

1877.
—
VICTORIA.

R E P O R T

UPON THE AFFAIRS OF THE

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH
DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1876.

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

By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

REPORT.

On the 1st April "*The Post Office Amendment Act 1876*" came into operation.

This Act authorizes the issue of Post Cards to be sent by post between places in Victoria at the rate of one penny each, under regulations approved of by the Governor in Council.

There is also a clause in this Act exempting coasting and intercolonial sailing vessels from notifying proposed time of departure from ports in Victoria, as required by section 39 of *The Post Office Statute 1866*.

It cannot be stated with certainty how far the measure relating to post cards has affected the revenue, but there is reason to believe that the increase on letters and packets would have been greater than it has been had it not been for the introduction of post cards, and that the letters and packets displaced would have realized an amount equal to that received for post cards.

During the nine months ended 31st December 1876, 695,761 post cards, of the value of £2,899, were issued to the public, and during the same period the increase in the issue of twopenny and one penny postage stamps fell below the average increase of the previous five years, and the number of private inland letters and packets passing through the post appears by the returns to have been similarly affected.

Although, up to the present time, there may not have been any pecuniary gain, the introduction of the post card has, no doubt, been a convenience to the public. It has been extended to the other Australasian colonies, and Victorian post cards, if bearing one penny additional postage, are now received and delivered as letters in New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia, and New Zealand.

Ninety post cards with obscene, offensive, or libellous matter written thereon have been detained and destroyed in the Dead Letter Office, and some such cards have escaped the observation of the carriers and have been delivered to the addressees; but the apprehensions that were felt that post cards would be extensively used for malicious purposes have not proved well founded, and there is reason to be quite satisfied with the success of the experiment so far as it has been tried.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The gross Postal Revenue for the years 1875 and 1876 was, including commission on money orders and excluding fractions—

1875	...	...	...	£162,132
1876	...	...	...	170,891

showing an increase of £8,759, or 5½ per cent.

The gross Telegraph Revenue for 1875 and 1876 was—

1875	...	...	...	£46,995
1876	...	...	...	52,467

showing an increase of £5,472, or 11½ per cent.

The total Postal and Telegraph Revenue for 1876 amounted to £223,359, against £209,128 for 1875, showing an increase of £14,231, or 6½ per cent.

Expenditure.

The net cost of the Department for the year 1876 was £98,299, against £100,618 for 1875, showing a saving of £2,319.

The gross expenditure of the Department for the year 1876, including collections on account of other Governments and commission to licensed vendors of postage stamps, amounted to £321,658, against £309,746 for the year 1875, showing an increase of £11,912 (of which £6,178 was on account of salaries, wages, and contingencies), or about 3½ per cent.

Deducting from this latter amount increments and other allowances fixed by the Civil Service Act and Regulations, the amount actually expended for salaries, wages, and contingencies, in excess of the expenditure under same heads for the year 1875, did not exceed £3,631, or $2\frac{1}{10}$ per cent., being $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. less than the increase of the year 1875 over the year 1874, although the business of the Department increased during the year 1876 in greater proportion than in the year 1875.

The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1876 :—

REVENUE.				EXPENDITURE.			
		£	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	...	170,891	18 8	Salaries and wages, occasional assistance, and overtime	...	147,523	19 4
Electric telegraph collections, including amount collected on account of other colonies and the Tasmania Submarine Cable Company	...	52,467	10 2	Contingencies*	...	27,725	19 1
Deficit	...	98,299	7 9	Commission to licensed vendors of postage stamps	...	3,015	3 11
				Mail service (inland), including landing and shipping mails	...	100,268	0 8
				Gratuities to masters of vessels	...	2,314	9 8
				Estimated amount of postal collections on account of other Governments	...	2,800	0 0
				Steam postal communication with Great Britain via Suez, San Francisco, and Torres Straits†	...	37,821	16 8
				Electric telegraph collections on account of Tasmanian Submarine Cable	...	978	15 6
				Account of New South Wales	...	172	12 7
						1,151	8 1
				Due by other colonies	...	462	0 5
						689	7 8
		£	321,658 16 7			£	321,658 16 7

* The sum of £11,997 13s. 8d. has also been expended on telegraph lines—formerly borne by the Public Works vote.

† 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 £40,000 per annum.

STATEMENT 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 1875 and 1876 respectively.

Number of Post Offices.	Years.	Inland Letters, including Official Correspondence and Post-Cards.	SHIP LETTERS.				Total Letters.	Increase 1876 over 1875.
			Despatched.		Received.			
			Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.		
	1875	14,500,000	689,066	492,951	901,134	580,930	17,154,101	10½ per cent.
	1876	16,000,000	717,049	664,051	1,046,700	541,703	18,963,503	
	Years.	Inland Packets.	SHIP PACKETS.				Total Packets.	Increase 1876 over 1875.
			Despatched.		Received.			
			Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.		
1875—855	1875	1,333,487	74,344	15,542	19,681	82,439	1,528,493	25 per cent.
1876—996	1876	1,690,000	83,573	22,839	25,890	86,729	1,909,391	
	Years.	Inland Newspapers, including Trade Circulars.	SHIP NEWSPAPERS.				Total Newspapers.	Increase 1876 over 1875.
			Despatched.		Received.			
			Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.		
	1875	4,828,047	613,149	528,515	454,377	1,129,724	7,552,912	19½ per cent.
	1876	6,130,000	625,539	556,643	519,640	1,149,525	9,016,147	

Number of letters registered in Victoria in 1875 160,787 } Increase 1876 over 1875, 10½ per cent.
 Ditto ditto 1876 177,588 }

DEAD AND IRREGULARLY POSTED LETTERS.

RETURN showing the Number of Letters, &c., received and dealt with in the Dead Letter Office during the Year 1876.

Year.	Received.				How dealt with.		
	Unclaimed.		Irregularly Posted.	Total.	Returned, Delivered, &c.	Destroyed and on hand.	Total.
	Victorian.	Intercolonial and Foreign.					
1876	102,293	13,318	17,172	132,783	120,039	12,744	132,783

NOTE.—Post cards are included in the total number; also one thousand one hundred and eighty-nine (3,189) registered letters, 188 of which contained enclosures of value (amount shown below), 16 covered articles, and 955 were without valuable contents, or the value thereof was not known to the Department.

Twenty-two (22) ordinary letters also contained articles of value. Two letters with articles enclosed on hand at close of year. One hundred and forty-one (141) letters were posted during the year with obscure or ill-defined addresses. Nine hundred and ninety-four (894) of the "Irregularly Posted" letters were without address or but imperfectly addressed, and could not in consequence be sent to the intended destinations. Some of them contained value. The remainder under this heading were "upset," including 1,237 valentines. One hundred and sixteen (116) letters were ascertained to bear wrong addresses; some of these also covered enclosures to the value of over £1,000. One hundred and nine (109) envelopes without any correspondence whatever covered value to over £2,000, and 15 valuable articles. One thousand eight hundred and eighteen (1,818) letters were "refused" by the persons addressed. Some of these also contained value. Twenty letters were posted in violation of the Postal Act, with obliterated stamps affixed. In addition to above number of letters, 6,370 packets and 11,046 newspapers were received in Dead Letter Office.

RETURN showing the Number of Registered and Unregistered Letters containing Value received and dealt with in the Dead Letter Office during the Year 1876.

Year 1876.	Received.						How dealt with.					
	Registered.		Ordinary.		Total.		Returned, Delivered, &c.		Paid into Treasury from any 66 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 ...	106	£ 247 1 9 ²	468	£ 383 6 2 ²	*666	£ 680 8 0	470	£ 471 16 11	66	£ 143 15 8	30	£ 14 15 5
Cheques, Drafts, &c. ...	80	1,357 10 10	708	14,415 5 6	†788	16,272 16 4	779	16,183 1 0	...	...	9	89 15 4
Totals ...	186	2,104 12 7²	1,166	14,798 11 8¹	1,354	16,903 4 4	1,249	16,654 17 11	66	143 15 8	39	104 10 9

* Includes £29 2s. 3d. balance unclaimed from 1875, in 84 letters, brought forward; also 259 13s. 8d. value of property acid.
† Includes £42 1s. 6d., part balance unclaimed from 1875, in 5 letters, brought forward.

NEW POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES, ETC.

Thirty-five new Post Offices were opened in 1876 at the places named below:—

Acheron	Campbell's Forest	Hill Plain	Simmons' Reef
Allan's Flat	Dergholm	Mangalore	Strathfieldsaye North
Ashens	Diggora	Mount Jeffcott	Thornton
Barber's Creek	Drouin	Mudgegonga	Tongala
Barnah	Echuca East	Nelson	Tooran
Bethunga	Everton Station	Orville (Opossum Hill)	Toolamba West
Blackburn Creek	Fort Cameron	Pannooobamawn	Wandong
Bundalong	Georoc	Pine Grove	Wollert
Burramine	Gunbower		Wycheproof.

A Receiving-house has been opened at 121 Simpson's road, Richmond.

The Post Offices at Bull Town, Buxton, Domaille's, and Red Jacket have been closed.

The names of the following offices have been changed:—Yowen Hill to "Charlton East;" Karkaroc to "Rupanyup;" Opossum Hill to "Orville;" Buninyong Railway Station to "Yendon;" Mologa to "Cohuna;" Karimba to "Mundoona;" Runnymede to "Elmore;" Berlin to "Rheola;" and Break-o'-Day to "Corindhap."

The Post Offices named below, formerly conducted by persons engaged in private business, have been transferred to the charge of the Railway Station Masters at those places:—

Armstrong's Great Western	Havelock Moolort	Springhurst	Violet Town.
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Post Office Savings Banks have been opened at the following places:—

Digby Elmore	Hexham Longwood	Preston Melton	Morang.
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A Post Office Savings Bank has also been opened in connection with the Receiving-house, Richmond South.

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

Balmoral	Durham Ox	Moe	Tintaldra
Cobden	Elmore	Ringwood	Whittlesea.
Costerfield			

A Money Order Office has also been opened at the Receiving-house, Simpson's road, Richmond.

Telegraphic communication has been extended to the localities named below, the duties in connection therewith being conducted at the respective Post Offices at those places :—

Durham Ox	Kyneton Railway Station	Malvern	Preston
Euroa Railway Station	Lilydale	Mordiallee	Riddell's Creek
Heidelberg	Little River	Myriong	Skipton
Ivanhoe	Lorne	Northcote	Weederburn.

A Telegraph Office has also been opened at Flemington, under the charge of Mr. James, chemist; and telegraphic communication has been extended to the Receiving-house established at Richmond South.

The Telegraph Office in connection with the Railway Circuit at Longwood was closed on the 31st May.

The number of Post Offices on the 31st December 1876 was 886.

In consequence of extensions in the letter delivery, three additional letter-carriers were appointed during the year.

The delivery terminating at the Australian Wharf has been extended about half a mile further in the direction of the Saltwater River.

The boundaries of the letter delivery at Richmond have been enlarged, and the following streets are now included in the delivery, viz. :—Oak, Walnut, Chesnut, Elm, and Green streets.

The delivery terminating at the Royal Park has been extended to the Model Farm and Industrial Schools.

BUILDINGS.—GENERAL POST OFFICE.

By the extending of the wooden building in which the business of the Post Office Telegraphs is conducted, additional accommodation has been provided for that branch of the Department; but the operating rooms, offices, and approaches have been and are liable to be flooded whenever a more than ordinary fall of rain occurs, causing serious interruption to the business of the Telegraph branch. Increasing inconvenience is experienced from the restricted space in which the Money Order and Savings Bank business has to be transacted, and which, like the evil above referred to, can only be remedied by the completion of the main building.

OTHER BUILDINGS.

During the year the offices and quarters in connection with the public buildings at Footscray and Hotham have been completed and occupied, as also a new and commodious office at the Custom House, Melbourne.

The new buildings at Bairnsdale, St. Kilda, Stawell, Warrnambool, and Wodonga have been completed and occupied.

At Hamilton considerable progress has been made with the contract for the new public offices, to which it is expected that the business of the Department will be transferred about the middle of 1877.

At the following offices, additions, alterations, and repairs have been effected, or are in progress, viz. :—Belfast, Buninyong, Colac, Creswick, Geelong, Hexham, Kilmore, Port Albert, Queenscliff, Swan Hill, Williamstown, &c.

During 1876 five iron receiving-pillars have been erected—one at Simpson's road, one at Emerald Hill, one at Echuca, and two at Sandhurst.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

A provisional Eightpenny stamp was issued on the 1st July to meet the reduction in the rate on correspondence for the United Kingdom *via* Brindisi from Ninepence to Eightpence the half ounce.

A new One shilling stamp was issued on the 16th August.

Penny Post Cards were first issued on the 10th April, in accordance with the *Post Office Amendment Act 1876*, No. 528, and regulations made thereunder by the Governor in Council.

An increase in the staff of this branch has been made by the appointment of a supernumerary clerk.

One hundred and thirty-six new postage stamp licenses have been issued, and forty-eight revoked, making the total number at the close of the year 1876 Seven hundred and eleven, being an increase on 1875 of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

STATEMENT showing Denomination, Number, and Value of Postage Stamps Manufactured and Issued at the General Post Office, during the Year 1876.

Manufactured.			Issued.		
Denomination.	Number.	Value.	Denomination.	Number.	Value.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Halfpenny stamps ...	5,520,000	11,500 0 0	Halfpenny stamps ...	4,467,824	9,207 19 4
One penny stamps ...	3,018,000	12,575 0 0	Halfpenny stamped newspaper wrappers ...	200	0 8 4
One penny post cards ...	733,365	3,055 13 9	One penny stamps ...	3,195,032	13,312 12 8
Twopenny stamps ...	13,796,880	114,974 0 0	One penny post cards ...	695,761	2,899 0 1
Twopenny stamped envelopes	57,107	475 17 10	One penny stamped newspaper wrappers ...	16,106	67 2 2
Twopenny-farthing stamped en- velopes ...	6,300	59 1 3	Twopenny stamps ...	13,052,679	108,635 13 2
Fourpenny stamps ...	240,000	4,000 0 0	Twopenny stamped envelopes...	57,107	475 17 10
Sixpenny stamps ...	600,000	15,000 0 0	Twopenny-farthing stamped en- velopes ...	5,268	49 7 9
Eightpenny stamps ...	60,000	2,000 0 0	Three-penny stamps ...	108,514	1,856 8 6
One shilling stamps ...	84,000	4,200 0 0	Fourpenny stamps ...	176,533	2,942 4 4
Two shilling stamps...	12,000	1,200 0 0	Sixpenny stamps ...	576,087	14,402 3 6
			Eightpenny stamps ...	53,311	1,773 14 0
			Ninepenny stamps ...	45,839	1,718 19 3
			One shilling stamps ...	85,116	4,355 16 0
			One shilling stamped telegraph forms ...	972	48 12 0
			Two shilling stamps ...	11,784	1,178 8 0
			Five shilling stamps ...	5,453	1,353 5 0
Totals ...	24,127,652	169,039 12 10	Totals ...	22,563,486	164,007 11 11

INLAND MAILS.

The amount paid for conveyance of inland mails, 1876 (exclusive of £17,500 paid to the Department of Railways), was £81,803 5s. 7d., and the gross number of miles travelled with the mails (deducting 990,050½ miles travelled by rail) was 3,268,355, the average cost of which was 6d. per mile.

In September 1876, an arrangement was entered into with the Victorian Railways for the conveyance of inland mails on all the lines then in existence at the rate of £20,000 per annum; it was also arranged that additional mails, consequent on future extensions of the railway, would be conveyed at the rate of £12 per annum per line mile, and that in future cases where a travelling post office van may be required, a further charge would be made of 8d. per mile for each mile travelled by the van.

Alterations in Mail Arrangements during the Year 1876.

Gippsland line of mails due at Melbourne at 4 a.m., in lieu of at 6 a.m. as formerly, from 18th January.

Graytown mails despatched and received three days a week, *via* Heathcote only, the route *via* Seymour having been dispensed with from 1st February.

In consequence of discontinuance of 7.15 p.m. train for Maryborough and Dunolly from 1st February, mails for various places in Maryborough and Dunolly districts formerly closing at 5.30 p.m. were closed at 2.50 p.m., from which date mails for Maryborough were forwarded per night train *via* Ballarat.

Mails from Wodonga, Beechworth, &c., due at Melbourne at 1.46 p.m., in lieu of at 2.35 p.m. as formerly.

An additional daily mail from Maryborough despatched from Melbourne per 3.35 p.m. train from 1st February.

Letters, &c., for Guildford sent through Castlemaine per night mail train, in lieu of per 3.35 p.m. train, from 1st February.

Additional mails forwarded weekly to and from Fort Cameron, Glenloth, Bungeeluke, Ninnynook, Towaninnie, and Wycheproof, from 1st November.

A second mail daily forwarded to and from Corowa, New South Wales, from 1st November.

Additional mail weekly to and from Morton Plains from 1st November.

A second daily mail for and from Flemington and Moonsee Ponds, and a second daily mail for Essendon, established 16th November.

Mails forwarded from Geelong to Winchelsea by train from the 25th November.

An additional clearance of the receiving boxes and pillars in Carlton and Hotham and East and West Melbourne commenced 27th November.

Additional mail daily from Hawthorn from 18th December.

Mails for Yackandandah to close in Melbourne daily at 1.40 p.m., and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 5.30 a.m., from 21st December.

The mail services have on the whole been conducted in an efficient and satisfactory manner during the currency of the existing contracts.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS.

Additional Wires and Extensions.

Iron poles are in course of erection from Seymour to Glenrowan, constituting the middle section of the North-Eastern Railway line, and completing the whole distance from Essendon to the River Murray, on which the wires will be carried on iron poles, the first in this colony so constructed.

Between Ballarat and Stawell, the poles and wire have been transferred from the high road to the railway line, and the old line removed.

New lines have been constructed along the railways from Sandhurst to Inglewood, and from Maryborough to Avoca. The railway stations on the branch line to Beechworth have also been provided with telegraph communication by separate wires.

A fifth wire has been run from Melbourne to Kilmore to connect with Heathcote, and afford additional means of communication with the Sandhurst and Echuca district.

A fourth wire is also in progress of extension from Benalla to Wangaratta, affording increased facilities for transacting business with New South Wales.

New lines have been erected from Kew to Lilydale, and from Dandenong to Cranbourne, also from Collingwood to Northcote and Preston, and from Collingwood to Ivanhoe and Heidelberg.

A loop line has been constructed connecting Buln Buln with the main Gippsland line.

The spare wire between Chiltern and Wodonga has been connected, and the North-Eastern circuits re-arranged, the old line having been dismantled.

Lines have been constructed affording communication by electric telegraph between the Office of the Chief Commissioner of Police and the Detective Police Office and the Richmond Depôt, and from the Richmond Depôt and the Police Office, Swanston street, to the various suburban Police Stations, including Williamstown. Also from the Office of the Inspector-General of Penal Departments to the Melbourne Gaol.

A wire has been run from the Custom House, Melbourne, to the Custom House and Graving Dock, Williamstown.

There has been a large extension of the Private Telegraph system, including an arrangement with the Emerald Hill Town Council connecting that place with the Melbourne Fire Brigade Station.

Tenders have been invited for a new line along the railway from Sale to Morwell, and from Heidelberg to Eltham.

Repairs have been effected on the lines between Avoca and St. Arnaud, and from Portland to Belfast, and from Portland to the South Australian border *via* Hamilton. Also on the Cape Otway, Bright, and Hexham lines. Considerable progress has also been made in substituting arm poles where required in Melbourne and the suburbs for the ordinary round poles with brackets, which have been found inadequate to the extended service required.

STATEMENT of Expenditure for Telegraph Lines, Stations, &c., for 1876.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total Expenditure for Lines, Stations, &c., up to 31st December 1876	437,208	19	7
EXPENDITURE DURING 1876.						
Main Extension of Lines, &c., to 31st December	11,007	13	8
New Buildings and Repairs to existing Buildings	15,584	10	8
				27,492 4 4		
CURRENT EXPENDITURE DURING 1876.						
Rent of Temporary Offices	£2,863	11	10

Local and Intercolonial Business.

STATEMENT showing the Victorian and Intercolonial Business for the Years 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1876.

	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.
* Between Victorian Stations	194,361	24,164 7 8	363,332	22,921 18 9	436,250	27,274 14 4	566,617	31,564 15 2	521,489	32,780 16 5
From—										
Victoria to New South Wales	15,849	5,840 1 3	15,733	5,645 5 9	22,492	5,547 8 2	25,148	6,603 8 2	35,944	7,635 13 11
New South Wales to Victoria	15,840	5,550 2 5	14,203	5,205 18 6	19,865	5,055 17 7	39,934	6,709 0 8	37,124	7,834 5 30
Victoria to Queensland	528	385 8 11	1,060	542 1 6	1,057	648 4 0	5,560	1,635 10 10	2,752	1,184 11 7
Queensland to Victoria	1,318	656 15 5	1,514	707 1 8	1,870	788 5 19	5,652	1,807 12 8	3,778	1,837 4 6
Victoria to South Australia	7,161	2,523 7 5	9,332	3,283 14 8	14,540	3,371 19 2	12,871	2,315 10 11	17,339	2,281 8 10
South Australia to Victoria	6,185	2,167 11 8	7,992	1,895 5 0	15,685	1,797 10 3	10,823	2,008 18 10	19,561	2,762 14 3
Victoria to Tasmania	2,187	1,678 15 1	4,485	1,744 9 8	3,251	1,204 11 4	3,639	1,647 15 0	5,445	1,279 8 8
Tasmania to Victoria	2,313	1,158 15 9	4,823	2,040 10 0	4,505	1,803 15 2	3,943	1,701 8 7	4,455	1,523 2 9

	1874.		1875.		1876.	
	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.
* Between Victorian Stations	509,623	20,045 2 1	532,335	23,120 10 5	598,928	25,823 9 8
From—						
Victoria to New South Wales	48,624	7,026 3 8	57,335	8,010 10 3	64,358	9,937 1 0
New South Wales to Victoria	51,375	7,739 6 4	65,336	8,721 18 4	71,251	9,905 4 2
Victoria to Queensland	5,782	1,141 10 7	7,015	1,687 14 5	8,617	1,794 14 8
Queensland to Victoria	7,151	6,787 7 0	9,887	2,252 14 7	10,550	2,258 15 8
Victoria to South Australia	17,001	2,395 5 4	19,287	3,015 2 6	21,799	3,654 13 5
South Australia to Victoria	18,314	2,617 7 6	31,400	3,168 8 10	34,161	3,626 3 4
Victoria to Tasmania	3,865	1,359 7 11	6,362	1,378 10 3	7,041	1,421 11 5
Tasmania to Victoria	4,565	1,732 5 11	4,862	1,813 19 0	5,593	1,847 15 0

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

NOTE.—Victoria Reduced rate of 1s. for 10 words came into operation 1st January 1875.
 New South Wales Reduced rate from 3s. to 2s. for 10 words came into operation 1st 25 November 1873.
 Queensland Reduced rate from 4s. to 3s. for 10 words came into operation 1st November 1873.
 South Australia Reduced rate from 5s. to 4s. for 10 words came into operation 1st August 1876.
 Tasmania Reduced (cash) rate from 5s. to 4s. for 10 words came into operation 1st January 1876.

STATEMENT showing the Extension of Telegraph Lines in the Australian Colonies during 1876, and Lines in progress.

VICTORIA.

Number of miles of wire erected during 1876, 425; total number of miles of wire, 4,812½; number of miles of line erected, 184; total miles of line, 2,690; number of miles of wire in progress at end of 1876, 319; number of miles of line in progress, 96; 80 miles of line and 190 miles of wire were dismantled during the year; 18 new stations were opened and 2 (Railway offices) were closed; total number of stations open at end of 1876, 180.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Number of miles of line erected during year 1876, 453; total number of miles of line erected to 31st December 1876, 8,405; number of stations opened in 1876, 27; total number of stations, 166; lines in progress:—Uralla to Walcha, Glen Innes to Vegetable Creek, Glen Innes to Grafton, Dungog to Soudrocks, West Kempsey to Grafton, Bourke to Wentworth, Bourke to Ruthurford's, Young to Morangerell, Brevartina to Gadoopa, Yass to Queenbeyan, line to connect Moree and Hay to Booligal.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Number of miles of line erected in 1876, 682; number of miles of wire, 682; total number of miles of line, 3,751; total number of miles of wire, 4,386; number of miles of line and wire in progress, 239; stations opened during 1876, 6; total number of stations open at end of 1876, 111. The number of miles of line opened includes the Esch line as far as Fowler's Bay; the station at the latter place is not yet opened to the public, but communication has been maintained with a field operator for some months past.

QUEENSLAND.

Number of miles of line erected during 1876, 576½; number of miles of wire, 852½; total number of miles of line erected to 31st December, 4,633; total number of miles of wire, 6,081; in progress, 65 miles of line; stations opened in 1876, 12; total number of stations open at end of 1876, 118.

TASMANIA.

Miles of wire erected during 1876, 45; total number of miles at end of 1876, 743; miles of wire in progress, 93; new stations opened, 11; total number of stations, 64.

STATEMENT showing the Australian business transacted with Europe and the East for the Year 1876.

Colony.	Received.		Transmitted.		Total.	
	Number of Messages.	Value.	Number of Messages.	Value.	Number of Messages.	Value.
Victoria	1,453	£ 19,396 2 1	1,091	£ 16,514 0 4	2,544	£ 35,910 2 5
South Australia	512	4,034 0 5	505	4,570 5 11	1,017	8,604 6 4
New South Wales and New Zealand	1,397	13,561 7 3	1,343	15,725 2 11	2,740	29,286 10 2
Queensland	128	1,107 14 7	184	1,913 14 6	312	3,021 9 1
Tasmania	24	268 9 5	28	276 17 9	52	485 7 2
Total	3,514	58,307 13 9	3,151	39,000 1 5	6,665	77,307 15 2

RETURN showing Net Revenue from 1st January to 31st December 1876.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash receipts paid into Treasury, from 1st January to 31st December 1876 ...	52,467	10	2			
Less amount due to other colonies on account of intercolonial business for same period :-						
Bass Cable Company	4978	15	6			
New South Wales	172	12	7			
	1,151	8	1			
Amount due by other colonies on account of intercolonial business for same period :-						
South Australia	£10	13	6			
Tasmania	170	9	0			
Queensland	280	12	11			
	462	0	5			
				463	0	5
						£51,778 2 6

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1875 and 1876, and Number of Messages transmitted from each Office during the Year 1876.

Name of Station.	Date of Opening Office.	Number of Messages transmitted.	Revenue, 1875.	Revenue, 1876.	Increase, 1876.	Decrease, 1876.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Melbourne, Central Office ...	Mar. 1854	195,967	17,109 15 11	18,705 11 5	1,595 15 6	...
" Customs	Aug. 1872	40,091	3,445 5 3	4,070 7 0	625 1 9	...
Alexandria	Dec. 1873	1,524	100 7 10	81 13 10	...	18 14 0
Ararat	Nov. 1858	8,747	494 7 9	508 11 7	12 3 10	...
Avenel	Nov. 1874	1,077	63 10 5	56 6 2	...	7 4 3
Aroos	Mar. 1859	2,336	146 14 8	132 3 8	...	14 11 0
Bacchus Marsh	Oct. 1874	1,246	72 15 6	71 8 0	...	1 7 6
Bairnsdale	July 1869	4,612	285 1 1	288 14 9	0 13 8	...
Balla	Sept. 1874	1,100	76 0 4	61 13 4	...	14 7 0
Ballarat	Dec. 1856	40,350	2,502 18 2	2,776 8 4	273 10 2	...
Balmoral	Oct. 1875	925	17 1 10	58 15 11	41 14 1	...
Beaufort	Mar. 1858	1,549	115 12 2	88 15 0	...	26 17 2
Beechworth	Jan. 1858	8,181	528 4 4	439 16 2	...	38 8 2
Belfast	Mar. 1858	7,813	455 17 7	460 2 7	4 5 0	...
Bennalla	May 1858	3,656	201 12 4	201 16 0	0 3 8	...
Berwick	Mar. 1873	1,369	51 13 7	75 15 8	24 2 1	...
Birregurra	Feb. 1874	1,326	56 5 11	66 19 2	10 13 3	...
Branxholme	Nov. 1875	809	5 2 0	47 16 2	42 14 2	...
Bright	Aug. 1867	1,602	95 9 7	89 19 4	...	5 10 3
Brighton	Nov. 1872	1,528	84 0 10	90 5 3	6 4 5	...
Brunswick	Aug. 1872	696	38 2 10	43 17 10	5 15 0	...
Buninyong	Oct. 1862	793	40 6 6	42 3 11	1 17 5	...
Camperdown	Oct. 1863	3,253	245 5 6	233 17 9	...	12 7 9
Cape Otway	Sept. 1859	891	...	9 9 5	9 9 5	...
Cape Schanck	Sept. 1861	703	6 17 9	4 0 2	...	2 17 7
Caramut	Mar. 1874	1,039	45 17 2	39 12 6	13 15 4	...
Carisbrook	Jan. 1861	1,385	51 0 3	42 7 1	...	8 13 2
Cariton	Feb. 1875	3,103	140 10 10	214 17 4	74 6 6	...
Casterton	July 1865	3,560	201 11 8	228 10 0	26 18 4	...
Castlemaine	Jan. 1857	8,543	470 10 6	445 4 10	...	25 5 8
Chewton	Oct. 1872	377	23 5 9	21 7 9	...	3 18 0
Chilton	Mar. 1861	2,014	113 19 6	112 2 7	...	1 16 11
Clunes	Feb. 1861	5,807	325 12 8	323 4 9	...	2 7 11
Coburg	Aug. 1873	384	19 14 8	23 10 5	3 15 9	...
Colac	Aug. 1863	4,315	289 0 8	289 0 1	...	10 0 7
Coleraine	Aug. 1867	3,455	179 1 0	237 0 3	47 19 3	...
Collingwood	Nov. 1865	4,618	275 12 6	317 4 3	41 11 9	...
Creswick	Aug. 1859	5,202	330 12 8	269 17 5	...	60 15 3
Dandenong	June 1871	1,543	75 18 9	81 11 11	4 13 2	...
Darleyford	Aug. 1859	3,099	186 19 4	178 9 6	...	8 9 10
Dromana	April 1875	687	23 9 0	34 10 5	11 1 5	...
Dunolly	Aug. 1859	4,019	179 4 9	199 2 7	19 17 10	...
Durham Ox	June 1876	620	New office	34 8 1	34 8 1	...
Englehawk	Oct. 1871	1,299	69 5 9	73 13 4	4 7 7	...

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1875 and 1876, and Number of Messages transmitted from each Office during the Year 1876—continued.

Name of Station.	Date of Opening Office.	Number of Messages Transmitted.	Revenue, 1875.		Revenue, 1876.		Increase, 1876.		Decrease, 1876.	
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Echuca	Dec. 1858	16,874	780	11 2	1,022	5 0	241	13 10	...	...
Eldon Railway Station	April 1875	372	14	0 3	10	14 7	5	14 4	...	...
Eldorado	July 1871	864	603	4 11	47	10 1	...	...	15	14 10
Emerald Hill	Feb. 1872	3,253	302	4 0	230	8 5	28	4 5	...	...
Flemington	Dec. 1876	35	New office	2	1 10	2	1 10	...	...	...
Flinders'	May 1869	236	10	15 5	11	11 5	0	16 0	...	...
Footscray	Oct. 1875	1,090	39	4 5	54	12 8	15	8 3	...	...
Fryerstown	April 1872	575	35	18 5	30	9 4	...	...	5	9 1
Gaffney's Creek	May 1871	540	37	16 10	30	8 10	...	...	7	8 0
Geelong	Dec. 1854	24,498	1,537	12 9	1,653	15 4	116	2 7	...	...
Gordons	Mar. 1875	986	34	0 8	54	19 11	20	19 8	...	...
Hamilton	Mar. 1861	10,462	630	10 0	756	13 3	126	3 3	...	...
Harrow	July 1875	1,471	58	6 8	89	12 10	31	6 2	...	...
Hawthorn	July 1874	1,312	60	7 5	97	7 0	36	9 7	...	...
Heathcote	Oct. 1859	1,700	94	9 10	95	11 11	1	9 1	...	...
Heidelberg	Aug. 1876	337	New office	18	15 0	18	15 0	...	...	...
Hexham	April 1859	593	23	14 11	32	15 3	9	0 4	...	...
Horsham	Jan. 1875	9,611	431	19 5	635	11 2	203	11 9	...	...
Hotham	June 1875	1,982	43	6 8	188	15 1	95	8 3	...	...
Inglewood	Oct. 1861	3,382	142	4 2	201	6 7	59	2 5	...	...
Ivanhoe	Aug. 1876	84	New office	5	5 5	5	5 5	...	...	...
Jamieson	June 1865	1,403	81	1 11	76	13 7	...	...	4	8 4
Kerang	Aug. 1863	1,483	55	2 11	75	5 2	20	2 3	...	...
Kew	Feb. 1875	1,363	59	13 2	82	17 10	23	4 8	...	...
Kilmore	Oct. 1857	2,531	107	15 6	126	9 2	18	12 8	...	...
Koroit	Sept. 1872	1,534	100	16 9	88	2 4	...	...	12	14 5
Kyneton	April 1857	5,483	289	6 6	307	3 11	17	7 5	...	...
Lancefield	May 1874	834	37	8 3	45	8 3	8	0 0	...	...
Learnmonth	May 1874	745	38	9 8	45	8 7	6	18 11	...	...
Lilydale	July 1876	550	New office	34	1 5	34	1 5	...	...	...
Linton	Oct. 1868	984	50	1 10	52	14 6	2	13 8	...	...
Little River	Sept. 1876	70	New office	3	11 5	3	11 5	...	...	...
Longwood	Nov. 1857	632	31	2 0	32	5 1	1	3 1	...	...
Lorne ²	Jan. 1876	466	New office	25	4 3	25	4 3	...	...	...
Maffra	July 1875	1,609	44	7 11	98	14 5	54	6 6	...	...
Majorca	April 1870	701	32	2 4	36	2 4	4	0 0	...	...
Maldon	Aug. 1859	1,808	100	18 2	97	17 10	...	...	3	0 4
Malmesbury	Oct. 1865	1,352	61	9 1	66	9 5	5	0 4	...	...
Malvera	Jan. 1876	246	New office	16	9 9	16	9 9	...	...	...
Mansfield	Nov. 1868	2,504	133	5 3	146	10 10	13	5 7	...	...
Maryborough	April 1859	6,225	367	14 3	359	10 7	...	...	8	3 8
Meredita	April 1875	660	20	5 5	25	19 11	5	14 6	...	...
Moerhailoc	Aug. 1876	141	New office	7	16 9	7	16 9	...	...	...
Mornington	Mar. 1861	1,338	62	18 2	70	9 3	7	11 1	...	...
Mortlake	June 1864	2,433	142	15 8	139	15 3	...	...	3	0 5
Mount Blackwood	Aug. 1875	991	25	11 2	55	15 4	30	4 2	...	...
Murchison	Dec. 1874	2,537	114	1 7	153	4 6	39	2 11	...	...
Myrning	Feb. 1876	324	New office	16	19 2	16	19 2	...	...	...
Nagambie	Jan. 1875	1,692	93	8 7	95	3 5	1	14 10	...	...
New Gisborne	July 1873	664	32	7 5	37	18 3	5	10 10	...	...
Newstead	Oct. 1863	588	32	0 1	23	0 1	1	0 0	...	...
Northcote	Aug. 1876	112	New office	6	11 5	6	11 5	...	...	...
Onkleigh	Sept. 1875	295	3	19 3	16	3 10	12	4 7	...	...
Penshurst	Jan. 1867	2,591	150	9 8	152	17 5	2	7 9	...	...
Piggoreet	Mar. 1875	390	19	15 3	20	13 2	0	19 11	...	...
Port Albert	Dec. 1864	3,625	163	0 9	169	11 9	6	11 0	...	...
Portland	Feb. 1859	7,722	399	17 7	472	0 7	72	3 0	...	...
Prabran	Aug. 1872	2,525	121	6 8	155	1 7	33	14 11	...	...
Preston	Aug. 1876	68	New office	3	15 5	3	15 5	...	...	...
Queenscliff	Jan. 1855	9,460	190	16 3	218	17 10	28	1 7	...	...
Richmond	Jan. 1872	2,345	133	2 5	143	13 11	10	11 6	...	...
Ditto South Receiving-house	April 1876	504	New office	32	18 7	32	18 7	...	...	...
Rochebster	May 1875	3,021	75	0 6	157	3 7	82	3 1	...	...
Rokewood	Sept. 1873	603	32	1 3	33	19 10	1	18 7	...	...
Romsey	May 1874	698	38	5 11	40	3 2	1	17 8	...	...
Rosedale	Mar. 1867	2,650	138	1 3	139	9 5	1	8 2	...	...
Rushworth	Dec. 1874	1,725	84	19 10	95	16 3	11	16 5	...	...
Ratherglen	Aug. 1862	1,372	66	8 4	76	6 10	9	18 6	...	...
St. Arnaud	Jan. 1865	5,703	344	7 10	340	7 2	...	...	4	0 8
St. Klida	Feb. 1871	4,354	319	1 5	318	11 8	...	...	0	9 9
Salc	Sept. 1864	10,107	692	18 8	721	18 0	28	19 4	...	...
Sandhurst	Jan. 1857	37,811	2,000	17 0	2,383	17 9	383	0 9	...	...
Sandridge	July 1855	2,861	189	6 8	207	4 11	17	18 3	...	...
Scarsdale	Sept. 1872	582	41	7 8	32	10 7	...	...	8	17 1
Sebastopol	Jan. 1870	526	39	0 9	30	12 6	...	...	8	8 3
Serpentine Creek	Sept. 1873	956	52	6 1	57	4 3	4	18 2	...	...
Seymour	June 1865	1,853	93	8 8	88	12 4	...	...	4	16 4
Shady Creek	Jan. 1871	781	34	15 0	35	13 0	0	17 0	...	...
Skipton	Sept. 1876	251	New office	15	7 2	15	7 2	...	...	...
Smythesdale	June 1863	1,150	61	15 4	56	6 2	...	...	5	9 2
Sorrento	Feb. 1874	2,519	160	0 6	170	0 1	9	19 7	...	...
South Yarra	Aug. 1872	2,754	176	7 2	212	2 8	35	16 6	...	...
Stawell	Oct. 1861	13,742	664	18 2	849	19 5	185	1 3	...	...
Stockyard Creek	April 1873	1,148	118	17 5	68	0 0	...	...	50	17 5

¹ Local collections only.

² Lorne Telegraph Office was closed on 30th June, 1876, and re-opened in Nov. 1876.

³ Includes 3,500 "collect" messages, transmitted in 1876, value £210 7s. 6d.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1875 and 1876, and Number of Messages transmitted from each Office during the Year 1876—continued.

Name of Station.	Date of Opening Office.	Number of Messages Transmitted.	Revenue, 1875.	Revenue, 1876.	Increase, 1876.	Decrease, 1876.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stratford	May 1873	1,433	101 2 7	84 5 0	...	16 17 7
Streatham	July 1858	796	35 18 11	46 14 4	...	9 4 7
Stuartmill	Dec. 1869	640	33 13 7	38 5 2	4 11 7	...
Swan Hill	April 1863	2,125	114 3 9	134 13 4	20 9 7	...
Talbot	Dec. 1860	3,371	195 4 4	167 0 3	...	28 4 1
Taradale	Nov. 1861	854	44 17 4	43 14 3	...	1 3 1
Taruagulla	Nov. 1860	775	54 1 9	42 13 1	...	11 8 8
Terang	Nov. 1871	1,346	63 19 5	74 4 10	10 5 5	...
Traralgon	May 1875	1,906	53 15 5	110 7 5	56 12 0	...
Waddallah	May 1873	984	33 6 1	42 0 7	8 14 6	...
Wahgunyah	Feb. 1861	2,956	111 6 3	123 7 0	12 0 9	...
Walhalla	Nov. 1870	6,142	302 0 4	434 13 7	132 13 3	...
Wangaratta	July 1858	4,694	339 11 2	270 15 8	...	68 15 6
Warrnambool	Mar. 1858	16,583	976 1 1	1,135 19 0	159 17 11	...
Wedderburn	Feb. 1876	1,038	New office	63 8 7	63 8 7	...
Williamstown	Mar. 1854	4,747	356 14 7	328 11 1	...	28 3 6
Wilson's Promontory ¹	April 1873	759	...	...	...	...
Winchelsea	Feb. 1874	1,263	52 10 9	64 7 4	11 16 7	...
Wodonga	Jan. 1858	3,478	183 14 3	198 2 5	14 8 2	...
Wood's Point	Oct. 1865	1,623	99 16 10	88 8 10	...	11 8 0
Yackandandah	Feb. 1861	928	50 3 8	51 4 8	1 1 0	...
Point Lonsdale ¹	Oct. 1861	...	...	...	...	...
RAILWAY CIRCUIT.						
Avenel	Dec. 1872	2,718	8 0 0	11 13 6	3 13 6	...
Ballaratt West	July 1863	4,776	69 2 2	77 8 6	8 6 4	...
Beaufort	Aug. 1874	1,330	8 1 7	1 2 10	...	5 18 9
Bensilla	Aug. 1873	2,841	36 19 7	66 13 6	29 13 11	...
Broadford	May 1872	3,587	17 19 10	16 16 6	...	1 3 4
Castlemaine	July 1863	6,883	37 3 4	47 0 1	9 16 9	...
Chiltern	Dec. 1873	1,781	3 12 2	7 10 1	3 17 11	...
Creswick ²	Aug. 1874	...	0 6 6	...	...	0 6 6
Echuca	June 1865	5,830	107 8 10	161 15 5	54 6 7	...
Elmore	June 1865	3,401	90 17 8	100 8 0	9 10 4	...
Elphinstone	April 1873	3,566	11 16 0	9 9 11	...	2 6 1
Enrol	Aug. 1876	1,373	New office	21 2 11	21 2 11	...
Geelong	April 1862	3,987	81 2 7	77 19 11	...	3 2 8
Kyneton	July 1876	953	New office	6 19 6	6 19 6	...
Lancefield road	July 1873	1,862	15 4 7	15 11 7	0 7 0	...
Longwood ³	Dec. 1872	966	21 14 7	12 7 0	...	9 7 7
Macedon ⁴	June 1874	...	...	...	...	...
Maryborough	July 1874	1,345	17 14 9	21 16 5	4 1 8	...
Newmarket	Oct. 1874	1,179	44 17 8	69 10 5	24 12 9	...
Navestrad	July 1874	1,644	4 8 4	3 0 11	...	1 7 5
Riddell's Creek	July 1876	981	New office	8 14 10	8 14 10	...
Sandhurst	July 1863	4,190	113 16 5	136 8 2	22 11 9	...
Seymour	May 1872	4,436	38 9 2	40 12 1	2 2 11	...
Spencer street	Oct. 1861	23,255	531 15 10	588 18 8	57 2 10	...
Sunbury	Feb. 1867	5,243	44 5 1	50 1 11	5 16 10	...
Wallan Wallan	May 1872	2,039	15 6 7	16 5 11	0 10 4	...
Wangaratta	Nov. 1873	1,935	62 1 2	40 14 2	...	21 7 0
Werrisbee	April 1869	1,845	53 15 3	46 15 10	...	6 19 5
Williamstown Railway Pier	Jan. 1870	2,799	24 4 3	20 15 5	...	3 8 10
Williamstown Ry. Junction ⁵	April 1862	...	2 0 0	...	...	2 0 0
Wodonga	Nov. 1873	1,623	13 18 8	23 6 6	9 7 10	...
Woodend	Oct. 1861	4,030	68 14 8	74 19 10	6 5 2	...
Yendon	Mar. 1873	3,409	12 12 2	13 2 2	0 10 0	...
		801,946	48,995 7 11	52,467 10 2	6,112 4 7	640 2 4

¹ Look-out Shipping Stations.² Creswick Railway Telegraph Office was closed 1st February 1875.³ Longwood Railway Telegraph Office was closed on 31st May 1876.⁴ The telegraph business at Macedon is included in that at Woodend.⁵ The Williamstown Junction Railway Telegraph Office was closed on 1st April 1875.

MONEY ORDER AND SAVINGS BANK.

The number of Money Orders issued during the year was 123,025, against 121,094 in 1875; the difference showing an increase of 1,931, or 1.59 per cent.

The number of Money Orders paid during the year was 125,595, against 121,924 in 1875; the difference showing an increase of 3,671, or 3.01 per cent.

The value of the Money Orders issued during the year was £379,570 10s., against £373,435 18s. 10d. in 1875; the difference showing an increase of £6,134 11s. 2d., or 1.64 per cent.

The value of the Money Orders paid during the year was £403,525 11s. 6d., against £393,383 6s. 2s. in 1875; the difference showing an increase of £10,142 5s. 4d., or 2.57 per cent.

APPENDIX A.

STATEMENT showing the Revenue and Expenditure and Net Annual Cost of the Post Office and Telegraph Department; also the Number of Inland Letters Posted in the Colony, the Ship Letters Received and Despatched, and the Number of Telegraphic Messages Transmitted in each year from 1862 to 1876 inclusive.

Year.	Number of Offices.	Post Office.										Electric Telegraph.																
		Expenditure.										Total Revenue.	Net Cost.	Total Expenditure.		Total Revenue.		Net Cost.										
		Steam Postal Service.			Inland Mail Service.			All Other Expenditure.			Total Expenditure.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.						
1862	496	43,534	11	4	49,329	17	1	67,311	4	0	109,166	12	6	117,515	1	8	41,633	10	9	33,340	9	8	25,294	10	8	6,505	2	7
1863	487	40,122	17	4	38,854	8	3	63,285	0	11	102,769	6	6	121,212	5	0	41,650	1	6	35,645	11	0	25,703	15	8	9,576	18	1
1864	475	40,133	17	4	59,732	17	8	74,069	0	4	173,554	16	4	195,378	0	7	44,531	14	0	35,978	6	3	30,601	17	11	5,374	8	4
1865	455	40,123	17	4	38,954	8	6	77,384	2	8	177,611	8	6	138,937	0	3	38,394	8	3	37,846	17	5	35,767	17	4	2,079	0	1
1866	625	28,774	14	11	61,013	11	9	85,571	2	11	175,356	11	7	130,558	12	4	44,769	19	3	38,473	2	10	30,178	17	4	2,294	5	6
1867	683	37,297	2	7	65,439	6	9	90,315	16	6	194,443	6	10	114,023	2	9	80,414	3	1	40,462	9	2	29,148	12	3	11,313	17	0
1868	633	42,145	14	1	70,625	15	11	93,979	9	9	203,151	19	9	119,380	4	2	89,211	15	7	41,715	3	4	20,760	10	4	10,954	13	0
1869	660	46,956	16	3	68,415	3	0	129,155	5	7	244,128	4	8	164,735	12	7	73,590	12	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1870	685	35,029	5	8	75,764	1	11	120,701	8	2	248,594	15	9	161,191	12	2	85,803	3	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1871	711	44,415	5	2	88,291	3	0	137,319	18	3	295,185	6	3	169,932	5	4	98,136	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1872	741	47,125	15	9	97,598	7	6	147,369	2	9	292,623	6	0	184,338	11	9	103,314	14	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1873	794	37,821	13	5	94,567	7	8	169,842	5	11	*296,162	6	9	169,334	5	11	95,778	0	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1874	802	31,583	0	0	93,737	16	9	171,289	16	6	*302,882	7	2	198,923	0	2	104,969	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1875	805	33,492	11	9	98,498	4	3	177,726	0	1	*320,746	16	1	209,128	3	9	106,619	12	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1876	883	37,321	16	8	100,958	0	8	184,968	19	8	*321,559	16	7	202,820	3	10	98,380	7	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Year.	Inland.			Ship— Received and Despatched.			Total.			Number of Telegraphic Messages Transmitted.
	Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.	
1862	4,245,096	..	2,210,946	1,261,507	..	2,698,878	6,576,623	..	4,909,319	211,685
1863	4,581,169	..	2,164,475	2,863,122	..	2,705,171	6,630,391	..	4,930,646	234,520
1864	4,778,028	45,445	2,763,544	2,612,216	22,468	2,958,001	6,730,244	62,911	5,671,345	256,380
1865	5,679,097	70,871	3,151,385	1,266,711	37,617	2,880,144	7,495,968	107,888	6,037,529	273,741
1866	6,930,000	267,843	2,435,045	1,981,133	47,562	2,343,343	8,631,135	315,595	5,438,368	277,737
1867	7,658,300	383,322	2,435,584	1,304,730	48,421	2,471,885	9,567,350	236,733	4,907,819	325,048
1868	7,925,667	372,842	2,327,549	1,844,649	51,261	2,446,353	9,749,716	324,143	4,574,168	270,677
1869	8,719,548	314,635	2,590,692	1,822,653	61,344	2,454,425	10,592,711	376,629	5,261,227	277,120
1870	9,238,123	344,515	2,697,379	1,845,320	63,771	2,680,500	11,138,293	418,286	5,287,482	454,398
1871	9,950,024	394,838	2,697,591	1,618,202	75,149	2,365,469	11,716,166	669,547	5,172,970	537,225
1872	11,000,000	452,711	2,998,683	1,941,095	103,755	2,492,120	13,541,025	656,465	5,490,172	635,900
1873	12,345,000	594,591	3,254,807	2,123,065	112,735	2,558,130	14,475,085	797,216	6,080,007	718,167
1874	13,200,000	1,116,735	4,123,500	2,446,684	163,057	2,748,718	15,738,888	1,269,872	6,866,916	701,260
1875	14,510,000	1,338,487	4,828,847	2,354,101	195,096	2,734,503	17,134,101	1,528,493	7,553,911	732,669
1876	15,900,000	1,680,000	6,130,000	2,983,503	219,251	2,893,147	18,903,203	1,920,291	9,010,147	801,946

In 1869 the Electric Telegraph was amalgamated with the Post Office Department, and from that period the Revenue and Expenditure for both Services appear under one head.

A separate account of packets was not kept previous to the year 1864.

* The cost of construction and repairs of Electric Telegraph lines (viz., £16,519 for 1873, £24,134 for 1874, £20,398 for 1875, and £11,007 for 1876) is not included in these figures. Previous to the year 1878 expenditure of the kind was borne upon the Estimates of the Public Works Department.

APPENDIX B.

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

Designation of Line.	Extent in Miles (Poles).	Extent in Miles of Wire only.	Names of Stations.	Designation of Line.	Extent in Miles (Poles).	Extent in Miles of Wire only.	Names of Stations.
SOUTHERN COAST ..	137	137	Williamstown	HARROW BRANCH ..	69½	69½	Harrow
			Geelong	BALNOCAL			Balnocal
			Queenscliff	WEDDERBURN BRANCH ..	18	18	Wedderburn
			Sandridge	MAJORCA BRANCH ..	11	11	Majorca
			Cape Schanck	ROSEY AND LANCEFIELD BRANCH ..	24	24	Rosey Lancefield
WESTERN COAST..	258	258	Mount Gambier	CHEWTON BRANCH ..	3	3	Chewton
			Portland	FRYERSTOWN BRANCH ..	3	6	Fryerstown
			Belfast	NEWKIRK BRANCH ..	10	10	Newstead
			Warrnambool	EAGLEHAWK BRANCH ..	5	5	Eaglehawk
			Tarang	HEATHCOTE BRANCH ..	36	36	Heathcote Sandhurst Kilmore
NORTH-WESTERN ..	60	70	Campdown	RUSHWORTH BRANCH ..	60	60	Rushworth
			Coteac	ALEXANDRA BRANCH ..	30	30	Alexandra
			Gordon	WOOD'S POINT BRANCH ..	85	85	Maunsfield Jamieson Wood's Point
			Bellia	GAFFNEY'S CREEK BRANCH ..	12	12	Gaffney's Creek
			Bacchus Marsh	WANGUNTAN BRANCH ..	50	50	Yackandandah Chiltern Inchberg Wahgunyah
CROSS COUNTRY—WESTERN	288	338	Myrniong	BRIGHT BRANCH ..	36	36	Bright
			Streatham	WALHALLA BRANCH ..	32	32	Walhalla
			Hexham	BALMSDALE BRANCH ..	43	43	Balmsdale Stratford
			Mortlake	MAFFRA BRANCH ..	7	7	Maffra
			Carment				Hotham Carleton Collingwood Richmond Hawdon New South Yarra Prahran Emerald Hill St. Kilda Footscray Northcote Fresno Ivanhoe Heidelberg
CAPE OTWAY ..	75	140	Hamilton	SUTHERAN BRANCH ..	45½	54½	Brunswick Coburg
			Coleraine	COBURG BRANCH ..	5	5	Lilydale
			Casterton	LILYDALE BRANCH ..	20	20	Sorrento Dromana Morrington Mordialloc Brighton
			Smythesdale	SOORENTO BRANCH ..	10	60	Spencer street Sunbury Lancefield Road Woodend Elphinstone Castlemaine Newstead Maryborough Sandhurst Eamymede Rochester Echuca
			Soaradale				Williamstown Pier
CROSS COUNTRY ..	216	327	Figgsdale				
			Linton				
			Otway				
			Lorne				
			Creechwick				
SWAN HILL ..	165	231	Daylesford				
			Cardbrook				
			Talbot				
			Maryborough				
			Clunes				
NORTHERN ..	166	196	Avoca				
			Stuartmill				
			St. Arnaud				
			Tarangulla				
			Inglewood				
NORTH-EASTERN ..	215	460	Durham Ox				
			Serpentine				
			Kerang				
			Swan Hill				
			Gisborne				
GIPPSLAND ..	271	271	Kyneton				
			Malmesbury				
			Tarsdale				
			Castlemaine				
			Malden				
BIRREGURRA BRANCH ..	17	37	Dansong				
			Berwick				
			Shady Creek				
			Trairaon				
			Bosdale				
POINT LONSDALE BRANCH ..	2	4	Sale				
			Fori Albert				
			Stockyard Creek				
			Wilson's Promontory				
KORRETT BRANCH ..	9	9	Oakleigh				
			Dansong				
			Berwick				
			Shady Creek				
			Trairaon				
BLACKWOOD BRANCH ..	14	14	Sale				
			Fori Albert				
			Stockyard Creek				
			Wilson's Promontory				
BUNINYONG BRANCH ..	5	7	Birregurra				
			Windsore				
			Point Lonsdale				
			Korrett				
ROKSWOOD BRANCH ..	20	30	Blackwood				
			Sebestopol				
			Buninyong				
			Rokewood				
HOSHAM ..	102	139	Amrat				
			Stawell				
			Hoyham				
			Learmonth				
			Beaufort				
INGLEWOOD BRANCH ..	20	60	Little River				
			Wadallah				
			Merrolith				
			Elzbe				
PORTLAND AND HAMILTON BRANCH ..	53	53	Sandhurst				
			Inglewood				
			Branzholme				
				RAILWAY CIRCUITS.			
				NORTHERN			
				WESTERN			
				NORTH-EASTERN			
				SPECIAL WIRES.			
				Ballarat			
				Williamstown			
				Ballarat to Maryborough			
				Castlemaine to Sandhurst			
				Benalla			
				Terang			
				Evelton to Tarrawingee			
				Sandhurst via Kilmore			
				97			
				9½			
				44			
				22			
				123			
				184			
				6			
				40			

Note.—Showing total of 2,650 miles of line (poles), provided with 4,819 miles of wire.

APPENDIX C.

STATISTICS of Business from 1854 to 1876, inclusive.

Year.	Cash Revenue.			Charge for Government Telegrams.			Number of Government Telegrams.			Year.	Cash Revenue.			Charge for Government Telegrams.			Number of Government Telegrams.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
1854	228	2	7	1,037	0	3	1,570	3,869		1857	29,148	12	2	6,588	18	0	59,887	235,648	
1855	3,162	13	11	3,074	11	8	2,559	12,241		1858	31,058	6	8	9,916	1	11	57,047	276,877	
1856	3,225	13	5	2,422	2	3	2,685	13,174		1859	34,182	0	5	10,460	10	7	37,996	277,132	
1857	10,024	16	10	3,023	12	2	6,628	60,058		1870	33,145	19	4	5,996	13	9	60,634	454,398	
1858	16,474	17	10	10,126	15	10	17,854	131,486		1871	36,941	17	1	5,247	0	4	63,877	537,298	
1859	25,249	17	0	21,301	8	7	31,699	197,320		1872	42,617	17	3	7,029	11	9	85,545	639,960	
1860	24,935	18	2	21,270	12	2	49,818	167,872		1873	45,322	17	5	5,656	7	7	124,319	718,167	
1861	25,217	5	4	8,546	13	11	40,818	184,688		1874	42,826	9	7	9,035	1	4	121,285	701,080	
1862	26,834	19	8	15,456	0	9	49,088	211,085		1875	45,395	7	11	7,879	15	1	109,355	732,869	
1863	25,768	15	8	18,289	8	3	78,088	234,520		1876	52,467	10	2	8,722	19	0	119,262	801,946	
1864	30,601	17	11	14,875	12	0	71,939	256,380											
1865	35,767	17	4	11,546	19	3	68,946	279,741											
1866	36,178	17	4	12,899	16	0	63,506	277,787											
											658,393	2	0	223,344	11	6	1,344,455	7,406,296	

APPENDIX D.

LIST of Post Offices in Victoria, with Names of Postmasters and the Amount of their Salaries, for 1876.

Office.	Name.	Salary or Allowance.		Office.	Name.	Salary or Allowance.	
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Aberfeldy ...	J. Hefferin ...	25	0 0	Barnedown ...	C. Wells ...	45	0 0
Acheron ...	J. Wylie ...	9	0 0	Barry's Reef ...	W. Shaw ...	55	0 0
Adelaide Lead ...	C. Noller ...	20	0 0	Bass ...	W. L. Ronald ...	25	0 0
Alberton ...	N. Christenson ...	20	0 0	Batesford ...	H. A. Smith ...	30	0 0
Alexandra ...	Edith Synnot ...	100	0 0	Baynton ...	E. Knight ...	20	0 0
Alfredton ...	W. Cochrane ...	15	0 0	Bealiba ...	B. Lyndon ...	36	0 0
Allan's Flat ...	Susan Heyenga ...	6	0 0	Beaufort ...	Thos. Lewis ...	180	0 0
Allansford ...	J. Anderson ...	40	0 0	Beacac ...	A. Gilbert ...	55	0 0
Alma ...	B. Wilds ...	25	0 0	Beechworth ...	R. B. Hodgson ...	350	0 0
Alma, Lower ...	J. Walsh ...	20	0 0	Belfast ...	J. A. Lynam ...	350	0 0
Alphington ...	J. S. Adams ...	20	0 0	Bellarine ...	J. Elnie ...	21	0 0
Amherst ...	J. P. Smith ...	55	0 0	Bellarue ...	E. Hay ...	21	0 0
Amphitheatre ...	Annie Hardie ...	35	0 0	Belmont ...	J. Williams ...	26	0 0
Anakie ...	Amelia Belcher ...	21	0 0	Benalla ...	W. H. Saxe ...	200	0 0
Apsley ...	M. A. Botterill ...	75	0 0	Bendoc ...	J. DeVissieux ...	25	0 0
Ararat ...	S. B. Deverell ...	350	0 0	Bervick ...	Mary Greet ...	60	0 0
Arcadia ...	P. O. Brien ...	10	0 0	Bet Bet ...	Mary Grant ...	25	0 0
Armstrongs (Railway Station) ...	David Muir ...	35	0 0	Bethanga ...	J. C. Foster ...	27	0 0
Ascut ...	T. O. Crighton ...	25	0 0	Beveridge ...	N. Fletcher ...	15	0 0
Ashens ...	L. S. Runnall ...	9	0 0	Big Hill ...	P. C. Perry ...	20	0 0
Avenel ...	P. Frayne, jun. ...	120	0 0	Bircregarra ...	A. Dawkins ...	72	0 0
Avoca ...	P. R. Arkins ...	220	0 0	Blackburn Creek ...	G. King ...	6	0 0
Avoca Forest ...	D. Stewart ...	15	0 0	Black Hill ...	Anne Turner ...	15	0 0
Avon Plains ...	H. Stratford ...	55	0 0	Black Lead ...	A. W. Chapman ...	15	0 0
Azedale ...	W. T. Cahill ...	25	0 0	Blakerville ...	J. Lilburne ...	15	0 0
Barmutha ...	F. Allen ...	10	0 0	Bobinawarrak ...	J. Wallace ...	15	0 0
Bacchus Marsh ...	S. H. Gearing ...	72	0 0	Bolwarra ...	Lavinia Hansen ...	20	0 0
Baillieton ...	W. Oppermann ...	15	0 0	Bonnang ...	B. Marriott ...	15	0 0
Bairnsdale ...	B. C. Jones ...	180	0 0	Boneo ...	Jane Cairns ...	15	0 0
Bald Hills ...	D. Slattery ...	15	0 0	Boort ...	J. Martin ...	36	0 0
Bald Hills (Gippsland) ...	C. Rumpff ...	15	0 0	Bo-Peep Hill ...	D. Clark ...	10	0 0
Ballaan ...	Martina McDonogh ...	75	0 0	Bowman's Forest ...	C. Mummyery ...	35	0 0
Ballaingreich ...	W. Tomlinson ...	20	0 0	Box Hill ...	S. Padgham ...	30	0 0
Ballaarat ...	W. P. Bechervaise ...	411	13 4	Branxholms ...	M. A. Kemp ...	50	0 0
Ballaarat East ...	G. Tress ...	25	0 0	Braybrook ...	J. Dickson ...	20	0 0
Ballyrogan ...	E. Skewes ...	12	0 0	Breakwater ...	C. Smith ...	20	0 0
Ballyshannassy ...	W. F. Clarke ...	20	0 0	Briargolong ...	M. Fitzgerald ...	20	0 0
Balmattun ...	D. McKernan ...	15	0 0	Bridgewater-on-Loddon ...	Jas. Stebbins ...	45	0 0
Balmoral ...	B. Lyon ...	45	0 0	Bright ...	W. H. Hollick ...	180	0 0
Balnarring ...	P. Vanuylen ...	20	0 0	Brighton ...	Frederika Thomas ...	80	0 0
Balwyn ...	R. Werritt ...	15	0 0	Brighton East ...	W. Norquay ...	*100	0 0
Bayens ...	S. McGonigal ...	18	0 0	Brighton South ...	J. G. Reynolds ...	*60	0 0
Barber's Creek ...	Thos. Butler ...	6	0 0	Brimbal ...	W. T. Pugh ...	20	0 0
Barfold ...	J. Latimer ...	25	0 0	Broadford ...	J. McLiech ...	45	0 0
Baringhap ...	C. Lawrence ...	35	0 0	Broadmesadows ...	G. Couser ...	35	0 0
Barker's Creek ...	E. Homan ...	20	0 0	Broomfield ...	H. Mitchell ...	21	0 0
Barkly ...	J. Cheesman ...	15	0 0	Brown Hills ...	F. Bradbury ...	60	0 0
Barkshead ...	C. W. Caddy ...	20	0 0	Brown's Diggings ...	Jas. Booth ...	15	0 0
Barnah ...	K. McLeod ...	6	0 0	Brown's Plains ...	H. G. Brown ...	20	0 0
Barnawartha ...	M. McKeone ...	47	0 0	Brunswick ...	J. George ...	*230	0 0
				Brusden ...	R. McDougall ...	35	0 0

* Includes cost of letter delivery.