1874.

VICTORIA.

REPORT

ON THE

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH

DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1873.

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

REPORT.

Since the Report for the year 1872 was laid before Parliament there has been a change in the Postal Law of the Colony, *The Post Office Amendment Act* having come into operation on the 1st July 1873. This Act, which is to be construed with and as part of *The Post Office Statute* 1866, provides in Part I. for the reduction of the postage on inland newspapers from one penny to one halfpenny.

It confirms certain orders made previous to the passing of the amending Act for the reduction of intercolonial postage, respecting the validity of which doubts had been raised, and gives power to the Governor in Council to further alter the scale and rate of postage for the purpose of any arrangement with the authorities of any British Possession or Foreign Country, for the transmission of correspondence between such places and Victoria.

It authorizes the transmission of inland letters bearing a Victorian postage stamp of any denomination, and the collection of deficient postage on delivery.

It provides facilities for the transmission of telegrams through the post from places to which the Electric Telegraph has not been extended, it allows telegraphic messages to pass through the post in Victoria free of postage,* and authorizes payment of fees on Victorian telegrams to be made in postage stamps.

It restores to the Postmaster-General power to issue licenses for the sale of postage stamps, and to allow a commission to vendors not exceeding one shilling in the pound.

There are also many other amendments in Part I. which were found to be necessary for the convenience of the public and for the better administration of the Postal Department.

Part II. of the amended Act contains some slight alterations in the law relating to the Post Office Savings Bank, and includes clauses respecting the funds of deceased and incapacitated depositors, and for the settlement of disputes which could previously only be dealt with under the Regulations of the Governor in Council.

Part III. repeals and re-enacts those parts of the Criminal Law and Practice Statute and of the Public Works Statute which relate to Electric Telegraphs, and gives power to the Postmaster-General to enter into contracts for the construction and maintenance of lines of Electric Telegraph, thus incorporating the Electric Telegraph with the Postal Law.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

The returns for 1873 show an increase over those for 1872 of 4½ per cent. on account of postage, &c., and 6½ on account of telegraph collections.

The gross amount to be credited for the years above named is as follows:—

Postage Receipts.

1872	...	...	£141,690
1873	...	...	148,061

showing an increase during 1873 of £6,371.

Telegraph Receipts.

1872	...	...	£42,617
1873	...	...	45,322

showing an increase during 1873 of £2,705.

The increase in the postal revenue has to be attributed chiefly to the inland correspondence, the corrected returns of which are nearly 8½ per cent. higher than those for the previous year, the other sources of revenue, as shown by the statement which follows, presenting but little change.

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* Since adopted in the other colonies.

The postal revenue has, it is estimated, suffered to the extent of £3,500, in consequence of the reduction in the inland newspaper rate, which took effect on the 1st July last.

The increase in the telegraph revenue is accounted for in the following manner:—

The local or Victorian private messages advanced from 515,604 in 1872 to 531,489 in 1873. The revenue derived therefrom being in—

1872	...	...	£31,544
1873	...	...	32,780

The intercolonial private telegrams increased from 47,698 in 1872, to 62,359 in 1873, the revenue being in—

1872	...	...	£11,073
1873	...	...	12,542

The satisfactory condition of the Telegraph revenue, which fully realizes the estimate, has to be ascribed chiefly to the large increase in commercial and social messages; the messages relating to mining business having fallen off in number and value.

A reduced uniform rate between Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland, from 3s. to 2s., and 6s. to 3s. respectively, for ten words or under, as arranged at the late Conference, came into operation on the 1st November; the result of which, so far, shows an increase of 52 per cent. in the number of messages transmitted, and a decrease in value of about 10 per cent. for November and December 1873, as compared with the same period in 1872. But under the old rate Victoria obtained only one-third of the receipts on the business transacted with New South Wales; whereas under the reduced rate Victoria receives one-half; thus the Victorian revenue is increased in proportion to the increase in the number of messages.

The Australian foreign business has been steadily maintained. The number of messages transmitted between Europe, the East, and the different Australian Colonies for 1873 was 8,994, value £108,564 19s. 9d., of which Victoria contributed 4,845 messages, value £62,155 7s. 1d.

Expenditure.

The gross expenditure of the Department during 1872 and 1873 was—

1872	...	...	£292,623
1873	...	...	290,162

showing a decrease during 1873 of £2,461.

The net cost of the Department during 1873 was £11,536 less than in 1872, and, but for the reduction in the newspaper rates above referred to, the saving would have amounted to £15,036.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the year 1873:—

	£	s.	d.		£	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	148,061	8	6	Salaries and wages, occasional assistance, and overtime	124,896	12	11
				Contingencies	23,639	3	1
				Commission to licensed vendors of postage stamps	2,027	1	0
Electric telegraph collections, including amount collected on account of other colonies and the Submarine Cable Company	45,322	17	5	Mail service (inland), including landing and shipping mails	94,297	7	5
				Gratuities to masters of vessels	1,959	14	4
Deficit	96,778	0	10	Estimated amount of postal collections on account of other Governments	3,600	0	0
				Steam postal communication with Great Britain	37,821	13	5

		£	s.	d.	
	Electric telegraph collections on account of other colonies	2,039	6	5	
	Submarine Cable Company	881	8	2	2,920 14 7

| Total... | £ | 290,162 | 6 | 9 | Total... | £ | 290,162 | 6 | 9 |

The sum of £10,352 has also been expended, under the direction of the Postmaster-General, in the construction, and £5,167 in the repairs of lines of Electric Telegraph in different parts of the colony, and in the purchase of material for future extensions and repairs, in conformity with the provisions of *The Post Office Amendment Act,* Part III., to which reference is made on the preceding page. Expenditure of this kind was, up to 30th June 1873, borne upon the Estimates of the Public Works Department.

The following statement, which has been compiled from the records kept at the General Post Office, and from returns furnished by the several country post-masters, gives as close an approximation as can be arrived at to the number of letters, packets, and newspapers received and despatched during the years 1872 and 1873 respectively:—

Number of Post Offices	Years	Inland Letters	SHIP LETTERS				Total Letters
			Despatched		Received		
			Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.	
	1872	11,000,000	441,600	521,496	426,544	551,455	12,941,095
	1873	12,342,000	475,532	515,722	617,092	524,639	14,475,985

	Years	Inland Packets	SHIP PACKETS				Total Packets
			Despatched		Received		
			Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.	
1872—733	1872	459,711	32,148	13,421	10,671	47,535	556,486
1873—764	1873	594,591	33,245	15,058	13,593	50,829	707,316

	Years	Inland Newspapers	SHIP NEWSPAPERS				Total Newspapers
			Despatched		Received		
			Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.	
	1872	2,998,633	392,016	610,425	239,608	1,250,090	5,490,772
	1873	3,524,857	451,950	591,760	330,135	1,181,305	6,080,007

Number of letters delivered in Victoria in 1872 136,350
Ditto   ditto   in 1873 145,597

DEAD AND IRREGULARLY POSTED LETTERS.

RETURN showing the Number of Letters, &c., received and dealt with in the Dead Letter Office during the Year 1873.

Year.	Received.				How dealt with.		Total.
	Unclaimed.		Irregularly Posted.	Total.	Returned, Delivered, &c.	Destroyed or on Hand.	
	Victorian.	Intercolonial and Foreign.					
1873 ...	83,080	12,543	21,177	116,800	103,685	13,115	116,800

One thousand two hundred and forty-two registered letters are included in these numbers, 209 of which contained enclosures of value (amount, shown below), 31 covered articles, and 1002 were without valuable contents, or the value thereof was not known to the Department.
Seventy-seven ordinary letters also contained enclosures of value. The letters with value are dealt with in next year.
Seventy-two letters were posted during the year with stamps or Stallons addresses.
One hundred and sixty-three of the "Irregularly Posted" letters bore no name or address whatever, and 799 but imperfect addresses (i.e., wanting either name or address); these letters could not, in consequence, be sent to their intended destinations. Some of them enclosed value. The remainder under this heading were unpaid, or insufficiently paid letters, including 1616 unstamped.
One hundred and thirty-one letters were ascertained to bear wrong addresses; none of these also contained enclosures, to the value of nearly £250. The errors of the senders in these cases were corrected where practicable, and where that was not possible the letters were returned or otherwise dealt with.
One hundred and fourteen envelopes without correspondence covered enclosures to the value of over £3,000.
Eight hundred and fifty-eight letters were "refused" by the persons addressed on account of postal charges (this does not show any actual increase of such letters during the year, the number for 1872 being 819, and for the respective half-years from 1st July to 31st December 1872 and 1873); many of these letters also contained value.
In addition to the above number of letters, 2,761 packets were also dealt with.
Forty-eight packets and papers were posted in violation of the Postal Regulations; some enclosed bottles of liquid and other matter not allowed to pass through the Post Office.

RETURN showing the Number of Registered and Unregistered Letters containing Value received and dealt with in the Dead Letter Office during the Year 1873.

Year 1873.	Received.						How dealt with.					
	Registered.		Ordinary.		Total.		Returned, Delivered, &c.		Paid into Treasury from my 69 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.		£ s. d.
Cash, Notes, and Stamps	97	88 7 8½	475	441 13 10¼	572	527 1 7	405	395 1 1	69 81 19' 4	98	50 1 4
Cheques, Drafts, &c.	113	5,462 3 3	761	22,469 11 6½	874	27,931 16 9½	704	17,590 6 0		169	10,841 10 9½
Totals ...	209	5,647 12 11½	1,236	22,911 5 4½	1,445	28,428 18 4½	1,109	17,985 7 0	69 81 19 4	267	10,891 12 0½

* Includes 39 letters, enclosing £33 6s. 5d., balance from 1872, brought forward.— † Includes 3 letters, enclosing £1874 12s. 9d., dealt with from 1875, brought forward.

New Post and Telegraph Offices.

Thirty-four new Post Offices were opened in 1873 at the undermentioned places:—

Arcadia	Delatite	Magpie	Staughton Vale
Brandy Creek	Dookie South	Marshalltown	Terrick Terrick
Brimboal	Elaine Railway Station	Middleton	Tongio
Buxton	tion	Mooroopna	Toolamba
Callawadda	Everton	Morang South	Trunk Lead
Chetwynd	Ferntree Gully	Newhaven	Victoria Valley
Clydebank	Griffith's Point	Ross' Bridge	Wallan Wallan
Conover	Koetong	Sarsfield	Railway Station
Cope Cope	Lower Alma	South Muckleford	Wharparilla.

The Post Offices at Talbotville, Gipsy Village, and Stonyford, which were closed respectively on the 1st June and 31st December 1871 and 25th April 1873, have been re-opened.

Five Post Offices were closed, viz.:—Watgania, Morwell, Kolora, Staughton Vale, and Ghin-Ghin.

The names of the following offices have been changed :—Sago Hill to "Haddon;" Leigh Road Railway Station to "Leigh Road," and Tooliorook to "Derrinallum."

Alexandra, Berwick, Coburg, Footscray, Leigh Road, Rokewood, Stockyard Creek, and Stratford, have been opened as combined Post and Telegraph Offices.

A telegraph Station was opened at Wilson's Promontory on the 3rd April 1873.

The Telegraph Station at Serpentine Creek, closed on the 3rd February 1870, was re-opened on the 16th September 1873.

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

Branxholme	Leigh Road	Skipton	Stratford
Byaduk	Lillydale	Snake Valley	Streatham.
Lancefield	Mount Blackwood		

The Post Office Savings Bank opened at Bullarook on the 1st June 1872, was closed on the 1st January 1873.

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

Bass	Elaine	Morang South	Stockyard Creek
Broadmeadows	Leigh Road	Richmond North	Wallan Wallan
Condah			

The number of Post Offices on the 31st December was 764.

Owing to the steady increase in the correspondence received for delivery in Melbourne and suburbs, it became necessary to increase the staff of the Letter Carriers, and eleven additional men were accordingly appointed and apportioned as follows :—Four for the city, and one to each of the undermentioned localities, viz.—East Melbourne, West Melbourne, Carlton, Richmond, Prahran, Emerald Hill, and St. Kilda.

By this arrangement the several deliveries by letter carriers are now effected, both in the city and suburbs, from half an hour to an hour earlier than formerly.

The boundaries of the letter delivery at North Carlton have been extended from Reid street to Brunswick, and a second daily delivery by carrier has been established.

Buildings.—General Post Office.

During the year a contract was entered into by the Public Works Department, for repairing, cleansing, and painting the General Post Office building for the first time since its occupation in July 1867.

Alterations have been effected by which stamps can be purchased, and letters registered over counters inside the building, instead of through small windows from the outside corridors, an arrangement which has, it is believed, afforded greater convenience to the public, and is much more satisfactory to the officers of the Department engaged in the transaction of this kind of business.

The want of further accommodation for the increasing business of the Head Office is productive of much inconvenience ; more especially with reference to the Mail Branch, and the Money Order and Savings Bank Branch, and the necessity for extending the building becomes daily more pressing.

OTHER BUILDINGS.

The new Post and Telegraph Office at Brighton has been completed and occupied.

The new buildings at Avoca, Buninyong, Eaglehawk, Majorca, and Wangaratta are either finished or will be ready for occupation early in 1874.

Contracts have been entered into for new buildings at Casterton, Castlemaine, Seymour, and Stawell, and the buildings are progressing.

Arrangements have been made for the erection of offices at Coleraine and St. Kilda.

A building has been purchased at Wood's Point.

Premises for Post and Telegraph Offices have been rented at Alexandra, Berwick, Footscray, Leigh Road, New Gisborne, Prahran, Sorrento, Stockyard Creek, and Stratford.

It has been decided to provide additional accommodation at Warrnambool, by the erection of a new frontage to the present Post and Telegraph Office.

At Wilson's Promontory office accommodation, quarters, and stabling, are about to be provided.

Additions, alterations, and repairs have been effected, or are in progress, at Beechworth, Belfast, Benalla, Clunes, Colac, Collingwood, Daylesford, Echuca, Geelong, Kyneton, Mortlake, Port Albert, Portland, Queenscliff, Sale, Sandridge, Yackandandah, &c.

An additional iron receiving pillar has been erected at Eaglehawk.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

A new ninepenny stamp was issued on the 25th March.

Provisional halfpenny stamps for Inland Newspaper postage were issued on the 25th June.

The twopenny dies, in use since January 1870, being worn out, a twopenny stamp of a new design was issued on the 1st of October.

Telegraph forms, with a one shilling postage stamp embossed upon each, and paged, perforated, and bound into books of 20 and 40 forms each, and valued £1 and £2 respectively, were issued on the 10th October.

Licenses to sell postage stamps under sections 15 and 16 of the "*Post Office Amendment Act* 1873," revocable at pleasure, were issued on the 1st of July, allowing a commission, fixed by the Governor in Council, of ninepence in the £ upon £5 worth and upwards purchased at any one time.

One hundred and twenty-six new stamp licenses were issued and eighty-three revoked, making the total number at present 444, or an increase over last year of 10 per cent.

The following is a statement showing the Denomination, Number, and Value of Postage Stamps Manufactured and Issued at the General Post Office during the Year 1873 :—

	MANUFACTURED.				ISSUED.		
Denomination.	Number.	Value.		Denomination.	Number.	Value.	
		£ s. d.				£ s. d.	
Halfpenny stamps	1,920,000	4,000 0 0		Halfpenny stamps	1,705,330	3,552 15 5	
Halfpenny stamped newspaper wrappers	24,830	51 14 7		Halfpenny stamped newspaper wrappers	12,000	25 0 0	
One penny stamps	4,728,000	19,700 0 0		One penny stamps	2,840,699	11,835 17 5	
One penny stamped newspaper wrappers	359,290	1,496 13 4		One penny stamped newspaper wrappers	268,278	1,117 16 6	
Twopenny stamps	12,222,000	101,850 0 0		Twopenny stamps	10,808,400	90,070 0 0	
Twopenny stamped envelopes ...	46,715	389 5 10		Twopenny stamped envelopes ...	46,715	389 5 10	
Twopence-farthing stamped envelopes ...	3,500	33 15 0		Twopence-farthing stamped envelopes ...	4,440	41 12 6	
Threepenny stamps	456,000	5,700 0 0		Threepenny stamps	530,492	6,631 3 0	
Fourpenny stamps	120,000	2,000 0 0		Fourpenny stamps	132,723	2,212 1 0	
Sixpenny stamps	714,000	17,850 0 0		Sixpenny stamps	635,133	15,878 6 6	
Ninepenny stamps	129,000	4,837 10 0		Ninepenny stamps	84,346	3,162 19 6	
One shilling stamps	120,000	6,000 0 0		One shilling stamps	85,330	4,267 10 0	
One shilling stamped telegraph forms ...	5,000	250 0 0		One shilling stamped telegraph forms ...	200	10 0 0	
Two shilling stamps	12,000	1,200 0 0		Two shilling stamps	19,883	1,288 6 0	
				Five shilling stamps	5,282	1,320 10 0	
Totals ...	20,860,345	165,358 18 9		Totals ...	17,172,181	141,803 3 8	

To and from Tiltaldra and Cudgewa once a week, from 19th July.

To and from East Brighton and Railway Station, North Brighton, six days a week, 1st January 1873.

To and from Samaria and Swan Pool once a week, from 25th July 1873.

To and from Post Office and Railway Station, Longwood, six days a week, from 1st January 1873.

To and from Post Office and Railway Station, Benalla, twice a day, 18th August 1873.

Deviation consequent on removal of Post Office, Corinella, to another site (Westaway), 6th August 1873.

To and from Railway Station and Post Office, Wangaratta, twice a day, 28th October 1873.

To and from Post Office and Railway Station, Benalla, twice a day, 28th October 1873.

To and from Bontherambo Post Office and Railway Station twice a day, from 21st November 1873.

To and from Post Office and Railway Station, Chiltern, three times a day, 21st November 1873.

To and from Post Office and Railway Station, Barnawartha, twice a day, 21st November 1873.

From Post Office, Kilmore, to Railway Station, once a day additional, from 28th October 1873.

To and from Echuca and Wharparilla once a week additional, from 3rd December 1873.

To and from Post Office and Railway Station, Wodonga, once a day, 17th December 1873.

To and from Post Office and Railway Station, Euroa, once a day additional, from 24th November 1873.

To and from Post Office and Railway Station, Wallan Wallan, once a day, from 17th December 1873.

For Statement showing in detail the particulars of the Inland Mail Service—See Appendix F.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Additional Wires and Extensions.

During the year the line between Port Albert and Wilson's Promontory was completed and communication established.

The new lines between Scarsdale and Rokewood, and Jamieson, and Alexandra, were also completed and brought into operation.

The Railway special wire on the North-Eastern line was continued from Longwood to Wodonga, and communication obtained by means of loops at Violet Town, Benalla, Wangaratta, Chiltern, Barnawartha, and Wodonga.

Telegraphic communication between Melbourne and the Sanitary Station, Point Nepean, has been established, the special wire to Mornington having been continued to that place by way of Dromana and Sorrento.

The Eastern and Southern suburban offices have now been placed on one circuit with Melbourne.

The wire has been extended from Brunswick to Coburg.

A special wire has been run from Geelong to Winchelsea and Birregurra.

An additional wire has been run from Stawell to Beaufort.

The following is a Statement of Expenditure under control of the Public Works Department:—

				£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total Expenditure for Lines, Stations, &c., up to 31st December 1872	...	...	...		327,006 13 7
EXPENDITURE DURING 1873.					
Main Extension of Lines, &c., to 30th June *	...	...	...	4,196 2 6	
Ditto ditto from 1st July to 31st December	...	...	15,519 11 11	
New Buildings and Repairs to Existing Buildings, to 31st December	...	...	12,543 9 10	52,259 4 3
					359,265 17 10
CURRENT EXPENDITURE DURING 1873.					
Rent of Temporary Offices ...	...	...	...	...	1,686 14 9

* On 1st July 1873 the Vote for the Construction and the Maintenance of Telegraph Lines was transferred to the control of the Post Office and Telegraph Department.

LOCAL AND INTERCOLONIAL BUSINESS.

STATEMENT showing the Victorian and Intercolonial Business for the Years 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, and 1873.

	1869.		1870.		1871.		1872.		1873.	
	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
*Between Victorian Stations	194,991	24,154 7 3	302,332	22,791 10 9	435,165	27,274 14 4	515,004	35,344 14 3	20,580	7,686 13 11
From Victoria to New South Wales	13,949	5,940 1 3	19,735	5,649 3 9	21,453	5,947 8 3	31,198	6,550 8 3	20,580	7,686 13 11
From New South Wales to Victoria	13,349	5,769 2 8	14,800	5,986 18 4	21,163	5,693 17 7	23,090	6,709 0 8	37,326	7,534 5 10
From Victoria to Queensland	938	566 0 11	1,080	340 1 6	1,627	642 4 4	2,340	1,216 10 10	2,762	1,634 14 7
From Queensland to Victoria	1,118	688 16 0	1,314	757 1 8	1,990	788 5 10	5,226	1,907 12 8	3,379	1,507 4 8
From Victoria to South Australia	7,101	3,959 7 6	9,122	4,341 19 5	14,300	3,171 19 2	16,921	2,315 19 11	17,395	3,301 3 10
From South Australia to Victoria	8,165	3,167 11 6	7,812	1,892 5 3	13,458	1,997 11 0	16,623	2,093 15 10	19,041	3,769 14 3
From Victoria to Tasmania	2,507	1,270 19 1	4,285	1,744 9 8	3,791	1,594 2 3	4,314	1,047 12 0	6,465	1,370 8 8
From Tasmania to Victoria	2,913	1,208 16 0	4,335	1,540 10 0	4,505	1,303 15 2	5,945	1,161 8 7	4,455	1,363 2 0

* Exclusive of the number and value of messages O.H.M.S.

NOTE.—Victoria .. .. .. Reduced rate of 1s. for 10 words came into operation 1st January 1870.
       New South Wales .. .. Reduced rate from 9s. to 6s. for 10 words came into operation 1st November 1873.
       Queensland .. .. .. Reduced rate from 4s. to 3s. for 10 words came into operation 1st November 1873.
       South Australia .. .. Reduced rate from 6s. to 3s. for 10 words came into operation 1st August 1870.
       Tasmania .. .. .. Reduced (cable) rate from 5s. to 4s. for 10 words came into operation 1st January 1870.

STATEMENT showing the Extension of Telegraph Lines in other Colonies during 1873, and Lines in progress.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

246 miles of line and 505 miles of wire ; total number of miles, 6362 ; 13 new stations ; total number of stations, 114.

QUEENSLAND.

360 miles of line in course of construction ; total number of miles, 3368 ; total number of stations, 71.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

30 miles of line ; 69 miles of wire ; 8 new stations ; total miles of line, 2994 ; of wire, 3792 ; total number of stations, 94.

TASMANIA.

246 miles of line in course of construction ; total number of miles, 291 ; total number of stations, 21.

For information respecting Victorian Lines see Appendix C.

STATEMENT showing the Australian business transacted with Europe and the East for the year 1873.

Colony.	Received.		Transmitted.		Total.	
	Number of Messages.	Value.	Number of Messages.	Value.	Number of Messages.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Victoria	2,614	36,820 8 11	2,231	25,334 18 2	4,845	62,155 7 1
South Australia	469	4,518 4 9	472	4,511 4 3	941	9,029 9 0
New South Wales	1,262	14,760 6 2	1,429	17,494 19 3	2,791	32,255 5 5
Queensland	141	1,810 4 0	200	2,442 18 9	341	4,253 2 9
Tasmania	36	404 13 9	40	417 1 9	76	871 15 6
Totals ..	4,522	58,363 17 7	4,372	50,201 2 2	8,994	108,564 19 9

RETURN showing net Revenue from 1st January to 31st December 1873.

		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash receipts paid into Treasury, from 1st January to 31st December 1873			45,322 17 5	
Less amount due to other Colonies on account of intercolonial business for same period :—				
New South Wales	£2,328 15 11			
Bass Cable Company	881 8 2		3,210 4 1	
				42,112 13 4
Amount due by other Colonies on account of intercolonial business for same period :—				
South Australia	£16 3 4			
Queensland	146 19 3			
Tasmania	126 6 11		289 9 6	
				289 9 6
				42,402 2 10

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1872 and 1873, and Number of Messages transmitted from each Office during the Year 1873.

Name of Station	Date of Opening Office.	Number of Messages Transmitted.	Revenue, 1872.	Revenue, 1873.	Increase, 1873.	Decrease, 1873.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Melbourne Chief Office, including Customs Branch ...	Mar. 1854	209,734	18,370 12 2	20,338 2 10	1,967 10 8	...
Alexandra	Dec. 1873	109	New office	6 1 2	6 1 2	...
Ararat	Nov. 1858	6,709	274 4 7	367 19 0	93 14 5	...
Avoca	Mar. 1859	3,650	144 11 3	146 0 2	1 8 11	...
Bairnsdale	July 1866	3,937	267 2 5	226 5 10	...	40 16 7
Ballarat	Dec. 1856	49,715	3,240 15 0	3,130 3 4	...	110 11 8
Beaufort	Mar. 1858	1,626	68 17 7	83 11 7	16 14 0	...
Beechworth	Jan. 1858	5,874	796 1 0	610 12 1	...	185 8 11
Belfast	Mar. 1858	8,428	411 14 8	427 12 7	15 17 11	...
Benalla	May 1858	4,286	132 18 1	214 4 5	61 6 4	...
Berwick	Mar. 1873	515	New office	23 2 2	23 2 2	...
Bright	Aug. 1867	1,989	140 3 10	114 6 6	...	25 17 4
Brighton	Nov. 1872	775	6 1 3	46 17 6	40 16 3	...
Brunswick	Aug. 1872	262	9 2 6	22 17 5	13 7 11	...
Buninyong	Oct. 1862	839	37 15 2	43 8 2	5 13 0	...
Camperdown	Oct. 1863	2,546	155 7 9	152 15 2	...	2 12 7
Cape Otway [1] ...	Sept. 1859	568	...	...	...	...
Cape Schanck ...	Sept. 1861	635	5 3 4	5 8 3	0 4 11	...
Carisbrook	Jan. 1861	1,122	47 1 2	59 1 10	12 0 8	...
Casterton	July 1865	3,274	112 1 4	128 3 4	16 2 0	...
Castlemaine ...	Jan. 1857	13,520	740 10 7	769 15 9	29 5 2	...
Chewton	Oct. 1872	341	4 10 7	20 5 11	15 15 4	...
Chiltern	Mar. 1861	2,760	128 4 0	157 1 8	28 17 8	...
Clunes	Feb. 1861	6,572	510 16 8	375 4 11	...	135 11 9
Coburg	Aug. 1873	126	New office	7 11 1	7 11 1	...
Colac	Aug. 1863	2,564	147 16 7	169 10 8	21 14 1	...
Coleraine	Aug. 1862	2,407	180 11 5	164 10 8	...	16 0 9
Collingwood ...	Nov. 1865	3,103	160 3 6	225 14 11	65 11 5	...
Creswick	Aug. 1859	3,744	212 18 9	231 15 7	18 16 10	...
Dandenong	June 1871	1,129	43 6 7	58 19 8	15 13 1	...
Daylesford	Aug. 1859	3,819	273 2 1	231 8 5	...	41 13 8
Dunolly	Aug. 1859	2,537	143 7 7	134 10 8	...	8 16 11
Eaglehawk	Oct. 1871	904	64 9 0	53 13 0	...	10 16 0
Echuca	Dec. 1858	11,319	537 0 4	627 6 11	90 6 7	...
Eldorado	July 1871	1,849	180 19 5	158 11 6	...	22 7 11
Emerald Hill ...	Feb. 1872	1,955	94 15 9	128 2 9	33 7 0	...
Flinders [2]	May 1869	216	4 9 11	8 2 11	3 13 0	...
Footscray	Mar. 1873	145	New office	9 3 4	9 3 4	...
Fryerstown	April 1872	1,006	55 0 2	55 8 10	0 8 8	...
Gaffney's Creek ...	May 1871	1,110	54 18 7	70 1 5	15 2 10	...
Geelong	Dec. 1854	18,423	1,240 14 10	1,122 15 6	...	117 19 4
Hamilton	Mar. 1861	7,299	497 19 9	489 3 9	...	8 16 0
Hawthorn	July 1872	482	14 13 3	35 5 4	20 12 1	...
Heathcote	Oct. 1859	1,612	74 7 6	88 2 1	13 14 7	...
Hexham	April 1858	679	36 16 0	39 18 7	3 1 9	...
Inglewood	Oct. 1861	2,296	132 13 11	137 5 4	4 11 5	...
Jamieson	June 1865	1,522	86 3 10	75 17 3	...	10 6 7
Kerang	Aug. 1863	615	28 17 0	34 9 2	5 12 2	...
Kilmore	Oct. 1857	3,310	143 12 2	129 10 7	...	14 1 7
Koroit	Sept. 1872	1,110	25 5 11	64 14 4	39 8 5	...
Kyneton	April 1857	5,738	336 15 11	292 0 5	...	44 15 6
Leigh Road	May 1873	389	New office	18 12 0	18 12 0	...
Linton	Oct. 1866	850	49 8 1	44 4 0	...	5 4 1
Longwood	Nov. 1857	758	64 8 3	36 16 1	...	27 13 2
Majorca	April 1870	1,346	64 17 7	67 10 10	2 13 3	...
Maldon	Aug. 1859	2,251	107 9 10	117 12 1	10 2 3	...
Malmesbury ...	Oct. 1865	1,314	53 13 1	61 3 6	7 10 5	...
Mansfield	Nov. 1868	2,648	187 0 7	149 3 2	...	37 17 5
Maryborough ...	April 1859	7,434	400 18 11	465 4 9	64 5 10	...
Mornington ...	Mar. 1861	1,375	57 10 3	67 19 4	10 9 1	...
Mortlake	June 1864	1,927	108 3 6	113 8 2	5 4 8	...
New Gisborne [3] ...	July 1873	264	New office	14 6 1	14 6 1	...
Newstead	Oct. 1863	950	37 3 9	50 3 9	13 0 0	...
Penshurst	Jan. 1867	1,637	158 16 2	102 4 6	...	56 11 8
Port Albert [2] ...	Dec. 1864	4,596	203 7 4	223 14 0	22 6 8	...
Portland	Feb. 1858	5,438	375 17 11	337 4 8	...	38 13 3
Prahran	Aug. 1872	1,312	23 14 1	76 2 5	52 8 4	...

[1] Look-out Shipping Station.   [2] Local collections only.   [3] Transferred from Railway Circuit July 1873.

COMPARATIVE. STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1872 and 1873, and Number of Messages transmitted from each Office during the Year 1873—*continued*.

Name of Station.	Date of Opening Station.	Number of Messages transmitted, 1873.	Revenue, 1872.	Revenue, 1873.	Increase, 1873.	Decrease, 1873.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Queenscliff	Jan. 1855	8,745	134 14 7	161 10 8	26 16 1	...
Richmond	Jan. 1872	1,591	69 12 7	84 15 2	15 2 7	...
Rokewood	Sept. 1873	192	New office	11 8 4	11 8 4	...
Rosedale	Mar. 1867	1,711	73 16 0	88 14 2	14 18 2	...
Rutherglen	Aug. 1862	1,706	91 11 5	91 9 3	...	0 2 2
St. Arnaud	Jan. 1865	3,658	134 11 4	209 7 9	74 16 5	...
St. Kilda	Feb. 1871	3,607	149 8 3	197 17 1	48 8 10	...
Sale	Sept. 1864	7,936	562 17 0	610 4 7	...	52 12 5
Sandhurst	Jan. 1857	55,677	4,122 11 10	3,504 1 6	...	618 10 4
Sandridge	July 1855	1,771	91 18 2	142 4 10	50 6 8	...
Scarsdale	Sept. 1872	808	14 0 6	43 13 10	29 12 4	...
Sebastopol	June 1860	623	36 1 10	35 13 10	...	0 2 8
Serpentine¹	Sept. 1873	257	New office	15 16 0	15 16 0	...
Seymour	June 1863	2,018	148 17 3	104 16 5	...	44 0 10
Shady Creek	Jan. 1871	619	38 3 8	45 16 9	0 9 6	...
Smythesdale	June 1863	1,268	84 1 1	74 15 9	...	9 5 4
South Yarra	Aug. 1872	1,761	42 13 6	147 5 11	104 12 5	...
Stawell	Oct. 1861	18,065	412 14 11	1,080 0 1	667 5 2	...
Stockyard Creek	April 1873	3,311	New office	202 10 8	202 10 8	...
Stratford	May 1873	832	New office	51 7 7	51 7 7	...
Streatham	July 1868	981	146 13 10	57 7 1	...	89 6 9
Stuartmill	Dec. 1869	694	35 0 1	38 15 9	3 15 8	...
Swan Hill	April 1863	1,679	94 1 0	97 19 2	3 18 2	...
Talbot	Dec. 1860	3,177	232 14 1	176 19 7	...	45 14 6
Taradale	Nov. 1861	850	43 12 1	41 10 2	...	2 1 11
Tarnagulla	June 1861	1,947	135 13 11	72 1 4	...	63 12 7
Terang	Nov. 1871	938	55 1 7	53 10 7	...	1 11 0
Wahgunyah	Feb. 1861	4,336	217 7 9	141 14 3	...	75 13 0
Walhalla	Nov. 1870	4,695	564 15 0	289 7 5	...	75 7 7
Wangaratta	July 1858	7,897	425 6 8	451 1 1	25 14 5	...
Warrnambool	Mar. 1868	15,565	873 7 4	955 0 4	81 13 0	...
Watson's Hill	Mar. 1854	3,884	245 10 3	284 10 4	39 0 1	...
Wilson's Promontory²	April 1873	485	New office	...	...	...
Wodonga	Jan. 1858	2,669	120 10 5	174 18 6	54 8 1	...
Wood's Point³	June 1865	1,985	183 4 4	107 9 1	...	75 15 3
Yackandandah	Feb. 1861	1,185	73 6 9	67 18 3	...	5 8 6
Point Lonsdale⁴	Oct. 1861					

RAILWAY CIRCUIT.

Avenel	Dec. 1863	5,343	3 11 0	64 15 7	61 4 7	...
Ballarat West	July 1862	2,632	30 15 5	30 17 7	10 2 2	...
Benalla	Aug. 1873	1,723	New office	41 3 0	41 3 0	...
Bradford	May 1872	4,720	20 4 5	22 14 3	2 9 9	...
Buninyong	Mar. 1873	3,193	New office	15 5 9	15 5 9	...
Castlemaine	Aug. 1863	4,129	24 19 8	35 19 0	10 19 4	...
Chiltern	Dec. 1873	175	New office	1 11 2	1 11 2	...
Craigieburn³	Aug. 1872	3,372	3 14 5	3 19 7	0 5 2	...
Echuca	June 1865	3,478	62 9 7	51 11 7	...	10 18 0
Elphinstone	April 1873	2,928	New office	8 4 2	8 4 2	...
Geelong	April 1862	3,370	52 14 10	60 13 10	7 19 0	...
Gravel Pits⁴	Dec. 1872	1,249	0 7 0	18 4 7	17 17 7	...
Kilmore East⁵	May 1872	4,482	5 0 6	11 3 9	6 3 3	...
Lancefield Road	July 1873	205	New office	4 16 6	4 16 6	...
Little River⁶	June 1872	968	13 6 5	4 17 1	...	8 9 4
Longwood	Dec. 1863	3,131	13 6 3	46 9 5	33 3 2	...
Meredith⁷	Jan. 1867	118	28 3 7	1 16 8	...	26 6 11
New Gisborne	July 1868	321	24 10 2	15 9 1	...	9 1 1
Runnymede	June 1865	3,575	67 9 1	91 18 3	24 9 2	...
Sandhurst	July 1861	3,106	90 6 5	88 19 11	...	1 6 6
Seymour	May 1872	4,253	47 3 5	16 3 0	...	31 0 5
Spencer street, Melbourne	Oct. 1861	21,030	384 16 1	452 15 2	67 19 1	...
Sunbury	Feb. 1867	3,622	24 18 3	35 1 6	10 3 3	...
Violet Town	Mar. 1872	3,496	New office	89 7 10	89 7 10	...
Wallan-wallan	July 1872	5,507	8 11 6	13 17 2	5 5 8	...
Wangaratta	July 1873	974	New office	17 6 2	17 6 2	...
Werribee	April 1862	6,092	25 2 1	35 11 2	10 9 1	...
Williamstown Junction	July 1863	4,311	3 3 11	4 11 10	1 7 11	...
Williamstown Railway Pier	June 1863	2,013	16 10 8	21 6 0	4 15 4	...
Wodonga	Nov. 1870	218	New office	4 8 5	4 8 5	...
Woodend	Oct. 1861	2,919	55 2 0	52 19 7	...	2 2 5
		715,167	42,617 17 3	45,322 17 5	4,916 2 4	2,211 2 2

¹ Re-opened September 1873.
² Gravel Pits Railway Telegraph Station was closed 18th November 1873.
³ Craigieburn Railway Telegraph Station was closed 18th August 1873.
⁴ Kilmore East Railway Telegraph Station was closed 19th November 1873.
⁵ Little River Railway Telegraph Station was closed March 1873.
⁶ Meredith Railway Telegraph Station was closed 31st January 1873.

The augmentation of the business of the Department referred to above also made it desirable to increase the assistance in despatching Mails at the General Post Office, and the number of assistant sorters who were temporarily appointed last year for that purpose has been largely added to in consequence.

The Post and Telegraph Offices at the following places, namely, Market Square, Brighton, Emerald Hill, Hawthorn, Sandridge, St. Kilda, Alexandra, Berwick, Eaglehawk, Footscray, Leigh Road, Majorca, Lintons, Malmesbury, Mornington, New Gisborne, Prahran, Stratford, Stuartmill, Taradale, and Terang, are under the charge of postmistresses, and at the first six named places female assistants are employed. Female assistants are also employed at Cape Otway, Cape Schanck, Creswick, Dandenong, Kerang, Longwood, Queenscliff, Shady Creek, Scarsdale, and Stockyard Creek.

The employment of female operators in the Department has admitted of the advantages of electric telegraph communication being extended to several places in the country which must otherwise have been left without the accommodation, as the business at the stations referred to only justifies the payment of such salaries as those for which the services of postmistresses can be secured.

During the year the services of two officers were dispensed with, two officers were reduced in pay, and two officers resigned.

The following statement shows the strength and distribution of the Staff of the Department as at present constituted:—

Office.	Postmasters and Telegraph Managers.	Letter Carriers, Clerks, and Operators.	Sorters.	Instrument Fitters.	Mail-guards, Letter-carriers, and Stampers.	Supernumeraries and Expediteurs.	Printers, &c.	Mailmaster and Assistants.	Officekeepers and Messengers.	Assistant Post-master, Night-watchman, and Constables.	Supernumeraries and Assistants.	Total.	Remarks.
Melbourne	144	46	4		116	6	14	5	50	7	49*	441	15 supernumeraries employed on arrival of the European mail
Alexandra	1											1	
Ararat	1	1			1							4	Postmasters paid out of Contingencies
Avoca	1											1	
Bairnsdale	1											3	
Ballarat P.O.	1	4	2		16							23	15 supernumeraries employed on arrival of the European mail
Ballarat E.T.O.	1	5				1						16	
Beaufort	1											2	
Beechworth	1	2	1		2							9	
Belfast	1		1									3	
Benalla	1				1							2	
Berwick	1											1	Postmistresses paid out of Contingencies
Bright	1											1	
Brighton	1	2									1	3	Postmistresses paid out of Contingencies
Buninyong	1				1							1	
Camperdown	1											2	
Cape Otway					1							2	
Cape Schanck	1											1	
Carisbrook	1											1	
Casterton	1											1	
Castlemaine P.O.	1	3	1									6	
Castlemaine E.T.O.	1	3										5	
Chiltern	1		1									2	
Clunes	1	1	1									5	
Colac	1				2							3	
Coleraine	1											1	
Collingwood	1	1									1	4	Postmaster paid out of Contingencies
Creswick	1	1			1							4	Postmaster paid out of Contingencies
Dandenong	1											1	
Daylesford	1	1			2							4	
Dunolly	1	2									1	3	
Eaglehawk	1	1										4	
Eldorado	1											1	
Emerald Hill	1	2			1					1		7	Postmistresses paid out of Contingencies
Echuca	1	3			2							7	Postmistresses paid out of Contingencies
Footscray	1											1	Postmaster paid out of Contingencies
Fyerstown	1											1	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Geelong	1	8	1		9	1				1		24	5 supernumeraries employed on arrival of European mail
Hamilton	1				3	1						6	
Hawthorn	1				2					1		3	Postmistresses paid out of Contingencies
Heathcote	1				1					1		3	Postmistresses paid out of Contingencies
Hexham	2											2	
Inglewood	1	2								1		4	
Jamieson	1											1	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Kangaroo Flat	1	1								1		1	

* These supernumeraries are employed only a portion of each month.

STATEMENT showing the Number of Officers, &c., employed in the Post and Telegraph Department in 1873—*continued.*

Office.	Postmasters and Telegraph Masters.	Officers, Clerks, and Operators.	Sorters.	Instrument Fitters.	Mailguards, Letter-carriers, and Messengers.	Line-repairers and Signallers.	Matrons, &c., Assistants.	Mailmaster and Assistants.	Office-keepers and Messengers.	Gas Engineer, Carpenter, Blacksmith, Watchman, and Assistants.	Supernumeraries and Assistants.	Total.	Remarks.
Karang	1*										1	2	
Kilmore	1				1	1						3	
Korost	1										1	2	Postmaster paid out of Contingencies
Kyneton	1	1			1						2	5	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Leigh Road	1				1							2	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Linton	1				1							2	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Longwood	1										1	2	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Majorca	1				1							2	
Maldon	1				2				1			4	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Malmsbury	1				2							3	
Mansfield	1											2	
Maryborough	1	1			3	1			1			7	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Mornington	1				1							2	
Mortlake	1											2	
New Gisborne	1				1							2	
Newstead	1											1	
Penshurst	1											1	
Port Albert	1				1							2	
Portland	1	1			1	1						5	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Prahran	1				1							2	
Queenscliff	1				1				1		1	4	
Richmond	1	3			1				2				
Rosedale	1											1	
Rutherglen	1				1							2	
Sale	1				1							4	
Sandhurst	1	5	2		11	1			6		1	24	
Sandridge	1				1				1			3	
Sebastopol	1				1							2	
Seymour	1											2	
Shady Creek	1*											1	
Smythesdale	1											2	
St. Arnaud	1				1				1			2	
St. Kilda	1				1				2		1	5	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Stawell	1	3			3				1			8	
Stockyard Creek	1*											1	
Streatham	1											2	
Stratford	1				1							2	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Stuartmill	1											1	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Swan Hill	1				1							1	
Talbot	1											2	
Taradale	1				1							2	
Tarnagulla	1				1							1	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Terang	1				1							2	
Wangaratta	1				1							2	
Walhalla	1				1							2	
Wangaratta	1											1	
Warrnambool	1				1				4			6	
Williamstown	1				1				3			6	
Wilson's Promontory	1											1	
Wodonga	1				1				1			3	
Woodend	1											1	
Wood's Point	1								1			2	
Yackandandah	1											1	
Totals	**93**	**175**	**66**	**4**	**195**	**19**	**14**	**5**	**167**	**7**	**64**	**860**	

* Line-repairer in charge.

RETURN of Officers, &c., of the Melbourne Establishment, Absent from Duty on account of Illness, during 1873.

Branch.	Officers, &c.		Number of Days Absent.	Remarks.
	Number Employed.	Number Absent.		
Correspondence branch	8	5	32	One officer absent 17 days, and one 9 days.
Accounts branch	9	3	46	One officer absent 30 days, and one 15 days.
Mail branch	60	36	299	One officer absent 55 days, one 49 days, and five during 87 days.
Dead Letter branch	4	3	18	One officer absent 16 days.
Stores and Printing	27	10	44	
Money Orders and Savings Banks	20	12	249	One officer absent 196 days, and one 21 days.
Stamp branch	4	1	5	
Electric Telegraph branch	48	17	238	One officer absent 121 days, one 51 days, and one 11 days.

Out of nine mail guards, six were absent during 55 days.
Out of thirty-six letter-carriers, twenty-one were absent during 332 days. Of this number one was absent 118 days, one 74 days, one 53 days, and three 40 days, absent in letter-carriers about during 288 days.
Out of forty telegraph messengers, twenty-four were absent during 188 days, six of whom were absent during 101 days.