1871.

VICTORIA.

REPORT

ON THE

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH

DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1870.

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

REPORT.

Although the business of the Department has increased considerably during the past year, the Revenue Returns are not so satisfactory as those for 1869.

The gross amounts collected in 1870 were—Postage and Money Order Commission, £126,596 ; Telegraphic Messages, £33,145.

This shows a falling off from the receipts for 1869 on postage, &c., of £624 and on telegraphic messages of £1038, which is to be accounted for by the reduction that has taken place as hereinafter mentioned in the rates of postage on intercolonial ship letters and on telegraphic messages ; and, to some extent, by the operation of the Stamp Statute, which has greatly decreased the facilities afforded to the public for the purchase of postage stamps by diminishing the number of licensed vendors. It should also be noticed in connection with the Stamp Statute, as affecting the revenue for 1870, that from the date it came into force (1st January 1870), the commission allowed to licensed vendors was reduced from 5 per cent. to 2½ per cent. Very large purchases were made in the last few days of December 1869, amounting, at least, to £1500 more than would otherwise have been the case ; and, consequently, the sum named was credited in the accounts of 1869 instead of appearing as part of the receipts of 1870, to which it fairly belonged.

But for these circumstances the revenue of the Post Office for 1870 would have shown an excess over the collections for 1869 equal to that of 1868 over 1867, or, say (£5000) five thousand pounds.

The rates on ship letters to New Zealand, New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania, were reduced from sixpence to threepence per half-ounce on the 27th May, 1st July, 1st August, and 1st November respectively.

The rates on local telegraphic messages were reduced to the uniform charge of one shilling for ten words on the 1st January 1870, and on intercolonial messages on the following dates, viz. :—South Australia, 1st August ; New South Wales and Queensland, 8th August.

The charges on intercolonial messages were fixed at a minimum of 2s. with South Australia, 3s. with New South Wales, except to Albury and Deniliquin, to which places the charge was made 2s., and 6s. with Queensland ; this Department receiving on a message to South Australia one-half, on a message to New South Wales, at 2s. rate one-half, and at 3s. rate one-third ; and on a message to Queensland one-third.

The extraordinary increase in the number of telegrams in the early part of 1870, gave promise of a business that would not only prevent any falling off in revenue but would compensate for the additional outlay occasioned by the appointment of junior operators and messengers, which the largely increased transactions that immediately followed the reduction in rates made necessary.

The failure of these expectations is, no doubt, due to the depression in business generally throughout the colony during the latter part of the past year, but more particularly to the extreme dulness that prevailed in the mining districts.

Number of Victorian Messages in 1869	...	...	...	256,723
„ „ „ „ 1870	...	...	...	493,591
Cash receipts on account of Victorian Messages in 1869 ...		...	...	£24,154 6s. 8d.
„ „ „ „ „ 1870 ...		...	...	£22,811 10s. 7d.
Number of Intercolonial Messages in 1869	...	...	...	24,747
„ „ „ „ 1870	...	...	...	31,007
Cash receipts on account of Intercolonial Messages in 1869	...	...	...	£10,028 13s. 8d.
„ „ „ „ „ 1870	...	...	...	£10,333 10s. 9d.
Monthly receipts of Intercolonial Messages, *before* reduction in rates, for seven months to 31st July 1870	...	...	...	2,150 per month
Monthly receipts of Intercolonial Messages, *after* reduction in rates, for five months from 1st August to 31st December 1870	...	...	...	3,191 per month
Cash receipts for Intercolonial Messages, *before* reduction of rates, for seven months to 31st July 1870	...	...	...	£871 11s. 0d. per month
Cash receipts for Intercolonial Messages, *after* reduction of rates, for five months to 31st December 1870	...	...	...	£846 10s. 9d. per month

RETURN showing the Number of Registered and Unregistered Letters containing Value, that passed through the Dead Letter Branch during the Year 1870.

Year 1870.	Received.						How dealt with.					
	Registered.		Ordinary.		Total.		Returned to Senders and Delivered.		Paid from Treasury from 55 Letters.		On hand.	
	No.	Value of Contents.	No.	Value of Contents.	No.	Value of Contents.	No.	Value of Contents.	No.	Value of Contents.	No.	Value of Contents.
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Cash, Notes, and Stamps	71	94 8 6	378	364 9 9	449	458 18 3	357	393 5 9	47	17 4	37	17 15 2
Cheques, &c. ...	55	394 10 0	596	14,191 12 11½	651	14,586 2 11½	632	13,709 7 5½			19	876 15 6
Totals ...	126	488 18 6	974	14,556 2 8½	1,100	15,045 1 2½	989	14,102 13 2½	47	17 4		894 10 8

NEW POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

Thirty-one new Post Offices were opened in 1870, at the undermentioned places :—

Bontherambo	Dunnach (Mount	Mitta-mitta	Ormond
Brown's Plains	Greenock South)	Moolort	Oxley Plains
Bungaree Springs	Glenrowan	Morwell	Porepunka
Canterbury	Golden Lake	Murroon	Somerville
Chepstowe	Goldie	Muskrule	Strathmore
Cobram	Heyfield	Narnen	Upper Macedon
Coongulmerang	Lingham's Flat	Nagambie	Wareek
Cunninghame	Merrijig	Opossum Gully	Watgania.

Beechworth, Majorca, Sebastopol, and Walhalla, have been opened as combined Post and Telegraph Offices.

The Telegraph Office at Serpentine Creek was closed on the 3rd February 1870.

Five Post Offices were closed, viz. :—Hinds, Myers' Creek, Preston Vale, Reidford, and Verdon.

The names of the following offices have been changed :—Black Forest to "Macedon ;" Black Springs to "Eurobin ;" Mount Jeffcott to "Donald ;" Pentridge to "Coburg ;" Quartz Reefs to "Stawell ;" Spring Creek to "Graytown ;" Stawell to "Stawell West ;" Stony Creek to Durdidwarrah ;" Tootgarook to "Rye ;" and Upper Heyfield to "Cowwarr."

Post Office Savings Banks have been opened at the following places :—

Drysdale	Majorca	Steiglitz	Vaughan
Jasper Road	Nagambie	Stuartmill	Winchelsea.
Landsborough	Onee	Sunbury	
Linton's	Penshurst	Toorak	

Money Order Offices have been established at the following places :—

Berlin	Jasper Road	Oudit	Vaughan
Caramut	Kingower	Stuartmill	Wickliffe
Drysdale	Maffra	Sunbury	Yowen Hill.
Edenhope	Nagambie	Toorak	

Total number of Post Offices, on the 31st December 1870—677.

BUILDINGS.

General Post Office Building.

It having been found necessary to provide for the increasing business of the Electric Telegraph in this building, extended accommodation has been secured for the purpose by enlarging the room previously used. This, however, has had the effect of restricting, to a somewhat inconvenient degree, the space required for sorting the English mail ; and for this reason, and with a view to the consolidation of the Department, as well as on the score of economy, it is highly desirable that other arrangements should shortly be made for removing the staff of operators now engaged at Market square to the General Post Office.

The clock bells ordered from England have arrived, and are, with the requisite machinery for striking the hours and chiming the quarters, now being hung in the tower. Glass of an improved description, intended to replace that previously used for the illuminated dials, has also been received. It is expected that the whole will be completed by the beginning of May.

Progressive Statement of the Post Office Savings Banks in Victoria from the commencement of the system, 11th September 1865, to the 31st December 1870.

Year.	No. of Banks.	Deposits Received.		Repayments.		Interest credited to Depositors.	Depositors' Balances.	Depositors' Account.			Average Balance to each Account.
		Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			Accounts Opened.	Accounts Closed.	Accounts remaining Open.	
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				£ s. d.
1865	31	4,954	18,465 6 6	495	3,058 7 9	61 0 9	15,467 19 6	2,227	101	2,126	7 5 6
1866	50	25,909	85,381 15 7	6,204	43,248 4 11	1,189 0 9	58,690 10 11	5,703	1,055	6,774	8 13 3
1867	66	37,624	124,633 5 0	10,657	83,006 10 0	2,758 4 3	103,075 10 2	6,175	1,831	11,118	9 5 5
1868	72	45,408	184,115 4 6	14,293	125,565 10 7	4,435 19 3	166,061 3 4	6,540	3,302	14,356	11 11 4
1869	99	51,528	233,412 14 0	16,435	163,267 4 0	7,872 2 2	243,478 15 6	7,501	3,991	17,866	13 12 6½
1870	112	57,241	242,192 3 6	20,022	215,603 4 2	9,482 9 6	279,550 4 4	7,973	4,662	21,177	13 4 0

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The Postmaster-General in account with the Depositors from the 1st January to 31st December 1870.

Dr.   Cr.

1870. Jan. 1 to Dec. 31		£ s. d.	1870. Jan. 1 to Dec. 31		£ s. d.
To Balance from 1869	...	243,478 15 6	By Repayments to Depositors during 1870	...	215,603 4 2
„ Deposits received during 1870	...	242,192 3 6	„ Balance due to Depositors	...	279,550 4 4
„ Interest due to Depositors for 1870	...	9,482 9 6			
		495,153 8 6			495,153 8 6

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The Postmaster-General in account with The Honorable the Treasurer on account of Savings Bank transactions for the year 1870.

Dr.   Cr.

1870. Jan. 1 to Dec. 31		£ s. d.	1870. Jan. 1 to Dec. 31		£ s. d.
To Balance, being Deposits received in 1869, and paid into Treasury in January 1870	...	8,461 9 0	By Balance, being amount due by Treasury for repayments to Depositors during 1870	...	4,425 2 2
„ Deposits received during 1870	...	242,192 3 6	„ Repayments to Depositors in 1870	...	215,603 4 2
„ Cash received from Treasury	...	224,459 5 4	„ Cash paid into the Treasury	...	250,433 16 2
„ Interest allowed to Depositors for 1870	...	9,482 9 6	„ Amount due to Trust Fund for Interest credited to Depositors in 1870	...	9,482 9 6
„ Balance due from Treasury, to replace money drawn from Money Order Account to repay Depositors	...	2,841 3 2	„ Cash in hand awaiting lodgment in Treasury	...	7,491 18 6
		487,436 10 6			487,436 10 6

CHANGES IN AND PRESENT STRENGTH OF THE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The services of the Telegraph Manager at Albury were dispensed with on the 14th January 1870, and on the 31st October the Victorian operators were altogether withdrawn from that station, an agreement having been entered into with the New South Wales Government to conduct the business for this Colony, in consideration of a contribution towards the maintenance of the Telegraph station at Albury of £200 per annum. The saving effected by this change is shown at page 7 of the Report for 1869.

The extension of the facilities for telegraphic communication, through the reduction of the rates formerly charged, rendered necessary a considerable increase in the staff of Telegraphic Messengers, and, in consequence, those messengers who had served satisfactorily for one year as supernumeraries have been provided for on the 3rd Schedule, and their places filled up as the augmentation of business demanded.

Within the year 1870 eight officers resigned their appointments; one officer (5th Class) was superannuated; three officers retired from ill-health; two died; and three were dismissed.

The following Statements show the number of officers and others employed in the Post and Telegraph Department, and of those absent on account of sickness, during 1870 :—

STATEMENT showing the Number of Officers, &c., employed in the Post and Telegraph Department in 1870.

Office.	Postmasters and Telegraph Managers.	Officers, Clerks, and Operators.	Sorters.	Instrument Fitters.	Mail Guards and Letter-carriers.	Line Repairers and Labourers.	Printer's Assistants.	Mail Master and Boatmen.	Office Keepers and Messengers.	Carpenters, Gas Engineers, Night Watchmen, and Scavengers.	Supernumeraries.	Total.	Remarks.
Melbourne, P.O.	...	102	15	...	83	...	7	5	4	7	43	266	35 Supernumeraries employed on the arrival of the English mail.
Melbourne, E.T.	2	24	...	4	...	4	...	...	22	...	...	56	
Albury, Telegr., N.S.W.	1	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	This station was discontinued 30th November 1870, and two officers of the New South Wales staff are paid an allowance on account of the business of this colony.
Ararat	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	
Avoca	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Bairndale	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Ballarat, P.O.	1	5	1	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	12 Supernumeraries employed on the arrival of the English mail.
Ballarat, E.T.	1	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	7	...	...	13	
Beaufort	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	
Beechworth	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	6	
Belfast	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Benalla	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Bright	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Brighton	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Buninyong	1	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Camperdown	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Cape Schanck...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	
Cape Otway	1*	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Carlsbrook	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Casterton	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	
Castlemaine, P.O.	1	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	
Castlemaine, E.T.	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	4	
Chiltern	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Clunes	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	4	
Colac	1	1*	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Coleraine	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Collingwood	1	1	...	...	9	...	...	...	1	...	...	11	
Creswick	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	
Daylesford	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	4	
Dunolly	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Echuca	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	6	
Flinders	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	
Geelong	1	7	1	...	9	...	...	...	4	...	...	23	4 Supernumeraries employed on the arrival of the English mail.
Graytown	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Hamilton	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	4	
Heathcote	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Hexham	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Inglewood	1	1*	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Jamieson	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Kerang	1	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	* Acting Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Kilmore	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	
Kyneton	1	1*	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Linton's	1	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Longwood	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Majorca	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	* Postmistress, paid out of allowances to country postmasters.
Maldon	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Malmsbury	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Mansfield	1*	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Maryborough...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	* Postmistress, paid out of allowances to country postmasters.
Morrington	1*	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Mortlake	1*	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Mount Gambier, S.A.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Newstead	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	* Postmistress, paid out of allowances to country postmasters. * Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Port Albert	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Portland	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Queenscliff	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Richmond	1	1*	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Rosedale	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Rutherglen	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Sale	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	

STATEMENT showing the Number of Officers, &c.—continued.

Office.	Postmasters and Telegraph Managers.	Officers, Clerks, and Operators.	Sorters.	Instrument Fitters.	Mail Guards and Letter-carriers.	Line Repairers and Signallers.	Foster's Assistance.	Mail Matron and Stewards.	Office Keepers and Cleaners.	Carpenters, Gas Engineer, Night Watchman, and Constables.	Supernumeraries.	Total.	Remarks.
Sandhurst	1	2	2		5				4			15	One Supernumerary occasionally employed.
Sandridge	1				1				1			3	
Sebastopol	1					1						2	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Seymour	1	1*			1				1			3	
Smythesdale	1								1			2	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
St. Arnaud	1				1							2	
Stawell	1								1			2	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Streatham	1*											1	* Acting Postmaster.
Swan Hill	1				1*							2	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Talbot	1								1			2	* Acting Postmaster.
Taradale	1											1	
Tarnagulla	1					1						2	
Tatura	1				1							2	
Walhalla	1	1*										2	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Wangaratta	1	1	1		1				2			2	One Supernumerary occasionally employed.
Warrnambool	1	1			2				1			5	
Williamstown	1				2				2			5	
Wodonga	1	1*							1			2	* Assistant Operator acting as Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.
Woodend	1				1				1			2	
Wood's Point	1	1			1				1			2	Railway Telegraph Station.
Yackandandah	1								1			2	
Totals	59	167	24	4	141	19	5	7	102	7	49	584	

This list includes additional Telegraph Messengers and Assistant Letter-carriers included in 1870, and fourteen of the Supernumeraries included in the column of "Remarks" in a return at page 8 of Report for 1869.

RETURN of Officers, &c., Absent from duty on account of Illness during 1870.

Branch.	Number of Officers, &c., Employed.		Number of days Absent.	Remarks.
	Number Employed.	Number Absent.		
Correspondence branch	8	2	33	One officer absent 29 days, and one about 4 days.
Accounts branch	14	3	60	One officer absent 47 days.
Mail branch	57	37	238	One officer absent 67 days, one 27 days, one 26 days, and four 9 days, showing seven officers absent during 170 days.
Dead-letter branch	4	2	15	One officer absent during 14 days.
Stores and Printing	26	10	25	One officer absent during 25 days.
Money Order and Savings Banks	16	10	99	One officer absent during 51 days.
Stamp branch	4	2	13	One officer absent during 13 days.
Totals	125	67	483	

Out of eleven mail-guards, four were absent from sickness during 21 days.

Out of thirty-six letter-carriers, twenty-three were absent during 926 days. Of this number one was absent during 42 days, one 35 days, one 24 days, one 31 days, and one 23 days, showing five letter-carriers absent during 145 days. Two letter-carriers belonging to the Melbourne establishment died during the year.

STATEMENT of Revenue and Expenditure for the Year 1870.

1870.—REVENUE.	£	s.	d.	1870.—EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Revenue, including postage, fees on registered letters, commission on money orders, commission allowed to licensed vendors, also collections on account of other Governments ...	128,046	1	10	Salaries and wages, occasional assistance, and overtime	110,872	6	6
				Contingencies	15,863	13	11
Electric Telegraph collections, including amount collected on account of other colonies, and the Submarine Cable Company ...	33,145	10	4	Commission to licensed vendors of postage stamps	1,449	12	6
				Mail service inland, including landing and shipping mails	75,764	1	11
				Gratuities to masters of vessels	1,476	14	9
Deficit	85,803	3	7	Estimated amount of postal collections made on account of other Governments	3,817	12	10
				Steam postal communication with Great Britain	35,529	5	8
				Electric Telegraph collections on account of other colonies £1,019 16 0			
				Submarine Cable Company 1,201 11 8	2,221	7	8
	246,994	15	9		246,994	15	9

APPENDIX C.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

RETURN showing the Interruptions to Telegraphic Communication in Victoria.

Date.	Designation of Line.	Points of Interruption.	Period of Interruption.	Supposed or Ascertained Cause of Interruption.
1870.				
Jan. 22	Bright Line	Between Beechworth and Bright	7 hours	Tree on line
Feb. 7	Gippsland Line	Melbourne and Rosedale	1 day	" "
" 9	" "	" "	1	" "
" 11	" "	" "	1	" "
" 16–18	Otway Line	Geelong and Cape Otway	2 days	" "
" 17	Wood's Point Line	Jamieson and Wood's Point	2 hours	" "
" 22	" "	Mansfield and Jamieson	1 day	Bush fires
" 22–23	Gippsland Line	Melbourne and Rosedale	1 day	Tree on line
" 22–23	North-Eastern Lines	Longwood and Benalla	2 hours	" "
March 4	Gippsland Line	Melbourne and Rosedale	1½ days	" "
" 9–11	" "	" "	2 days	" "
" 11	Queenscliff Line	Geelong and Queenscliff	10 hours	Pole blown down
" 22–25	Otway Line	Geelong and Cape Otway	3 days	Tree on line
April 11–12	" "	" "	2	" "
" 22	" "	" "	7 hours	" "
" 25	" "	" "	1	" "
" 28–29	Bright Line	Beechworth and Bright	3	" "
May 9	Swan Hill Line	Inglewood and Kerang	5 hours	Pole blown down
" 11	Bright Line	Beechworth and Bright	1 day	Floods
" 14–15	Gippsland Line	Sale and Port Albert	1½ days	Decayed pole blown down
" 13	Walgunyah Line	Beechworth and Chiltern	3 hours	Tree on line
" 18	Majorca Line	Maryborough and Majorca	1 day	" "
" 27	Mornington Line	Melbourne and Mornington	1 day	" "
June 4	Swan Hill Line	Inglewood and Kerang	11 hours	Pole blown down
" 8	Bright Line	Beechworth and Bright	7 hours	Tree on line
" 11–13	Gippsland Line	Melbourne and Rosedale	2 days	" "
" 11	Wood's Point Line	Benalla and Mansfield	3½ hours	" "
" 14	Ballarat Lines	Meredith and Ballarat	3 hours	" "
" 28	Bright Line	Beechworth and Bright	7	" "
" 28–29	Gippsland Line	Melbourne and Rosedale	1 day	" "
" 28–29	Otway Line	Geelong and Cape Otway	1 day	" "
" 29	Mornington Line	Melbourne and Mornington	1 day	" "
July 8	Heathcote Line	Sandhurst and Heathcote, and Heathcote and Kilmore	1½ days	Floods
" 8	Walgunyah Line	Yackandandah and Chiltern	3½ hours	Tree on line
" 28	Wood's Point Line	Benalla and Mansfield	1 day	" "
Aug. 8	Gippsland Line	Melbourne and Rosedale	5 hours	Tree on line
" 9	" "	Ballarat and Buninyong	3 hours	" "
" 16	North-Eastern Lines	Beechworth and Wodonga	2	Pole blown down
" 16	" "	Maryborough and Avoca	1 day	Pole washed away
" 18–19	Otway Line	Geelong and Cape Otway	2 days	Poles washed away
Sept. 8	North-Eastern Lines	Seymour and Longwood	10 hours	Floods
" 13	Swan Hill Line	Kerang and Swan Hill	9 hours	" "
" 21	Bright Line	Beechworth and Bright	1 day	" "
" 21	Coast Line	Melbourne and Cape Schanck	3 hours	" "
" 22	Western Lines	Portland and Mount Gambier	1 day	Pole blown down
" 22	Gippsland Line	Mansfield and Jamieson	2	" "
" 24	Western Lines	Portland and Mount Gambier	4½ hours	Pole blown down; heavy storms
Oct. 13	Wood's Point Line	Jamieson and Wood's Point	1 day	" "
" 20–22	Gippsland Line	Melbourne and Rosedale	2 days	" "
" 27	Otway Line	Geelong and Cape Otway	1 day	Pull of dead tree
" 29	Swan Hill Line	Maldon and Dunolly	6 hours	Tree on line
" 31	Wood's Point Line	Mansfield and Jamieson	5½ hours	" "
Nov. 2	Gippsland Line	Melbourne and Rosedale	4 hours	" "
" 2	Walgunyah Line	Yackandandah and Chiltern	5	Tree on line
" 9	Gippsland Line	Rosedale and Walhalla	3	" "
" 9–11	" "	Melbourne and Rosedale	2½ days	" "
" 12	Swan Hill Line	Kerang and Swan Hill	1 day	Line on wet ground
" 14	Mornington Line	Melbourne and Mornington	2	Tree on line
" 23–24	Gippsland Line	Melbourne and Rosedale	1 day	" "
Dec. 13–18	" "	" "	5	" "
" 22	Swan Hill Line	Tarnagulla and Inglewood	1 day	Line off three poles
" 27	" "	Kerang and Swan Hill	1 day	Line broken by dray

REMARKS.

January 3.—Lines crossed between Benalla and Wangaratta, and all lines affected by atmospheric electricity.

January 4.—North-Eastern lines between Longwood and Benalla.

January 13.—Lines crossed between Castlemaine and Sandhurst, and also between Footscray and Mount Gambier; severe storms.

January 24.—Line cross between Castlemaine and Sandhurst.

January 28.—Nos. 1, 2, and 3 crossed between Melbourne and Castlemaine.

January 31.—Lines crossed between Kilmore and Seymour.

January 31.—All lines affected by atmospheric electricity.

January 31.—Line down between Sandhurst and Echuca; all lines affected.

February 2–3.—Nos. 2 and 3, Western lines, crossed between Melbourne and Geelong in different places.

February 7.—North-Eastern lines down between Benalla and Wangaratta.

February 9.—No. 2 line crossed between Benalla and Wangaratta; and Western lines crossed between Camperdown and Warrnambool.

February 10.—Nos. 1 and 2 crossed between Melbourne and Geelong.

February 20.—North-Eastern lines crossed between Seymour and Longwood.

February 22.—North-Eastern lines down between Seymour and Longwood.

March 1.—Western lines crossed.

March 16.—All lines working badly; weather wet.

March 22.—Western lines working badly; messages sent vià Hamilton.

March 23.—All lines working badly; wet weather.

March 29.—Western lines down all day; messages sent vià Hamilton.

April 1.—North-Eastern lines crossed between Longwood and Benalla.

April 4.—Nos. 1, 2, and 3 crossed all over Benalla.

April 7–8.—All round lines affected by atmospheric electricity.

April 29.—Western lines working badly; weather wet.

May 2.—No. 3, Western line, down between Hexham and Penshurst.

May 7.—Western line crossed between Camperdown and Warrnambool.

May 12.—Lines crossed between Bulleit and Portland; and line on ground between Portland and Hamilton.

May 28.—Otway line working badly.

May 31.—North-Eastern lines crossed between Beechworth and Belvoir; and line down between Darlesford and Creswick.

June 3.—Western lines crossed between Warrnambool and Belfast.

June 4.—Lines crossed between Belfast and Portland.

June 7.—Western lines working badly; heavy rains over the district.

June 9.—Western lines down between Hexham and Penshurst.

June 18.—Northern lines crossed between Sandhurst and Echuca.

June 28.—No. 2, Western line, down between Hexham and Penshurst.

June 30.—Nos. 1 and 2, Western lines, down between Camperdown and Warrnambool; messages sent vià Hamilton.

October 5.—South Gippsland line down between Melbourne and Kilmore, and near Beechworth.

July 12.—North-Eastern lines on ground between Longwood and Benalla; business transacted vià Deniliquin.

July 27.—All lines working badly; heavy rains.

August 1.—Western lines down between Wangaratta and Beechworth, and between Kilmore and Seymour.

August 8.—Western lines down all day.

August 9.—North-Eastern lines on ground, caused by the fall of an enormous dead tree.

August 13.—Several lines interrupted; trouble found in last-box at Brighton.

August 17.—Heavy thunderstorms, affecting all lines.

September 20.—North-Eastern lines down between Seymour and Longwood; business transacted vià Deniliquin.

October 20.—Swan Hill and St. Arnaud lines crossed; heavy floods in district.

October 29.—Gippsland line down between Melbourne and Rosedale.

October 29.—North-Eastern lines down between Seymour and Longwood; business transacted vià Deniliquin.

November 2.—Gippsland line down.

November 9.—A line interrupted between junction and Werribee.

November 12.—Swan Hill line broken near Seymour.

November 14.—All lines working badly with atmospheric electricity.

November 23.—Western lines down between Geelong and Belfast.

November 24.—North-Eastern lines down between Seymour and Longwood.

December 13.—Lines crossed between Melbourne and Kilmore, caused by dead tree falling across lines.

December 24.—No. 4 line affected by atmospheric electricity.

APPENDIX D.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

RETURN showing particulars relating to the Transmission of Reports of English News from Mount Gambier to Melbourne during the Year 1870.

Commenced.		Finished.		Average Number of Words per Hour.	Remarks as to the Weather, &c.
Date.	Hour and Minute.	Date.	Hour and Minute.		
1870.		1870.			
Jan. 19	4.40 p.m.	Jan. 19	7.37 p.m.	1,700	Lines worked well. Weather fine.
Feb. 15	12.5 a.m.	Feb. 15	4.10 a.m.	1,500	No. 1 line worked well; other lines very hard.
March 16	7.40 a.m.	March 15	1.40 p.m.	1,000	Lines nearly unworkable; reports received with great difficulty.
April 11	5.25 p.m.	April 11	9.50 p.m.	1,200	Victorian lines working well. South Australian and New South Wales direct lines down; all their business repeated through Melbourne. South Australian lines working badly.
May 9	2.25 p.m.	May 9	5.25 p.m.	1,700	All lines working well.
June 4	12.25 p.m.	June 4	7.40 p.m.	800	Lines worked badly; crossed between Belfast and Portland ; South Australian lines in similar condition.
July 2	8.20 p.m.	July 2	11.55 p.m.	1,600	Lines worked well.
August 3	7.30 p.m.	Aug. 3	11.56 p.m.	1,400	Lines worked fairly.
August 28	1.45 p.m.	Aug. 28	7.35 p.m.	1,500	Lines worked well.
Sept. 24	2.57 p.m.	Sept. 24	6.15 p.m.	1,800	Lines worked well.
Oct. 24	10.27 a.m.	Oct. 24	2.50 p.m.	1,600	Lines worked well.
Nov. 21	10.52 a.m.	Nov. 21	7 p.m.	1,000	Lines worked with great difficulty.
Dec. 19	1.45 p.m.	Dec. 19	7.15 p.m.	1,500	Lines worked well.

APPENDIX E.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

LIST of Post Offices where Telegrams will be received and transmitted through the nearest Telegraph Station.

Alberton	Carlsruhe	Happy Valley	Omeo
Allansford	Castle Reef	Harrietville	Ondit
Alma	Cathcart	Harrow	Orford
Amphitheatre	Cavendish	Hepburn	Piggoreet
Apsley	Cobden	Heywood	Pyalong
Ascot	Cressy	Hillsborough	Penridge
Avenel	Chariton	Hinds	Prahran
Axedale	Coghill's Creek	Huntly	Raywood
Alexandra	Cooper's Creek	Hawthorn	Redbank
Avon Plains	Carlton	Heidelberg	Redcastle
Bacchus Marsh	Caulfield	Indigo	Redjacket
Bairnsdale	Darlingford	Inverleigh	Redwood
Balmoral	Darlington	Jones's Creek	Rushworth
Barfold	Donnelly's Creek	Jordan	Richmond
Baringhup	Doon	Kingower	Sandford
Barker's Creek	Dunkeld	Kingston	Sandy Creek, Ovens
Bealiba	Deptford	Koroit	Shepparton
Branxholme	Diggersrest	Keilor	Skipton
Break-o'-Day	Dandenong	Kew	Smeaton
Bridgewater	Edwards' Reef	Lake Bolac	Snowy Creek
Bridgewater-on-Loddon	Eldorado	Lake Hindmarsh	Stanley
Broadford	Elmhurst	Lancefield	Stratford
Buangor	Enoch's Point	Landsborough	St. Kilda
Buckland	Epsom	Lauriston	South Yarra
Bulldog Flat	Estcourt	Learmonth	Tarrawingee
Bullock Creek	Evansford	Leviathan Reef, Black River	Ten-mile House
Bungaree	Emerald Hill	Lexton	Terang
Ballan	Essendon	Macarthur	Toongabbie
Barkly	Framingham	Mack's Creek	Traralgon
Bendoc	Franklinford	Maidentown	Tylden
Beggy Creek	Fryerstown	Marong	Trentham
Burnt Creek	Flemington	Matlock	Toorak
Burrumbeet	Footscray	Merino	Upper Dargo
Byaduk	Frankston	Moliagul	Vaughan
Bellarine	Gaffney's Creek	Morton Plains	Violettown
Birregurra	Glendaruel	Mount Blackwood	Walhalla
Bullarook	Glengower	Mount Bolton	Wedderburn
Bruthen	Glenlyon	Mount Egerton	Whipstick
Berwick	Glenorchy	Mount Jeffcott	Wickliffe
Brighton	Glenthompson	Myer's Creek	Wild-duck Creek
Brighton South	Golden Point	Moonee Ponds	Woolshed
Brighton East	Goldsboro' Reef	Morang, Yan Yean	Winchelsea
Broadmeadows	Great Western	Mordialloc	Yambuk
Brunswick	Gooley's Creek	Newbridge	Yandoit
California Gully	Growler's Creek	Newbury	Yea
Cambrian Hill	Guildford	Natty Yallock	
Campbell's Creek	Happy-go-Lucky	Narrawong	
Caramut		Northcote	

APPENDIX F.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

STATEMENT showing the Names of the several Electric Telegraph Stations and the Lines of Telegraph now in operation in the Colony of Victoria.

Main Lines.	Extent in Miles from the Melbourne General Office.	Name of Station.	Branch Line.	Name of Station.	Extent in Miles.
SOUTHERN COAST LINE ..	187	Melbourne General Post Office Williamstown Geelong Queencliff Point Lonsdale Sandridge Cape Schanck Flinders			
WESTERN COAST LINE ..	263	Mount Gambier Portland Belfast Warrnambool Camperdown Colac			
CROSS COUNTRY—WESTERN LINE	316	Ballarat	Buninyong Branch .. Kirton Branch .. Sebastopol Branch	Buninyong .. Smythesdale .. Linton .. Sebastopol .. Ararat .. Stawell ..	7 from Ballarat 23 from Ballarat 3 from Ballarat 40 from Beaufort
		Beaufort .. .. Streatham Hexham .. .. Penshurst Hamilton .. .. Coleraine Casterton	Stawell Branch .. Mortlake Branch .. Portland Branch ..	Stawell Mortlake	9 from Hexham 53 from Hamilton
CAPE OTWAY LINE ..	140	Otway Creswick Daylesford Maldon Bundly Castlemaine ..			
CROSS COUNTRY LINE ..	312	Maryborough .. .. Avoca Stuartmill St. Arnaud	Clunes Branch .. Majorca Branch ..	Talbot .. .. Clunes .. .. Majorca	80 from Maryborough 11 from Maryborough
SWAN HILL LINE ..	231	Tarnagulla Inglewood Serpentine* Korong Swan Hill			
NORTHERN LINE ..	156	Collingwood Kyneton Malmsbury Taradale Castlemaine Sandhurst Echuca	Newstead Branch ..	Newstead	10 from Castlemaine
		Kilmore .. .. Seymour Longwood	Heathcote Branch ..	Heathcote	31 from Kilmore 25 from Sandhurst
NORTH-EASTERN LINE ..	200	Benalla .. .. Wangaratta	Wool's Point Branch ..	Wool's Point	85 from Benalla
		Beechworth .. .. Wodonga Albury	Wahgunyah Branch .. Bright Branch ..	Yackandandah .. Chiltern .. Wahgunyah .. Rutherglen .. Bright	50 from Beechworth 36 from Beechworth
GIPPSLAND LINE	181	Shady Creek* Rosedale .. .. Sale .. .. Port Albert	Walhalla Branch .. Bairnsdale Branch ..	Walhalla .. .. Bairnsdale	22 from Rosedale 42 from Sale
NORTHERN LINE	154	RAILWAY CIRCUIT. Spencer street Sunbury New Gisborne Woodend Castlemaine Sandhurst Runnymede Echuca			
WESTERN LINE	92½	Williamstown Pier Williamstown Junction Werribee Little River Geelong Meredith Ballarat West	SPECIAL WIRES ...	Ballarat Line (1) .. .. Williamstown Line (1) .. Melbourne to Albury (1) .. Melbourne to Mount Gambier (1) .. .. Melbourne to Mornington (1) .. St. Kilda* (1)	97 9½ 190 263 38 5

Showing a total of 98 stations or offices ; 2,500 miles of line, provided with 3,300 miles of wire.

* Denotes station closed during 1870.   † Denotes stations not yet opened.

APPENDIX G.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

Statement showing the Comparative Revenue for the Years 1869 and 1870.

Name of Station	Revenue, 1869.			Revenue, 1870.			Increase, 1870.			Decrease, 1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Melbourne	13,896	3	0	10,972	15	7				2,923	7	5
Melbourne, General Post Office*	1,854	12	2	3,649	7	11	1,794	15	9			
Ararat	208	12	0	231	17	8	23	5	5			
Avoca	139	3	2	129	16	3				9	6	11
Bairnsdale	4	0	0	238	12	3						
Ballarat	4,930	5	2	3,585	2	10				1,345	2	4
Beaufort	64	16	7	86	5	6	8	8	11			
Beechworth	858	7	6	808	14	0				49	13	6
Belfast	438	14	7	393	9	11				45	4	8
Benalla	108	9	4	121	2	0	12	12	8			
Bright	306	11	11	159	17	9				146	14	2
Buninyong	26	1	2	26	6	1	0	4	11			
Camperdown	151	0	1	246	4	2	95	4	1			
Cape Schanck	3	5	0	4	7	5	1	2	5			
Carisbrook	57	6	2	50	10	6				6	15	8
Casterton	80	12	7	111	15	8	31	3	1			
Castlemaine	382	11	11	461	4	10	78	12	11			
Chiltern	238	7	8	161	14	4				76	13	4
Clunes	543	5	3	402	17	11				140	7	4
Colac	86	15	0	120	13	1	33	18	1			
Coleraine	158	1	11	158	15	11	0	14	0			
Collingwood	105	0	0	115	19	9	10	12	9			
Creswick	187	7	1	216	15	10	29	8	9			
Daylesford	191	5	0	411	12	9	220	7	9			
Dunolly	165	6	0	160	19	10				4	6	2
Echuca	381	1	1	493	4	11	112	3	10			
Geelong	1,243	15	5	1,264	10	8	20	15	3			
Hamilton	366	13	9	449	3	11	82	10	2			
Heathcote	84	12	4	82	19	9				1	12	7
Hexham	41	3	10	36	4	3				4	19	7
Inglewood	120	10	7	131	4	1	10	13	6			
Jamieson	56	10	7	90	12	9	34	2	2			
Kerang	33	9	0	38	9	3	5	0	3			
Kilmore	80	17	6	120	4	1	39	6	7			
Kyneton	126	2	11	201	15	2	75	12	3			
Linton's	128	10	5	39	1	0	6	10	7			
Longwood	51	8	11	55	7	4	3	18	5			
Majorca				50	12	5	New office, 1870.					
Maldon	128	5	4	102	14	1				25	11	3
Malmsbury	36	16	9	43	18	6	7	1	9			
Mansfield	143	1	4	136	10	11				6	10	5
Maryborough	243	6	6	287	9	4	44	2	10			
Mornington	27	2	10	33	4	1	6	1	3			
Mortlake	85	7	2	95	3	4	9	16	2			
Newstead	25	3	4	29	12	1	4	9	9			
Penshurst	83	3	6	68	19	6				14	4	0
Port Albert	104	8	1	98	11	5				5	16	8
Portland	293	11	9	308	13	8	15	1	11			
Queenscliff	73	3	9	89	2	4	15	18	7			
Rosedale	176	8	8	121	6	0				55	2	8
Rutherglen	109	4	4	89	5	8				19	18	8
St. Arnaud	141	10	3	98	15	4				42	15	4
Sale	523	8	11	506	8	8				17	0	3
Sandhurst	883	1	2	1,154	10	5	271	9	3			
Sandridge	75	12	7	74	3	10				1	8	9
Sebastopol				26	14	5	New office, 1870.					
Serpentine†	5	3	2				Closed, 1870.					
Seymour	47	16	2	72	0	8	24	4	6			
Smythesdale	94	14	2	107	18	4	13	4	2			
Stawell	371	1	0	356	17	10				15	3	2
Streatham	40	7	10	48	11	7	8	3	9			
Stuartmill				135	0	6	New office, 1870.					
Swan Hill	68	19	1	75	1	9	6	2	8			
Talbot	270	6	9	271	8	3	1	1	6			
Taradale	41	8	1	51	10	3	10	2	2			
Tarnagulla	122	0	3	133	18	10	11	18	7			
Wahgunyah	255	11	7	224	19	8				30	11	11
Walhalla				61	10	7	New office, 1870.					
Wangaratta	286	15	3	303	2	0	16	7	3			
Warrnambool	548	14	5	763	5	3	214	10	10			
Williamstown	199	4	0	182	15	1				16	8	11
Wodonga	44	11	8	83	11	11	39	0	3			
Wood's Point	153	15	7	163	11	10	9	16	3			
Yackandandah	96	10	5	96	7	1				0	3	4

* Opened 5th April 1869.   † Serpentine Station closed 3rd February 1870.

APPENDIX K.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

EXPENDITURE under control of Public Works Department.

			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total expenditure for Lines, Stations, &c., as per previous statement, to 31st December 1869						288,673	1	5
EXPENDITURE DURING 1870.								
Main extension of lines			4,000	0	0			
New buildings and repairs to existing buildings			7,200	0	0	11,200	0	0
						299,873	1	5
CURRENT EXPENDITURE DURING 1870.								
Rent of chief office and insurance			810	4	0			
Rent of temporary offices			1,174	10	8	1,984	14	8

APPENDIX L.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

RETURN showing Net Revenue from 1st January to 31st December 1870.

			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cash receipts paid into Treasury from 1st January to 31st December 1870 ...			33,145	10	4	£		
Less amount due to other Colonies on account of intercolonial business for same period:—								
New South Wales	£1,026	6	9					
South Australia	171	1	1					
Bass Cable Company	1,201	11	8	2,398	19	6	30,746	10	10
Amount due by other Colonies on account of intercolonial business for same period:—								
Queensland			88	16	2			
Tasmania			88	15	8	177	11	10
						30,924	2	8

APPENDIX M.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

STATEMENT showing Amount of Business Transmitted through the Bass's Straits Cable.

From 1st January to 31st December 1870.

Date.	Number of Messages.	Value.
1st January to 31st December 1870 ...	9,310	£4,422 6s. 9d.

APPENDIX N.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

EXTENSIONS of Telegraph Lines in other Colonies during 1870, and Lines in progress.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Extension of line from Grafton to Clarence Heads, 41 miles.
      ,,   ,,   Kiama to Jervis Bay, 40 miles.
      ,,   ,,   Bathurst to Carcoor, 30½ miles.
      ,,   ,,   Grafton to Casino, 35 miles.
      ,,   ,,   Eden to Gabo Island, 36 miles.

Proposed line from Narrabri to Fort Bourke, 250 miles.
      ,,   ,,   Maitland to Manning River, 55 miles.
      ,,   additional wire from Maitland to Armidale.

QUEENSLAND.

Line in course of erection from Cardwell to Gulf of Carpentaria, 350 miles—45 miles completed from Cardwell, and 65 miles completed on Western Section. The whole line is expected to be finished early in July 1871.

Proposed line from Warwick to Goondiwindi, 150 miles.
      ,,   ,,   Clermont to Springsvrie, 112 miles.

TASMANIA.

New Stations opened at Brighton and Nine-mile Springs.

It is proposed to open New Norfolk during 1871 ; also offices at all stations on Launceston and Deloraine Railway.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Extension of line from Roseworthy to Burra Burra, 70 miles.

* Extension in progress upon the Overland line from Fort Augusta, South Australia, to Port Darwin, North Australia, 1,800 miles.

* The present state of this work is as follows :—From Port Augusta poles planted for 200 miles, and poles cut and distributed for another 150 miles, wire being carried for 335 miles. This is for the first section (for contract) of 500 miles. The second (central) section, from latitude 27° to 19° 30', is being carried out by five Government parties, and two, if not three, of the parties are now at work, each having 150 miles of line to erect. Wire, insulators, other materials, and rations for the whole of the parties are now seven to eight hundred miles north of Port Augusta. The third or northern section, from latitude 19° 30' to Port Darwin, is being erected by contract. The first pole planted at Port Darwin 17th September last, and, by advices dated 8th November 1870, 50 miles of line reported finished, and by this time (February 1871) 100 miles would have been completed, and in working order. Constant communication is kept up by telegraph between Port Augusta and the working party on the line progressing.

VICTORIA.

CHARGES ON TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES RECEIVED ON SUNDAY FOR TRANSMISSION IN VICTORIA.

29TH VICT. No. 298—PART 6 SEC. 257.

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

CHARGES ON TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES RECEIVED ON SUNDAY FOR TRANSMISSION IN VICTORIA.

IT is hereby notified that telegrams relating to sickness or death, or to the arrival or departure of friends by land or sea, and press telegrams, received on Sunday for transmission to or from any of the undermentioned offices in Victoria, will be forwarded the same night on payment of the following fees :—

On private messages not exceeding twenty-eight words ...   Two shillings and sixpence,

And One penny for each additional word.

On press messages not exceeding fifty-eight words   ...   Two shillings and sixpence,

And One halfpenny for each additional word, in addition to any charges for porterage and fees it may be necessary to collect.

Ballarat,	Maryborough,
Beechworth,	Melbourne,
Belfast,	Portland,
Castlemaine,	Queenscliffe,
Echuca,	Sandhurst,
Geelong,	Warrnambool.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,
Chief Secretary.