

Post Offices Telegraph Offices	 (exclusive	of Railwa	 av Telegr	aph St	1,671 344
Money Order Office Savings Banks	tes				 421 343

STAMPS, ETC.

Issued-Adhesive, number,			L (xxv)
Impressed, " 1	10,993,472; "	61,511 4s. 7d.	
Licences-Issued, 341; revol			
Commission paid on Duty Sta Railway		381 14 0	(xxiv)

INLAND MAIL SERVICES.

Paid to Private Contractors	 	£68,363 11 10
" Railway Department	 	55,548 2 0
Distance travelled	 	8,811,204 miles.
Length of New Services	 	383 miles.

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES.

 Money Orders issued, 251,267.
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SAVINGS BANK.

(xxviii)

Number of Accounts at end	of 1890		1	04,3	\$20	
Amount of Deposits receive	d		£1,356,950	8	5	
", " repaid			1,219,334	6	5	
Interest (4 per cent.) credit	ed to depo	sitors	67,727	0	0	
Total amount to credit of d	epositors		1,996,093	6	0	
Increase in "			205,337	4	10 or	11.45 per cent.
Average balance "			19	2	81	
" repayments			10	1	21	
Withdrawals by telegraph-	Number,	6,496;				
amount			42,155	14	9	(xxix)

REPORT.

The following Report upon the affairs of the Post and Telegraph Department is presented to Parliament in accordance with section 86 of the Post Office Act 1890, No. 1128.

The Statistics are for the year 1890, but the Report contains a quantity of information relating to 1891.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The receipts from the sale of stamps, including postage, stamp duty, fee stamps for registration, electoral purposes, &c., and electric telegraph, amounted to £731,923 108. 6d., as against £821,685 148. 7d., showing a decrease of £89,764 48. 1d., which is chiefly owing to the reduction in the rate of naland postage.

The electric telegraph receipts (included in the sale of stamps) were £138,969 3s. 9d., being an increase over the receipts during 1889 of nearly 10 per cent.

The commission on money orders and postal notes was £14,262 18s. 9d., being an increase of 6 per cent. on the amount received for 1889.

The postage on parcels was £8,238 9s. 4d., showing an increase of 13\$ per cent.

The receipts from telephone exchanges and private wires amounted to £36,808 78. 11d., being an increase of 17 g per cent. over the receipts for 1889.

Expenditure.

			£302,157	18	0
				1	4
irs of teles	raph lin	es and			
hone exchi	inges (ex	clusive			
			24,938	8	7
cluding £	55,548 2	s, paid			
artment)		·	123,911	13	10
			49,721	19	0
of vessels	(special	appro-			
			1,857	2	6
			13,885	3	7
	hone exchi- neluding £ artment) of vessels 	hone exchanges (ex relading £55,548 2 artment) of vessels (special	ecluding £55,548 2s. paid artment) of vessels (special appro-		irs of telegraph lines and home exchanges (exclassive

£637,784 6 10

The expenditure in 1889 under similar items was £595,849 11s. 1d. The increase in 1890 was 7 per cent.

TELEGRAPH MATTERS.

The contracts for repairs to lines between Warragul and Sale, Caulfield and Warragul, and Kyneton and Sydenham, mentioned in the last Report as being in progress, have been satisfactorily completed, as also has a contract for repairs between Castlemaine and Ballarat.

The Wheatstone ABC instruments on the lines between Melbourne and Wittlesse, Melbourne and Heidelburg, and Melbourne and Kanguroo Ground, have been superceided by telephones. On the two instrumend lines the telephones are placed in dicturely so derivations for from main lines, with high resistances in the bell number of instruments are in circuit than 50 gets more antifaction on lines whereas number of instruments are in circuit than 50 gets on a series. The seview will be applied to obtain lines as meessant areas.

Telephones have been substituted for Morse instruments on the branch line St. James to Lake Rowan, the staff office at the latter place having been closed.

Broadford has been made a staff office and placed in circuit on the main line, and Reedy Creek made a branch office from Broadford.

As alteration has been effected in the Swan HIII and Wrydespect ricetarity, the former being more construct from Hyperbound threegh Friedgewarts to Soudhurst, and has had been as the state of the sta

A short line has been erected between Mornington and Mount Martha, and equipped with telephones.

A new copper wire has been run from Ballarat to the South Australian horder, where it nexts a similar line accessed between Adebide and the same print. This is now in use as a quadrupkex circuit between Melbourne and Adebide, the Ballarat to Melbourne section being connected on the old irrow wire, pending the erretion of a sopper wire, which is a portion of the work under a centract let for the transformed of lines to railway enclosures.

The following works are now in progress and approaching completion :---

Erection of a new line within the Railway enclosure between Braybrook Junction and Georion, and dissuantiling of the old line along the traffic road from Sydenhum. The first section, Braybrook Junction to Molon, has been poled with 24-feet iron poles, and the rest of the line with the serviceable wood poles taken from the old road. Repairs to the existing line, Gordons to Warrenheip, are included in this contract.

Arising out of this transfer from root to railway is an alteration which haves the small township of Myrnicoge on a branch line. From Ballan. This was necessitated by the extensive deviation which the railway there makes from the old rougl, laving Myrnicog roue of σ mics away, with a very rough piece of construct between. The Myrnicog branch has been connected to the Blackwood branch at Ballan, and they are now worked as one circuit.

The line between Newport and North Geolong having been re-spaced at 22 poles to the mile (instead of 30, as hitherto), is now being reconstructed, the first section being pole with 26-feet run poles, while the serviceable wood poles from this section are employed to replace the condemned ones on the second section. The verspacing of this line will effect a considerable saving in maintemance in the future.

New lines are in course of construction from Omeo to Benambra, viá Hinnoomunjie; Bairnsdale to Metung, viá Swan Reach; Stratford to Dargo; and Warrnambeol to Purnim, viá Woodford.

The new Post and Telegraph Office at Geelong having been completed, the telegraph wircs were transferred from the temporary office without any interruption whatever to business.

The trouble and expense caused by the virious practice of breaking telegraph insulators, still necessitates unceasing vigilance on the part of the police and of the departmental officials. At the Arenel Police Court on the 9th Annuary last, two lads were fined £l each for this offices, and a few more such instances would, no doubt, have an excellent determent effect.

TRLEPHONE EXCHANGES.

The erection of the extended write-bound at the Corral Richarge fast corpiled a large affer for some mouth part, a number of temporary hands having bound highly in order to argeblic the work, which is now approaching completion. He alternations to the odd bound assessment to the start of the second start the improved type, will be undertaken. When completed, the bounds will be adding of approaching assessment on the theory could be add under with the improved type, will be undertaken. When completed, the bounds will have adding of approaching, and applied for interacting up to 3,000 by the adding of approaching.

The staff, consisting almost entirely of lady assistants, has been nearly doubled, and nor numbers about 80. By direction of the Postmaster-General, the Hon. J. Gavan Duffy, these ladies have now been provided with seats while performing their duties. Previously they had to remain standing for several hours, which was very faighing, especially during the summer months.

² Mr. Quarry, the Electrical Foreman of the Department, has also introduced an improvement in the shape of a new combination receiver and transmitter. The ordinary transmitter used by subactrices weights about 3260, but Mr. Quarry's instrument weighs only 15or, and contains a moveable transmitter, so that each operator can have the exclusive use of one.

The following shows the number of subscribers to the various Exchanges at the present time, viz :---

Melbourne	 			1.769
Windsor	 			53
Malvern	 			45
Brighton	 			34
Hawthorn	 			13
Ballarat Bendigo (San	 	***		126
Geelong	***			70 143
Warmambool	 			54
	 		·	0.4
	Total			2,807

The Hawthorn Branch Exchange was opened on the 9th March, 1891, and a branch is now being established at Footscrav.

The Exchange at Bendigo (Sandhurst) was transferred to the Government buildings on the 10th October, 1830, several new lengths of underground cable having been laid, and one length of cable thrown out of me in effecting the transfer.

The trunk wire between Melbourne and Geelong continues to work astisfactorily, and has been fairly parromized; the subscribers complain of the loss of time in having to wait their turn to use it, and have made representations to the Department suggesting the crection of a second trunk line. Negotiations are now pending for the carrying out of this work.

Inquiries have been made with a view to connecting Ballarat and Warrnambool by telephone with the metropolis, and estimates have been furnished showing the amount required to be guaranteed in each case to assure the Department against loss, but no definite arrangement has yet been arrived at.

The Telephone Exchange at Geelong was transferred to the new building on the 16th May.

UNDERGROUND AND ARELAL CABLES.

With the ecception of a few short length in Bendips, an previously mentioned, no underground tables have been ind. Sevenal of token indit by the hale Tolephone Kuchange Company in Queen-storet are shoring signs of failing in instalation, the locality of the half having been treated, as few store them are concerned, to the plott where the transvery eroses their peaks at the store the store concerned on the plott where the transvery eroses their peaks at the store test and the store the plott where the transvery eroses their peaks at the store test at the store test of the store of the plott where the transvery eroses their peaks at the store test at the store test of the store of the plott where the transvery eroses the store test of the store of the store of the store of the test of the store of the store test of the store of the store of the store of the test of the store test of the store test of the store of the store of the store of the test of the store test of the store of the test of the store test of the store of the test of the store portions of the others is now in hand. It has also been decided to make a practical test in this matter by placing a number of wires, which are at present overhead, in the section of Mr. R. James underground system for carrying such wires, which was laid in Wills, Latrobe, and Queen streets in 1888 by a private firm.

A large quantity of aerial cable has been crected throughout the city, and in all cases cables are employed to carry the connexions away from the Telephone Exchange to convenient distributing points.

As the multiplication of wires and cables on the poles in the city continues, the question of plating them underground presses upon the Department more and more every day, and the matter has been brought into greater prominence by the action of the City Council in deciding to undertake the illumination of the eity by means of electricity, the conductors for which they propose to lay underground.

With a view to some concerted action being taken, the Mayer suggested a conference between the officers of the Consolit and of the Department, which was appear to. Mr. Mountain, the Oity Surveyor, and Mr. Arnot, the City Electrical Engineer, were appointed to held of the Griv Conneil, and Mr. T. R. James, Assistant Servetary, and Mr. George Smillert, Telegraph Engineer, on behalf of the Post and Telegraph.Department.

At a preliminary meeting, when the business was introduced by Mr. James Smibert, the Deputy Postmaster-General, and by Mr. FiltGibbon, the Town Clerk, the following questions were remitted to the members of the Board for consideration and report, viz. :---

- The practicability, or otherwise, of constructing conduits to convey electric light, telegraph, and telephone wires.
- Whether the different kinds of wires would require separate conduits, or could be carried in one and the same conduit.
- 3. As to the cost of carrying out any scheme which might be recommended.

After two meetings, the following report was submitted. It may be mentioned that in the interim 'Mr. FitzGibbon, having 'resigned his position as Town Clerk, and Mr. James Smihert being compelled through illness to reliaquish for a time the performance of his duties, neither of these gentlemen took any further part in the conference -

Melbourne, 4th Juno, 1891.

Report on Saburgs for Electric Wires, in connexion with the City Council of Melbourse and the Portal Department of Victoria.

THE RIGHT WORSHIPPUL THE MAYOR.

 It was agreed to omit from the inquiry any special considerations of telephone wires, as they can, without much appears, be easily dealt with—either conjointly with or independently of other wires whenever it is found researcy to easies them underground.

2. It was agreed that, while expanse contains, draw-pits, and masheles are recommodel for lighting not fee turbphrae wires, concentry would be effected at leash contains, draw-per hald in the same trench, provided a division wall as loas if makes think, preferably tails of good Turthad cement concrete, be built with a view to konging the different wires thereogeney spart.

3. As regards the routes of the conduits for electric liphing, it is desirable that every strets in the hore-described area should have a sensition can such side, if prescribable matter the foctwarys. This will amont to a length of about 36 miles. Also, one smaller conduits will be needed in each have or right-of-way, assuming to a further length of about 10 miles.

These conduits to be made available for telephone wires, on the principle above laid down, in all streets or lanes indicated by the Postal Department.

4. It is further surgested, as being worthy of consideration both by the Government and the eight production, that the work of constructing conduction is characterial out by the Government and the height be paid on an equitable basis by the Found anthorizing for the use of such special conduit as world be mereved for theorizon or estigraphy purposes.

5. It is impossible to give asynthmic like an accurate estimate of the cost of this veck until asok those as its definitely devided wink system of "undergrounding" is adopted, on which will hergely depend the form and construction of conduct employed, and to what extent the conduits will be jointly used for both lighting and telephone purposes.

For electric lighting solar, including provides for spirate lighting in the future, it may be reagily estimated that is compative resum of undergravating thermologication the content sets under consideration will mean the construction of 6 miles of 5-way combinit; 16 miles of 5-way conduct; need 14 miles of 2-way exolutis; the cost of which we retinuise at 375,850. These figures are based on the supposition that the conduit will be laid in the following manner:-

The ducts, varying in number as assoled, to be of cantifum pipes had and pinned parallel to contritor in barriantial or vertical lines. These pipes to be throughly embedded in how Devolution or and concrete, the top of which to be frem 9 to 12 index below surface of grown. Manholes to be contrasted at all corrars: to be junction barries where accessary. The whole if rout to receive the address.

We are not in a position to give an estimate of the cost of hying conduits for the telephone system, from the fact that it does not appear that the Positil Department has yet definitely decided on any particular system or solution.

In submitting this brief report, your Committee are conscious that probably more detailed information might be given on the subject, but this would have involved delay in sending in our recommendations.

We believe that we have covered the ground of our instructions, but will be glad to continue our labours, if any further particulars are desired.

We have the honour to be Sir,

Your obdient serve

A. C. MOUNTAIN, Chairman, T. R. JAMES, GEO. SMIBERT, A. G. ARNOT,

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

The electric light plant at the General Post Office, which had not been worked since June, 1888, owing to the new buildings which were then commenced having necessitated its stoppage, has again been got into working order, and was started for continuous work on the 6th May, 1891, by the Hon. J. Gavan Duffy, Postmaster-General.

It may be mentioned that during the inte artice, when there was a probability that the gas regregative world full, are surgelying machine and some are harmore were been as the strength of the strength of the strength of the strength of the s small engines; one of the builders, which was then in position, between lamps and the strength of the strength their strength of the strengt

THE POST OFFICE CLOCK.

Pending the final completion of the clock, it was decided to set the time portion of it going, so as to indicate during daylight the correct time to the public. The new hands and dial work were made and fitted, and the clock set going on the 22nd September, since which date it has shown the time on one or more of the dials. The work of fitting up the carillon machinery and connecting it with the bells was intrusted to Messrs. T. Gaunt and Co. under contract, and was carried out under the supervision of officers of the Postal Department. It was completed and connected with the mechanism of the clock on the 10th February, since which time, with a few intermissions caused by breakage of ropes, connecting wires, &c., it has continued in action, ringing the quarter chimes and playing the tunes every third hour, as described in the last report. The action of the carillon machinery is not altogether satisfactory, owing to the tune-barrel and the lifting cams being driven from the same driving barrel, the effect being that when the cams have a heavy load to lift (which occurs when three or four of the heavier hammers happen to be down successively), the whole machine labours and consequently lags in time, thus causing irregularities in the timing of the Department, but, owing to the additional expenditure required to carry it out it has not yet been applied.

A contract for the additions to the dials necessary to admit of their being enclosed with glass, &c., to enable the system of illumination determined upon to be charied out, was let to Messra. T. Gaunt and Co., the lowest tenderers. This contract has been substantionally completed, and the glass, which was innorted from Encland through Messes. Brooks, Robinson, and Co., as it is of a description not manufactured here, is now being fitted. The electric-light fittings have been made in the departmental workshops, and are now being placed in position, and it is hoped the clock will be illuminated and finally completed in the course of a few weeks.

PNEUMATIC TUBES.

This matter is in very much the same position as described in the last report, to obtain a software yee's been starten. The subject is, however, under earness from the Reserving Edmon and the ground from and the Operating Koom on the second from the Reserving Post Office. The values and office approximation have been manufactared in the departmental workshops. Some difficulty has arisen in obtaining the observation of the starten and the second starten and the starten will be overcome, and that the tables will hardrif be in working order.

CABLE INTERRUPTIONS DURING 1890.

During 1890 no interruption to cable communication occurred between Banjoewangie and India; but severe volcanie disturbances caused interruption to the cables between Port Darwin and Banjoewangie from 11th June to 20th June, and to the cable between Roebuck Bay and Banjoewangie from 11th June to 124 August.

Adelaide and Port Darwin Telegroph.

STATEMENT of Interruptions during 1890.

Date and	Time ef-	Londin	
Interruption.	Interruption. Restoration.		Couse and Nature of Interruption,
17th January, 11.50 p.m. 29th January, 1.15 a.m. 1st September, 8 a.m	21st January, 7.15 s.m. 00th January, 6.50 s.m. 2nd September, 9, 15 s.m.	Between Charlotte Waters and Alice Springs Between Alice Springs and Barrow's Creek Between Peaks and	Insulator broken and blading wire teach- ing iron pin Wire fused and broken by lightning Piece of wire banging from line action
19th September, 5.45 a.m. 19th December, 5.45 a.m.	19th September, 11.50a.m. 7th December, 5 a.m	Charlotte Waters Between Strangway's Springs and Peaks Between Daly Waters and Extherins	lives pole Lives broken by lightning Man cut wire to obtain relief; was dring for wast of water

EXTENSION AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINES.

STATEMENT showing the Extension of Telegraph Lines in the Australiasian Colonies during the Tear 1890, also Lines in Progress, &c.

Cultury.	Lines 2	treeted.	Lines Dra	tranaction, Lines h@response at Total Number of Miles et end of Year. at end of Year.		Number	Number	Total			
	No. of Miles of Line.	No. of Miles of Wire,	No. of Miles of Line.	Yo. of Miles of Wire,	ye, of Mined Line.	No.of Min of Wite,	No. of Miles of Miles,	No. of Miles of Wire.	Bastines Opened.	Blattons Cheed.	Stations at and at Year.
Victoria New South Wales	108	453	23	2) 31	96 204	500	4,000	8,720	18	1	344
South Australia	104	359	14	72		117	5.556	10.518		1	218
Queensland	477	.750	203	315	54	16	9,850	17,437	38	10	251
Taszania		36			120	120	1.645	2,542	4		184
New Zenland	156	314		75	49	63	5,000	12,771	37	3	520
Western Australia					516	516	2,961	3,545	1.00		42

TEL		

Plen	Mins of Point.	Miles of Assial Califa.	Miles of Under- ground Cable.	Miles of Wire.
Molbourne and suburbs	1951 1961 17 40 17 41	1977 1977	4 31	6,453 134 2763 153 58
Tetal	305 <u>}</u>	(61	10	7,3042

LOCAL AND INTERCOLONIAL BUSINESS.

STATEMENT showing the Victorian and Intercolonial Business for the Years 1890 to 1890.

	- 1982			162.		1942.	1883,			
	Somber of Trinate Montes	Inverse	Number of Private Research	livers.	Similar of Friend's Normpon	Beverse.	Number uf Trivule Messages.	Econte.		
· Intraen Théorian Stations	478,412	6 4 4 6,713 13 - 3	19,01	6 4 6 4030 31-2	839,538	£ s. d. 20,133 1 3	\$13,135	£ r. d. 65,037 4 5		
Fran- Deputs to New South Wales	03,715	11,457 % 3 16,071 # 39	18001 19020	HAND T &	506,042	11,062 4 5 30,303 11 1	84,508 91,185	36,658 34		
Detects to Queensland	9,554 13,205 33,454	1000 3 4	34,316 17,315 80.579	3,139 4 8 3,427 34 8 5,938 7 9	11,508	4,001 0 6 3,988 13 3 5,648 8 3	29,779 35,319 43,855	5,000 13 0 5,400 5 0 5,407 8 0		
Could Ambrad a to Theoreman Deterior to Theorematics	87,301 6,111 6,111	1,027 18 8 1,299 16 2 1,296 18 19	1,00 1,00 3,20	COB 17 7 1,91 15 3 1,215 13 19	67,818 15,911 18,315	6,600-14 4 2,008 5 3	41,863 \$1,365 23,755	1.00 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1		
Weiteris in Western Australia	1,710	66 1 5	2,003	404 B 4 340.16 7	2,854 2,600 6,816	674 5 10 671 6 4	3,513 3,679 6,808	635 3 714 1 3.600 13		

		1846				1966.	107.			
	Number of Privaty Xeengra		Senter el Prirate Monages	livers.	Simber ef Fyireld Mempre.	Dours.	Sumber el Prieste Menages.	Parenta.		
		6 14	3.5.100	5.56		* * *		2. 1.2		
* Zelweis Viciorius Stations	\$36,822	34,316 0 8	1,096,001	36,000 38 1	1,543,879	64,874 18 8	1,801,129	- 66,129 -T -4		
Trun-	_		_		1		-	12.000		
								17,551 5 3		
								2,000 3 3		
								7,087 5 2		
							10,008	0,133 6 7		
Thisris to Western Anviraila						1,618 0 10	8,703	2,178 29 2		
	4,000							3,633 11 2		

				INK T		1888		3100.
			Number of Patentis Numper	Tancas.	Sumber ef Dirute Rossages	Rawaras.	Simbir of Private Messages	Tevense.
"Reiwers Vielerian Sindara	-		1,917,418	5 K.C. 17,015 13 3	1,365,930	£ 1.4. 81,653 1 4	2,334,515	R a. d. 388,458 34 30*
Vistanta to New South Walse New North Walse to Tieloria Vistanta to Questaland Questaland in Treasts Vistanta to Autoria			30,00 10,00 10,00	11,547 15 10 15,000 10 4 1,000 10 4 1,000 10 1 1,000 10 1	100,300 175,543 20,364 54,955	22,019 13 4 90,461 5 7 5,009 6 11 6,717 6 13	\$18,687 \$00,000 21,150	24138 3 6 21778 4 0 6,40 11 4
Testing in Source Alexandria Bould Androfel is Televis. Testing is Tammanla Testing is Tammanla Testing is Testing Testing is Xenters Americalia Testing is Xenters Testing is Xenters Testing is Xenters Testing is Xenters Testing is Xenters	111111	1. 18.14	10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00	1,008 11 0 2,163 10 4,363 10 1,003 10 1,005 10 1	1000 10,000 10,000 10,000 10,000 10,000 10,000	1,000 11 1 1,001 11 4 1,001 15 4 4,000 5 4 2,005 16 4 1,005 1 5	6,339 7,145 6,667	10,010 14 1 10,000 15 1 1,016 15 2 1,016 4 10 4,000 20 10

* Inclusive of the number and value of Homoges O.E.M.S.

TELEGRAPH BUSINESS WITH EUROPE AND THE EAST.

STATEMENT showing the amount of Resisters done between Europe and the Amstralasian Colonies for the Year 1890.

		Transallist.			Jaraivel.			Trink					
Colony,		Xunher of Meanspar.	Yanther of Falm.			Number of Results.	Yalps.		Similar of Messages.	Te	Talan.		
			1		4		1		4,	Constanting of the	1		e,
South Australia	0.5	3,500	15.147			6.525	\$5,935	1.16		10.622	41,105	11	1
Victoria	22	12100	59-545	- 2	12	11.542	\$7,700		2	22,142	117 634		
						416				821			
New South Wales													
New Zealand		4.415											
Qaseenalus1							2,953						
Western Australia		857	2,733	27	1	600	2,263	7	1	1,474	4,599	- 4	2
Totale		\$2,737	145,488	7	7	34,709	165,971	115	9	67,644	\$33,468	1	n

No.52

5

POSTAL CONFERENCE.

A Conformee of the Ministerial heads of the Postal and Telegraph Departments of New South Wales, South Australia, Queenland, Tasmania, New Zolahad, Western, Australia, and Victoria, met. in Sydney on 20th February, 1891, and considered many important matters in connection with foreign and intercolonial mail and telegraph services. A full report of the proceedings of the Conference, which finally adjourned on 10th March, will be found in Appendix A.

POSTAL MATTERS.

THE VIENNA POSTAL UNION CONGRESS.

Entry of the Australasian Colonies into the Postal Union.

The Sydney Conference, manimonaly agreed to the motions of the Hen. J. Savan Duffy that the Australiants (colonies should be represented at the Fortall Thino Conference to be hold in Vienna in May, 1931; and that the representatives should advecture the administent of Australias into the Forsian Unions on the conditions that Australias should receive adequate representation, and that the maritime transit Australiant the counter adequate the causard of the countries maintaining the sea service.

Subsequently the Agent-General, Sir Graham Berry, and His Honour Judge Casey were nominated by the Government as the official representatives of Victoria, and in common with the other Anstralian delegates were instructed to demand two votes for Australasia in all matters affecting the Union.

The Congress appointed a committee to consider the terms for the admission of the Austraham Colonies to the Union, and it was definitely decided that the whole of the colonies could only have one vote. It was, however, agreed that no change should be made in the maritime transit, ratios, and finally it was amounced, and its much entitasism, that the Australasian Colonies had accepted the terms of admission into the Union, such admission to data from 1a to Ucohen, 1891.

AUSTRALASIAN POSTAL CONVENTION.

A copy of this Convention regulating the scalange of correspondence between Berlin Bessen the convention of the data in Appendix A at the net of the interpret of the convention with the data of the scalar and the scalar at the convention, suggested that in these colosies where first legislation would be scenario convention, suggested that in these colosies where first legislation would be scenario convention of the scenario of the scalar at the scenario of the scenario of the Convention would be of greats public abvantage, providing as it does relation to the scenario of the scenario of great public abvantage, providing as the scenario of the Convention would be of great public abvantage, providing as the scenario of the Convention of the scenario of the scenario of the scenario of the convention of the scenario of the

A Bill to amend the existing Post Office Act is included among those to be introduced by the Government during the present session of Parliament, and will deal, *inter alia*, with matters relating to the Convention.

REDUCTION OF FOREIGN POSTAGE.

The 24d, rafe was accordingly charged to all contrities beyond the colonics from 1.4 January, 1891, but outing to representations made by the British postal authorities, that it was of essential innortance to confine the reduced rate for the present to the United Kingdown, the old rates were reverted to (except for Orregt British) on 3rd February, 1891, and it was agreed that the question of all-round reduction should varight the differentiations of the Vienam Congress.

It has since been arranged that the 24d, rate should be established between this colony and the post-offices of India, Ceylon, and Straits Settlements, and this came into effect from 1st June, 1891. The following statement shows the number of British and Foreign letters received and despatched during 1890, and during the half-year ended 30th June, 1891 :--

		Beceivel		Desratched.
1890		1,032,794		907,475
January to June, 1891	***	\$50,385	***	\$10,765

THE REDUCED CARLE RATES.

It was anticipated that, as the agreement drafted by the Eastern Extension Tolograph. Company was accepted by the delegates to the 50,5000 Conference on February-Barris, the proposal potential would come into effort on 1 at Apple, 1891. Henris and Germany to the alternation the trains, and the synchrain comes could refuse not commons until the 1 at May. A computationary rather means to the synchro functionary of the result of the synchronic comes of the protone commons on the content on the results, and the synchronic comes on the obpotent of the result was rescaled by the functionary content of the protone common synchronic comes of the protone common synchronic comes of the synchronic comes of the probability of the synchronic company of the synchronic comes of the probability of the synchronic comes of the synchronic comes of the synchronic company of the synchronic comes of the synchron

Mr. Duffy despatched the following reply to Mr. Raikes :- "Thanks for congratulations on the introduction of cheap telegrams. Convinced result will be beneficial England and Anstralia."

The following statement shows the number and value of Foreign cablegrams transmitted for months of May and June, 1890 and 1891, respectively :---

Dale.	0.100	No. of Meeningen	Associate	Periol	No. of Messages,	Assesst	
1993. May-1at to 31at June-1at to 30th		1,000 977	£ & d \$,013 15 10 \$,000 0 4	May-let to 31st	1,515	£ 4, 4, 4,365 10 11 4,377 9 11	
Total		000	9,822 16 8	Total		8,543 0 10	

BUILDINGS.

At the close of last year there were centrate in progress for the excession of were Post and Telegraph Officient States Marchi, Bandram, Backgewetter, Cohurg, Werrechnelsen, Werter and States and States and States and States Werrechnelsen, werter hare possession of by the Department, toppdare with the new office all Northeority erreted in conjunctions with the local Manuelpal Building. Other effect and States and States and States and States and States and the latter being our la temporary structures.

Tenders were let for new buildings at Danolly, Euroa, Cheltenham, Pyramid Hill, and Gordons, and favorable progress was being made with the new office in course of receion at Geolog.

Extensive additions were made to the Wangaratta premices, and sundry alterations and repairs have been effected at Ararat, Ballarat East, Beechworth, Benalla, Carlton, Colae, Daylesford, Fitzroy, Horsham, Kew, Newstead, St. Kilda, Wahguyah, and Wilson's Fromontory.

The leases for buildings cented by the Department at Baccions Marsh, Italianed, Boort, Dovin, Middar, Natimuk, Nechtoder, Darkall, Romeyr, Tunganah, and Camberedl were terminated on completion of the new offices at those places, while mittable greenies have been reared during data years at Hielacivilli, Longword, Maos, Richardon South, and Tallangath as verticals, and Mordalloc; those at Minypo Richardon South, and Tallangath as vertical, and Mordalloc; those at Minypo Richardon South, and Tallangath as vertical at the south of the

There were 80 premises in the occupation of the Department, for which the sum of £5,222 was paid as rent.

The Department has purchased sites for new offices at Avenel, Cunninghame, Malvern, and Morwell; the Victorian Railways Commissioners have granted matable areas for the exection of Post and Telegraph Offices in the Railway Reserves at Elmore and Meedith; and a temporary reservation has been made by the Government of an allotment of land for the use of this Deraviement at Loncosting. the mining latters may have passed, and from the answers received is couplied the implies. The may be been the the formation: The more given above theory an increase of only when H is in them into consideration that the increase. In a distance of the distance of the second second

The clause of latters poing astroy are numerons. Proposel charges of address, similarity in the names of post towns, speciality when not charge write, and the requiring the second sec

On the other hand, perfect accuracy is not only impossible, but, where it is nearly attained, is not always placed to the credit of the Department, as where the numbers of a city fram were expectally indigant that a letter of theirs should have missarried, because they could not recollect a single case for 30 years where any of their correspondence had not been duly received.

POSTMASTERS PERFORMING TREASURY DUTIES.

The following is a list of Post Offices (32 in number) where the officers in charge have been called upon to perform Treasury work in addition to the business of the Post and Talegraphic Demonstration

Avoca	Dimboola	Shepparton
Alexandra	Heathcote	Talbat
Boort	Inglewood	Temps ?
Bright	Avnetion	Wangaratia
Casterion	Murton	Warracknabea)
Castlemnina	Nhill	Warrogul
Charlton	Port Fairy	Wedderburn
Clunes	Portland	Wood's Point
Colao	Queruseliff	Yackandardah
Creswick	Rushworth	Ym
Denald	Sevmour	ALC INCOMENT

The duties of Receiver and Paymaster performed by the Postmatters take up in many instances, a large portion of their time, and an increase of the attract of the office is necesstated. As the Transary Department receives all the baseful of this arrangenet without at present contributing mything to bid Department on account of the the Post Department with the set of the set of the set of the set of the the Post Department with a set of the set of the additional cost cancelled, which one is received a posted arguments.

FOREIGN STAMPS.

The Postmaster-General, Honorable J. Gavan Duffy, has recently given instructions that a supply of foreign stamms should be kept at the General Post-office for the convenience of the public, and British, French, German, Italian, United States, and Australiasian stamps are now obtainable.

The London *Evening Standard Laving* explained the utility and convenience of such a provident states —⁴ Singularly enough the first post-officient to recognize this difficulty is that of Melbourns, in Victoria. The Postmater-General of that colory has now made arrangements for the sale of Prench, German, and other stamp, with a view to accommodate persons who wish to send small sums up to 5s. to correspondents in foreign constraints.⁴

DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES.

The Honorable F. T. Derham, who had administered the Department since 17th Fobruary, 1886, resigned office on the 18th August. He was succeeded by the Honorable J. B. Patterson, who held office until the 6th November, when he was succeeded by the Honorable John Gavan Duffy.

The increase of the permanent staff during the year was 357, as against 163 in 1889. Thirty-eight officers were dismissed or dispensed with, 20 retired either through infimity or other causes, 36 resigned, 25 died, and 45 were transferred to other Departments.

XXII

FEMALE OFFICERS.

The number of females on the staff of the Department at the end of 1889 was 335, of whom 132 were postmistresses, 135 clerks and operators, 2 stamp embossers, 19 assistant sorters, and 47 switch-board attendants. On the 31st December 1850, the number was 268, distributed as follows :--

Postmistresses		151	
Clerks and operators	 	144	
Stamp embossers	 	 2	
Assistant sorters	 	 19	
Switch-board attendants	 	 52	

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The total number of the staff for 1889 was 2,502.

The number for 1890 was 2.859, distributed as follows :-

Principal officers, 10 }						208

						69
		***	***			8
			***			144
						7
				***		312
Operators and clerks (female).			***	***		144
				***		-49
				***		317
			***	***		19
						2
			***		***	.9
					***	437
Inspectors and overscers of lin	- 25			***	***	5
		***		***	***	2
				***	***	83
					***	14
						1
Chief storemon and sailmakers				ass		
					***	9
		***		***		1
						14
Foreman and instrument fitters				***		52
Mail-master and boatmon .						5
						781
Porters, pillar-elearers, and dri	ivers					119
Painters, &c						11
Night watchmen and gatekcep	KES					7
Caretaker						1
Telephone switch-board attend	lants		***			60
Engine-drivers, firemen, and la	bourers		***			10
the second in the						

Total

The above does not include postmasters or postmistresses paid out of Contingencies, or their servants, nor mail contractors and their servants.

LETTER PILLARS.

Iron Receiving Letter Pillars have been erected during the year 1890 at the undermentioned places :--

Collingwood Sandhurst Branswick (4) Sonth Melbourne

MC

Toarak Northeote (2 Creswick (2) Flemington Footserny Geelong (4) Prahma Caulfield (4) Clifton Hill

Iron Letter Boxes have also been erected at the following places :--

reswick (2)	Dronin	Hamilton	
lox Hill (3)	Yarraville		

There are in all 383 Letter Pillars (140 square and 243 round) erected throughout the colony.

xxiii

NEW POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

Eighty-four (84) new Post Offices have been opened during the year at the following places :-

Barwon Heads Berringama Bolga Railway Station Fish Creek

Salisbury Railway Statico Somerville Railway Station Tabilk Railway Station Tamlengh West Wharparilla North Youring Railway Station

The Post Offices named below have been closed :-

Telegraph Offices have been opened at the undermentioned localities in connexion with the respective Post Offices at those places ;--

Landing Place

Louriston

Telegraph Offices have also been opened in connexion with the Railway

Bethanga-road

New Savings Banks have been opened at-

Loch Morewell Coalpits

Coongalmerang Flynn's Crook Railway Station Krambrak Narre Warren Railway Station

Surrey Hills Swift's Creek Junction Tallagaroopna Railway Station Williamstown North

XXV

New Money Order Offices have been opened at-

- Alberton Axedale Boolan Colemantion Coloran Dommin Railway Station Eddington Essendion Flynn's Crook Railway Station Greia Hawiltorn West
- Hotham Hill Iaweloch Kattaga Kurting Mentone Milawa Morvhand Mysis Railway Station Marco Warron Railway Station Narro Warron Railway Station Quotensferry
- Strathdownie Surroy Hills Swift's Creek Junction Tallagaroopna Thorphale Toorta Toorta Waals Williamstorm North Wychitells Railway Station

The names of the following Post Offices have been changed :-

Callawadda to Bismark Chinaman's Creek to Woodbrook Longwood to Longwood East Molowarre Rallway Station to Buckley's-road Murchison Rallway Station to Murchison East St. Habers's to Yeningberg Strathdownie East to Strathdownlo Wirrimbirchip to Birchip

STAMPS AND POSTAL NOTES.

Licences.

Three hundred and forty-one new stamp licences have been issued and 65 revoked during the year, making the total number at the end of the year 2,311, being an increase on 1889 of 276 licences.

Re-purchase.

The amount of commission charged on the re-purchase of stamps from the public for the year 1890 was £439 11s. 6d.

Commission Allowed.

The following is the commission allowed in stamps to bank managers and licensed vendors of duty stamps during the year 1890, viz. :=-E8,983 17s. 9d., and to licensed vendors of freight stamps, 2351 14s; it could, 15,365 11s. 9d.

Adherive Stamps.

The following statement shows the number, denomination, and value of adhesive stamps issued during the year 1890 :---

Number.	Denomination.		Valor.			Manhet,	Desembration.	Yates.		
			5	1.	4	1000		1		đ
8,950,962			17,189	20		76,151,020	Brought forward	\$92,105	16	10
55,958,000						2,480	One pound ten shilling			
1,525,843	One penny post cards .		6,357	15	0	6,220	Two point			
	Twopenty						Two pound five shilling			
	Twopenny halfpenny .						Five pound	13,500		
635,000			7,399				Six yound	2,100		
4.520			54		14			1.665		
552,000	Fourseany		2,200					1,520		
243,000	Firepeany		6,000			240	Nise pound			
5,552,000	Sixpenny		88,990			2,759				
			3,200				Twenty-five pound	8,250		
			34,890				Fifty pound	8,000		
							One hundred pound	21,000		
148,000							Halfpenny wrappers	6,443		
74,000	Two shilling and sixpenny.						Ost permy wrappers	521	12	
			7,500				One penny stamped envelopes	1,495		
26.000	Four shilling		4.500				One penny farthing stamped			
76,000			12,000				envices			
\$400			2,520			5.951	Twopence stamped envelopes	42		
20,000						2,642	Fourpeace farthing stamps1	41		
5.200							enviores			
31,000						22,392	One person farthlar letter	517		
1,080		-	2,100	0	0		cards			
76.151.020	Carried forward		02.196			79,572,825	Tetel	700,260		-

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