

1895.

VICTORIA.

REPORT

UPON THE AFFAIRS OF THE

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH
DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1894.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN PURSUANCE OF SECTION 86
OF THE POST OFFICE ACT 1890.

By Authority:

ROBT. S. BRAIN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

REPORT.

The following Report upon the affairs of the Post and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st December, 1894, is presented to Parliament in accordance with section 86 of the *Post Office Act 1890*, No. 1128 :—

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS OF POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1894.

Net Receipts from Sale of Stamps, including Postage, Electric Telegraph, Parcel Post, Stamp Duties, &c.	£610,519 18 0
(The Electric Telegraph receipts, net, included in the above, amount to £93,654 19s. 9d., and the Postage on Parcels to £8,895.)	
Commission on Money Orders and Postal Notes ...	16,653 17 4
Rents of Telephone Wires, &c.	36,676 13 6
Post Office—Miscellaneous	10,942 19 10
	£674,793 8 8

(It should be understood that no reliable estimate of the postal revenue can be obtained from the statement of receipts, owing to the use of uniform stamps for Postage Fees and Stamp Duties.)

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE OF THE POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1894.

Salaries and Wages	£320,533 1 3
Contingencies	70,752 1 5
Allowances to Country Postmasters, £35,214 9s. 8d. ; Overtime, Police, Temporary Assistance, £3,590 4s. 7d. ; Maintenance of Lines, Telegraph Instruments, Receiving Pillars, £4,411 10s. 7d. ; Clothing, Stores, Fuel, Light, and Water, £14,645 18s. 11d. ; Special Allowances, Contributions, Commissions, Premiums, Travelling Expenses, Charing, Incidentals, and Miscellaneous, £12,889 17s. 8d.	
Telegraph Lines	4,223 16 7
Telephone Exchanges	2,060 7 10
Pneumatic Tubes	43 12 6
Inland Mail Service—	
Contracts	£53,492 0 0
Railway Department	62,016 10 3
	115,508 10 3
Foreign Mails	38,166 0 0
Gratuities to Masters of Vessels	4,263 3 0
Duplicate Cable Subsidy	13,303 13 0
Tasmanian Cable Subsidy	1,717 0 8
Guarantees for Reduction of Telegraph Rates ...	5,293 19 2
	£575,865 5 8

PARCEL POST.

Victorian Inland.—183,524 parcels were posted during the year, yielding a revenue of £8,894 12s. 4d. Of these 172 could not be delivered owing to various causes, but in 116 cases they were returned to the senders, 56 still remaining on hand. Three parcels were posted without any address, but delivery was effected in one instance.

British, Foreign, and Intercolonial.—Statement showing number of parcels received into and despatched from Victoria during 1894:—United Kingdom and foreign countries—received, 11,088; despatched, 4,776. Intercolonial—received, 9,919; despatched, 24,019. Total—received, 21,007; despatched, 28,795. Victorian proportion of postage, £2,042 11s. 10d. Amount of duty collected for the Customs Department, £363 19s. 7d.

Packets and letters examined for Customs purposes, 6,423; amount of duty collected therefrom for Customs Department, £524 9s. 6d.

TELEGRAPH MATTERS.

Telegraph Lines erected during 1894.

			Poles. Miles.		Wire. Miles.
Meredith to Steiglitz (2nd wire of loop)	...	...	nil	...	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Omeo to Cassilis	...	...	11	...	11
Ballarat to Learmonth (on railway poles)	...	...	nil	...	19
Leongatha to Foster	"	"	...	...	29 $\frac{1}{4}$
Dandenong to Lang Lang	"	"	(2 wires)	...	58
Penshurst to Hamilton	"	"	...	...	18
Terang to Mortlake	"	"	...	...	13
Cheltenham to Mentone	...	...	...	...	2
Bruthen to Mossface (unused telephone line)	...	...	3	...	3
Essendon to Ascot Vale (extension of Glenroy line)	...	...	nil	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
St. Kilda West to St. Kilda (extension of Middle Park line)	...	...	nil	...	1
Kyneton Railway to Kyneton Post Office (extension of Redesdale line)	...	...	...	...	1
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			14		163
			<hr/>		<hr/>

TELEGRAPH LINES DISMANTLED DURING 1894.

			Poles. Miles.		Wire. Miles.
Dandenong to Cranbourne	...	...	9	...	9
Tooradin to Lang Lang	...	...	12	...	12
Penshurst to Hamilton	...	...	18	...	18
Terang to Mortlake	...	...	13	...	13
Burrumbeet to Learmonth	...	...	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	11
Waubra Junction to Pisgah	...	...	nil	...	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			57 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	64 $\frac{1}{4}$
			<hr/>		<hr/>

Corrections of mileage on previous statement in Report for 1893:—

Add—No. 18	...	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles	|	Deduct—No. 35	...	4 miles
" 19	...	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "				
" 32	...	5 "				
		<hr/>				<hr/>
		26				
		<hr/>				<hr/>

Lines erected in 1894.		Lines dismantled in 1894.		Total Mileage at end of 1894.	
Miles of Poles.	Miles of Wire.	Miles of Poles.	Miles of Wire.	Miles of Poles.	Miles of Wire.
14	134	57½	63	3,963½	9,336½

TELEPHONE WIRES AT END OF 1894.

Place.	Miles of Poles.	Miles of Aerial Cables.	Miles of Under-ground Cables.	Miles of Wire.
Melbourne... ..	426	90.5	6.767	8,748.67
Ballarat	29.84	1.75	...	165.25
Bendigo	57.37	.5	3.25	308.36
Geelong	34.6	8.75	...	351
Warrnambool	9	1.5	...	106
Total	556.81	103.00	10.017	9,679.28

The number of subscribers to Telephone Exchanges shows an increase of 90 at end of the year, the numbers being, 1893, 2,308; and 1894, 2,398.

TELEGRAPH BUSINESS WITH EUROPE AND THE EAST.

STATEMENT showing Australasian Telegraph Business transacted with Europe and the East for the Year 1894.

Colony.	Forwarded.		Received.		Total.	
	Messages.	Amount.	Messages.	Amount.	Messages.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
South Australia	6,465	19,154 19 11	9,782	29,648 17 0	16,247	48,803 16 11
Victoria	14,015	53,520 12 9	13,759	49,427 14 7	27,774	102,948 7 4
Tasmania	458	1,004 10 10	418	1,025 6 5	876	2,029 17 3
New South Wales	15,146	50,566 16 3	13,000	39,007 3 0	28,146	89,573 19 3
New Zealand	5,991	21,724 15 8	5,354	17,250 18 1	11,345	38,975 13 9
Queensland	911	2,993 0 8	876	3,475 4 3	1,787	6,468 4 11
Western Australia	2,402	7,111 3 10	1,806	5,596 8 4	4,208	12,707 12 2
Total	45,388	156,075 19 11	44,995	145,431 11 8	90,383	301,507 11 7

LOCAL AND INTERCOLONIAL TELEGRAPH BUSINESS FOR THE YEAR 1894.

	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.
		£ s. d.
Between Victorian Stations	1,986,167	66,357 18 5
From—		
Victoria to New South Wales	159,772	12,927 9 4
New South Wales to Victoria	172,023	14,387 13 1
Victoria to Queensland	19,793	3,922 5 3
Queensland to Victoria ... ..	...	...
Victoria to South Australia	45,148	6,460 10 2
South Australia to Victoria	49,992	6,847 15 0
Victoria to Tasmania	22,933	2,453 17 3
Tasmania to Victoria ... ..	...	...
Victoria to Western Australia	24,919	4,948 16 3
Western Australia to Victoria	31,906	6,671 5 4
Victoria to New Zealand	9,493	2,560 17 1
Victoria to New Caledonia	15	11 18 9

TOTAL VICTORIAN TELEGRAPH BUSINESS FOR THE YEAR 1894.

Receipts.	Number of Telegrams, inclusive of O.H.M.S.	Value of O.H.M.S. Telegrams.	Number of O.H.M.S. Telegrams.
£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
93,654 19 9	2,282,289	4,149 11 7	84,076

STATISTICS OF TELEGRAPH BUSINESS FROM 1870 TO 1894 INCLUSIVE.

Year.	Gross Receipts.	Number of Telegrams exclusive of O.H.M.S.	Value of O.H.M.S. Telegrams.	Number of O.H.M.S. Telegrams.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		
1870	33,145 10 4	393,967	5,996 12 9	60,634	On 1st January, 1870, the uniform rate of 1s. for ten words and 1d. for every additional word was adopted
1871	36,941 17 1	473,521	5,247 0 4	63,877	
1872	42,617 17 3	554,315	7,029 11 9	85,645	
1873	45,322 17 5	593,848	9,056 7 7	124,319	
1874	42,825 9 7	579,795	9,055 1 4	121,285	
1875	46,995 7 11	623,514	7,870 15 1	109,355	
1876	52,467 10 2	686,863	8,722 19 0	119,262	
1877	57,429 4 10	735,228	13,734 1 0	190,549	
1878	60,287 12 10	774,625	16,523 7 11	236,259	
1879	56,704 12 1	734,291	19,839 13 3	284,317	
1880	61,478 16 9	821,791	23,881 13 7	348,446	
1881	69,413 2 1	932,671	23,378 17 9	360,107	
1882	77,388 13 3	1,021,887	27,200 5 3	410,127	
1883	80,047 11 10	1,050,004	28,919 13 8	437,543	
1884	84,123 18 7	1,120,626	5,207 1 4	60,807	On 1st July, 1885, the rate of 6d. for six words and 1d. for each additional word came into operation
1885	84,931 18 6	1,544,422	6,879 13 10	90,244	
1886	95,499 1 8	1,938,049	6,169 8 8	85,809	
1887	102,755 8 4	2,176,915	6,148 19 8	83,565	
1888	125,342 8 11	2,653,000	6,451 1 5	90,938	
1889	127,720 4 3	2,782,751	8,327 10 4	103,168	
1890	138,969 3 9	3,032,892	5,890 11 1	81,891	
1891	135,311 9 0	2,975,382	5,807 17 7	89,969	
1892	116,065 15 9	2,633,708	5,949 18 1	92,162	
1893	105,739 18 0	2,390,219	4,706 17 11	85,959	
1894	99,643 12 6	2,282,289	4,149 11 7	84,026	

NEW OFFICES.

Post Offices	...	...	...	...	17
Telegraph Offices, Postal	...	...	...	...	6
" " Railway	...	...	...	...	19
Money Order Offices	...	...	...	...	4
Savings Banks	...	...	...	...	4

OFFICES CLOSED.

Post Offices	...	...	...	...	31
Telegraph Offices, Postal	...	...	...	...	2
" " Railway	...	...	...	...	9
Money Order Offices	...	...	...	...	3
Savings Banks	...	...	...	...	1

TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFICES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1894.

Post Offices	...	...	...	...	1,719
Telegraph Offices, Postal, 398 ; Railway, 395	...	...	...	...	793
Money Order Offices	...	...	...	...	452
Savings Banks	...	...	...	...	384

OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The Honorable Agar Wynne on the retirement of Sir James Patterson's Ministry ceased to occupy the office of Postmaster-General, and his place was taken by the Honorable John Gavan Duffy on the 27th September, 1894.

Retrenchment has been steadily continued throughout the Department, and among the most prominent of the officers who retired during the year 1894 are—Messrs. H. M. Boom, Chief Clerk ; C. M. Maplestone, Inspector ; H. B. Bristow, Postmaster, Ballarat ; D. W. Forbes, Postmaster, Bendigo ; T. Green, Postmaster, Warrnambool ; J. Fraser, Postmaster, Maryborough ; J. A. B. Smith, Postmaster, Carlton ; P. R. Arkins, Postmaster, South Melbourne ; J. J. Barry, Postmaster, North

Melbourne; W. T. Swann, Postmaster, Ballarat East; A. L. Nott, Cashier; T. Gay, and W. P. Hamilton, Telegraph Branch; and J. Dethridge, W. H. Saxe, and J. H. Fielden, Mail Branch.

The total number of the staff of the Department on the 31st December, 1893, was 2,837, and the number on the 31st December, 1894, was 2,642, a decrease of 195.

No new appointments were made.

During the year ended 31st December, 1894, 207 officers retired or were dismissed or transferred to other Departments, their annual salaries amounting to £26,501 8s. 10d.

From the above date to 10th May, 1895, 125 officers, whose annual salaries amounted to £16,505 2s. 6d., have retired from the Postal and Telegraph Department, or have been dismissed or transferred to other Departments; 42 of these officers having been permanently transferred to the Income Tax Office.

In addition 15 officers have been transferred temporarily to the last-named office, their salaries amounting to £2,470.

STAMP LICENCES.

Number of stamp licences issued and revoked for the year ended 31st December, 1894:—

Licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	341
„ revoked	...	...	...	...	...	218
Number of stamp licences on 31st December, 1894					...	2,997

DEAD LETTER BRANCH.

The number of letters, &c., received and dealt with in the Dead Letter Office during 1894 was 509,905, showing a decrease on the number for the year 1893 of 1,809.

351,967 letters were returned under cover to the senders; of these, 13,037 were registered, and 24,151 foreign letters.

1,918 letters were received without any address whatever.

Under the provision of section 30 of the Post Office Act, 664 letters relating to racing sweeps were intercepted and returned to the senders.

Irregularly posted letters numbered 12,395.

Packets and newspapers dealt with during the year numbered 134,223, of which number 98,479 were destroyed.

The letters opened at the Dead Letter Office contained cash, cheques, money orders, and stamps amounting to £5,910 9s. 8d.

MISSING LETTER BRANCH.

4,365 inquiries were lodged during the year relative to the non-delivery, &c., of letters. 1,698 letters were traced, containing value, £3,798 11s. 9d.

Six officers of the Department were arrested and tried for stealing letters; one was acquitted and the remainder were found guilty and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

ANNUAL POSTAL CONFERENCE, 1895.

Owing to the Federal Council of Australasia holding its sitting at Hobart at the end of January, 1895, the meeting of the annual Conference of the Ministerial and Departmental heads of Postal and Telegraph Departments of the Australasian Colonies, which was to have taken place this year in Melbourne, was held at Hobart instead, 1st to 8th February.

The principal matters dealt with were:—

- The Canadian Pacific Mail Service,
- The Ocean Mail Service,
- The Pacific Cable,
- The Cable Guarantees,
- Electric Light and Power Services.

A full report of the proceedings has been published and will be presented to Parliament.

BUILDINGS, ETC., 1894.

The new Post and Telegraph Office premises at Kyabram were completed early in the year. Contracts were let for additions, alterations, and repairs to premises at Casterton, Maryborough, and Sorrento; and minor works were carried out at other offices. Several leases for office accommodation were renewed at reduced rentals. Sixty premises were rented at a cost of £3,857 for the year.

COST OF OCEAN MAIL SERVICES.

The cost to the colony of the Ocean Mail Services for 1894 was—

Federal Mail Service.

<i>Dr.</i> —To Subsidy to Peninsular and Orient Companies ...				£25,964	5	0	
,, Transit rates to Italy and France ...				4,739	4	1	
,, Colonial transit ...				3,790	16	5	
,, Landing and shipping mails, &c....				157	15	0	
							£34,652 0 6
<i>Cr.</i> —By Amount due from non-contracting countries ...				£977	6	3	
,, Estimated transit rates due by United Kingdom, &c., &c. ...				3,478	19	1	
,, Estimated postages collected in Victoria ...				19,475	11	8	
							23,931 17 0
Deficit ...							£10,720 3 6

San Francisco Service.

<i>Dr.</i> —To Sea conveyance paid by Victoria ...				£1,069	2	6	
,, Land transit rates ...				73	5	0	
							£995 17 6
<i>Cr.</i> —By estimated postages collected in Victoria ...							895 3 1
							£100 14 5

Canadian Service.

To amount paid by Victoria ...	£298	9	0
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Torres Straits Service.

To Amount paid by Victoria ...	£16	0	0
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NUMBER of Letters, Packets, and Newspapers Received and Despatched per Contract Steamers during the Year 1894.

Received.

	Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.
Per Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Coy.	597,748	218,141	1,121,200
Per Orient S. N. Coy. ...	591,967	219,980	1,226,365

Despatched.

	Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.
Per Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Coy.	582,749	82,867	693,430
Per Orient S. N. Coy. ...	549,990	81,454	683,543

AVERAGE Time occupied in the Transit of the Mails conveyed by Contract Steam-ships and by other Steamers during 1894.

Name of Company.	Melbourne to London.			London to Melbourne.		
	Days.	Hours.	Minutes.	Days.	Hours.	Minutes.
Peninsular and Oriental Coy.	33	3	42	32	7	1
Orient Coy.	32	19	6	32	18	1
Messageries Maritimes	30	5	55	31	10	0
Norddeutscher Lloyd	36	0	0	38	1	0

QUICKEST DELIVERY.

Name of Company.	Outward.			Inward.		
	Melbourne to London.			London to Melbourne.		
	Days.	Hours.	Minutes.	Days.	Hours.	Minutes.
Peninsular and Oriental Coy.	31	18	22	28	2	15
Orient Coy.	31	1	0	30	19	30
Messageries Maritimes	29	0	31	31	0	0

INLAND MAILS, 1894.

The amount paid for conveyance of Inland Mails in 1894, exclusive of the amount paid to the Railway Department, was £45,475 1s. 9d.

The amount paid to the Railway Department in 1894 was £62,223 5s. 1d.

Amount of miles travelled with mails in 1894, 7,969,389, inclusive of 4,224,488 miles by rail.

Length of new services established during the year, 134 miles.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL in account with the Depositors, from 1st January to 31st December, 1894.

<i>Dr.</i>				<i>Cr.</i>			
1894.		£	s. d.	1894.		£	s. d.
1st Jan.	To Balance from 1893	2,959,794	14 3	1st Jan.	By Repayments to Depositors	1,581,080	11 2
to	„ Deposits received in 1894 ...	1,623,787	6 1	to	„ Balance	3,086,528	17 9
31st Dec.	„ Interest on Deposits	84,027	8 7	31st Dec.		4,667,609	8 11
		4,667,609	8 11			4,667,609	8 11

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL in account with the Honorable the Treasurer, on account of Savings Bank Transactions for the Year 1894.

<i>Dr.</i>				<i>Cr.</i>			
1894.		£	s. d.	1894.		£	s. d.
1st Jan.	To Balance, being Deposits received in 1893, and paid into Treasury in January, 1894	60,475	19 0	1st Jan.	By Balance, being amount due from Treasury for repayments to Depositors in 1893	20,133	8 9
to	„ Deposits received in 1894 ...	1,623,787	6 1	to	„ Repayments to Depositors in 1894	1,581,080	11 2
31st Dec.	„ Cash received from Treasury	1,677,615	8 8	31st Dec.	„ Cash paid into Treasury ...	1,710,832	12 8
	„ Interest allowed to Depositors for the year 1894 ...	84,027	8 7		„ Amount due to Trust Fund for Interest credited to Depositors in 1894 ...	84,027	8 7
	„ Balance due from Treasury for repayments to Depositors in 1894	17,635	2 3		„ Cash awaiting lodgment in Treasury	67,467	8 5
		3,463,541	4 7			3,463,541	4 7

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES.

Number of Money Orders issued in 1894	...	...	244,617
Number of Money Orders issued in 1893	...	...	269,584

Decrease 24,967, or 9·27 per cent.

Number of Money Orders paid in 1894	...	...	259,944
Number of Money Orders paid in 1893	...	...	284,444

Decrease 24,500, or 8·61 per cent.

Value of Money Orders issued in 1894	...	£723,368	0	6
Value of Money Orders issued in 1893	...	845,295	15	2

Decrease £121,927 14s. 8d., or 14·42 per cent.

Value of Money Orders paid in 1894	...	£817,381	4	4
Value of Money Orders paid in 1893	...	910,148	8	8

Decrease £92,767 4s. 4d., or 10·19 per cent.

Number of Postal Notes paid in 1894*	...	...	813,167
Number of Postal Notes paid in 1893	...	...	674,166

Increase 139,001, or 20·61 per cent.

Value of Postal Notes paid in 1894*	...	£340,005	13	3½
Value of Postal Notes paid in 1893	...	284,508	19	4

Increase £55,496 13s. 11½d., or 19·50 per cent.

The Increase in the Victorian Postal Notes paid in other colonies was—

Number 15,549, or 115·39 per cent.

Value £6,492 11s. 5d., or 98·25 per cent.

Net revenue paid into Treasury for Commission on Money Orders and Poundage on Postal Notes

Notes	£16,653	17	4
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Total Money Order Transactions—

Amount	£1,540,749	4	10
Number	504,561	

STATEMENT showing the various places where Money Orders issued in Victoria during the Year 1894 were made payable.

	Number.	Amount.
Victoria	164,274	£511,039 10 7
United Kingdom	20,235	54,183 16 0
New South Wales	17,523	58,208 8 7
New Zealand	3,281	11,003 15 2
South Australia	4,824	13,799 5 1
Queensland	23,884	28,351 0 8
Tasmania	3,576	10,833 4 7
Western Australia	1,978	13,299 3 11
United States of America	1,478	4,403 14 3
Canada	148	462 11 4
Cape of Good Hope	106	554 18 9
Italy	440	2,796 14 4
Germany and other Foreign Countries	1,663	5,594 17 11
India	712	5,638 1 7
China and Japan	409	2,963 9 9
Ceylon	58	136 12 11
Straits Settlements	16	77 8 7
Mauritius	5	6 6 0
North Borneo	1	0 10 6
Hawaii	6	14 10 0
	244,617	£723,368 0 6

* These figures do not include the postal notes issued in Victoria and paid in other colonies, which amounted to:—
In 1893—Number, 13,475, value £6,507 17s. 8d.; in 1894—Number, 29,024, value £13,100 9s. 1d.

STATEMENT showing the various places where the Money Orders paid in Victoria during the year 1894 were originally issued.

	Number.	Amount.
Victoria	163,486	£511,933 3 9
United Kingdom	13,740	46,717 7 5
New South Wales	32,465	94,798 15 3
New Zealand	11,155	31,000 5 9
South Australia	9,797	27,359 7 4
Queensland	5,209	19,926 4 2
Tasmania	9,863	24,726 12 8
Western Australia	9,475	37,232 11 10
United States of America	814	3,042 19 7
Canada	141	709 10 8
Cape of Good Hope	2,482	15,052 19 0
Italy	14	109 4 0
Germany and other Foreign Countries	730	2,686 4 9
India	389	1,616 3 10
China and Japan	57	140 3 4
Ceylon	47	69 10 4
Straits Settlements	24	40 9 2
Mauritius	23	70 19 2
North Borneo	4	6 3 4
Hawaii	29	142 9 0
	<u>259,944</u>	<u>£817,381 4 4</u>

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

Number of accounts opened in 1894	22,981
" " closed in 1894	20,254
" " open at close of 1894	125,042
Amount of deposits received in 1894	£1,623,787 6 1
" " repaid in 1894	1,581,080 11 2
Interest (3½ per cent. to 31st March, and 3 per cent. from 1st April to 31st December) to credit of depositors	84,027 8 7
Total amount to credit of depositors 31st December, 1894	3,086,528 17 9
" " " " 31st December, 1893	2,959,794 14 3

Increase £126,734 3s. 6d., or 4·28 per cent.; average balance £24 13s. 8d.

The total number of deposits received during the year was 188,135, averaging £8 12s. 7d.

The total number of repayments during the year was 151,299, averaging £10 9s.

The number of telegraphic withdrawals was 8,893, amounting to £55,430 12s. 7d.

The expenses of management of the Post Office Savings Bank for the year 1894 are estimated at £8,340.

JOHN GAVAN DUFFY,
Postmaster-General.

Post Office and Telegraph Department,
Melbourne, 21st May, 1895.