

1873.
—
VICTORIA.

REPORT

ON THE

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1872.

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

By Authority:

JOHN FERRIS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

REPORT.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

There was a considerable increase in the business of the Department during 1872.

The gross receipts for Postages, Money Order Commission, &c., amounted to £141,690, showing an increase of £11,699 over the year 1871.

The gross receipts of the Electric Telegraph Branch amounted to £42,617, being £5676 in excess of the amount collected during the previous year.

The principal sources of the increased Postal Revenue were, the Inland correspondence, Colonial ship letters, and Inland newspapers, which are estimated to have increased about 11 per cent., 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and 7 per cent. respectively. There has been an increase of 11 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. in the number of registered letters.

In the Electric Telegraph business there was in 1872 an increase of nearly 17 per cent. in the Victorian private messages over the number transmitted in 1871, and in the Intercolonial messages an increase of 14 per cent.

On comparing the total number of messages transmitted over the Victorian lines of telegraph and the revenue collected during the year 1869—the year before the reduction of the rates—with the transactions in 1872, the following is the result :—

		Number of Messages transmitted.		Gross Revenue.
1869	...	300,919	...	£34,183
1872	...	639,960	...	42,617

The increase of business is no doubt due almost entirely to the reduction in rates, and so far the result may be considered satisfactory ; but the fact must not be overlooked that, in consequence of the more general and frequent use of the telegraph wires, the working staff has necessarily been augmented, and that although in the third year under the lower rates the receipts have increased by £8434, as shown above, this addition to the revenue has not been secured without a large additional outlay, which up to the end of the year 1872 may be estimated at £7250.

Expenditure.

The gross expenditure of the Department on account of the year 1872 was £292,623, or £27,498 in excess of that of the previous year.

The Inland Mail Service cost £14,197 more in 1872 than in 1871 ; salaries and wages, including increments under the Civil Service Act, £5450 ; and contingencies, £4213 ; this latter item including the purchase-money of extra telegraph instruments and materials for placing the telegraph lines of the colony under the open circuit system. (See fol. 11, Post Office Report 1871.)

The Ocean Mail Service shows an increase of £2710 ; and the collections on account of other Governments have been heavier.

A further statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Department will be found at page 21 of this Report.

The following Return shows the Estimated Number of Letters, Packets, and Newspapers Received and Despatched during 1872.

Number of Post Offices.	Inland Letters.	SHIP LETTERS.				Total Letters.
		Despatched.		Received.		
		Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.	
	11,000,000	441,500	521,496	426,544	551,455	12,941,095
733	Inland Packets.	SHIP PACKETS.				Total Packets.
		Despatched.		Received.		
		Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.	
	452,711	32,148	13,421	10,671	47,535	556,486
	Inland Newspapers.	SHIP NEWSPAPERS.				Total Newspapers.
		Despatched.		Received.		
		Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.	
	2,998,633	392,016	610,425	239,608	1,250,090	5,490,772

Number of letters registered in Victoria in 1872, 126,925.

DEAD AND IRREGULARLY POSTED LETTERS.

The following Returns show the Number of Letters, &c., received and dealt with in the Dead Letter Branch during the Year 1872.

Year.	Received.				How disposed of.		
	Unclaimed.		Irregularly Posted.	Total.	Returned and Delivered.	Destroyed, &c.	Total.
	Victorian.	Intercolonial and Foreign.					
1872 ...	85,926	22,962	22,132	131,020	118,685	12,335	131,020
				Being an increase over previous year of 24,489 in all; thus— 13,914 Dead Letters 197 I.P. Letters 10,371 from Wrecked Mail 24,689 increase over the year 1871			

These numbers include 10,577 letters (569 of which were registered) recovered from the wreck of the mail steamer *Responso*, and dealt with in the Dead Letter Office; 1540 registered letters are also included, 171 of which contained enclosures of value (amount as below), 27 enclosed articles, and 1362 were without valuable contents, or the value of contents not known to the Department.

Fifty-one ordinary letters also contained articles of value.
Twenty-five letters were posted during the year with blanks or libellous addresses.
One hundred and twenty-two of the "Irregularly Posted" letters bore no name or address whatever, and 518 had imperfect addresses; these letters could not, in consequence, be forwarded to their intended destinations. The remainder under this heading were unpaid, or insufficiently paid letters, including 1976 valentines.

Sixty-one letters were ascertained to bear wrong addresses, and some of these contained enclosures, the total value of which was nearly £600. The errors of the posters in these cases were corrected in the office where practicable, and where that was not possible the letters were returned to the writers or otherwise disposed of.

In addition to the above number of letters, 2526 packets were also dealt with during the year.
Seventy-two packets and papers were received, posted in the colony in violation of the Postal Statute, in which, amongst other things enclosed, may be mentioned bottles of medicine, oil, wine, oysters, &c., &c.

RETURN showing the Number of Registered and Unregistered Letters, &c., containing Value received and dealt with in the Dead Letter Branch during the Year 1872.

Year 1872.	Received.					How dealt with.						
	Registered.		Ordinary.		Total.	Returned, Delivered, &c.		Paid into Treasury from say 112 Letters Destroyed.	On Hand at Close of Year.			
	No.	Value of Contents.	No.	Value of Contents.		No.	Value of Contents.		No.	Value of Contents.		
Cash, Notes, and Stamps	93	£ 836 10 9	405	£ 437 10 10	580	£ 1,274 1 7	447	£ 450 15 9	112	£ 790 19 5	30	£ 32 6 5
Cheques, Drafts, &c.	78	£ 3,325 11 2	733	£ 15,439 2 6	811	£ 17,764 13 8	795	£ 15,395 18 6	...	...	16	£ 2,368 15 2
Totals	171	£ 3,162 1 11	1,229	£ 15,876 13 4	1,400	£ 19,038 15 3	1,242	£ 15,846 14 3	112	£ 790 19 5	46	£ 2,401 1 7

NOTE.—Includes the sum of £738 4s. 7d. realized at sale by auction of jewellery, &c., received through the post in violation of the Customs law of the colony; also the balance of cash, notes, and stamps on hand, and cheques, &c., dealt with from previous year.

NEW POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

Thirty-one new Post Offices were opened in 1872 at the undermentioned places :—

Aberfeldy	Flynn's Creek	Lower Buckland	Tooborac
Avoca Forest	Glenmaggie	Lyall	Toolleen
Clarke's Hill	Gre-gre	Maroona	Wallington
Colbinabbin	Kalyrna	Maryfield	Wauru Ponds
Dargalong	Karabel	Moutajup	Wooragee
Diamond Hill	Kilmore East	North Redesdale	Yackandandah Junction
Drik-drik	Kimberley	Pirron Yaloak	Yarraville.
Drung-drung	Lake Town	Rockbank	

Six Post Offices were closed, viz. :—Bullock Creek, Doutta Galla, Gipsy Village, Lingham's Flat, Merrimac, and Wyuna.

The names of the following offices have been changed :—Ballanee to "Blakeville;" Deep Creek to "Eganstown;" Duck Ponds to "Hovell's Creek;" Mount Doran to "Elaine;" Ondit to "Beeac;" Pentland Hills to "Myrniong;" Peter's Diggings to "Carapooee;" and Wordieboluc to "Wensleydale."

The Post Office, Fernshawe, which was closed in December 1869, was re-opened in March 1872.

Brighton, Brunswick, Chewton, Emerald Hill, Fryerstown, Hawthorn, Koroit, Prahran, Richmond, Scarsdale, and South Yarra, have been opened as combined Post and Telegraph Offices.

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

Beeac (Ondit)	Koroit	Wahgunyah
Bullarook	Portarlington	Wickliffe.
Hastings	Terang	

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

Allansford	Hawthorn, Lower (Receiving House)
Berwick	Market street, Melbourne, West (Telegraph Office)
Bullarook	Portarlington
Byaduk	South Brighton.
Harrow	

Total number of Post Offices on the 31st December, 733.

The boundaries of the letter delivery at Richmond have been extended to the Horticultural Gardens. In lieu of one delivery per diem, two deliveries are now made daily at North Fitzroy and North Collingwood.

BUILDINGS.—GENERAL POST OFFICE.

The business of the Central Telegraph Office was, on the 15th July, transferred from the Exchange Buildings, William street, to the temporary building erected on the vacant portion of the General Post Office reserve in Elizabeth street.

On the same date a branch Telegraph Office for the special accommodation of merchants and others carrying on business in the western portion of the city was opened at the Custom House building, Flinders street.

To provide out-buildings and stables, it has been found necessary to rent a portion of premises abutting on the Post Office reserve, and further accommodation is still greatly required.

OTHER BUILDINGS.

The new building at Beaufort has been completed and occupied.

At Hawthorn, a wing of the Town-hall building, erected for a Post and Telegraph Office, with a subsidy from Government, has also been completed and occupied. A Post and Telegraph Office has been erected and occupied at Koroit, near Belfast.

The new building at Brighton will, it is expected, be ready for occupation in April 1873.

A contract has been entered into for erecting a new Post and Telegraph Office at Avoca, and the building is in progress.

Arrangements are in progress for new buildings at Buninyong, Casterton, Castlemaine, Eaglehawk, Majorca, Stawell, and Wangaratta.

New premises have been rented at Emerald Hill, Stawell (for quarters), Stratford, Taradale, and Terang.

Sundry additions, alterations, and repairs have been effected at Cape Otway, Belfast, Benalla, Geelong, Hexham, Longwood, Portland, Queenscliff, Sandhurst, and Sandridge.

Additional iron receiving pillars have been erected at Carlton, Eaglehawk, Emerald Hill, Hotham, Prahra, St. Arnaud, Sandhurst, and Stawell.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

No change has been made in any of the stamps, and no new stamp has been issued this year.

Ninety-six new stamp licenses have been issued, and six revoked, making the total number at present on the books 401, or an increase over last year of nearly 29 per cent.

Since May last an officer of the fourth class of this branch has been engaged in supervising the printing of stamps, retaining under his immediate control the dies, &c., whilst in use.

DENOMINATION, Number, and Value of Postage Stamps Manufactured and Issued at the General Post Office during the Year 1872.

MANUFACTURED.			ISSUED.		
Denomination.	Number.	Value.	Denomination.	Number.	Value.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
One-penny stamps ...	3,414,000	14,225 0 0	One-penny stamps ...	3,393,657	14,140 4 9
One-penny stamped newspaper wrappers ...	497,760	2,074 0 0	One-penny stamped newspaper wrappers ...	494,152	2,038 19 4
Twopenny stamps ...	10,284,000	85,700 0 0	Twopenny stamps ...	10,277,017	85,641 16 2
Twopenny stamped envelopes ...	36,485	304 0 10	Twopenny stamped envelopes	36,485	304 0 10
Twopenny-farthing stamped envelopes ...	4,200	39 7 6	Twopenny-farthing stamped envelopes ...	5,076	47 11 9
Threepenny stamps ...	444,000	5,550 0 0	Threepenny stamps ...	457,613	5,720 3 3
Fourpenny stamps ...	120,000	2,000 0 0	Fourpenny stamps ...	123,857	2,064 5 8
Sixpenny stamps ...	636,000	15,900 0 0	Sixpenny stamps ...	653,686	16,342 3 0
Ninepenny stamps ...	78,000	2,925 0 0	Ninepenny stamps ...	75,601	2,835 0 9
Two-shilling stamps ...	12,000	1,200 0 0	One-shilling stamps ...	85,054	4,252 14 0
			Two-shilling stamps ...	12,994	1,299 8 0
			Five-shilling stamps ...	5,142	1,285 10 0
Totals ...	15,526,445	129,917 8 4	Totals ...	15,620,334	135,991 17 6

INLAND MAILS.

The amount paid for conveyance of Inland Mails, 1872 (exclusive of £7939 12s. 3d. paid to the Department of Railways), was £88,132 11s. 7d., and the gross number of miles travelled with the Mails (deducting 509,994 miles travelled by rail) was 2,920,610, at an average cost of 7½d. per mile.

Contracts for the Inland Mail Service have been entered into for a period of eighteen months, from 1st January 1873 to 30th June 1874. Average cost per mile, 7d., exclusive of railway service.

Additions and Alterations in Mail Arrangements, 1872.

To and from Rye and Sorrento, once a week additional during summer months.

To and from Melbourne, Oakleigh, Springvale, and Dandenong, twice a day (once a day additional service).

To and from Murchison and Seymour, daily.

To and from Tatyoon and Ross' Bridge, twice a week.

To and from Stawell and Glenorchy, daily.

Mails from Belfast, Warrnambool, &c., despatched from Belfast 10 a.m. instead of midnight, due in Melbourne 10.40 a.m., instead of 11.13 p.m.
 To and from Toolleen and Clare Inn, twice a week.
 To and from Durdidwarrah and Steiglitz, three days a week, in lieu of daily.
 To and from Melton and Rockbank, two days a week.
 To and from St. Arnaud and Gre-gre, once a week.
 To and from Moonambel and Kimberley, three days a week.
 To and from Dunkeld and Karabeal, once a week.
 To and from Lancefield Road, Romsey, and Duck Holes, twice a day.
 To and from Melbourne and Frankston, twice a day.
 To and from Brighton and Beaumaris, discontinued.
 To and from Ballarat and Clarke's Hill, daily.
 To and from Matlock, Aberfeldy, and Walhalla, three days a week.
 To and from Camperdown and Lismore, twice a week.
 To and from Port Albert and Stockyard Creek, three days a week (additional service one day a week).
 Deviation to Drik-drik on Haywood and Dartmoor service.
 To and from Burrumbeet and Bo-peep, twice a week.
 To and from Durdidwarrah and Mount Wallace, three days a week (one day additional frequency).
 To and from Melbourne and Seymour, twice a day (once a day additional frequency).
 Deviation to Kalymna on Moyston and Watganja service.
 To and from Lower Hawthorn and Upper Hawthorn, twice a day.
 Additional mail daily to and from Scarsdale and Melbourne, extra daily mail during summer season (1st November to 31st March).

EXTENSION OF ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH LINES.

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

Castlemaine to Fryerstown	6 miles	Melbourne to Hawthorn ...	4 miles
Smythesdale to Scarsdale	3 miles	" Brighton ...	7 miles
Belfast to Koroit	... 9 miles	" South Yarra	2 miles
Castlemaine to Chewton ...	3 miles	" Prahran ...	3 miles
Melbourne to Richmond ...	2 miles	" Brunswick ...	3 miles
" Emerald Hill	1 mile		

Additional Wires erected during 1872.

Melbourne to Longwood (Railway Service), 91 miles.

On the opening of the several sections of the North-Eastern Railway, it became necessary to furnish the means for telegraphic communication between Melbourne and the new stations, and, as a temporary arrangement, loops have been constructed from the North-Eastern telegraph line to Donnybrook, Wallan-wallan, Kilmore, and Seymour stations on the line of railway.

A special wire has also been run for the use of the Railway Department to Newmarket and Essendon.

Loops will be required at Avenel, Longwood, Euroa, Violet Town, Benalla, Glenrowan, Wangaratta, Chiltern, and Barnawartha.

It has been decided to erect iron poles for the whole of the North-Eastern wires, within the railway fences, as soon as they can be procured from England. An instalment of 1200 of these poles (Oppenheimer's patent) is expected to arrive shortly, the order having been sent to the Agent-General in September.

Wires dispensed with during 1872.

Second wire from Melbourne to Mornington.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH EUROPE AND THE EAST.

On the 21st of October 1872 direct telegraphic communication was established *viâ* Port Darwin, and, with the exception of a few interruptions of short duration on the overland line, the communication has been satisfactorily maintained.

Frequent complaints have been made with reference to the inaccuracy of the messages received and transmitted, giving rise to unnecessary repetitions and delays before correctness could be secured. I am informed that the errors chiefly originate over the Dutch land lines. I understand, however, that steps are about to be taken to remedy these irregularities by erecting a second wire between Banjowangie and Batavia, to be worked by and under the exclusive control of English operators.

It is stated that negotiations have been opened between the Governments of New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand, with a large contracting European firm, for the construction and laying of a cable from New South Wales to New Zealand, and from Normanton to Singapore direct, thence by land line to Calcutta, thus forming a duplicate line to Europe and the East.

Judging from the number of messages that have passed over the British and Australian lines up to the end of the year, the value of the Australian business may be set down at about £80,000 per annum, nearly one-half of which is contributed by Victoria. For Statement *see* Appendix O.

STEAM POSTAL COMMUNICATION.

Suez Route.

In October 1872 proposals from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies were received by the Australasian colonies for a new postal service, to come into operation on the termination of the contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

The Imperial Government offered to convey the Australian mails between England and Point de Galle, and *vice versa*, until 31st January 1880, on condition that an efficient line of packets fitted at Point de Galle to the Suez and China packets, to run once every four weeks, or once a fortnight, between Point de Galle and such port or ports in Australia as the colonies might determine on, were provided by the colonies in combination; the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty Treasury contributing a sum not exceeding one-half of the cost of such service; such contribution, however, in no case to exceed £40,000 per annum.

In the event of the colonies arranging conjointly, or by a substantial majority, for a fortnightly service, the question of a further contribution by the Imperial Government would be entertained, provided the second service be alternative with the other.

On receipt of this communication, certain correspondence* took place between the Government of Victoria and the Governments of the other Australian colonies and New Zealand, which resulted in an arrangement for a Conference of delegates from the several colonies to take place in Sydney on the 22nd January 1873.†

The amount of subsidy payable to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company having been reduced by £500 from the 1st August 1871, in consideration of the withdrawal of the naval agents, the colonial moiety has been proportionately reduced, and credit given in account accordingly.

The following account shows the amount chargeable on the Australian colonies and New Zealand on account of the Mail Packet Service for the year 1872 :—

* See Parliamentary Paper B 19, ordered to be printed 12th November 1872.

† The Conference took place, and resulted in the adoption of the proposal of the Imperial Government, the colonies contributing to the cost of the branch and main services once every four weeks in proportion to the number of letters received and despatched. Terminus of line to be at Melbourne.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL in account with the Honorable the Treasurer on account of Savings Bank
Transactions for the year 1872.

Dr.			Cr.		
1872.		£ s. d.	1872.	£ s. d.	
January to December.	To Balance, being Deposits received in 1871, and paid into Treasury in January 1872	10,290 15 0	January to December.	By Balance, being amount due by Treasurer for repayment to Depositors during 1871	3,104 5 4
	" Deposits received during 1872	521,978 6 10		" Repayment to Depositors in 1872	348,314 15 7
	" Cash received from Treasury	388,585 2 2		" Cash paid into Treasury ...	554,172 14 6
	" Interest allowed to Depositors for 1872	16,241 11 2		" Amount due to Trust Fund for Interest credited to Depositors in 1872 ...	16,241 11 2
	" Balance due from Treasury to replace money drawn from Money Order Account to repay Depositors	3,700 0 11		" Cash in hand awaiting lodgment in Treasury ...	19,263 9 6
		<hr/>			<hr/>
		941,996 16 1			941,996 16 1

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

Charge of the Telegraph Station at Flinders was handed over to the officers of the Tasmanian and Victorian Submarine Telegraph Company on the 1st March, and the Victorian operator was transferred to another station, an agreement having been entered into with the manager of the company to conduct the business of that station for this colony, in consideration of a contribution towards its maintenance of £150 per annum.

The telegraph managers throughout the colony have been relieved of the duties of collector of imposts, and telegraphic revenue is now accounted for in the same manner as postage, and paid into the Treasury by the Deputy Postmaster-General, who is the sole collector of imposts for the Department.

The growth of the business of the Department, and the extension of the facilities both for postal and telegraphic communication, have rendered necessary a considerable increase in the numbers of operators, letter-carriers, and telegraph messengers.

In consequence of the augmentation of the business of the Department, referred to above, it has also become requisite to provide for additional assistance in despatching mails at the General Post Office, and with this object six assistant-sorters have been temporarily appointed.

The Post and Telegraph Offices at the following places, namely, Emerald Hill, Hawthorn, St. Kilda, Brighton, Eaglehawk, Hexham, Linton, Mansfield, Mornington, Streatham, Taradale, and Terang, are under the charge of postmistresses, and at the first three named places female assistants are employed.

During the year the services of one officer were dispensed with, seven officers resigned their appointments, three retired from ill health, two were superannuated, one was transferred to another Department, two were reduced in pay, five were dismissed, and three died.

STATEMENT showing the Number of Officers, &c. employed in the Post and Telegraph Department in 1872.

Office.	Postmasters and Telegraph Managers.	Officers, Clerks, and Operators.	Sorters.	Instrument Fitters.	Mail Guards, Letter Carriers, and Stampers.	Wire Receivers and Signalmen.	Printer's, &c., Assistants.	Mailmaster and Bookbinders.	Office-keepers and Messengers.	Gas Engineers, Carpenters, Night-watchmen, and Constables.	Supernumeraries and Apprentices.	Total.	Remarks.	
Melbourne	...	132	27	4	101	4	9	8	33	6	40*	362	15 supernumeraries employed on arrival of the European mail	
Ararat	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	4	
Avoca	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Bairnsdale	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Ballarat P.O.	...	1	4	1	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	15 supernumeraries employed on arrival of the European mail
Ballarat E.T.O.	...	1	4	...	...	1	...	...	9	...	...	15	
Beaufort	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Beechworth	...	1	1	1	2	1	...	...	3	...	1	9	
Belfast	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	4	
Benalla	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Bright	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Brighton	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Buninyong	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Camperdown	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Cape Otway	2	...	...	...	...	...	2		
Cape Sohaneck	1	1		
Carisbrook	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Casterton	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Castlemaine P.O.	...	1	1	1	3	...	...	...	2	...	2*	7	
Castlemaine E.T.O.	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	5	
Chiltern	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Clunes	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	5	
Colac	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Coleraine	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Collingwood	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	5	
Crowick	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Daylesford	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	4	
Dunolly	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	
Eaglehawk	...	1*	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	4	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Eldorado	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Emerald Hill	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	4	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Eucla	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	5	
Flinders	Transferred 1st March	
Geelong	...	1	8	1	9	1	...	...	3	...	...	23	5 supernumeraries employed on arrival of European mail
Hamilton	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	1*	6	
Hawthorn	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	5	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Heathcote	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Hexham	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Inglewood	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	
Jamieson	...	1*	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Kerang	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Kilmore	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Kyneton	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	5	
Lanton	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Longwood	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Maldon	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Malmesbury	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Mansfield	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Majorca	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Maryborough	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	6	
Mornington	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Mortlake	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Newstead	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Postmaster paid out of Contingencies
Penshurst	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Port Albert	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Portland	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	5	
Queenscliff	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	
Richmond	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Rosedale	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Rutherford	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Sale	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	4	
Sandhurst	...	1	3	2	9	1	...	...	6	...	...	22	
Sandridge	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Sebastopol	...	1*	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Seymour	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Shady Creek	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Smythesdale	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
St. Arnaud	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
St. Kilda	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	4	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Stawell	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	4	
Streatham	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Stuartmill	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Swan Hill	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Talbot	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Taradale	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Tarngulla	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Terang	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Wahgunyah	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Walballe	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Wangaratta	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	
Warrambbool	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	4	...	5	5	
Williamstown	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Wodonga	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	Railway Telegraph Station
Woodend	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	
Wood's Point	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Yaekandandah	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
		82	156	35	4	167	17	9	5	137	6	52	670	

* Assistant Operators acting as Postmasters.

† These Supernumeraries are employed only a portion of each month.

‡ Line-repairs.

RETURN of Officers, &c., of the Melbourne Establishment, Absent from Duty on account of Illness, during 1872.

Branch.	Number of Officers, &c., Employed.		Number of Days Absent.	Remarks.
	Number Employed.	Number Absent.		
Correspondence branch	8	4	30	One officer absent during 20 days.
Accounts branch	9	1	2	
Mail branch	58	39	310	One officer absent during 33 days, one 31 days, one 25 days, and nine 128 days, showing twelve officers absent during 217 days.
Dead Letter branch	4	2	20	One officer absent 16 days.
Stores and Printing	26	9	82	Four officers absent 62 days.
Money Order and Savings Banks	18	11	230	One officer absent 84 days, one 61 days, one 28 days, and one 23 days, showing four officers absent during 196 days.
Stamp branch	4	Nil	Nil	
Electric Telegraph branch... ..	48	9	18	

Out of ten mail guards, three were absent from sickness during 21 days.

Out of forty-four letter-carriers, thirty-two were absent during 299 days. Of this number one was absent 76 days, one 68 days, one 64 days, and six 50 days, showing nine letter-carriers absent during 287 days.

Out of twenty-nine telegraph messengers, sixteen were absent during 160 days, three of whom were absent during 112 days.

STATEMENT of Revenue and Expenditure for the Year 1872.

1872.—REVENUE.	£	s.	d.	1872.—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	141,690	14	6	Salaries and wages, occasional assistance, and overtime	118,468	17	11
Electric Telegraph collections, including amount collected on account of other colonies and the Submarine Cable Company	42,617	17	3	Contingencies	19,731	18	7
Deficit	108,314	14	3	Commission to licensed vendors of postage stamps	1,534	15	9
				Mail service inland, including landing and shipping mulls	97,588	7	6
				Gratuities to masters of vessels	1,801	9	4
				Estimated amount of postal collections on account of other Governments	3,300	0	0
				Steam postal communication with Great Britain	47,125	15	9
				Electric Telegraph collections on account of other colonies	£2,359	8	2
				Submarine Cable Company 712 13 0			
					3,072	1	2
	292,623	6	0		292,623	6	0

W. TURNER,
Deputy Postmaster-General.