

1872.
—
VICTORIA.

R E P O R T

ON THE

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1871.

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

By Authority:

JOHN FERRIS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

R E P O R T.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The progress of the business of the Department during the year 1871 may be considered on the whole as satisfactory.

Gross receipts for Postages, Money Order Commission, &c., amounted to £129,991, showing an increase of £1945 over the year 1870.

Gross receipts on account of the Electric Telegraph business amounted to £36,941, or £3796 in excess of the receipts during the previous year.

The increase in the Postal business has been chiefly in the Inland correspondence. The Intercolonial ship letters show a slight increase, but there has been a falling off on the British and Foreign ship letters, which makes the total number of ship letters about 29,000 less than in 1870.

The reduction in the Intercolonial rate from 6d. to 3d. has not been attended with such results as were expected, as by a comparison of the number of letters despatched to the neighboring colonies by sea during 1869 there appears only an increase little over 6 per cent., which may have been caused by circumstances in no way connected with the cheaper rates.

The Inland rate was reduced from 4d. to 2d. in August 1866. In 1865 the number of Inland letters to each person in the colony was 9, and in 1871 about 13 to each person.

It is difficult to determine how far this increase is to be ascribed to the lowering of the Postal rates, as the extended settlement in the country districts which has taken place within the last few years would—had the higher rate been maintained—have led to considerable augmentation in the circulation of correspondence within the colony.

The result of the reduction in the rates on Electric Telegraph messages, which took effect from 1st January 1870, has been a very considerable increase in the number of messages transmitted. Since the introduction of the uniform shilling rate on Victorian telegrams, two years ago, the business has been nearly doubled; and the lowering of the rates on Intercolonial messages has been followed in seventeen months by an increase in number equal to 60 per cent.

Number of Victorian Messages in 1869, before the reduction	...	256,723
" " " 1871, two years after the reduction		496,043

Gross Cash Receipts, 1869, Victorian Messages	... ..	£24,154 6s. 9d.
" " 1871, " " "		£27,274 14s. 2d.

Average Number of Intercolonial Messages for seven months before reduction in rates	... ..	2,150 per month
Average Number of Intercolonial Messages during 1871, after reduction in rates		3,446 per month

Cash Receipts, average during seven months, to 31st July 1870, Victorian Messages	... ..	£871 11s. 0d. per month
" " " 1871, Victorian Messages		£805 11s. 9d. per month

EXPENDITURE.

The amount of expenditure on account of Post Office and Telegraph services for Salaries and Wages, and Contingencies, during 1871, was £128,537, being £1801 in excess of the amount expended under same heads in 1870. This is accounted for by increments under Civil Service Act, and necessary expenditure in consequence of increased business in all branches of the Department. The Mail Service (exclusive of Steam Postal Communication) amounted to £83,391, showing an increase over previous year of £7627. The Ocean Mail Service cost £44,415, showing an apparent increase of £8886 over 1870; but as there was an undercharge in the accounts for 1870 of £9055, the cost of this service during 1871, as it now appears, was £178 less than in 1870. The accounts for 1871 have, however, yet to be finally adjusted.

A further statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Department for 1871 will be found at page 22 of this Report.

INLAND, INTERCOLONIAL, AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

On comparing the following statement with that at page 7 of the Report of this Department for 1870, it will appear that there has been an increase in the Inland correspondence during the past year of a little over $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and this may be taken as representing as nearly as practicable the actual facts of the case.

On Intercolonial letters despatched there has been an increase of nearly 3 per cent., and on Intercolonial letters received about 6 per cent.

On British and Foreign, received and despatched, there has been a decrease on the former of nearly $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and on the latter of about 4 per cent.

On the whole there has been an increase in the number of letters of a little over 5 per cent.

Inland packets have increased $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Intercolonial packets received and despatched have increased 42 and 57 per cent. respectively.

British and Foreign packets despatched have increased $21\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and those received have decreased about $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

On the total number of packets there has been an increase of about $13\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Inland newspapers have increased 4 per cent.

British and Foreign newspapers despatched have increased nearly 2 per cent.

Intercolonial newspapers received and despatched show a decrease of nearly 2 per cent., and British and Foreign received have fallen off during the year over 16 per cent.

On the whole there has been a decrease in the number of newspapers passing through the post, during the year, of about 2 per cent.

RETURN showing the Number of Letters, Packets, and Newspapers Received and Despatched during 1871.

Number of Post Offices.	Inland Letters.	SHIP LETTERS.				Total Letters.
		Despatched.		Received.		
		Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.	
	9,900,064	386,652	528,182	396,676	504,592	11,716,166
706	Inland Packets.	SHIP PACKETS.				Total Packets.
		Despatched.		Received.		
		Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.	
	394,398	26,242	10,630	10,415	27,862	469,547
706	Inland Newspapers.	SHIP NEWSPAPERS.				Total Newspapers.
		Despatched.		Received.		
		Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.	
	2,807,501	387,531	592,482	246,341	1,169,215	5,172,970

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered letters posted in Victoria during the year 1871 amounted to 123,013, showing an increase of about rather more than 7 per cent.

The number of letters containing valuable enclosures for which enquiries have been made during the last twelve months has been much smaller than for some years past; it is still, however, much to be desired that the registration of letters containing money should in no case be overlooked, as the neglect of this precaution not only opens a way to dishonest practices, but makes it almost impossible to determine whether a letter, reported to be missing, has really been posted, or if posted, to trace it in its passage through the office to its destination.

DEAD LETTERS.

The following statements show the extent of business transacted in the Dead Letter Office during 1871:—

RETURN showing the Number of Letters that passed through the Dead Letter Branch during the Year 1871.

Year.	Received.				How disposed of.		
	Unclaimed.		Irregularly Posted.	Total.	Returned and Delivered.	Destroyed, &c.	Total.
	Victorian.	Ship.					
1871	72,635	11,961	21,935	106,531	95,048	11,483	106,531

Eight hundred and thirty-six registered letters are included in the above numbers; 196 contained enclosures of money, value as given below; 8 with articles value not known; and 422 without valuable contents, or the value of contents not known to the department; 26 ordinary letters also contained articles of value.

Twenty-four letters with obscene or libellous addresses were posted during the year.

One hundred and fifty of the irregularly posted letters have no name or address whatever, and 485 imperfect addresses; these letters could not, in consequence, be forwarded to their intended destinations; the remainder were partially or wholly unpaid.

Seventy-eight letters were ascertained to bear wrong addresses, and many of them contained valuable enclosures.

In addition to the above number of letters, 233 packets were also dealt with during the year.

RETURN showing the Number of Registered and Unregistered Letters containing Value that passed through the Dead Letter Branch during the Year 1871.

Year 1871.	Received.					How dealt with.						
	Registered.		Ordinary.		Total.	Returned to Senders and Delivered.		Paid into Treasury from 64 Letters Destroyed.		On hand at close of Year.		
	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.		
Cash, Notes, and Stamps } Cheques, &c. ...	76	84 7 5	440	366 0 0	516	449 7 5	390	366 16 3	64	32 2 6	63	50 8 8
	80	1,561 1 9	639	15,186 2 3½	719	16,747 8 11½	636	13,027 4 2½	63	3,119 19 8
Total ...	156	1,645 9 2	1,079	15,551 2 2½	1,235	17,196 11 4½	1,026	13,394 0 6½	64	32 2 6	95	3,170 8 4

PROPOSED ALTERATION IN THE POSTAL LAW.

A Bill was passed during last Session by the House of Assembly amending the *Post Office Statute* 1866. This Bill was rejected by the Legislative Council, and therefore it is not necessary to do more for the purposes of this Report than to place on record the leading features of the measure.

The Bill provided for—

The reduction of postage on Inland newspapers, and on newspapers sent out of the colony by private ship from one penny to a halfpenny;

The reduction of the Postage rates on all Intercolonial letters, and on Foreign letters sent by private ship, from sixpence to threepence;

The reduction in the Postage rates on ship packets to one penny per ounce;

The reduction of the minimum weight of Inland packets from four to two ounces;

The issue of a penny Post Card;

And generally for amending the existing law, with a view to the convenience of the public and the better administration of the Post Office Department.

NEW POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

Thirty-two new Post Offices were opened in 1871 at the undermentioned places :—

Ballance	Hazelglen	Nirranda	Stockyard Creek
Briagolong	Kiewa	Powlett Plains	Tahara
Carpentait	Kolora	Powlett's Hill	Talangatta
East Shelbourne	Main Lead	Redhill	Toolern
East Trentham	Major Plains	Rosebrook	Warrambine
Eurambeen	Mount Cameron	Shady Creek	Warrenmang
Geelong East	Mount Wallace	Shelbourne	Wendouree
Greenvale	Muddy Creek Bridge	Sorrento	Wyuna.

Five Post Offices were closed, viz. :—Lake Hindmarsh, Leviathan Reef, McMahon's Creek, Merrijig, and Talbotville.

The names of the following offices have been changed :—Boggy Creek to "Bulumwal;" Bridgewater to "Cape Bridgewater;" Fiddler's Creek to "Percydale;" Myrtle Creek to "Myrtleford;" and Warrambine to "Hesse."

The Post Office at Ross' Creek, which was closed in October 1869, was re-opened in July 1871.

Dandenong, Eaglehawk, Eldorado, Gaffney's Creek, St. Kilda, Shady Creek, and Terang, have been opened as combined Post and Telegraph Offices.

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

Birregurra	Cranbourne	Meredith	Wodonga.
Bungaroo	Eldorado	Moyston	
Corop	Inverleigh	Walhalla	

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

Birregurra	Dromana	Morrison's Diggings	Riddell's Creek
Corop	East Brighton	Murchison	Sago Hill
Cowes	Eddington	Richmond South	Ullina.

Total number of Post Offices on the 31st December 1871, 706.

The third delivery in the suburbs, which was discontinued in 1869, was resumed on the 1st October 1871. The boundaries of the delivery at Carlton have been extended to Scotchmere street.

Letter deliveries have been established at Bright, Eldorado, Eaglehawk, Mansfield, Seymour, and Wodonga.

BUILDINGS.

Arrangements are in progress for transferring the Central Telegraph Office from William street to a temporary building, now in course of erection, on the vacant portion of land in Elizabeth street the site of the future extension of the permanent building. These arrangements, which it is expected will be completed about the end of May, will effect a considerable saving for rent and other expenses connected with the maintenance of the Central Office as at present. It will also have the effect of economising labor, as the services of the officers now employed in the Telegraph branch at the General Post Office can be made available for other purposes. Moreover, it will greatly facilitate the despatch of business, by concentrating the staff at the Head Office, where all matters pertaining to the administration of the Department have been conducted since the amalgamation of offices in 1869.

It is proposed to open a receiving house at the Custom House, where telegrams may be deposited for transmission by messenger, at regular intervals, to the Central Office for despatch by wire to destination.

The erection of the temporary buildings referred to has, by restricting the area available for out-buildings and yard accommodation, shown the necessity for securing some land immediately adjoining the Post Office reserve, in order to provide for the inevitable requirements of the Department in future years.

OTHER BUILDINGS.

At Ballarat, on 13th March, the Telegraph business was removed to the new public offices, under the same roof with the Post Office and Sub-Treasury.

At Taradale it has been found necessary to rent other and more convenient premises.

Additions and Alterations in Mail arrangements, 1871.

- To and from Darlington and Mortlake, two days a week.
 To and from Beaufort and Main Lead, three days a week.
 To and from Stonyford and Carpendit, once a week.
 To and from Allansford and Nirranda, once a week.
 To and from Moonambel and Warrenmang, three days a week.
 To and from Geelong and East Geelong, daily.
 To and from Durdidwarrah and Mount Wallace, two days a week.
 To and from Ballan and Ballanee, three days a week.
 Extra daily mail to and from Geelong and Queenscliff during the summer season (1st January to 30th April, and 1st December to 31st December).
 To and from Port Albert and Stockyard Creek, once a week.
 To and from Marysville to Jamieson, three days a week, in lieu of Mansfield to Jamieson, three days a week.
 To and from Echuca and Wyuna, once a week.
 To and from Mufchison and Moeroopna, once a week.
 To and from Rye and Sorrento, two days a week.
 To and from Dromana and Red Hill, two days a week.
 To and from Murchison and McMillans, once a week.
 To and from Castlemaine and Chewton, once a day additional.
 Additional mail every day to Fitzroy, St. Kilda, Richmond, Collingwood, South Yarra, and Prahran, and three deliveries to the above and Emerald Hill by letter carrier, instead of two per diem.
 An additional clearance of the letter-boxes at Fitzroy and Collingwood.
 To and from Muckleford and Chinaman's Flat, six days a week.
 To and from Benalla and Mansfield, once a week.
 To and from Castlemaine and Maryborough, six days a week in addition to night mail.
 To and from Moonambel and Warrenmang, three days a week.
 To and from Shelbourne and East Shelbourne, three days a week.
 An additional mail a week from Frankston and Hastings.
 To and from Leigh Road Railway Station and Inverleigh, three days a week.
 To and from Mount Cameron and Mount Greenock, three days a week.
 An additional mail from Stratford to Sale with correspondence for England.
 Additional mail daily to and from Drummond and Glenlyon.
 Additional mail daily to and from Minersrest and Mount Blowhard.
 To and from Inglewood and Powlett Plains, once a week.
 Additional mail daily to and from Newstead and Joyce's Creek.
 To and from Tylden and East Trentham, three days a week.
 To and from Murchison and Moeroopna, once a week.
 Ross Creek to Smythesdale and Avoca to Nattie Yallock re-established.
 Deviation to Brigolong, two days a week.
 Increase of speed of an hour in conveyance of the mails between Dromana, Mornington, and Melbourne.

EXTENSION OF ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH LINES.

The undermentioned extensions have been completed during the past year :—

Wood's Point to Gaffney's Creek	...	12 miles
Camperdown to Terang	...	13 miles
Sandhurst to Eaglehawk	...	5 miles

Additional Wires erected during 1871.

Ballarat to Creswick	...	12 miles
" Beaufort	...	28 miles
Castlemaine to Sandhurst	...	22 miles

Lines in course of Construction to be completed during 1872.

Port Albert to Wilson's Promontory	78 miles
Castlemaine to Fryerstown	... 6 miles
Melbourne to Richmond	... 2 miles (opened 2nd January 1872)
" Emerald Hill	... 1 mile (opened 7th February 1872)
" Hawthorn	... 4 miles
" Brighton	... 11 miles

Wires dispensed with and taken down during 1871.

Third wire between Longwood and Benalla, 40 miles. It is proposed to erect this line between Melbourne and Kilmore, to connect with the Heathcote branch to Sandhurst.

It is also contemplated to dispense with the special wire, 35 miles, to Mornington, and replace Mornington office on the Morse circuit of the Southern Coast line.

Full particulars relating to the Electric Telegraph business will be found appended to this Report.

Pending the opening of the telegraph in connection with the cable at Port Darwin, telegrams have been received for despatch by Mail steamer to Ceylon for transmission to all parts of the world to which the electric telegraph has been extended.

The question of placing the whole of the lines of the colony on open circuit has been under consideration, and from the various reports on the subject there can be no doubt that it is highly desirable steps should be taken in this direction with as little delay as possible. The first outlay has been estimated at £1650, but such an outlay would eventually lead to a more economical working of the lines. The open circuit system, which is in operation in all the European countries, would give increased command of the lines to all stations, and thus afford greater security against interruption to business, from acts of omission or commission by operators, trifling in themselves, but of most serious importance in their consequences, to which the lines are liable under the present system. The probability of electric telegraph communication being shortly opened with England, and of messages being received at night, points to the necessity for the change being immediately effected.

STEAM POSTAL COMMUNICATION.

In September 1871 a Conference of Delegates from the colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, and Queensland, assembled in Melbourne, and agreed to the following terms for the establishment of a Postal Service between the colonies and England:—

The colonies above mentioned to contribute towards the maintenance of two Postal lines—one between London and Sydney by way of Suez, and the other between London and Melbourne by way of San Francisco—a sum not exceeding £123,000 per annum in the following proportions, based on the relative population of such colonies, viz. :—

—	Estimated Population (exclusive of Aborigines).	Proportions Payment.		
		£	s.	d.
Victoria	728,734	54,958	13	3
New South Wales	501,580	37,827	9	5
South Australia	185,626	13,999	6	0
Queensland	115,000	8,672	18	2
Tasmania	100,000	7,541	13	2
	1,630,940	£123,000	0	0

This sum was fixed on the assumption that one-half of the total cost of both services would be borne by the Imperial Government. The following were the conditions upon which the contributions were to have been paid:—

1. Mails to be delivered at destination by each route within 48 days.
2. Steamers by the Suez route to deliver and receive Mails at Glenelg (Holdfast Bay) in South Australia, and in Melbourne. Australian terminus of line, Sydney.
3. Steamers by the San Francisco route to deliver and receive Mails at Moreton Island, Queensland, and at Sydney, New South Wales. Australian terminus of line, Melbourne.
4. Time Table of the two lines to be so arranged as to provide for the arrival and despatch of a Mail every fortnight.

The colony of New Zealand was to have been permitted to join in agreement, on payment of proportion of cost on basis of population and of necessary branch service. The contributions of the colonies would then have stood thus:—

—	Estimated Population (exclusive of Aborigines).	Proportions Payment.		
		£	s.	d.
Victoria	728,734	47,492	11	2
New South Wales	501,580	32,688	12	9
South Australia	185,626	12,097	9	9
Queensland	115,000	7,494	14	0
Tasmania	100,000	6,517	3	0
New Zealand	256,393	16,709	9	4
	1,887,333	£123,000	0	0

Period of contracts to have been for five years certain.

STATEMENT showing Number of Letters Forwarded and Received by Mail Steamers employed in Californian Mail Service.

Period, 1871.	Fiji.		Hondola.		* America and West Indies.		England.		Total.		General Total.
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.	
HALL'S LINE. From 1st May to 26th August, five Mails inwards, five Mails outwards	459	604	34	90	4,067	2,354	...	635	4,560	3,683	8,243
WERN'S LINE. From 25th September to 30th December, four Mails inwards, four Mails outwards	510	...	...	74	4,747	2,153	31	298	5,288	2,525	7,813
											16,056

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH EUROPE AND THE EAST.

The telegraph cable was successfully laid between Java and the Australian shore on 17th November 1871; but, owing to unexpected difficulties retarding the completion of the overland telegraph line between Port Augusta in South Australia and Port Darwin, it is not expected that through communication by wire can be established until the end of July 1872.

It is stated to be the intention of South Australia to establish in the meantime a horse express to convey messages over the unfinished portion of the line, and the most energetic measures have been taken for overcoming the obstacles in the way of this great undertaking.*

MONEY ORDER AND SAVINGS BANK BRANCH.

The number of Money Orders issued during the year was 100,908, against 91,002 in 1870; the difference showing an increase of 9906, or 10·88 per cent.

The number of Money Orders paid during the year was 90,182, against 79,191 in 1870; the difference showing an increase of 10,991, or 13·87 per cent.

The value of the Money Orders issued during the year was £313,223 13s. 3d., against £291,626 3s. 5d. in 1870; the difference showing an increase of £21,597 9s. 10d., or 7·40 per cent.

The value of the Money Orders paid during the year was £290,066 0s. 5d., against 261,871 15s. in 1870; the difference showing an increase of £28,194 5s. 5d., or 10·76 per cent.

The number of new Savings Bank accounts opened during the year was 8864, the number closed 5237; and the number remaining open on the 31st December was 24,804.

The total amount of Deposits received during the year was £292,679 17s. 3d.; and the amount repaid was £229,871 18s. 11d.

The total amount of Interest placed to the credit of the depositors for the year was £11,167 2s. 2d.

The total amount of Balances to the credit of the depositors on the 31st December 1871 was £353,525 4s. 10d.; and at the 31st December 1870, £279,550 4s. 4d.; the difference showing an increase of £73,975 0s. 6d., or 26·46 per cent.

The total number of depositors' accounts at 31st December being 24,804, and the amount of the balances being £353,525 4s. 10d., the average balance was £14 5s. 0½d.

Of the 24,804 accounts remaining open on the 31st December—

20,800 did not exceed £20.

2,222 were above £20 but did not exceed £50

1,014 " £50 " £100

370 " £100 " £150

147 " £150 " £200

251 " £200

* Proposals have been made, and are now under consideration, for running a steamer twice or three times a month with telegrams, between Port Darwin and Normantown, to which place the telegraph lines of Queensland have been extended.

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.
1871.				
January 9	Gippsland Line	Between Sale and Port Albert	1 day	Tree fell on line.
" 13	"	" Rosedale and Walhalla	7 hours	"
" 30	Swan Hill Line	" Inglewood and Kerang	7 "	Post blown down.
February 2	Southern Coast Line	Sandridge and Morrongton	13 "	Defect in test-box at Brighton.
" 7	Gippsland Line	" Rosedale and Walhalla	10 "	Tree fell on line.
April 18	Wood's Point Line	" Benalla and Mansfield	6 "	"
May 2	Gippsland Line	" Rosedale and Sale	7 "	"
" 18	Bright Line	" Beechworth and Bright	6 "	"
June 10	Northern Line	" Rannymede and Sandhurst	8 "	Post blown down.
" 21	Western Line	" Camperdown and Warrambool	5 "	"
" 27	Wood's Point Line	" Wood's Point and Gaffney's Creek	1 day	Trees fell on line.
" 28	Gippsland Line	" Rosedale and Walhalla	8 hours	"
" "	Cape Otway Line	" Geelong and Cape Otway	1 day	"
" 29	"	"	6 hours	"
" 30	North-Eastern Line	" Longwood and Seymour	6 "	"
July 1	Western Line	" Camperdown and Warrambool, and Portland and Mount Gambier	10 "	"
" 5	Southern Coast Line	" Sandridge and Morrongton	4 "	"
" 12	Wood's Point Line	" Benalla and Mansfield	6 "	"
" 15	Gippsland Line	" Shady Creek and Rosedale	6 "	"
" 15, 16	Wood's Point Line	" Wood's Point and Gaffney's Creek	2 days	"
" 18	Swan Hill Line	" Denolly and Tarnagulla	6 hours	"
" "	Cape Otway Line	" Geelong and Cape Otway	1 day	"
" 18-20	Wood's Point Line	" Jamieson and Wood's Point	23 days	"
" 22	"	" Wood's Point and Gaffney's Creek	4 hours	"
" "	Cross Country Line	" Daylesford and Castlemaine and Daylesford and Creswick	4 "	Wire cut purposely by an axe or chisel 4 miles on both sides of Daylesford office.
August 21, 22	Swan Hill Line	" Inglewood and Kerang	2 days	Tree fell on line.
" 22	Wood's Point Line	" Wood's Point and Gaffney's Creek	1 day	"
" 29, 30	Gippsland Line	" Rosedale and Walhalla	12 hours	"
September 11-14	Cape Otway Line	" Geelong and Cape Otway	4 days	Several trees blown on line; very heavy storm.
" 15	Wood's Point Line	" Benalla and Mansfield	1 day	Tree fell on line.
" 18, 19	Gippsland Line	" Rosedale and Walhalla	18 hours	Instrument at Walhalla injured by lightning.
Nov. 15, 16, and 23	Wood's Point Line	" Benalla and Jamieson	3 days	Trees fell on line.
December 4	Swan Hill Line	" Inglewood and Kerang	9 hours	"
" 7	Wood's Point Line	" Benalla and Mansfield	8 "	"
" 15	Bright Line	" Beechworth and Bright	6 "	"
" 15	Swan Hill Line	" Inglewood and Kerang	1 day	"
May and 6.	Wahgunyah Branch Line	" Yackandandah and Chiltern	6 hours	"
June 2 and 3.	Wood's Point Line	" Jamieson and Wood's Point	6 "	"
June 22, 23	"	" Mansfield and Jamieson	2 1/2 "	"
June 29	Swan Hill Line	" Inglewood and Kerang	9 "	"

REMARKS.

January 13.—All lines affected by atmospheric disturbances. Nos. 4 and 6 wires crossed between Geelong and Ballarat.
 February 4.—North-Eastern line crossed between Wangaratta and Beechworth.
 February 14.—North-Eastern line crossed between Longwood and Benalla.
 February 24 and 25.—All lines affected by atmospheric disturbances.
 March 11, 18, and 24.—North-Eastern lines crossed between Benalla and Wangaratta.
 March 25.—Western lines crossed between Portland and Mount Gambier.
 April 11 and 20.—North-Eastern lines crossed between Wangaratta and Beechworth and Longwood and Benalla.
 May and 6.—All lines affected by atmospheric disturbances.
 May 22, 23, and 24.—Lines crossed between Benalla and Longwood, also crossed between Melbourne and Kilmore.
 June 2 and 3.—Lines crossed between Benalla and Longwood, also between Woodland and Melbourne.
 June 29.—All lines affected by atmospheric disturbances.
 June 22 and 21.—Lines crossed between Beechworth and Woodong and Benalla and Wangaratta.
 June 27.—Lines crossed between Kilmore and Seymour and Wood's Point and Gaffney's Creek.
 July 1, 2, and 3.—Lines crossed between Longwood and Seymour and Longwood and Benalla.
 July 6.—Lines crossed between Melbourne and Werribee.
 July 14.—Lines crossed between Ballarat and Portland.
 July 17.—Lines crossed between Portland and Mount Gambier, also between Castlemaine and Sandhurst.
 July 19 and 20.—Lines crossed between Longwood and Benalla, also between Castlemaine and Sandhurst.
 August 6.—Lines crossed between Geelong and Ballarat and between Benalla and Wangaratta.
 August and 29.—Lines crossed between Geelong and Werribee and Geelong and Colac.

August 29.—Lines crossed between Benalla and Longwood.
 August 30 and 31.—Lines crossed between Benalla and Longwood.
 September 2.—Lines crossed between Wangaratta and Benalla.
 September 27, 28, and 29.—Lines on ground occasionally between Portland and Benalla and Camperdown and Warrambool.
 October 4.—Lines crossed between Benalla and Wangaratta.
 October 5.—Lines on ground occasionally between Benalla and Longwood.
 October 14.—Lines crossed between Benalla and Longwood.
 October 15.—Lines crossed between Geelong and Werribee and Melbourne and Warrambool.
 October 18.—Lines on ground between Portland and Hamilton.
 October 24 and 25.—Lines crossed between Benalla and Longwood.
 October 29 and 31, and November 1.—Lines crossed between Portland and Mount Gambier.
 November 8 and 9.—Lines crossed between Longwood and Seymour and Beechworth and Woodong.
 November 18.—All lines affected by atmospheric disturbances.
 November 22.—Lines crossed between Longwood and Benalla.
 November 23.—Southern Coast line interrupted occasionally.
 December 4 and 5.—Interruption occasionally between Rapin and Ararat and Rapin and Heathcote; several posts blown down; also instrument at Strathgairn injured by lightning.
 December 7.—All lines affected by atmospheric disturbances.
 December 8 and 9.—Lines on ground occasionally between Seymour and Kilmore, and Longwood, Benalla, and Wangaratta.
 December 13.—Lines crossed between Denolly and Maldon. Interruption between Melbourne and Morrongton; defect in instrument at Morrongton.
 December 22.—Lines crossed between Benalla and Wangaratta; also interruption occasionally between Camperdown and Warrambool.
 December 29 and 30.—Lines crossed between Benalla and Wangaratta and between Elford and Beechworth.

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 1871.

Commenced.		Finished.		Average Number of Words per Hour.	Remarks as to the Weather, &c.
Date.	Hour and Minute.	Date.	Hour and Minute.		
1871.					
Jan. 17	7.55 a.m.	Jan. 17	11.23 a.m.	1,800	All lines worked well. Weather fine.
Feb. 15	8.17 p.m.	Feb. 16	1.45 a.m.	1,300	All lines worked well. Weather fine.
March 14	4.15 a.m.	March 14	2 p.m.	700	All lines worked badly. A dense fog veiled out of Warrambool. Great atmospheric disturbances, rendering lines unworkable at intervals for periods of from thirty to forty minutes.
April 10	8.35 a.m.	April 10	12.15 p.m.	1,400	All lines worked well.
May 11	7.10 a.m.	May 11	10.25 a.m.	1,800	All lines worked well.
June 4	7.10 p.m.	June 4	9.40 p.m.	1,800	All lines worked well.
July 2	1 a.m.	July 2	6.35 a.m.	1,600	All lines worked well.
July 29	8 p.m.	July 30	12.25 a.m.	1,700	All lines worked well.
Aug. 26	12.10 p.m.	Aug. 25	3.45 p.m.	1,800	All lines worked well.
Sept. 24	2 p.m.	Sept. 24	5.25 p.m.	1,700	All lines worked well.
Oct. 23	11.5 p.m.	Oct. 24	2.30 a.m.	1,800	All lines worked well.
Nov. 27	2.30 a.m.	Nov. 27	6.46 a.m.	1,000	Line worked badly. Atmospheric disturbances.
Dec. 21	9.30 a.m.	Dec. 21	12.20 p.m.	1,600	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	Campbell's Creek	Guildford	Newbury
Allansford	Caramut	Happy-go-Lucky	Nattie Yallock
Alma	Carlsruhe	Happy Valley	Narrawang
Amphitheatre	Castle Reef	Harriotville	Northcote
Apsley	Catheart	Harrow	Omeo
Ascot	Cavendish	Hepburn	Oudit
Avenel	Cobden	Heywood	Orford
Azedale	Cressy	Hillsborough	Piggoreet
Alexandra	Charlton	Hinds	Pyslong
Avon Plains	Coghill's Creek	Huntly	Pentridge
Bacchus Marsh	Cooper's Creek	Hawthorn	Prahran
Bairnsdale	Carlton	Heidelberg	Raywood
Balmoral	Caulfield	Indigo	Redbank
Barfold	Darlingford	Inverleigh	Redcastle
Baringbup	Darlington	Jones' Creek	Redjacket
Barker's Creek	Donnelly's Creek	Jordan	Rokewood
Bealiba	Doon	Kingower	Rushworth
Branxholme	Dunkeld	Kingston	Richmond
Break-o'-Day	Deptford	Koroit	Sandford
Bridgewater	Diggersrest	Keilor	Sandy Creek, Owens
Bridgewater-on-London	Eddington	Kew	Shepparton
Broadford	Edwards' Reef	Lake Bolac	Skipston
Buangor	Eldorado	Lake Hindmarsh	Smeaton
Buckland	Elmhurst	Lancefield	Snowy Creek
Bulldog Flat	Enoch's Point	Landsborough	Stanley
Bullock Creek	Epsom	Lauriston	Stratford
Bungaree	Estcourt	Learmonth	South Yarra
Ballan	Evansford	Leviathan Reef, Black River	Tarravongee
Barkly	Emerald Hill	Lexton	Ten-mile House
Bendoc	Essendon	Macarthur	Toongabbie
Boggy Creek	Framlingham	Mack's Creek	Traalgon
Burnt Creek	Franklinford	Maidentown	Tylden
Burrumbett	Fryerstown	Marong	Trentham
Byaduk	Flemington	Matlock	Toorak
Bellarine	Footscray	Merino	Upper Dargo
Birregurra	Frankston	Mollisgul	Vanghan
Bullarook	Glendarnel	Morton Plains	Violettown
Brathen	Glengower	Mount Blackwood	Wedderburn
Berwick	Glenyoa	Mount Bolton	Whipstick
Brighton	Glenorely	Mount Kerston	Wickliffe
Brighton South	Glenthompson	Mount Jeffcott	Wildduck Creek
Brighton East	Golden Point	Myer's Creek	Woolshed
Broadmeadows	Goldshoro' Reef	Moonee Ponds	Winchelsea
Brunswick	Great Western	Morung, Yan Yean	Yambuk
California Gully	Gooley's Creek	Mordialloc	Yandoit
Cambrian Hill	Growler's Creek	Newbridge	Yea

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 Office.	Name of Station.	Branch Line.	Name of Station.	Extent in Miles.	
SOUTHERN COAST LINE ..	187	Melbourne				
		General Post Office				
		Williamstown				
		Geelong				
		Queercliff				
WESTERN COAST LINE ..	393	Point Lonsdale				
		Sandridge				
		Cape Schanck				
		Flinders				
		Mount Gambier				
COAST COUNTRY—WESTERN LINE ..	315	Perth				
		Warmanboal				
		Camperdown	Terang Branch	Terang	13 from Camperdown	
		Geelong	Beaufort Branch	Beaufort	28 from Ballarat	
		Ballarat	Buninyong Branch	Buninyong	7 from Ballarat	
CAPE OTWAY LINE ..	149	Ballarat	Linton Branch	Linton	23 from Ballarat	
		Beaufort	Sebastopol Branch	Sebastopol	3 from Ballarat	
		Stratham	Stawell Branch	Stawell	49 from Beaufort	
		Hexham	Mortlake Branch	Mortlake	9 from Hexham	
		Perth	Portland Branch	Portland	55 from Hamilton	
COAST COUNTRY LINE ..	318	Hamilton				
		Coleraine				
		Gasterton				
		Otway				
		Creswick				
SWAN HILL LINE ..	231	Daylesford				
		Maldon				
		Dunolly				
		Carisbrook				
		Maryborough	Clunes Branch	Talbot	50 from Maryborough	
NORTHERN LINE ..	165	Avena	Majores Branch	Majores	11 from Maryborough	
		Stuartmill				
		St. Arnaud				
		Tarnagulla				
		Ingleswood				
NORTH-EASTERN LINE ..	209	Kerang				
		Swan Hill				
		Collingwood				
		Kyneton				
		Melbourne				
OUPVELAND LINE ..	181	Tasdale	Newstead Branch	Newstead	10 from Castlemaine	
		Castlemaine	Eaglehawk Branch	Eaglehawk	8 from Sandhurst	
		Sandhurst				
		Echuca				
		Kilmore	Heathcote Branch	Heathcote	31 from Kilmore 29 from Sandhurst	
NORTH-EASTERN LINE ..	209	Seymour				
		Longwood				
		Benalla	Wood's Point Branch	Manfield	45 from Benalla	
		Wangaratta	Godfrey's Creek Branch	Godfrey's Creek	13 from Wood's Point	
		Benalla	Eldorado Branch	Eldorado	10 from Wangaratta	
OUPVELAND LINE ..	181	Beechworth	Wahgunyah Branch	Yackandandah	59 from Beechworth	
		Wodonga	Bright Branch	Chiltern	30 from Beechworth	
		Albury		Northanger		
		Dandenong		Bright		
		Steady Creek				
NORTHERN LINE ..	154	Rosefield	Walhalla Branch	Walhalla	32 from Rosefield	
		Sale	Bairnsdale Branch	Bairnsdale	43 from Sale	
		Port Albert				
		RAILWAY CIRCUIE.				
NORTHERN LINE ..	154	Spencer street				
		Sunbury				
		New Guborne				
		Woodend				
		Castlemaine				
WESTERN LINE ..	97½	Sandhurst				
		Russhymede				
		Echuca				
		Williamstown Pier				
		Williamstown Junction	Special Wires	Melbourne to Mornington (1)	203	
Werribee		Melbourne to St. Kilda (1)	26			
Little River		Melbourne to Emerald Hill	3			
Geelong		Melbourne to Richmond ..	1			
Norelth		Balranat to Creswick ..	12			
Balranat West		Castlemaine to Sandhurst ..	22			

Showing a total of 100 stations or offices; 378½ miles of line, provided with 3460 miles of wire.

APPENDIX G.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1870 and 1871, and Number of Messages Transmitted from each Office during the Year 1871.

Name of Station.	Date of Opening Office.	Number of Messages Transmitted in 1871.	Revenue 1870.		Revenue 1871.		Increase 1871.		Decrease 1871.	
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Melbourne	Mar. 1854	109,537	10,972	15 7	11,537	2 6	564	6 11	...	...
Melbourne, General Post Office	April 1869	38,952	3,649	7 11	4,217	13 7	568	5 8	...	...
Ararat	Nov. 1853	4,900	231	17 5	252	16 7	20	19 2	...	...
Avoca	Mar. 1859	2,403	129	16 3	140	16 8	11	0 5	...	...
Bairnsdale	July 1869	3,464	238	12 3	239	2 11	0	10 8	...	...
Ballarat	Dec. 1856	49,877	3,585	2 10	3,301	0 1	...	...	284	2 9
Beaufort	Mar. 1858	1,162	63	5 6	63	18 2	0	12 8	...	...
Beechwerth	Jan. 1858	8,391	808	14 0	758	14 11	...	...	49	19 1
Belfast	Mar. 1858	7,053	393	9 11	358	13 9	...	...	34	16 2
Benalla	May 1859	2,415	121	2 0	115	4 8	...	...	5	17 4
Bright	Aug. 1867	2,181	159	17 9	147	1 11	...	...	12	15 10
Baninyong	Oct. 1862	660	26	6 1	34	2 9	7	16 8	...	...
Camperdown	Oct. 1863	2,772	246	4 2	207	6 8	...	...	38	17 6
Cape Otway*	Sep. 1859	730	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cape Schanck	Sep. 1861	565	4	7 5	...	...	...	...	2	0 9
Carisbrook	Jan. 1861	954	50	10 6	53	2 2	...	...	2	11 8
Casterton	July 1855	1,484	111	15 8	95	4 3	...	...	...	...
Castlemaine	Jan. 1857	10,418	461	4 10	606	9 5	145	4 7	...	...
Chiltern	Mar. 1861	2,083	161	14 4	139	10 1	...	...	29	4 3
Clunes	Feb. 1861	5,441	402	17 11	339	11 8	...	...	63	6 3
Colac	Aug. 1863	2,169	129	13 1	142	11 3	21	18 2	...	...
Colebrook	Aug. 1867	2,237	158	15 11	160	10 4	1	14 5	...	...
Collingwood	Nov. 1865	2,212	115	12 9	143	0 2	27	7 5	...	...
Crosswick	Aug. 1859	3,029	216	15 10	208	0 10	...	...	8	15 0
Dandenong	June 1871	390	New Office	...	20	17 7	...	...	...	...
Daylesford	Aug. 1859	6,594	411	12 9	408	13 11	...	...	2	18 10
Demolly	Aug. 1859	2,637	169	19 10	173	8 11	12	9 1	...	...
Eaglehawk	Oct. 1871	239	New Office	...	13	1 0	...	...	13	1 0
Echuca	Dec. 1858	7,189	493	4 11	441	8 6	...	...	51	16 5
Eldorado	July 1871	1,375	New Office	...	92	14 8	92	14 8	...	...
Flinders†	May 1869	392	In Melb. return	...	6	1 3	...	...	6	1 3
Gauffney's Creek	May 1871	682	New Office	...	43	3 2	43	3 2	...	...
Geelong	Dec. 1854	17,488	1,264	10 8	1,292	7 9	27	17 1	...	...
Hamilton	Mar. 1861	6,895	445	3 11	457	4 7	...	...	8	0 8
Henthote	Oct. 1859	1,404	82	19 9	82	1 7	...	...	0	18 2
Hexham	April 1858	594	36	4 3	36	2 3	...	...	0	2 0
Inglewood	Oct. 1861	3,104	131	4 1	168	18 1	37	14 0	...	...
Jameson	June 1865	1,850	90	12 9	94	3 3	3	10 6	...	...
Kerang	Aug. 1863	506	38	9 3	28	19 4	...	...	9	9 11
Kilmore	Oct. 1857	2,518	120	4 1	125	19 4	5	15 3	...	...
Kyneton	April 1857	4,574	201	15 2	241	3 1	39	7 11	...	...
Linton	Oct. 1868	648	39	1 0	39	12 2	0	11 2	...	...
Longwood	Nov. 1857	1,068	55	7 4	66	11 5	1	4 1	...	...
Majorca	April 1870	1,009	50	12 5	35	15 8	5	3 3	...	...
Maldon	Aug. 1859	1,563	102	14 1	110	6 10	7	12 9	...	...
Malmesbury	Oct. 1865	1,019	43	18 6	45	14 4	1	15 10	...	...
Mansfield	Nov. 1868	2,734	136	10 11	152	16 11	16	6 0	...	...
Maryborough	April 1859	5,165	287	9 4	325	5 8	37	16 4	...	...
Mornington	Mar. 1861	865	33	4 1	47	3 0	13	18 11	...	...
Mortlake	June 1864	1,650	95	3 4	104	11 9	9	8 5	...	...
Newstead	Oct. 1863	629	29	12 1	32	7 10	2	15 9	...	...
Penshurst	Jan. 1867	1,303	68	19 6	79	5 7	10	6 1	...	...
Port Albert	Dec. 1864	2,893	98	11 5	159	14 2	61	2 9	...	...
Portland	Feb. 1858	5,067	308	13 8	326	12 0	17	18 4	...	...
Queenscliff	Jan. 1855	6,655	89	2 4	100	14 0	11	11 8	...	...
Rosedale	Mar. 1867	1,216	12	6 0	66	17 11	...	...	54	8 1
Rutherglen	Aug. 1862	1,696	89	5 8	101	4 9	11	19 1	...	...
St. Arnaud	Jan. 1865	1,528	98	15 4	105	14 5	6	19 1	...	...
St. Kilda	Feb. 1871	1,335	New Office	...	104	18 9	104	18 9	...	...
Sale	Sep. 1864	7,493	506	8 8	560	11 1	54	2 5	...	...
Sandhurst	Jan. 1857	45,863	1,154	10 5	3,088	11 0	1,934	0 7	...	...
Sandridge	July 1855	1,078	74	3 10	82	10 9	8	6 11	...	...
Sebastopol	Jan. 1870	642	25	14 5	36	5 4	9	10 11	...	...
Seymour	June 1865	1,743	72	0 8	85	4 10	13	4 2	...	...
Shady Creek	Jan. 1871	442	New Office	...	24	12 10	24	12 10	...	...
Smythesdale	June 1863	2,227	107	18 4	120	4 8	12	6 4	...	...
Stawell	Oct. 1861	5,769	355	17 10	365	10 0	9	12 2	...	...
Streatham	July 1858	913	48	11 7	53	2 2	4	10 7	...	...
Stuartmill	Dec. 1869	875	135	0 6	52	0 3	...	...	83	0 3
Swan Hill	April 1863	1,442	75	1 9	73	19 2	...	...	1	2 7
Serpentine Creek†	...	...	3	5 0	...	...	...	...	3	5 0
Talbot	Dec. 1860	4,192	271	8 3	257	16 11	...	...	13	11 4
Tarnadine	Nov. 1861	978	51	10 3	49	3 0	...	...	2	7 3
Tarnagulla	Nov. 1860	1,674	155	13 1	102	7 3	...	...	53	5 10
Terang	Nov. 1871	134	New Office	...	7	5 11	...	...	7	5 11
Wahgunyah	Feb. 1861	3,538	224	19 8	190	15 7	...	...	34	4 1
Walhalla	Nov. 1870	5,019	61	10 7	315	2 9	253	12 2	...	...
Wangaratta	July 1858	4,900	303	2 5	290	6 0	...	...	12	16 5
Warnambool	Mar. 1858	12,396	763	5 3	799	7 1	36	1 10	...	...
Williamstown	Mar. 1854	2,855	182	15 1	207	17 11	25	2 10	...	...
Wodonga	Jan. 1858	944	83	11 11	59	3 10	...	...	24	8 1
Wood's Point	Oct. 1865	3,217	163	11 10	188	18 5	25	6 7	...	...
Yaokandah	Feb. 1861	1,257	96	7 1	77	12 1	...	...	18	15 0

* The collections included in Melbourne return.—† January to May collections are included in Melbourne return.—‡ Serpentine Station closed 3rd Feb. 1870.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1870 and 1871, and Number of Messages Transmitted from each Office during the Year 1871—continued.

Name of Station.	Date of Opening Office.	Number of Messages Transmitted in 1871.	Revenue 1870.	Revenue 1871.	Increase 1871.	Decrease 1871	
RAILWAY CIRCUIT.							
Ballarats West	July 1863	940	£ s. d. 20 16 4	£ s. d. 19 3 6	...	£ s. d. 1 12 10	
Castlemaine	July 1863	1,602	19 3 1	20 2 3	0 19 2	...	
Echuca	June 1865	4,249	57 15 10	58 15 11	1 0 1	...	
Geelong	April 1862	2,996	40 11 8	44 17 0	4 5 4	...	
Little River	Nov. 1862	4,282	13 18 4	7 14 10	...	£ s. d. 6 3 6	
Meredith	April 1867	1,039	35 2 6	28 0 11	...	£ s. d. 7 1 7	
New Gisborne	July 1868	589	24 11 4	26 17 7	2 6 3	...	
Runnymede	June 1865	3,244	56 6 8	54 18 10	...	£ s. d. 1 7 10	
Sandhurst	July 1863	2,738	37 0 2	73 1 11	36 1 9	...	
Spencer street, Melbourne ...	Oct. 1861	9,777	201 4 6	303 16 3	102 11 9	...	
Sunbury	Feb. 1867	1,323	18 17 11	25 6 7	11 8 8	...	
Werrisbee	April 1862	6,904	20 6 0	27 14 2	7 8 2	...	
Williamstown Junction	April 1862	4,110	3 4 8	4 1 9	0 17 1	...	
Williamstown Railway Pier ...	Jan. 1870	1,012	10 0 6	16 16 4	6 15 10	...	
Woodend	Oct. 1861	1,585	33 3 5	39 1 6	5 18 1	...	
Ravenwood * ... ..	...	...	0 10 8	...	...	£ s. d. 0 10 8
Point Lonsdale †	Oct. 1861	...	...	...	...	...
			537,398	33,145 10 4	36,941 17 1	4,793 18 0	907 11 3

* Ravenwood closed March 1870.

† Look-out Shipping Station; no revenue collected.

APPENDIX I.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

STATISTICS of Business from 1854 to 1871, inclusive.

Year.	Cash Revenue.	Charge for Government Telegrams.	Number of Government Telegrams.	Total Number of Telegrams.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
1854	223 2 7	1,037 0 5	1,570	3,869
1855	3,162 13 11	3,074 11 8	2,569	12,241
1856	3,225 13 5	2,422 2 3	2,685	13,174
1857	10,024 16 10	3,023 12 2	6,628	60,058
1858	16,474 17 10	10,126 15 10	17,834	131,486
1859	25,249 17 0	21,301 8 7	31,699	197,320
1860	24,955 18 2	21,370 12 2	49,918	167,872
1861	25,217 5 4	8,566 13 11	40,818	184,688
1862	26,834 19 8	15,466 0 9	49,038	211,495
1863	25,768 15 8	18,289 8 2	78,038	234,520
1864	30,601 17 11	14,375 12 0	71,939	256,380
1865	35,767 17 4	11,546 19 3	68,946	279,741
1866	36,178 17 4	12,829 16 0	63,506	277,787
1867	29,148 12 2	6,588 18 0	59,887	235,648
1868	31,058 6 8	9,916 1 11	57,047	276,677
1869	34,183 0 5	10,460 10 7	57,966	277,132
1870	33,145 10 4	5,996 12 9	60,634	454,598
1871	36,941 17 1	5,244 7 7	63,877	537,998
Total	428,163 19 8	181,607 4 0	784,589	3,812,274

APPENDIX J.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

EXPENDITURE under control of Public Works Department.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total Expenditure for Lines, Stations, &c., up to 31st December 1870 ... ..	...	299,873 1 5
EXPENDITURE DURING 1871.		
Main Extension of Lines 1st January to 30th June	£1,968 13 4	
(computed) 1st July to 31st December	2,250 0 0*	
		4,218 13 4
New Buildings and Repairs to Existing Buildings, 1st January to 30th June	£3,709 10 3	
(computed) 1st July to 31st December	2,500 0 0*	
		6,209 10 3
		10,428 3 7
CURRENT EXPENDITURE DURING 1871.		
Rent of Market Square Telegraph Office and Insurance ... ..	...	810 4 0
Rent of Temporary Offices ... ..	...	1,190 0 0
		2,009 4 0

* Owing to the change in the financial year, the expenditures to 31st December can only be approximately stated.

APPENDIX K.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

RETURN showing Net Revenue from 1st January to 31st December 1871.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cash receipts paid into Treasury from 1st January to 31st December 1871 ...	36,941	17	1			
Less amount due to other Colonies on account of intercolonial business for same period:						
New South Wales £2,033	17	2				
South Australia	165	12	0			
Bass Cable Company	892	17	4			
	3,092	6	6			
Amount due by other Colonies on account of intercolonial business for same period:						
Queensland £59	0	3				
Tasmania	48	14	9			
				107	15	0
						33,849 10 7
						33,957 5 7

APPENDIX L.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

STATEMENT showing the Amount of Business Transmitted through the Bass's Straits Cable.
From 1st January to 31st December 1871.

Date.	Number of Messages.	Value.
1st January to 31st December 1871	8,128	£3,430 15s. 4d.

APPENDIX M.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

EXTENSION of Telegraph Lines in other Colonies during 1871, and Lines in progress.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Extension of line from Bathurst to Carcoar, 31½ miles.	Proposed line from Tamworth to Fort Bourke.
" " Penrith to Bathurst (third wire), 103½ miles.	" " Cassilis to Coolah.
" " Mudgee to Gulgong, 11 miles.	" " Grafton to Laurence.
" " Wyandah to Casino, 19 miles.	
" " Tambarcoora to Hill End, 3 miles.	
" " Maitland to Armidale (second wire).	

QUEENSLAND.

Length of lines in 1871, 2,229 miles.	Proposed line from Springsure <i>via</i> Tambo and Charleville, following course of the Warrego to Cunnamulla, 350 miles.
Extension of line from Cardwell to Normanton, 393 miles.	" " Roma to St. George, 115 miles.
" " Warwick to Gondiwindi, 144 miles.	" " to Ravenswood, 50 miles.
" " Clermont to Springsure, 105 miles.	

TASMANIA.

Extension of line to New Norfolk, 9 miles.	Proposed, <i>nil</i> .
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No extension of line during 1871 except the Adelaide and Port Darwin line, which will probably be completed about the end of July 1872. No definite information has been received as to progress made up to present time. The length of this line from Adelaide to Port Darwin will be about 1,660 miles, with 12 stations in circuit.	Proposed, <i>nil</i> .
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APPENDIX N.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

EUROPE AND THE EAST.

BRITISH, INDIAN, AND AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH ROUTE.

	No of Miles.	Cable Laid.	
Falmouth to Gibraltar <i>via</i> Lisbon	1,061	1,154	Land line.
Gibraltar to Malta	1,008	1,120	
Malta to Alexandria	828	924	
Alexandria to Suez	224	...	
Suez to Aden	1,346	1,462	
Aden to Bombay	1,662	1,819	
Bombay to Madras	600	...	
Madras to Penang	1,280	1,409	
Penang to Singapore	399	405	
Singapore to Batavia	553	565	
Batavia to Banjoewang	480	...	
Banjoewang to Port Darwin	1,030	1,186	
Port Darwin to Port Augusta, S.A.	1,400	...	
Port Augusta to Adelaide	200	...	
Adelaide to Mount Gambier	300	...	
Mount Gambier to Melbourne	303	...	
	12,734	10,044	

Total length of cable, including slack 10,044 miles

Ditto land line 3,667 "

Total 13,611 "

The cable between Banjoewang and Port Darwin was laid on the 17th November 1871, and now only awaits the completion of the South Australian land line in order to place the Australian colonies in telegraphic communication with Europe, America, and the East.

1872.

VICTORIA.

REDUCED SCALE OF CHARGES ON TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES

SENT

FROM VICTORIA TO THE EXCHANGE COMPANY, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

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

THE Governor in Council has been pleased to approve of Telegraphic Messages, intended for publication at the Exchange Rooms for the information of the public, being sent from Victoria to the Exchange Company, Sydney, at the same rates as are now charged for Press Messages transmitted between Victoria and New South Wales, viz. :—One shilling and sixpence (1s. 6d.) for the first ten words, and one and a half penny ($1\frac{1}{2}$ d.) for each additional word.

(Signed) M. O'GRADY.

Post Office and Telegraph Department,
Melbourne, 30th April 1872.

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PRESS TELEGRAMS.

RATES CHARGEABLE ON PRESS TELEGRAMS WITHIN VICTORIA.

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

RATES CHARGEABLE ON PRESS TELEGRAMS WITHIN VICTORIA.

THE Governor in Council has been pleased to approve of the following Rates being charged in future on Press Messages sent by Telegraph within Victoria:—

Between 8.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Ten words and under	...	...	...	Sixpence.
And for every additional word	...	...	...	One halfpenny.

Between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

One hundred words and under	...	...	...	One shilling and sixpence.
And for every additional fifty words or under	...	...	...	Sixpence.

Between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m.

One hundred words and under	...	...	...	Two shillings and sixpence.
And for every additional fifty words or under	...	...	...	One shilling.

EDWARD LANGTON.

Post Office and Telegraph Department,
General Post Office, Melbourne, 30th October 1872.