

1875.
—
VICTORIA.

R E P O R T

UPON THE AFFAIRS OF THE

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH
DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1 8 7 4 .

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

By Authority:
GEORGE SKINNER, ACTING GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

REPORT.

The business transacted in the Department during the past year has been important and extensive, as the following pages will show.

The contract between the Postmaster-General of Victoria and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company was commenced in January, and has been so far successfully carried out with satisfactory pecuniary results. (*See page 22.*)

Considerable additions have been made to the contracts for the conveyance of inland mails, and many alterations in the services have been rendered necessary by the extension of the railway lines.

Several new Electric Telegraph lines have been erected and offices opened in connection therewith.

New Post Offices have been opened in various parts of the country, and receiving-houses established in Fitzroy and Collingwood.

Letter deliveries have been extended and additional iron receiving-pillars erected in Melbourne and other places.

A most important step has been taken in establishing a code for regulating the appointment, promotion, and pay of sorters, letter-carriers, messengers, and others, according to which none but men or boys of some education, who have passed a medical examination, and who are of suitable age, are eligible for appointment to any of the offices named. A scale of pay has been adopted by which an annual increase is assured by service with good conduct, and other advantages (which will be found fully detailed in Appendix F), are bestowed on those who are affected by the regulations in question, which, it is anticipated, will also be highly beneficial to the public service. The immediate effect of the change has been an increased expenditure, but it is confidently expected that it will in the future prove to be an economical arrangement.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

There has been an increase in postage collections over 1873. The gross amount is as follows, omitting fractions:—

1873	...	...	£148,061
1874	...	...	154,097

showing an excess of £6,036, or, say, four per cent.

The reduction in the Intercolonial ship rate from threepence to twopence has occasioned a falling off under this head, and the loss on account of inland newspapers, consequent on the reduction of the postage thereon, which took place on the 1st July last, is still shown in comparing the revenue of 1874 with the previous year. The fall in these items together, it is estimated, amounts to £2,500.

There has been a falling off in the Telegraph revenue, notwithstanding the largely increased facilities afforded to the public. The following are the figures:—

1873	...	...	£45,322
1874	...	...	42,825

showing a decrease of five and a half per cent., which may chiefly be ascribed to the dulness which has prevailed in mining business (*see Revenue Returns from Principal Goldfields' Offices, pages 13 and 14*); and it may be taken as significant of this fact that the use of private wires for the transmission of mining intelligence to brokers' offices has in several cases been discontinued.

Expenditure.

There has been an increase in the gross expenditure over the year 1873 of £11,720, caused by increments under the Civil Service Act and the new regulations referred to above, increased salaries and allowances to telegraph operators, country postmasters, and others, overtime allowances, increased numerical strength of the staff, increased cost of inland mail service, and of stores, and by the purchase of telegraph materials for stock; the principal details of which are given in the estimates of expenditure for the period.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the year 1874 :—

	£	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	154,097	10	7	Salaries and wages, occasional assistance, and overtime	135,011	14	8
Electric telegraph collections, including amount collected on account of other colonies and the Submarine Cable Company	42,825	9	7	Contingencies*	27,628	7	5
Deficit	104,959	7	1	Commission to licensed vendors of postage stamps	2,584	0	7
				Mail service (inland), including landing and shipping mails	98,737	16	9
				Gratuities to masters of vessels	2,061	17	9
				Estimated amount of postal collections on account of other Governments	3,300	0	0
				Steam postal communication with Great Britain†	31,955	0	0
				Electric telegraph collections on account of Submarine Cable Company	931	7	3
				South Australia	94	1	5
				1,025	8	8	
				Due by other colonies	421	18	7
					603	10	1
	£		301,882	£	301,882	7	3

* The sum of £24,134 6s. 10d. has also been expended on telegraph lines, an expenditure which was formerly defrayed by the Public Works Department.

† As nearly as can be ascertained; accounts not all received.

Note.—This account does not include the value of the business performed by the Post Office for the other Government Departments, which is estimated to exceed £20,000 per annum.

RETURN showing the Estimated Number of Inland Letters, Packets, and Newspapers Posted in the Colony of Victoria, also the Number of Ship Letters, Packets, and Newspapers Despatched and Received, during the Years 1873 and 1874 respectively.

Number of Post Offices.	Years.	Inland Letters.	SHIP LETTERS.				Total Letters.	Increase 1874 over 1873.
			Despatched.		Received.			
			Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.		
	1873	12,342,000	475,632	515,722	617,092	524,639	14,475,085	} 8½ per cent.
	1874	13,250,000	597,792	527,046	797,213	566,837	15,738,888	
	Years.	Inland Packets.	SHIP PACKETS.				Total Packets.	Increase 1874 over 1873.
			Despatched.		Received.			
			Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.		
1873.—764	1873	594,591	33,245	15,058	13,593	50,829	707,316	} 79½ per cent.
	1874	1,116,755	53,287	16,703	18,179	64,898	1,269,822	
1874.—802								
	Years.	Inland Newspapers.	SHIP NEWSPAPERS.				Total Newspapers.	Increase 1874 over 1873.
			Despatched.		Received.			
			Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.		
	1873	3,524,857	451,950	591,760	330,135	1,181,305	6,080,007	} 13 per cent.
	1874	4,123,200	530,242	595,061	400,145	1,217,370	6,866,918	
Number of letters registered in Victoria in 1873		145,207	Increase 1874 over 1873, 4½ per cent.					
Ditto ditto 1874		152,089						

NOTE.—The very large increase in the number of inland packets has been caused by the reduction in the minimum rate under the Post Office Amendment Statute 1873, from 9s. to 1s., which has induced the transmission by post of trade circulars, &c.

DEAD AND IRREGULARLY POSTED LETTERS.

RETURN showing the Number of Letters, &c., received and dealt with in the Dead Letter Office during the Year 1874.

Year.	Received.				How dealt with.		
	Unclaimed.		Irregularly Posted.	Total.	Returned, Delivered, &c.	Destroyed and on Hand.	Total.
	Victorian.	Intercolonial and Foreign.					
1874 ...	94,533	13,421	14,836	122,790	110,473	12,317	122,790

NOTE.—One thousand and five (1,605) registered letters are included in these numbers, 371 of which contained enclosures of value (amount shown below), 4 covered articles, and 850 were without valuable contents, or the value thereof was not known to the Department.

Fifty-five (45) ordinary letters also contained articles of value. Six letters with articles on hand at close of year.

Ninety-four (94) letters were posted during the year with obscure or libellous addresses.

One hundred and forty-three (143) of the "Irregularly Posted" letters did not bear any names or addresses whatever, and 1,355 but imperfect addresses, i.e., wanting either name or address; these letters could not, in consequence, be sent to the intended destinations. Some of them encased value.

The remainder under this heading were unpaid or insufficiently paid letters, including 754 valentines.

One hundred and forty-eight (148) letters were ascertained to bear wrong addresses; some of these also contained enclosures, to the value of over £500. 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. Ninety-five (95) envelopes without correspondence covered enclosures to the value of over £3,500.

Two thousand two hundred and seventeen (2,217) letters were "refused" by the persons addressed, mainly on account of postal charges. This shows an increase of over 1,300 letters more than in the previous year. Some of these letters also contained value. Fifty-one (51) letters and 13 packets and papers were posted in violation of the Postal Regulations. In addition to the above number of letters, 5,748 packets were also dealt with.

RETURN showing the Number of Registered and Unregistered Letters containing Value received and dealt with in the Dead Letter Office during the Year 1874.

Year 1874.	Received.						How dealt with.					
	Registered.		Ordinary.		Total.		Returned, Delivered, &c.		Paid into Treasury from 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.		No.	Value of Contents.	
Cash, Notes, and Stamps ...	105	£ 188 6 7	453	£ 412 9 4	* 558	£ 630 15 11	423	£ 543 10 4	112	£ 56 10 7	23	£ 30 15 0
Cheques, Drafts, &c. ...	66	£ 1,467 4 2	638	£ 18,136 1 8½	† 704	£ 19,003 5 3½	676	£ 17,569 17 8½	...	...	25	£ 2,003 7 9
Totals ...	171	£ 1,655 10 9	1,091	£ 18,578 10 7½	1,262	£ 20,234 1 4½	1,099	£ 18,113 8 0½	112	£ 56 10 7	51	£ 2,064 3 9

* Includes 98 letters, enclosing £50 1s. 3d., balance from 1873, brought forward.—† Includes 13 letters, enclosing £54 16s. 6d., dealt with from 1873, brought forward.

NEW POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

Forty-one new Post Offices were opened in 1874 at the undermentioned places:—

Balmattum	Doma Mungi	Kewell	Port Campbell
Balwyn	Doogalook	Kialla	Queensferry
Bobinawarrah	Forbes	Lorne	St. Huberts
Bonang	Forest Hill	Lyndhurst South	Sebastian
Boneo	Golden Gully	Mandurang	Swift's Creek
Boort	Graham's Hill	Mount Noorat	Junction
Bulgoback	Hurdle Flat	Murtoa	Torrumbarry
Bullarto	Irrewillipe	Myrtle Creek	Upper King River
Christmas Hill	Ivanhoe	Natimuk Creek	Wandin Yallock
Corryong	Jarklin	North Barnawartha	Yarrowoonga.
Derricull Creek	Kergunyah		

The Post Office at Warburton, which was closed in July 1865, has been reopened.

Receiving-houses have been established at Fitzroy, North Fitzroy, and North Collingwood.

Four Post Offices were closed, viz.:—Cobbler's Gully, Hoddle's Creek, King Parrot Creek, and Redan Bridge.

The names of the following offices have been changed:—Bomferrambo to "Springhurst;" Godfrey's Creek to "Gobur;" Major Plains to "Devenish;" Oxley Plains to "Milawa;" Brandy Creek to "Buln-Buln;" Bulldog Flat to "Illabarook;" Coy's Diggings to "Baillieston;" Whim Holes to "Enfield;" Whipstick to "Neilborough;" Hovell's Creek to "Lara;" Cockatoo to "Narrigal;" McCallum's Creek to "Craigie;" Hit-or-Miss to "Kooroocheang;" Growler's Creek to "Wandiligong;" and Donnybrook to "Kalkallo."

Birregurra, Sorrento, Winchelsea, Murchison, Rushworth, Caramut, Lancefield, Romsey, Learmonth, Ballan, and Bacchus Marsh, have been opened as combined Post and Telegraph Offices.

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

Edenthope	Malvera	Romsey	Wedderburn.
Gaffney's Creek			

The Post Office Savings Bank at Morang South, opened on the 24th November 1873, was closed on the 1st July 1874.

Money Order Offices have been established in connection with the Post Offices at the following places :—

Barnawartha	Burke's Flat	Malvera	Shepparton
Bealiba	Dookie South	Morang	Sorrento.
Bala-Bala	Griffith's Point		

Money Order Offices have also been opened in connection with the Receiving Houses at Fitzroy, North Fitzroy, and North Collingwood, respectively.

Telegraphic communication has been extended to the undermentioned places :—

Bacchus Marsh	Caramut	Murchison	Sorrento
Ballan	Lancefield	Romsey	Winchelsea.
Birregurra	Learmonth	Rushworth	

The number of Post Offices on the 31st December was 802.

The boundaries of the letter delivery at Emerald Hill have been extended about half a mile further in the direction of Sandridge, which arrangement has necessitated the employment of an additional letter-carrier.

A second daily delivery of letters by carrier has been established at Kew.

BUILDINGS.—GENERAL POST OFFICE.

In order to provide further accommodation, and to mitigate in some measure the daily increasing inconvenience resulting from want of space to carry on the business of the Department, it has been found necessary to rent additional premises adjoining the General Post Office reserve, and also a store in Bourke street west.

The reserve at the corner of Elizabeth and Victoria streets, hitherto in the permissive occupation of the Corporation of the City of Melbourne, has been resumed by the Government, and transferred to the Post Office and Telegraph Department, for the storage of poles, and the erection of sheds and workshops.

OTHER BUILDINGS.

The new buildings at Avoca, Buninyong, Eaglehawk, Majorca, Seymour, and Wangaratta, have been completed and occupied.

At Casterton, Coleraine, and Stawell, new offices, with quarters, have been built, and will be ready for occupation early in 1875.

The public building at Castlemaine, part of which is to be used as Post and Telegraph Offices, is completed, with the exception of the necessary fittings and furniture.

Extensive additions will be made to the office at Warrnambool. At Echuca it has been found necessary to enlarge the building, the duties of the Receiver and Paymaster having been added to those of Postmaster and Telegraph Manager.

Premises have been rented in Market Buildings, William street, to which the West Melbourne Branch Office has been transferred from the Custom House.

Buildings have been purchased at Avenel and Stuartmill, and land at Nagambie.

At Bacchus Marsh, Bairnsdale, Ballan, Horsham, Nagambie, Rushworth, and Winchelsea, premises have been rented for Post Offices and Telegraph Stations.

Additions, alterations, and repairs have been effected, or will shortly be in progress, at Ballarat, Beechworth, Belfast, Cape Otway, Cape Schanck, Clunes, Colac, Collingwood, Inglewood, Jamieson, Kilmore, Kyneton, Longwood, Maldon, Maryborough, Morbington, Portland, Sandhurst, Smythesdale, Tarnagulla, Walhalla, Williamstown, and Yackandandah.

Seven iron receiving-pillars have been erected in Melbourne and the suburbs, one at Geelong, and one at Sandhurst.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

A new halfpenny stamp was issued on the 10th February.

One hundred new postage stamp licences were issued, and fourteen revoked, making the total number at the close of the year Five hundred and thirty, being an increase over last year of 19·36 per cent.

An increase in the staff of this branch has been made by the appointment of an assistant clerk.

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 1874 :—

Manufactured.			Issued.		
Denomination.	Number.	Value.	Denomination.	Number.	Value.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Halfpenny stamps ...	4,536,000	9,450 0 0	Halfpenny stamps ...	3,501,652	7,295 2 2
One penny stamps ...	1,842,000	7,675 0 0	One penny stamps ...	2,539,934	10,583 2 10
Twopenny stamps ...	11,076,000	92,300 0 0	One penny stamped newspaper wrappers ...	16,227	67 12 3
Twopenny stamped envelopes ...	54,077	450 12 10	Twopenny stamps ...	11,943,713	99,530 18 10
Twopence-farthing stamped en- velopes ...	1,200	11 5 0	Twopenny stamped envelopes	54,077	450 12 10
Threepenny stamps ...	540,000	6,750 0 0	Twopence-farthing stamped en- velopes ...	3,636	34 1 9
Fourpenny stamps ...	408,000	6,800 0 0	Threepenny stamps ...	181,404	2,267 11 0
Sixpenny stamps ...	960,000	24,000 0 0	Fourpenny stamps ...	154,997	2,583 5 8
Ninepenny stamps ...	120,000	4,500 0 0	Sixpenny stamps ...	584,450	14,611 5 0
One shilling stamps ...	65,640	3,282 0 0	Ninepenny stamps ...	89,944	3,372 18 0
One shilling stamped telegraph forms ...	1,129	56 9 0	One shilling stamps ...	78,406	3,920 6 0
Two shilling stamps ...	12,000	1,200 0 0	One shilling stamped telegraph forms ...	1,169	58 9 0
			Two shilling stamps ...	11,234	1,123 8 0
			Five shilling stamps ...	5,448	1,362 0 0
Totals ...	19,616,046	156,475 6 10	Totals ...	19,166,311	147,260 13 4

INLAND MAILS.

The amount paid for conveyance of Inland Mails, 1874 (exclusive of £11,000 paid to the Department of Railways), was £88,247 9s. 1d., and the gross number of miles travelled with the mails (deducting 805,620 miles travelled by rail) was 3,147,857, at an average cost of 6½d. per mile.*

Additions and alterations in the Inland Mail arrangements during the year 1874.

- To and from Kiewa and Kergunyah two days a week from 12th January 1874.
 To and from Violettown and Kialla, by way of Costello's and Keady's, once a week from 2nd January 1874.
 To and from Sutton Grange and Myrtle Creek two days a week from 10th January 1874.
 To and from Shepparton and Mooropna two days a week from 1st January.
 To and from Cobden and Port Campbell once a week from 17th March.
 To and from Magpie and Sebastopol six days a week from 1st January.
 To and from Wodonga and Albury six days a week from 26th January (opening of railway).
 Deviation to and from Corryong, in Tintaldra and Koetong service, from 1st February.
 Additional three days a week frequency between Yackandandah and Albury from 2nd March.
 Additional once a day frequency between Post Office and Railway Station, Rochester, from 3rd March.
 To and from Dean's Marsh and Lorne two days a week from 29th April.
 Fitzroy and Collingwood letter-boxes cleared by two vehicles in lieu of by one from 19th February.

* Contracts for most of the Inland Mail Services have been entered into for three years from 1st July 1875, at a reduced rate of 10 per cent. and upwards on the tenders for the financial year 1875-6, by which means a saving will be effected on the two additional years 1876-7-8 of about £15,000, or 15 per cent. per annum.

This reduces the mileage average rate for 1875-6-7-8 to about 6½d. per mile.

Coburg mails twice daily, in lieu of once, from 8th October.

Mails to and from Campbell's Creek twice a day resumed from 8th October.

Cobram mails once a week additional (*via* Wangaratta) from 16th October.

Mails to and from Queenscliff twice a day during summer season from 1st November.

Additional mails from Melbourne to Kangaroo Ground three days a week from 1st November.

Yarra Flats mails daily, in lieu of three days a week, from 1st November.

Castlemaine and Sandhurst mails due at 3.40 p.m., in lieu of 4.10 p.m., from 1st November.

The Stawell, Horsham, Ararat, &c., mails closed at 3.40 p.m., in lieu of at 5.30 p.m., and above line of mails due here at 10.31 a.m., in lieu of 3.25 p.m., from 1st November.

The afternoon despatch of Suburban mails ten minutes later from 1st November.

Green's Creek mails daily from 18th November.

Talbot, Clunes, &c., mails forwarded at night, per rail, to Clunes from 16th November, on opening of railway from Creswick to Clunes, and in the morning per first train to Maryborough.

Mails for Leigh Road twice daily from 16th November.

Shepparton mails once a week additional from 23rd November.

St. Huberts mails daily from 20th November.

Additional mail for and from Baringhup (in connection with Nuggety Reef service) from 5th December.

Mails for and from Melbourne and Keilor despatched by rail, *via* Keilor Road Station, as formerly, in lieu of direct by coach, from 22nd December.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Additional Wires and Extensions.

A line of telegraph has been erected from Keilor Road Railway Station to Ballarat, *via* Bacchus Marsh and Ballan, at which latter places Telegraph Offices have been established.

Nagambie, Murchison, and Rushworth have also been placed in communication with Melbourne, by a line constructed from Seymour to those places.

Terang and Mortlake have been connected by a direct line, and an additional wire run from the former place to Melbourne.

A new line has been constructed from Lancefield Road Railway Station to Lancefield, *via* Romsey, at both which places offices have been established.

Learmonth has been connected by a loop line with the Ballarat and Ararat wire.

Special wires for the use of the Railway Department have been continued from Castlemaine to Dunolly, *via* Newstead and Carisbrook, and from Ballarat to Beaufort.

Poles have been extended from Hawthorn to Kew, to which place a wire has been run.

A deviation of that portion of the Southern Coast line between Frankston and Dromana has been effected, the line having been transferred from the old bush track to the present coach road.

The following is a Statement of Expenditure for Telegraph Lines, Stations, &c. :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total Expenditure for Lines, Stations, &c., up to 31st December 1874				359,265	17	10
EXPENDITURE DURING 1874.						
Main Extension of Lines, &c., to 31st December	24,134	0	10			
New Buildings and Repairs to Existing Buildings	18,161	11	10			
				42,295	12	8
CURRENT EXPENDITURE DURING 1874.						
Rent of Temporary Offices				2,357	14	9
				401,561	10	6

Local and Intercolonial Business.

STATEMENT showing the Victorian and Intercolonial Business for the Years 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, and 1874.

	1869.			1870.			1871.			1872.			1873.			1874.		
	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.		Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	
*Between Victorian Stations ..	194,591	24,154	7 8	363,332	27,921	15 9	430,290	27,574	14 4	500,617	31,544	15 3	521,489	25,780	16 5	502,829	30,945	2 1
From—																		
Victoria to New South Wales	13,949	5,640	1 3	15,735	5,549	5 9	22,452	5,547	8 3	29,148	6,693	8 3	26,844	7,686	13 11	48,024	7,024	3 8
New South Wales to Victoria	18,540	5,720	2 5	14,203	5,998	13 8	21,169	5,050	17 7	19,899	6,769	0 8	27,226	7,834	5 10	31,375	7,769	0 4
Victoria to Queensland ..	328	386	8 11	1,080	549	1 6	1,697	642	4 0	2,540	1,096	10 10	2,762	1,184	14 7	3,792	1,141	10 7
Queensland to Victoria ..	1,118	498	16 0	1,514	757	1 8	1,970	788	5 10	2,652	1,307	12 8	3,279	1,537	4 8	7,151	1,577	7 6
Victoria to South Australia ..	7,301	2,552	7 6	9,382	3,889	14 8	14,846	2,771	10 2	12,271	3,315	10 11	17,268	2,361	3 10	17,091	2,364	5 4
South Australia to Victoria ..	6,185	2,167	11 0	7,849	1,892	3 2	12,085	1,797	10 3	10,823	2,820	15 10	16,541	2,762	14 3	18,314	2,617	7 6
Victoria to Tasmania ..	9,387	1,878	18 1	4,485	1,744	9 6	3,791	1,854	11 4	4,839	1,647	19 0	5,445	1,229	8 8	5,893	1,380	7 11
Tasmania to Victoria ..	2,312	1,108	16 0	4,825	1,940	10 0	4,609	1,365	15 2	3,942	1,161	8 7	4,456	1,263	2 0	4,998	1,739	5 11

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

None—Victoria .. .. .	.. .. .	Reduced rate of 1s. for 10 words came into operation 1st January 1870.
New South Wales .. .. .	.. .. .	Reduced rate from 2s. to 1s. for 10 words came into operation 1st November 1873.
Queensland .. .. .	.. .. .	Reduced rate from 6s. 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 2s. to 1s. for 10 words came into operation 1st January 1870.

STATEMENT showing the Extension of Telegraph Lines in the Australian Colonies during 1874, and Lines in progress.

VICTORIA.

529 miles of wire; total number of miles of wire, 4,399; 18 new stations; total number of stations, 149.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

928 miles of wire; total number of miles of wire, 7,532; 26 new stations; total number of stations, 130.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

84 miles of wire; 50 miles of line; total miles of line, 3,054; of wire, 3,876; 7 new stations; total number of stations, 100.

TASMANIA.

256 miles of wire; total number of miles of wire, 547; 21 new stations; total number of stations, 42.

STATEMENT showing the Australian Business transacted with Europe and the East for the Year 1874.

Colony.	Received.		Transmitted.		Total.	
	Number of Messages.	Value.	Number of Messages.	Value.	Number of Messages.	Value.
Victoria	2,925	£ 31,546 11 8	2,582	£ 27,348 12 3	5,508	£ 58,895 3 11
South Australia	425	3,848 2 3	431	3,806 4 6	856	7,654 7 9
New South Wales	1,414	14,818 9 8	1,525	18,756 4 4	2,939	33,574 14 0
Queensland	178	1,891 18 9	228	2,469 1 6	406	4,361 0 3
Tasmania	42	344 16 9	47	485 9 11	89	830 6 8
Totals	4,985	52,449 19 1	4,813	52,865 12 6	9,798	105,315 12 7

RETURN showing Net Revenue from 1st January to 31st December 1874.

Cash receipts paid into Treasury, from 1st January to 31st December 1874	£ 42,825 9 7	£ s. d.
Less amount due to other colonies on account of intercolonial business for same period:—		
Bass Cable Company	£931 7 3	
South Australia	94 1 5	
	1,025 8 8	41,800 0 11
Amount due by other colonies on account of intercolonial business for same period:—		
New South Wales	£45 8 2	
Tasmania	135 6 1	
Queensland	241 4 4	
	421 18 7	421 18 7
		£42,221 19 6

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1873 and 1874, and Number of Messages transmitted from each Office during the Year 1874.

Name of Station.	Date of Opening Office.	Number of Messages transmitted.	Revenue, 1873.		Revenue, 1874.		Increase, 1874.		Decrease, 1874.	
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Melbourne, Chief Office	Mar. 1854	172,998	17,476	11 11	15,833	6 6	...	...	1,643	5 5
" William street	Aug. 1872	33,246	2,761	10 11	2,959	9 8	197	18 9	...	...
Alexandra	Dec. 1873	3,395	6	1 2	131	8 4	125	7 2	...	...
Arazat	Nov. 1858	6,281	367	19 0	347	15 6	...	...	...	...
Avenel	Nov. 1874	195	New office	11	0 4	11	0 4	...	...	...
Avoca	Mar. 1859	3,092	146	0 2	169	12 11	23	12 9	...	...
Bacchus Marsh	Oct. 1874	213	New office	12	7 2	12	7 2	...	...	...
Bairnsdale	July 1869	4,442	226	5 10	263	3 6	36	17 8	...	...
Ballaan	Sept. 1874	431	New office	24	15 6	24	15 6	...	...	...
Ballarat	Dec. 1856	41,053	3,130	3 4	2,637	11 2	...	...	492	12 2
Beaufort	Mar. 1858	2,068	85	11 7	114	0 10	28	9 3	...	...
Beechworth	Jan. 1858	8,273	610	12 1	487	12 0	...	...	123	0 1
Belfast	Mar. 1858	8,730	437	12 7	413	18 4	...	...	13	14 3
Benalla	May 1858	3,605	214	4 5	177	8 4	...	...	36	16 1
Barwick	Mar. 1873	738	23	2 2	38	4 10	15	2 8	...	...
Birregurra	Feb. 1874	833	New office	49	7 5	49	7 5	...	...	...
Bright	Aug. 1867	1,852	114	6 6	104	15 7	...	...	9	10 11
Brighton	Nov. 1872	1,045	46	17 6	63	1 9	16	4 3	...	...
Brunswick	Aug. 1872	462	22	17 5	28	9 8	5	12 3	...	...
Buninyong	Oct. 1862	911	43	8 2	48	3 7	4	15 5	...	...
Camperdown	Oct. 1863	3,050	152	15 2	198	8 0	45	12 10	...	...
Cape Otway ¹	Sept. 1859	1,219	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	12 5
Cape Schanck	Sept. 1861	922	5	8 3	3	15 10	...	...	...	...
Caramut	Mar. 1874	724	New office	40	9 8	40	9 8	...	...	...
Carisbrook	Jan. 1861	-1,567	59	1 10	73	1 1	13	19 3	...	...
Casterton	July 1865	2,632	128	3 4	161	18 4	33	15 0	...	...
Castlemaine	Jan. 1857	10,165	769	15 9	548	1 3	...	...	221	14 6
Chevron	Oct. 1872	434	20	5 11	25	16 6	5	10 7	...	...
Chiltern	Mar. 1861	2,316	157	1 8	126	11 2	...	...	30	10 6
Clunes	Feb. 1861	5,190	375	4 11	355	0 1	...	...	20	4 10
Coburg	Aug. 1873	291	7	11 1	17	13 11	10	2 10	...	...
Colac	Aug. 1853	3,604	169	10 8	226	16 9	57	6 1	...	...
Coleraine	Aug. 1867	2,534	164	10 8	169	16 0	5	5 4	...	...
Collingwood	Nov. 1865	3,612	235	14 11	255	14 8	29	19 9	...	...
Creswick	Aug. 1859	3,849	231	15 7	230	19 3	...	...	0	16 4
Dandenong	June 1871	1,548	68	19 8	82	15 7	23	13 11	...	...
Daylesford	Aug. 1859	3,854	231	8 5	215	19 4	...	...	15	9 1
Dunolly	Aug. 1859	2,979	134	10 8	151	0 3	16	9 7	...	...
Eaglehawk	Oct. 1871	956	53	13 0	54	17 5	1	4 5	...	...
Echuca	Dec. 1858	12,179	627	6 11	695	4 5	67	17 6	...	...
Eldorado	July 1871	1,275	158	11 6	129	0 10	...	...	29	10 8
Emerald Hill	Feb. 1872	2,387	128	2 9	164	13 10	36	11 1	...	...
Flinders ²	May 1869	192	8	2 11	8	17 8	0	14 9	...	...
Footscray	Oct. 1873	513	9	3 4	28	12 9	19	9 5	...	...
Fryerstown	April 1873	777	55	8 10	40	12 10	...	...	14	16 0
Gaffney's Creek	May 1871	984	70	1 5	59	18 2	...	...	10	3 3
Geelong	Dec. 1854	20,526	1,122	15 6	1,284	0 2	161	4 8	...	...
Hamilton	Mar. 1861	7,981	489	3 9	530	12 8	41	8 11	...	...
Hawthorn	July 1872	715	35	5 4	48	13 3	13	9 11	...	...
Heathcote	Oct. 1859	1,506	88	2 1	83	6 7	...	...	4	15 6
Hexham	April 1858	641	39	18 7	38	3 11	...	...	1	12 8
Inglewood	Oct. 1861	2,649	137	5 4	137	13 9	0	10 5	...	...
Jamieson	June 1865	1,585	75	17 3	82	3 6	6	6 3	...	...
Kerang	Aug. 1863	840	34	9 2	47	15 7	13	6 5	...	...
Kilmore	Oct. 1857	2,261	129	10 7	101	18 10	...	...	27	11 9
Koroit	Sept. 1872	1,187	64	14 4	69	6 0	4	11 8	...	...
Kyneton	April 1857	5,424	292	0 5	274	10 3	...	...	17	10 2
Lancefield	May 1874	432	New office	24	3 6	24	3 6	...	...	...
Learmonth	May 1874	428	New office	28	5 4	28	5 4	...	...	...
Leigh Road ³	May 1873	696	18	12 0	33	14 10	15	2 10	...	...
Linton	Oct. 1868	901	44	4 0	45	17 6	1	13 6	...	...
Longwood	Nov. 1857	612	36	15 1	30	3 10	...	...	6	11 3
Majorca	April 1870	1,021	67	10 10	50	16 8	...	...	16	14 2
Maldon	Aug. 1859	2,417	117	13 1	122	1 1	4	9 0	...	...
Malmsbury	Oct. 1865	1,753	61	3 6	83	1 0	21	17 6	...	...
Mansfield	Nov. 1868	2,945	149	3 2	156	6 5	7	3 3	...	...
Maryborough	April 1859	6,984	465	4 9	398	0 9	...	...	67	4 0
Mornington	Mar. 1861	1,427	67	19 4	72	8 8	4	9 4	...	...
Mortlake	June 1864	2,165	113	8 2	124	5 7	10	17 5	...	...
Murchison	Dec. 1874	117	New office	7	9 3	7	9 3	...	...	...
New Gisborne	July 1873	582	14	6 1	31	18 10	17	12 9	...	...
Newstead	Oct. 1863	863	50	3 9	45	8 9	...	...	4	15 0
Penshurst	Jan. 1867	2,194	102	4 6	134	17 7	32	13 1	...	...
Port Albert	Dec. 1864	3,874	225	14 0	175	19 11	...	...	49	14 1
Portland	Feb. 1858	5,408	337	4 8	340	13 7	3	8 11	...	...
Prabran	Aug. 1873	1,705	76	2 5	99	2 10	23	0 5	...	...
Queenscliff	Jan. 1835	*9,321	161	10 8	154	2 0	...	...	7	8 8
Richmond	Jan. 1872	1,926	84	15 2	106	16 4	22	1 2	...	...
Rokewood	Sept. 1873	580	11	8 4	33	5 9	21	17 5	...	...
Romsey	May 1874	442	New office	23	14 5	23	14 5	...	...	...
Rosedale	Mar. 1867	1,990	88	14 2	101	17 11	13	3 9	...	...
Rushworth	Dec. 1874	104	New office	6	6 9	6	6 9	...	...	...

¹ Look-out Shipping Station.² Local collections only.³ Leigh Road office is now called "Waddah."*

* This includes a large number of "Collect" messages.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1873 and 1874, and Number of Messages transmitted from each Office during the Year 1874—continued.

Name of Station.	Date of Opening Office.	Number of Messages Transmitted.	Revenue, 1873.		Revenue, 1874.		Increase, 1874.		Decrease, 1874.					
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.				
Rutherglen	Aug. 1862	1,453	91	9	3	89	4	7	...	2	4	8		
St. Arnaud	Jan. 1865	5,655	209	7	9	340	8	9	131	1	0	...		
St. Kilda	Feb. 1871	3,457	197	17	1	249	10	10	51	13	9	...		
Sale	Sept. 1864	7,904	510	4	7	532	16	11	22	12	4	...		
Sandhurst	Jan. 1857	32,650	3,504	1	6	1,989	8	9	...	1,514	12	9		
Sandridge	July 1855	2,213	142	4	10	132	2	1	9	17	3	...		
Scarsdale	Sept. 1872	819	43	12	10	47	14	2	4	1	4	...		
Sebastopol	Jan. 1870	706	35	19	2	38	6	10	2	7	8	...		
Serpentine	Sept. 1873	1,003	13	16	0	60	15	11	44	19	11	...		
Seymour	June 1865	1,911	104	16	5	96	10	9	...	8	5	8		
Shady Creek	Jan. 1871	674	28	13	0	33	1	6	4	8	6	...		
Smythesdale	June 1863	1,285	74	15	9	60	2	0	...	14	13	9		
Sorrento	Feb. 1874	1,230	New office	71	13	4	71	13	4	...	...	...
South Yarra	Aug. 1872	1,939	147	5	11	139	12	6	...	7	13	5		
Stawell	Oct. 1861	12,956	1,080	0	1	785	1	4	...	294	18	9		
Stockyard Creek	April 1873	2,902	202	10	8	177	5	1	...	25	5	7		
Stratford	May 1873	1,468	51	7	7	86	4	10	34	17	3	...		
Streatham	July 1858	995	57	7	1	59	2	5	1	15	4	...		
Stuartmill	Dec. 1869	711	38	15	9	41	1	10	2	6	1	...		
Swan Hill	April 1863	2,050	97	19	2	110	19	6	13	0	4	...		
Talbot	Dec. 1860	3,652	175	19	7	191	12	1	14	13	6	...		
Taradale	Nov. 1861	999	41	10	2	51	3	11	9	13	9	...		
Tarnagulla	Nov. 1860	920	72	1	4	50	12	8	...	21	8	8		
Terang	Nov. 1871	1,134	53	10	7	62	9	0	8	18	5	...		
Wahgunyah	Feb. 1861	3,316	141	14	9	117	10	3	...	24	4	6		
Walhalla	Nov. 1870	4,947	289	7	5	281	14	11	...	7	12	6		
Wangaratta	July 1858	6,856	451	1	1	401	15	9	...	49	5	4		
Warrnambool	Mar. 1858	17,955	955	0	4	1,100	12	10	145	12	6	...		
Williamstown	Mar. 1854	4,789	284	10	4	327	0	2	42	9	10	...		
Wilson's Promontory ¹	April 1873	1,249	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Winchelsea	Feb. 1874	781	New office	45	0	5	45	0	5	...	...	...
Wodonga	Jan. 1858	3,061	174	18	6	200	5	2	25	6	8	...		
Wood's Point	Oct. 1865	2,108	107	9	1	117	2	5	9	13	4	...		
Yackandandah	Feb. 1861	1,925	67	18	3	58	12	8	...	9	5	7		
Point Lonsdale ¹	Oct. 1861	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
RAILWAY CIRCUIT.														
Avenel	Dec. 1872	2,402	64	15	7	55	7	11	...	9	7	8		
Ballarat West	July 1863	4,038	30	17	7	51	18	8	21	1	1	...		
Beaufort	Aug. 1874	663	New office	7	5	9	7	5	9	...	...	...
Bonalla	Aug. 1873	2,732	41	3	0	54	9	1	13	6	1	...		
Broadford	May 1872	4,192	22	14	2	19	12	7	...	3	1	7		
Buninyong	Mar. 1873	3,552	15	5	9	14	4	3	...	1	1	6		
Burrumbidgee ²	Aug. 1874	683	New office	4	9	9	4	9	9	...	...	...
Castlemaine	July 1863	6,376	35	19	0	39	16	8	3	17	8	...		
Chiltern	Dec. 1873	1,498	1	11	2	9	19	2	8	8	0	...		
Craigieburn ³	Aug. 1872	...	3	19	7	...	...	...	...	3	19	7
Creswick	Aug. 1874	297	New office	4	3	0	4	3	0	...	...	...
Echuca	June 1865	3,405	51	11	7	79	14	1	28	2	6	...		
Elphinstone	April 1873	4,762	8	4	2	14	8	9	6	4	7	...		
Geelong	April 1862	4,355	60	13	10	71	6	5	10	12	7	...		
Gravel Pits ⁴	Dec. 1872	...	18	4	7	...	...	...	...	18	4	7
Kilmore East ⁵	May 1872	...	11	3	9	...	...	...	...	11	3	9
Lancefield Road	July 1873	802	4	16	6	15	2	10	10	6	4	...		
Little River ⁶	Nov. 1862	...	4	17	1	...	...	...	...	4	17	1
Longwood	Dec. 1872	1,844	46	9	5	19	8	9	...	27	0	8		
Macedon ⁷	June 1874	...	New office	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maryborough	July 1874	656	New office	6	14	5	6	14	5	...	...	...
Meredith ⁸	April 1867	...	1	16	8	...	...	...	...	1	16	8
New Gisborne ⁹	July 1868	...	15	9	1	...	...	...	...	15	9	1
Newmarket	Oct. 1874	661	New office	17	4	0	17	4	0	...	...	...
Newstead	July 1874	816	New office	1	8	2	1	8	2	...	...	...
Runnymede	June 1865	4,030	91	18	3	111	18	8	20	0	5	...		
Sandhurst	July 1863	3,192	88	19	11	105	15	5	16	16	6	...		
Seymour	May 1872	3,990	16	3	0	24	15	2	8	12	2	...		
Spencer street, Melbourne	Oct. 1861	21,767	452	15	2	503	11	3	50	16	1	...		
Sunbury	Feb. 1867	5,116	35	1	8	44	18	5	9	16	9	...		
Violet Town ¹⁰	Mar. 1873	1,981	89	7	10	28	4	1	...	61	3	9		
Wallan-wallan	May 1872	3,769	13	17	2	12	14	5	...	1	2	9		
Wangaratta	Nov. 1873	2,642	17	6	2	61	13	9	44	7	7	...		
Werribee	April 1869	5,449	35	11	2	42	12	1	7	0	11	...		
Williamstown Junction	April 1862	3,339	4	11	10	5	17	3	1	5	5	...		
Williamstown Railway Pier	Jan. 1870	2,481	21	6	0	39	15	8	8	9	8	...		
Wodonga	Nov. 1873	1,898	4	8	5	25	12	0	22	3	7	...		
Woodend ¹¹	Oct. 1861	2,471	52	19	7	62	12	11	9	13	4	...		
		701,080	45,322	17	5	42,825	9	7	2,528	9	3	5,025	17	1

¹ Lock-out Shipping Stations. ² Burrumbidgee Railway Telegraph Station was closed 4th December 1874. ³ Craigieburn, Gravel Pits, Kilmore East, Little River, and Meredith Railway Telegraph stations were closed in 1873. ⁴ The Railway "Telegraph Station" at New Gisborne was transferred in July 1873 to a Postal Telegraph Station. ⁵ Violet Town Railway Telegraph Station was closed on 30th November 1874. ⁶ The business at Macedon is included in that at Woodend.

NOTE.—The Postmasters at Brunswick, Chewton, Coburg, Lancefield, Murchison, Rekewood, Remsey, Scarsdale, Serpentine, and South Yarra are not on the Establishment, being in private business on their own account. They are paid a percentage on the telegraph collections at their respective offices.

An increase in the number of operators, letter-carriers, and telegraph messengers has been found necessary, to keep pace with the growth of the business of the Department.

The increase in the number of sorters which has taken place is partly ascribable to the cause mentioned in the preceding paragraph, and partly to an alteration in the designation of mail guards who sort mails in travelling Post Office vans; such officers having, since my last Report, been appointed sorters, with a travelling allowance when on duty.

To the change above referred to the reduction in the number of persons under the head of mail guards, as compared with the last statement of the strength of the Department, is to be attributed.

The Post and Telegraph Offices at the following places, namely—Market square, Brighton, Emerald Hill, Hawthorn, Mornington, Sandridge, St. Kilda, Alexandra, Bacchus Marsh, Ballan, Birregurra, Berwick, Eaglehawk, Footscray, Leigh Road, Lintons, Majorca, Malmesbury, New Gisborne, Newstead, Prahran, Sebastopol, Sorrento, Stratford, Stuartmill, Taradale, Terang, Winchelsea, and Yack-andandah—are under the charge of postmistresses, and at the first seven named places female assistants are employed.

Female assistants are also employed at Cape Otway, Cape Schanck, Dandenong, Dunolly, Kerang, Learmonth, Longwood, Queenscliff, Shady Creek, Scarsdale, and Stockyard Creek.

A room has been set apart in connection with the Central Electric Telegraph Office for the suburban circuits, and females who have passed an examination in Telegraphy have been appointed to assist in carrying on the business under competent officers of their own sex, the whole being under the direction of the Manager. The female operators so appointed have been required to serve a period of probation satisfactorily, before being paid for their services, and it is from those who have so served the probation that postmistresses have in some instances been selected to take charge of small offices in the country.

As is stated in the Report for 1873, 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 of 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 five officers resigned, three retired, one was superannuated, two were reduced in class, one was dismissed, and two died.

STATEMENT showing the Strength and Distribution of the Staff of the Department as at present constituted.

Office.	Postmasters and Foreign Managers.	Officers, Clerks, and Operators.	Sorters.	Instrument Makers.	Mail-guards, Letter-carriers, and Messengers.	Line-rovers and Signalmen.	Printer's, &c., Assistants.	Maintenance and Bookmen.	Office-keepers and Messengers.	Gas Engineers, Carpenter, Night-watchmen, and Constables.	Superannuaries and Assistants.	Total.	Remarks.
Melbourne	...	163	75	5	85	7	15	5	43	7	56*	461	20 supernumeraries employed on arrival of the European mail
Alexandra	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Ararat	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	...	...	5	
Avoca	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Avenel	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Bacchus Marsh	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Bairnsdale	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Ballan	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Ballarat P.O.	...	1	4	3	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	15 supernumeraries employed on arrival of the European mail
Ballarat E.T.O.	...	1	5	...	...	1	...	...	10	...	...	17	
Beaufort	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	5	
Beechworth	...	1	1	3	1	1	...	...	3	...	...	8	
Belfast	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	5	
Benalla	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Berwick	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Birregurra	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Bright	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Brighton	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	5	Postmistress paid out of Contingencies
Buninyong	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Camperdown	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	3	
Cape Otway	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	
Cape Schanck	1	1	