

1882.

VICTORIA.

R E P O R T

UPON THE AFFAIRS OF THE

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1881.

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

By Authority:

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REPORT.

As required under section 57 of the Post Office Statute, 29th Vict., No. 298, the Postmaster-General has the honor to present a general report upon the affairs of the Post Office in the several departments thereof for the year 1881.

The large increase in both postal and telegraph business shown by the accompanying returns is highly satisfactory, and must be regarded as one of the best evidences of the commercial and general prosperity realized in Victoria during the past year. This is especially noticeable as, following the unusual activity of the preceding (Exhibition) year, it was feared there might be some reaction; so far, however, from such proving to be the case, the increase in postal revenue was larger than in any previous year since 1854, and the telegraph revenue also far exceeded the amount estimated.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The net Postal Revenue for the year 1881 was £209,086 5s. 11d., as against £191,849 19s. 1d. for 1880, showing an increase of £17,236 6s. 10d., or nearly 9 per cent.

The Commission on Money Orders for 1881 was £6,816 14s. 7d., as against £6,311 9s. 8d., showing an increase of £505.

The net Electric Telegraph Revenue for 1881 amounted to £69,149 0s. 11d., as against £60,164 18s. 0d. for 1880, showing an increase of £8,986, or nearly 15 per cent.

The net total Postal and Telegraph Revenue for 1881 amounted to £285,052, as against £258,323 in 1880, showing an increase of £26,728, or nearly 10 per cent.

Expenditure.

The Expenditure of the Department for the year 1881 was £389,216 19s. 5d., as against £377,363 for the year 1880, showing an increase of £11,853, or about 3½ per cent.

REVENUE.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Postage	210,883	13 5	Salaries and wages	190,696	8 4
Less refunds on account of postal collections to Imperial Government ...	1,797	7 6	Contingencies	26,637	2 3
			Estimated cost of the manufacture and issue of Duty and Fee Stamps ...	5,000	0 0
Commission on Money Orders			Inland mail service	104,623	1 9
Electric Telegraph collections	70,654	12 5	Gratuities to masters of vessels ...	2,342	3 3
Less refunds to other colonies and to Tasmanian Cable Company	1,505	11 6	Subsidy for the duplicate Telegraph Cable	15,530	17 4
			Steam postal communication with Great Britain <i>via</i> Suez, San Francisco, and Torres Straits	44,387	6 6
Deficit					
				389,216	19 5
				389,216	19 5

The sum of £15,530 19s. 5d. was also expended in the construction, repairs, &c., of the telegraph lines—formerly borne by the Public Works Department.

With reference to the deficit shown in the above return amounting to £104,164, it is pointed out that the expenditure includes £15,530, subsidy for the Duplicate Telegraph Cable, and £5,000, the estimated cost of manufacture and issue of duty and fee stamps; also on the contract for steam postal communication (after deducting contributions from other colonies and postages received) £22,914, or £4,730 in excess of the loss under this head in the preceding year.

The sum paid to the Railway Department for conveyance of mails amounted to £36,291 1s.

The value of telegrams sent on the Government service amounted to £23,378 17s. 9d., and it is estimated that the postage on official correspondence transmitted would amount to about £35,000.

In several of the country offices the postmasters and telegraph managers also perform the duties of receiver and paymaster, which entails additional expense on this department.

The value of the duty and fee stamps issued (all of which are manufactured in and at the cost of this department) during the year amounted to the following:—

Duty	...	...	...	...	...	£107,987
Fee	...	...	...	...	...	60,248

paid into the Treasury, but forming no part of the revenue of the Post Office.

POSTAL STATISTICS.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT showing the Estimated Number of Inland Letters, Packets, and Newspapers Posted in the Colony of Victoria, also the Number of Intercolonial and Foreign Letters, Packets, and Newspapers Despatched and Received, during the Years 1880 and 1881 respectively.

Number of Post Offices.	Years.	INLAND LETTERS, including Official Corre- spondence and Post Cards.	INTERCOLONIAL AND FOREIGN LETTERS.				Total Letters.	Increase 1881 over 1880.
			Despatched.		Received.			
			Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.		
	1880	20,750,000	879,544	474,987	1,462,244	528,374	24,195,149	} 8½ per cent.
	1881	22,500,000	1,000,463	506,616	1,737,802	563,466	26,398,347	
1880: 1,100 1881: 1,158	Years.	INLAND PACKETS.	INTERCOLONIAL AND FOREIGN PACKETS.				Total Packets.	Increase 1881 over 1880.
			Despatched.		Received.			
			Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.		
	1880	3,200,000	128,188	38,175	40,579	151,538	3,558,480	} 18½ per cent.
	1881	3,800,000	145,617	44,203	52,115	171,690	4,213,625	
	Years.	INLAND NEWSPAPERS.	INTERCOLONIAL AND FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS.				Total Newspapers.	Increase 1881 over 1880.
			Despatched.		Received.			
			Colonial.	British and Foreign.	Colonial.	British and Foreign.		
	1880	7,100,000	501,523	699,264	846,144	1,193,504	10,640,540	} 7½ per cent.
	1881	7,600,000	778,928	656,212	1,022,006	1,383,586	11,440,732	

Number of letters registered in Victoria in 1880	241,248	} Increase 1881 over 1880, 23½ per cent.
" " " " " 1881	297,299	

NOTE.—On the 1st July the fee for registration of letters was reduced from Sixpence to Fourpence.

STEAM POSTAL SERVICE.

The contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Company for the conveyance of mails fortnightly between Melbourne and Galle has been performed throughout the year in a highly satisfactory manner.

In Appendices C and D will be found tables showing time occupied in the transit of mails between the United Kingdom and Victoria. On no single occasion have the mails been delivered in Melbourne by the company's steamers after appointed time. The longest period occupied in transit of mails from London to Melbourne was 39 days 15 hours and 15 minutes, or three and a half hours less than that allowed by the table (39 days 18 hours and 45 minutes), and the shortest time 36 days 2 hours, or 3 days 16 hours and 45 minutes early. With regard to homeward mails the table allows from despatch of steamer from Hobson's Bay to delivery of mails in the London office 40 days 11 hours during six months of the year, and 42 days 11 hours during the period of the south-west monsoons. The average time actually occupied in transit of homeward mails during both ordinary and monsoon seasons was 40 days 14 hours and 21 minutes.

Considering, however, the increasing importance of these colonies, it would appear that they cannot long withhold their adhesion to the Paris Postal Convention; but, in the meantime, I beg to suggest, in lieu of the arrangements previously proposed through the Government of Great Britain, that the transmission of correspondence between France and Victoria should be regulated by provisions similar to those set forth in the "arrangement concerning the entry into the General Postal Union of British India and the French Colonies," signed at Berne 27th January 1876, *e.g.* :—

I. The letter postage to be 6d. per half ounce in Victoria, and 60c. per 15 grammes in France, and corresponding rates for other postal articles.

II. Victoria to provide for conveyance of its mails by sea, and to pay the Egyptian and Italian transit charges. The French Post Office to provide for the carriage of its mails through Italy and Egypt, and account (through the London Post Office, as now) for sea postage, at the rate of 25fr. per kilogramme of letters, and 1fr. per kilogramme of other articles.

III. Unpaid and insufficiently prepaid letters to be forwarded, double the unpaid or deficient postage to be collected on delivery, and retained by the country collecting it.

If you approve of the foregoing proposals, I shall feel obliged by your acquainting me whether you will be prepared to bring them into force between France and Victoria, without regard to the action that may be taken by the other colonies in this matter; but if, on the other hand, you do not concur therein, or deem it inadvisable to agree to any arrangement which is not acceptable to all the Australian Governments, I shall be glad to do everything in my power to secure a general assent to any equitable proposition that may be made.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY BOLTON,
Postmaster-General.

OTHER POSTAGE ARRANGEMENTS.

Since the publication of the last Report the postage on letters for India, Hong Kong, and all other British possessions and foreign countries in the eastern seas has been reduced to 6d. per half ounce, and the postage to Canada *via* San Francisco has been reduced to the same rate under arrangement with the Postmaster-General, Ottawa.

Arrangements have also been made for transmission of unpaid and insufficiently paid letters to the neighboring colonies, the United Kingdom, India, and the colony of Netherlands-India.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS.

The business of this branch of the Department continues to increase as the lines are extended and additional offices opened. During the past year extensions have been made from Dimboola to Border Town (S.A.), a distance (including the portion of the work in South Australia) of nearly 90 miles; also from Creswick to Smeaton, 9 miles, *via* Allandale and Kingston. A short extension was likewise constructed from Talbot to Amherst (3 miles), and from Shepparton to Numurkah (wire only). Contracts have been executed for extensive repairs, re-poling, &c., incidental to maintenance, on sections of lines between Avoca and St. Arnaud, Horsham and Stawell (a transfer to the railway route), Portland and the South Australian boundary, Port Albert and Wilson's Promontory, Geelong and Ballarat, Beechworth, Wodonga, Chiltern and Wahgunyah, Beechworth and Bright. Offices were opened at Warragul, Amherst, and Wunghnu; and on the railway circuit, at Newport, Daylesford, Romsey, Queenscliff, Prince's Bridge, Lancefield, Tallygaroopna, Numurkah, Brighton Beach, Middle Brighton, North Brighton, Windsor, Emerald Hill, Drouin, Hawthorn, South Yarra, Elsternwick, Caulfield, and Mordialloc. The offices at Moe and Glenorchy have been transferred to the railway stations, and the office at the Exhibition Building was closed on the termination of the public business of that institution.

Direct working between Melbourne and Adelaide, by means of the special interior line *via* Horsham, Dimboola, and Border Town, was established during the latter portion of the year, and the duplex system was commenced on the 9th January 1882. The results have been most satisfactory, and the business of the Departments in the respective colonies has been materially accelerated. This line being comparatively free from the obstructions to good working experienced on the older lines near the coast (owing to adverse meteorological conditions) communication in almost all weather has been rendered practically certain, while the presence of several alternative routes between Melbourne and Adelaide, as well as between Melbourne and Sydney, tend to secure for the intercolonial telegraph service a degree of permanence not hitherto attainable.

A large increase in the general business of the lines has marked the records of the past year—in messages, to the extent of 120,837; and in revenue, to £9,175 (the latter equivalent to nearly 15 per cent. additional on previous returns).

These figures are indicative of an increasing tendency toward a more general use of the telegraph, and also serve to show the capacity of the system for effectively performing its work, or for meeting enlarged requirements by the public.

The growth of the telegraph may receive a partial illustration by mention of the fact that whereas, in March 1854, the lines then in existence were worked by batteries, at the Melbourne office, numbering less than 10 cells, and weighing about 45 lbs., there are at present in daily use at the same office no less than 1,861 cells of battery, weighing in the aggregate 24,810 lbs.

The quadruplex system is now regularly maintained between Melbourne and Sydney, with satisfactory results.

Owing to the increased business between Melbourne and the principal inland towns, it has been decided to apply the duplex system of working, especially with Geelong, Ballarat, and Sandhurst, and the necessary instruments have been ordered for that purpose.

During the year a system of testing daily the electrical condition of the lines, and localising faults, was initiated at the head office. The results have proved very satisfactory.

The business transacted at the Flemington Race-course continues to increase. The receipts on last Cup day amounted to £190 17s.—an increase of £20 over the previous year.

The increasing number of street wires and poles, chiefly due to the large demand for telephonic communication, has formed a subject for extended consideration as to the best means for meeting the difficulties presented by the necessity, on one hand, of providing for the public wants, and on the other, of reducing the extent of obstruction to the thoroughfares, as far as practicable, and removing objections on the ground of the unsightly appearance of wires and fittings in certain positions.

The fullest and most recent information is at present being obtained regarding the best form of subterranean conductors or cables, similar to those employed in London and other large cities, cost of manufacture, &c., and it is hoped that within the ensuing year the Department may be in a position to remove at least a large portion of the poles now erected in several of the principal streets, and to replace the aerial wires by subterranean conductors.

The arrangement with the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company, by means of which the messengers employed in delivering telegrams in the city and suburbs are provided with conveyance, for a fixed annual charge, in the vehicles of the company, has been found to work so advantageously in expediting the duties of the messengers that it is now continued with, it is reported, satisfactory results.

The connection of the various branch offices with the central or chief office, by means of pneumatic tubes, still remains unaccomplished. The arguments in favor of such an arrangement were forcibly detailed in the last Annual Report (p. 18), and it is hoped that the matter will be dealt with at an early date. The chief objection to the introduction of the system in past years, viz., the presence of a steam engine, coal smoke, &c., &c., has been almost entirely obviated by the adoption of the gas motor, and as the latter possesses the advantages of economy and cleanliness there are strong grounds in favor of the plan proposed. The cost of connecting the offices at the Custom House and Spencer Street Railway Station with the head office would be comparatively moderate (under £5,000), and it will eventually become a necessity that such a provision should be made, in order that the increasing business of the service may be properly transacted.

Telegraphic communication with Gabo Island, which had been interrupted during the latter portion of last year, has now been again restored on a more permanent basis than formerly, through the action of the Government of New South Wales. Difficulties had prevailed for a considerable period in maintaining the connection between the island and the main land, and the matter led to some correspondence between the Departments of the two colonies, as the interests of both appeared to be involved in preserving the establishment of the telegraph with the lighthouse at Gabo. Up to the present date there has been no further interruption, and reports are daily received from that point relating to shipping, coast meteorology, &c.

The desirableness of a reduction of the high rate charged for the transmission of telegrams between Victoria and Tasmania was brought by this department under notice of the authorities in Tasmania in 1879, but no successful results attended the

negotiation. The matter was then allowed to rest until 1881, when the question was again raised and, after considerable correspondence (for copies, see Appendix W.), arrangements were completed for the charge on a ten-word telegram between the two places to be reduced from 6s. to 3s. To accomplish this end, Victoria and Tasmania agreed to reduce their land charges for such messages from 1s. to 6d., and each to pay £600 per annum to the Cable Company to protect them against anticipated loss consequent upon their consenting to charge 2s. instead of 4s. for transmitting telegrams over the cable. The new rates came into operation 1st January 1882.

STATEMENT of Expenditure for Telegraph Lines, Stations, &c., for 1881.

Particulars.	Amount.	Total Amount.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total Expenditure for Lines, Stations, &c., to 31st December 1881 ... ..	...	621,505 0 4
EXPENDITURE DURING 1881.		
Extension of Lines	15,595 19 6	
New Buildings and Repairs to existing Buildings	11,291 8 6	
		26,887 7 0
CURRENT EXPENDITURE DURING 1881.		
Rent of Temporary Offices ... ..	...	£648,392 7 4
		£4,371 10 10

Local and Intercolonial Business.

STATEMENT showing the Victorian and Intercolonial Business for the Years 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, and 1881.

	1869.		1870.		1871.		1872.	
	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
* Between Victorian Stations	194,991	24,154 7 8	363,332	22,921 18 9	430,290	27,274 14 4	506,617	31,544 15 3
From—								
Victoria to New South Wales	13,949	5,840 1 3	15,735	5,749 5 9	23,453	5,547 8 3	29,148	6,693 8 3
New South Wales to Victoria	18,540	5,750 2 5	14,203	5,263 18 8	21,075	5,095 17 7	29,393	6,769 0 8
Victoria to Queensland	938	550 8 11	1,080	540 1 6	1,607	643 4 0	2,540	1,016 10 10
Queensland to Victoria	1,113	698 16 0	1,514	757 1 8	1,976	788 5 10	2,652	1,307 12 8
Victoria to South Australia	7,161	2,523 7 6	9,332	2,380 14 8	14,840	2,171 19 2	12,371	2,315 10 11
South Australia to Victoria	6,165	2,167 11 6	7,842	1,892 5 3	12,065	1,797 10 3	10,833	2,008 15 10
Victoria to Tasmania	2,187	1,078 15 1	4,485	1,744 9 8	3,791	1,394 11 4	3,639	1,047 12 0
Tasmania to Victoria	2,213	1,100 16 0	4,835	2,940 10 0	4,505	1,303 15 2	3,943	1,161 8 7
	1873.		1874.		1875.		1876.	
	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.	Number of Private Messages.	Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
* Between Victorian Stations	521,469	32,780 16 5	502,523	30,945 2 1	533,335	33,120 10 9	580,928	36,323 9 8
From—								
Victoria to New South Wales	36,844	7,686 13 11	48,624	7,024 8 8	57,215	8,010 10 3	64,806	9,307 1 0
New South Wales to Victoria	37,126	7,834 5 10	51,375	7,730 6 4	62,316	8,791 18 4	71,001	9,996 4 8
Victoria to Queensland	2,762	1,184 14 7	5,782	1,141 10 7	7,415	1,467 14 3	8,617	1,791 14 8
Queensland to Victoria	3,279	1,537 4 8	7,121	1,787 7 6	9,557	2,252 14 7	10,950	2,553 15 2
Victoria to South Australia	17,308	2,301 3 10	17,001	2,264 5 4	19,987	3,018 2 5	21,792	3,604 13 5
South Australia to Victoria	19,541	2,769 14 3	18,314	2,617 7 6	21,400	3,162 8 10	24,161	3,688 3 4
Victoria to Tasmania	5,445	1,270 8 3	5,805	1,350 7 11	6,969	1,378 10 3	7,041	1,437 11 5
Tasmania to Victoria	4,455	1,523 2 0	4,666	1,732 5 11	4,562	1,673 19 0	5,593	1,817 15 0
	1877.		1878.		1879.		1880.	
	No. of Private Messages.	Revenue.	No. of Private Messages.	Revenue.	No. of Private Messages.	Revenue.	No. of Private Messages.	Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
* Between Victorian Stations	610,806	39,144 1 2	641,581	40,850 4 10	598,717	37,493 18 10	677,413	41,749 13 2
From—								
Victoria to New South Wales	70,810	10,661 17 3	70,509	11,333 9 2	79,039	11,312 9 5	89,792	11,457 5 3
New South Wales to Victoria	78,368	10,921 8 2	85,157	11,527 10 9	88,957	11,511 13 11	98,107	12,371 9 10
Victoria to Queensland	10,245	2,147 2 11	9,745	2,032 0 9	8,724	1,752 12 5	9,854	2,068 3 5
Queensland to Victoria	18,113	2,997 10 11	12,637	2,728 13 3	10,981	2,447 4 10	12,301	2,676 3 1
Victoria to South Australia	24,727	4,071 3 8	28,265	3,751 8 3	39,495	4,246 11 1	33,884	4,540 10 0
South Australia to Victoria	27,994	4,249 17 8	31,016	5,135 8 7	32,687	5,626 16 11	37,391	5,637 18 8
Victoria to Tasmania	6,723	1,381 0 6	8,965	1,473 13 7	7,908	1,369 19 5	6,771	1,299 16 2
Tasmania to Victoria	5,777	1,897 5 10	6,545	2,135 16 0	6,121	1,884 6 9	8,228	1,066 18 10
Victoria to Western Australia	575	73 19 4	2,310	806 16 3	1,916	489 10 1	1,752	414 2 9
Western Australia to Victoria	435	102 10 3	2,745	722 17 8	2,756	603 7 7	2,534	494 2 5

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

NOTE.—Victoria Reduced rate of 1s. for 10 words came into operation 1st January 1870.
 New South Wales Reduced rate from 3s. to 2s. 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 2s. for 10 words came into operation 1st August 1870.
 Tasmania Reduced (cable) rate from 5s. to 4s. for 10 words came into operation 1st January 1870.

STATEMENT showing the Extension of Telegraph Lines in the Australasian Colonies during the Year 1881, also Lines in Progress, &c.

Colony.	Lines Erected.		Lines Dismantled.		Lines in Progress at end of Year.		Total Number of Miles at end of Year.		Number of Stations Opened.	Number of Stations Closed.	Total Number of Stations at end of Year.
	No. of Miles of Line.	No. of Miles of Wire.	No. of Miles of Line.	No. of Miles of Wire.	No. of Miles of Line.	No. of Miles of Wire.	No. of Miles of Line.	No. of Miles of Wire.			
Victoria ...	187	660	53	53	50	60	3,349½	6,626½	17	5	298
New South Wales ...	560	530	...	...	392½	320	8,515½	14,278	31	2	318
South Australia ...	192	323½	...	...	264	398	4,946	7,227½	6	1	165
Queensland* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tasmania ...	35	43	...	...	15	15	780	1,006	2	...	83
New Zealand ...	120	254	...	...	...	...	3,758	9,587	22	9	227
Western Australia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,584½	1,584½	...	...	28

* Queensland returns not to hand.

STATEMENT showing Australasian Telegraphic Business transacted with Europe and the East during the Year 1881.

Colony.	Transmitted.		Received.		Total.	
	Number of Messages.	Value.	Number of Messages.	Value.	Number of Messages.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Victoria ...	5,643	41,200 12 8	6,525	41,009 19 3	12,168	82,210 11 11
South Australia ...	2,361	12,483 11 11	3,208	17,832 8 6	5,569	30,316 0 5
New South Wales ...	4,822	30,111 14 11	4,345	23,692 16 4	9,167	53,804 11 3
Queensland ...	863	4,553 0 2	603	3,346 19 9	1,466	7,899 19 11
Tasmania ...	183	855 5 0	241	863 5 3	424	1,718 10 3
New Zealand ...	2,555	15,467 14 2	2,567	15,122 7 10	5,122	30,590 2 0
Western Australia ...	194	920 8 3	232	782 8 0	426	1,702 16 3
Totals ...	16,621	105,592 7 1	17,721	102,650 4 11	34,342	208,242 12 0

RETURN showing Net Revenue from 1st January to 31st December 1881.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash receipts paid into Treasury, from 1st January to 31st December 1881 ...	70,654 12 5	
Less amount paid to Tasmanian Cable Company on account of intercolonial business for same period ...	1,529 18 0	
Amount due by other colonies on account of intercolonial business for same period:—		69,124 14 5
New South Wales ...	116 7 4	
South Australia ...	547 10 8	
Tasmania ...	29 2 5	
		693 0 5
		£69,817 14 10

PORT DARWIN CABLE.

At the Conference of 1878, when it was decided to arrange for the construction and maintenance of the duplicate cable between Port Darwin and Penang, it was resolved that the cost of the subsidy be paid by the different Australasian colonies rateably in proportion to their respective populations. In the first instance, the basis of allotment of cost to each of the colonies to be the population as officially estimated on 31st December 1876, and that the contributions should be re-adjusted upon the basis of the population as ascertained by the next general census. The census having been taken in April last, it is computed that, according to the ascertained number of the population of the contributing colonies respectively, Victoria will have to pay, under the new scale, £1,321 19s. 6d. per annum less than previously.

The following shows the division of the subsidy under the old and new arrangements:—

Colony.	Old Subsidy to April 1881.	Subsidy According to Census, 1st April 1881.	Population According to Census, April 1881.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Victoria ...	15,800 13 4	14,478 13 10	862,346
N. S. Wales ...	11,842 1 4	12,617 1 4	751,468
South Australia ...	4,243 10 8	4,805 9 0	286,211
Western Australia ...	513 14 8	498 15 10	29,708
	32,400 0 0	32,400 0 0	

There were no interruptions to communication by submarine cable with Europe, India, &c., during 1881. The maintenance of the several cable sections appears to have been satisfactorily conducted. In order, however, that the possible

contingency of an extended interruption on the land sections in Australia may be reduced to the lowest minimum practicable, and the fullest benefit realized by the several colonies from the provision of the cable duplication (on account of which a heavy subsidy is paid), it will be necessary, as indicated by previous reports on the subject, that a connecting land line should be constructed between Normanton (or the nearest station in Queensland) and the most convenient point of junction on the Port Darwin line, probably Daly Waters or the Katherine. It is hoped that early steps may be initiated for carrying out this most necessary work.

It is reported that the average time during 1881 occupied in transmission of messages between Australia and England was three hours and fifteen minutes.

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The Honorable G. D. Langridge was Acting Postmaster-General from the commencement of the year until the 9th of July, when he was succeeded by the Honorable Henry Bolton, who was appointed Postmaster-General from that date.

During the year 14 officers were dismissed or dispensed with; 6 retired, either through infirmity or in consequence of their having attained the age of sixty years; 23 resigned, and 4 died.

The following is a STATEMENT showing the Strength and Distribution of the Permanent and Temporary Staff of the Department.

Office.	Postmasters and Telegraph Managers.	Officers, Clerks, and Operators.	Sorters.	Instrument Fitters.	Letter-carriers and Stamps.	Line-repairers and Signalmen.	Printer's Assistants.	Mailmaster and Postmen.	Office-keepers and Messengers.	Gas Engineer, Car- penters, &c.	Tortois, Pillar- cleavers, and Super- numeraries.	Female Assistants.	Total.	Remarks.
Melbourne ...	1	195	128	6	76	10	13	5	55	16	102	68	675	26 supernumeraries occasionally employed and 47 laborers occasionally employed on telegraph lines.
Alexandra* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Ararat ...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	6	
Avenel* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Bacchus Marsh* ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	
Bairnsdale ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Ballarat ...	1	9	7	...	13	1	...	...	8	...	...	...	4	
Ballarat East ...	1	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	9	...	1	2	32	
Beaufort* ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	9	
Beechworth ...	1	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	
Belfast ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	
Banalla ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	5	
Barwick* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Birregurra* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Bridgewater (on Loddon)* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Bright ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Brighton* ...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	6	
Brunswick* ...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	7	
Buthen ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	
Buninyong* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	
Camperdown ...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	
Cape Otway ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	
Cape Schanck* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Caramut* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Carisbrook ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	
Carlton ...	1	1	...	...	7	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	13	
Casterton ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	
Castlemaine ...	1	1	2	...	4	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	11	
Charlton ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	4	
Chevton* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Chiltern ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Clunes ...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	5	
Colac ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	4	
Coleraine* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	
Collingwood ...	1	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	12	
Creswick ...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	6	
Cunningham ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Dandenong* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Daylesford ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	4	
Dumbolia ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	4	
Donald* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	
Dromana* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Dunkeld ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Dunolly ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	4	
Durham Ox ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	
Eaglehawk* ...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	
Eastern Market* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	
Eldorado* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Elizabethstreet North* ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	
Elmore ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Emerald Hill* ...	1	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	5	...	1	2	17	
Echuca ...	1	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	10	
Fitzroy* ...	1	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	9	
Fitzroy North* ...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	5	
Flemington* ...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	6	

* Paid out of Contingencies.

STATEMENT showing the Strength and Distribution of the Staff of the Department, &c.—continued.

Office.	Postmasters and Telegraph Managers.	Offices, Clerks, and Operators.	Sorters.	Instrument Fitters.	Letter-carriers and Stampers.	Line-operators and Signalmen.	Printer's Assistants.	Mailmaster and Footman.	Office-keepers and Messengers.	Gas Engineer, Car- penters, &c.	Porters, Filler, and Super- numeraries.	Female Assistants.	Total.	Remarks.
Footscray*	1	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	
Footscray*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Fryerstown*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Geelong	1	9	8	...	9	1	...	...	8	...	1	...	32	
Geelong*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Gordon*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Hamilton	1	2	1	...	4	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	11	
Harrow*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Hawthorn*	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	9	
Heathcote	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	4	
Hexham*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Horsham	1	2	1	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	8	
Hotham*	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Inglewood	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	4	
Jamieson*	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	
Kangaroo Flat	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Kerang	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	
Kew* ...	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	8	
Kilmore	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	4	
Koroit*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Kyaeton	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	6	
Learmonth*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Linton*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Macarthur*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Majorca*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Maldon*	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	
Malmesbury	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	
Mansfield	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Maryborough	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	1	7	
Merino*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Mooroopna*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Mornington*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Mortlake	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Mt. Blackwood*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Mt. Egerton*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Murtoa*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Myrtleford*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Nagambie*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
New Gisborne*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Newstead*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Omeo ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Penshurst*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Port Albert	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Portland	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	7	
Prahran*	1	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	5	...	...	1	13	
Queenscliff	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	4	
Richmond*	1	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	14	
Rochester	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	
Rosedale	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Rushworth*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Rutherglen*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
St. Arnaud	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	5	
St. Kilda*	1	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	16	
St. Kilda West*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	4	
Sale ...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	7	
Sandhurst	1	6	6	...	13	1	...	...	8	...	...	...	35	
Sandridge*	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	6	
Sandridge West	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Sebastopol*	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	
Seymour	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	4	
Shepparton	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	5	
Smythesdale*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Sorrento*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
South Yarra*	1	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	
Stawell	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	7	...	...	...	12	
Streatham*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Stratford*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Swan Hill	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Talbot	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	
Taradale*	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	
Tarnagulla*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Terang*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Toorak	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Traralgon*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Waddellah*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Wahgunyah*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Walhalla	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Wangaratta	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	4	
Warragul	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	
Warrnambool	1	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	11	
Wedderburn*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Williamstown*	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	
Wilson's Pro- montory	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Winchelsea*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Wodonga	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	4	
Woodend	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Wood's Point	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Yaakandandah*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Market street*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Total	138	244	155	6	211	25	13	5	300	16	106	91	1,349	

* Paid out of Contingencies.

RETURN of the Officers, &c., of the Melbourne Establishment Absent from Duty on account of Illness during the Year 1881.

Branch.	Officers, &c.		Number of Days Absent.	Remarks.
	Number Employed.	Number Absent.		
Correspondence branch	13	5	49	One officer absent 44 days.
Accounts branch	15	5	11	
Mail branch	159	114	873	One officer absent 76 days; one 67 days; one 47 days; and ten during 234 days.
Money Order and Savings Bank branch	25	6	28	
Stamp branch	6	3	14	One officer absent 11 days.
Dead Letter branch	7	2	2	
Stores and Printing branch	70	11	129	One officer absent 67 days; and one 16 days.
Electric Telegraph branch	97	44	622	One officer absent 96 days; one 89 days; one 71 days; and nine during 241 days.

The following particulars are not included in the above return :—

Out of a staff of eighty-one female assistants employed in the head office, forty-four were absent during 325 days, of which number ten persons were absent during 235 days.

Out of ninety letter carriers, forty-six were absent during 359 days, of which number eight were absent during 178 days.

Out of seventy-four messengers, twenty-seven were absent during 130 days, of which number three were absent during 80 days.

FEMALE ASSISTANTS.

Since the date of last report four postmistresses and six assistants have retired from the service, and nine new appointments have been made to the charge of country stations, and in different branches of the General Post Office and Head Telegraph Office.

Several females have also been admitted as probationers, to acquire a knowledge of telegraphy, but as the number of persons desiring a similar privilege has become very considerable, and the prospect of their subsequently obtaining employment very remote, it has been determined, in order to prevent the loss and disappointment that must otherwise inevitably be occasioned, not to entertain any further applications of this nature.

Arrangements have, however, been made by the Committee of the Technological Museum in connection with the Public Library, Melbourne, for the re-formation of classes to afford instruction in telegraphy, and a large number of persons have availed themselves of the opportunity of attending these classes. Courses of instruction in telegraphy are also given in connection with the School of Mines, Ballarat, and many have passed the required examination at that place.

The Postmaster-General desires, however, that it should be most distinctly understood that the passing of an examination or possession of a certificate of competency as a telegraphist gives no right or special claim to public employment; and the number of persons who have already qualified themselves as female operators is far in excess of the probable requirements of this department for several years to come.

BUILDINGS.—GENERAL POST OFFICE.

No practical steps have yet been taken for providing the extended accommodation most urgently required for performing the greatly increased, and still increasing, business of the Post and Telegraph Offices, Melbourne.

It is believed to be the intention to place a sum on the next Public Works Estimates for proceeding with the erection of that portion of the main General Post Office building, as designed, to be extended to the corner of Little Bourke street. It is also proposed to erect temporary offices on the land opposite the roadway at the eastern side of the present building.

In the meantime, however, the growing magnitude of daily business will render it indispensably necessary to rent buildings for immediate occupation, in order to avoid occasioning serious loss and inconvenience to the public.

When, during last year, the Loan Bill for various public works was under consideration, the above subject was brought under notice of the Minister by the Deputy Postmaster-General, in the following memorandum :—

I beg to bring under the special notice of the Hon. the Postmaster-General the very urgent necessity that exists for providing funds, without further delay, to extend the space and accommodation required to carry on the duties of the Post Office and Telegraph Department.

Upon the preparation of the Estimates in several years past the completion of the new General Post Office building has been proposed and urged as one of the most essential public works of the colony, but, in every instance, this item has been struck out, and, up to the present, the matter appears to stand indefinitely postponed.

In each of the Annual Reports upon the affairs of the Department laid before Parliament during the last nine years reference has also been made to this subject.

In the last of these Reports attention was again drawn, in explicit terms, to the "inadequacy and unsuitableness of the temporary wooden structure at the corner of Little Bourke street, in which the large and important business of the Head Telegraph Office is carried on"; and, it is added, "Not only is the space altogether too limited to admit of the duties being properly performed, but the confined and heated atmosphere in which the operators have to work is most oppressive and injurious. The same may likewise be said of the temporary building provided for the use of the public in transacting Money Order and Savings Bank business. So great has the inconvenience arising from this cause become, that further accommodation, in order to transact the daily business of the Department in its several branches, is now a matter of indispensable necessity. Unless steps be taken to carry out the proposal mentioned in last year's Report, of erecting temporary buildings on the land adjoining the General Post Office, which is leased by the Government with the right of purchase, it will be absolutely necessary to rent some convenient business premises in the vicinity for the purpose of a Money Order Office and Savings Bank; and, having regard to the additional expense that will thus be unavoidably incurred, as well as the insecurity of the present fragile and inflammable telegraph office, it is considered most advisable that financial provision should be made without the least further delay for completing the permanent General Post Office building, either in accordance with the original design or some modification thereof."

With regard to the danger there is of the dilapidated building used as the Head Telegraph Office taking fire, I would point out that, should such a catastrophe occur, apart from the heavy loss that would be occasioned by destruction of telegraph material, the instruments in use could not be readily replaced, there being no sufficient stock in the colony available, and, as a necessary consequence, until supplies could be obtained from the neighboring colonies or from England, the whole telegraph service would be paralysed, involving not merely a considerable sacrifice of revenue, but incalculable damage to mercantile interests and most serious inconvenience to the public generally.

I would further remark that owing to the large increase in the Money Order business, which is growing rapidly and is about to be extended to India, China, the United States of America, and other countries, also the increase in the Post Office Savings Bank deposits (the balance in hand now exceeding a million sterling), the accommodation provided for that branch has become so utterly inadequate that it will be necessary at once to lease a city building in some suitable position expressly for the transaction of this business.

In connection with this subject it may be mentioned that some years ago the Government purchased a block of land between the roadway at the side of the General Post Office and the lane formerly known as the *Herald* passage. More recently the land extending back therefrom to Little Bourke street has been leased with the right of purchase, but to render the space properly and permanently available for the prospective requirements of the Department it is in the highest degree desirable that the Government should arrange for the absolute purchase of the land leased as above stated, and also acquire the frontage to Bourke street, extending 60 feet eastward from the side gate of the General Post Office. This land is believed to be now obtainable at a fair valuation, and the buildings thereon could be adapted for use as a temporary Telegraph Office, without incurring the large annual expenditure otherwise inevitable for the rental of less conveniently situated premises elsewhere for this purpose.

I may further remark that since the opening of the present partially completed building in 1867, which was then only sufficient for the requirements of the time, the entire work of the Department has more than doubled, and in anticipation of a similar progressive increase in the years to come, with the addition of new schemes for the public benefit which may be engrafted upon the existing organization, it is of the utmost importance to make timely and adequate provision for the certain necessities of the future.

In asking that this important question may be brought under the notice of the Cabinet at the earliest opportunity, I would venture to express the hope that while provision is being made for various other public undertakings, the pressing claims of the Postal and Telegraph services which are so closely identified with the interests of every member of the community will be duly and promptly recognized.

Other Buildings.

The new buildings at Belfast and Jamieson have been completed and occupied.

Buildings are in progress at Benalla and Portland.

Additions, alterations, and repairs, more or less extensive, have been carried out at Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Collingwood, Dunolly, Geelong, Kyneton, St. Arnaud, Sale, Sandridge, Seymour, Smythesdale, Warrnambool, and Wood's Point.

The building and Flagstaff at Cunninghame (Lakes Entrance) has been removed to a position of comparative safety from the threatened incursion of the sea.

The establishment at Buln Buln has been removed to Warragul.

Letter Pillars.

Iron Receiving Pillar Boxes have been provided at Benalla, Collingwood (2), Dunolly, Emerald Hill, Fitzroy North, Geelong (2), Hamilton, Kyneton, Melbourne, and Melbourne West, Portland, Prahran, Queenscliff (2), Sandhurst (5), and South Yarra.

NEW POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES, ETC.

Sixty-two new Post Offices were opened during the year at the places named below :—

Allendale	Drouin South	Longwood (Railway Station)	Naringal	Swanwater South
Beazley's Bridge	Fenton's Creek	Mailor's Flat	Narrewillock	Talgarno
Boomanoomoonah	Flowerdale	Mangalore (Railway Station)	Neereman	Tallagaroopna Road (Railway Station)
Borong	High Camp Plain	Nurrabiel		Tamleugh
Budgerum	Kaniva	Maribyrnong	Pellusbla East	Tarwin Lower
Budjik	Kariah	Middle Creek (Railway Station)	Pine Lodge North	Teddy Waddy
Callignee	Katunga	Miepoll	Port Campbell	Thoughla Creek
Cannum	Kolara	Moe South	Sandhill Lake	Toolamba East
Cardinia Creek	Kotupna	Mologa	Shoan's Creek	Tyrrell Creek
Carron	Laen North	Mortchup	Shoreham	Wonwondah
Congupna	Leaghur	Muckatah	Slaty Creek	Woorak
Congupna Road (Railway Station)	Lillimur		Southern Cross	Woranga
Conover West	L. L. Vale			
	Longwarry			

The Post and Telegraph Office at the Exhibition Buildings, also the Post Offices at Lucknow, Dergholm, and Toolamba have been closed.

The Post Office at Southern Cross, which was temporarily closed in December 1880, has been re-opened.

The names of the following offices have been changed:—Tarwin to "Mirboo," Mirboo to "Mirboo North," Middle Creek to "Glengower," Glengower to "Campbelltown," Lancefield Road to "Lancefield Junction," Middleton to "Krambruk," Little Bendigo to "Nerringa," Williamstown Junction to "Newport," Kaniva to "Lillimur North," and Port Campbell to "Port Campbell West."

The Post and Telegraph Office at Longwood and the Post Offices at Glenorchy and Essendon have been removed from the old townships to the Railway Stations.

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

Dandenong	Morwell	Northeote	Warburton	Yarrawonga
Frankston	Murtoa	Simpson's Road (Collingwood)	Warragul	

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

Apsley	Goornong	Northeote	Tallangatta	Violet Town
Broomfield	Lake Rowan	Pyramid Hill	Tatura	Warburton
Frankston	Narracan			

The Money Order Offices at Morton Plains, Ullina, and the Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne, have been closed.

Telegraph Offices have been opened at the undermentioned localities in connection with the respective Post Offices at those places:—

Amherst	Warragul	Wunghnu
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Telegraph Offices have also been opened at the following Railway Stations:—

Brighton Beach	Elsternwick	Middle Brighton	Princes Bridge	South Yarra
Caulfield	Emerald Hill	Newport	Queenscliff	Tallagaroopna
Daylesford	Hawthorn	North Brighton	Romsey	Windsor
Drouin	Lancefield	Numurkah		

The number of Post Offices on 31st December 1881 was 1,158.

EXHIBITION BUSINESS.

The following are the full returns of the business transacted at the Post and Telegraph Office in the Melbourne International Exhibition Building:—

Letters posted, 115,859	Newspapers posted, 8,808	Packets posted, 22,948
Received, 112,335	Received, 24,934	Received, 22,029

Totals, 228,194	33,742	44,977
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Money Orders—Issued, 267	...	Amount, £806 13s. 5d.
Paid, 21	...	130 4s. 8d.

Private Telegrams—Transmitted, 3,796	...	
Received, 2302	...	

Cash receipts	...	£357 9s. 8d.
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Government Telegrams—Transmitted, 1164	...	
Received, 356	...	

Value of Government Telegrams transmitted	£103 5s. 2d.
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The Telegraph Office was open from 18th August, the Post Office from 20th August 1880, and both offices closed on 30th June 1881.

APPENDIX J.

STATEMENT showing the Names of the several Electric Telegraph Stations and the Lines of Telegraph in Operation in the Colony of Victoria on the 31st December 1881.

Designation of Line.	Length of Line.	Length of Wire.	Names of Stations.	Designation of Line.	Length of Line.	Length of Wire.	Names of Stations.
	Miles.	Miles.			Miles.	Miles.	
SOUTHERN COAST ..	137	137	Williamstown Geelong Queenscliff Sandridge Sandridge West Cape Schanck Flinders	BIRREGURRA BRANCH ..	17	60	Birregurra Winchelsea Point Lonsdale
WESTERN COAST..	259	606	Mount Gambier Portland Belfast Warrnambool Terang Cudjee Camperdown Colac	KOROLT BRANCH... ..	9	9	Korolt
NORTH-WESTERN ..	60	70	Ballarat East Gordons Bulla Bacchus Marsh Myrning Melton Mt. Egerton	BLACKWOOD BRANCH ..	14	14	Blackwood Sebastopol Buninyong
CROSS COUNTRY—WESTERN	288	333	Streatham Hexham Mortlake Caramut Fenshurst Hamilton Coleraine Casterton Snythesdale Scarsdale Piggoreat Linton Skipton	HUNTINGTON BRANCH ..	5	7	Rokewood Ararat Swirell Horsham Dimboola Glenorchy Learmonth Beaufort Waddallah Meredith Elaire
CAPE OTWAY ..	75	140	Otway Lorne	ROKEWOOD BRANCH ..	20	20	Goornong Sandhurst Inglewood Bridgewater Macarthur
CROSS COUNTRY ..	352½	381½	Crawwick Daylesford Talbot Amherst Maryborough Clunes Aveca St. Arnaud Donald	HORSHAM	127	224	Branchholme Heywood Harrow Balmoral Merino
SWAN HILL ..	155	231	Tarnagulla Inglewood Durham Ox Serpentine Kerang Swan Hill Gisborne Kyneton Malmesbury Tardale Castlemaine Mildon Dunolly Echuca	CASTERTON AND MERINO ..	13	13	Wadlerburn Charlton
NORTHERN ..	156	156	Rochester Seymour Avelo Bennalla Wangaratta Eldorado Beechworth Wedonga Albury	MAJORCA BRANCH ..	11	11	Majorca
NORTH-EASTERN ..	215	465	Oakleigh Dandenong Derwick Pakenham Drouin Warragul Ruslin Bala Waterloo Morwell Traragon Rosedale Sale Cunninghame Brutten Omeo Port Albert Tarraville Foster Wilson's Promontory	ROMSEY AND LANCERFIELD BRANCH ..	24	24	Romsey Lancefield
HIPPSLAND ..	366	518		CHEWTON BRANCH ..	..	3	Chewton
				FRYERSTOWN BRANCH ..	6	9	Fryerstown Vaughan
				NEWSTEAD BRANCH ..	10	10	Newstead
				EAGLEHAWK BRANCH ..	5	5	Eaglehawk
				HEATHCOTE BRANCH ..	56	56	Heathcote Kilmore
				YEA BRANCH ..	23	23	Yea
				RUSHWORTH BRANCH ..	60	95	Rushworth Murchison Shepparton Nagambie Alexandra Mansfield Jameson Wood's Point Gaffney's Creek Yackandandah Chiltern Ratherglen Walgunyah Myrtleford Bright
				ALEXANDRA BRANCH ..	30	30	Alexandra
				WOOD'S POINT BRANCH ..	85	85	Wood's Point
				GAFFNEY'S CREEK BRANCH ..	..	12	Gaffney's Creek
				WARGUNTAH BRANCH ..	50	50	Wargunyah
				BRIGHT BRANCH ..	36	36	Bright
				WALHALLA BRANCH ..	32	32	Walhalla
				BERWICK, BEACONSFIELD..	7	7	Beaconsfield
				BAIRNSDALE BRANCH ..	43	43	Bairnsdale Stratford
				MAFFRA BRANCH ..	7	7	Maffra
				CRANBOURNE BRANCH ..	9	9	Cranbourne
				TOONGABIE BRANCH ..	..	8	Toongabbie Hotham Carlton Collingwood Fitzroy Fitzroy North Richmond Hawthorn Kew South Yarra Fulham Malvern Emerald Hill St. Kilda West St. Kilda Footscray Northcote Preston Morang Whittlesea Ivanhoe Yan Yean
				SUBURBAN BRANCH ..	50½	69½	

STATEMENT showing the names of the several Electric Telegraph Stations, &c.—continued.

Designation of Line.	Length of Line.	Length of Wire.	Names of Stations.	Designation of Line.	Length of Line.	Length of Wire.	Names of Stations.
	Miles.	Miles.			Miles.	Miles.	
ELTHAM BRANCH ..	6½	6½	Eltham				Wallan Wallan
COBURG BRANCH ..	5	5	Brunswick				Newmarket
LILYDALE BRANCH ..	20	20	Coburg				Essendon
			Lilydale				Broadmeadows
			Portsea				Craigieburn
			Sorrento				Kilmore
			Dromana				Broadford
SORRENTO BRANCH ..	10	60	Mornington				Tallaroek
			Frankston				Seymour
			Mordialloc				Avenel
			Brighton				Longwood
FLEMINGTON BRANCH ..	..	1½	Flemington	NORTH-EASTERN ..	20	238½	Euron
			Newmarket				Violet Town
			Spencer street				Benalla
			Kellor Road				Wangaratta
			Riddell's Creek				Chiltern
			Lancefield Road				Spring
			Lancefield				Rutherglen
			Romsey				Wahgunyah
			Macedon				Beechworth
			Upper Macedon				Wodonga
			Carlsruhe				Mangalore
			Trentham				Nagambie
			Woodend				Toolamba
			Kyneton				Tatura
			Daylesford				Aradla
			Elphinstone	GOULBURN VALLEY BRANCH	51	51	Murchison
			Inglewood				Shepparton
			Castlemaine				Mooroopna
			Gulldford				Tallygaroopna
			Newstead				Wanghnu
			Chinca				Namurkah
			Creswick				Princes Bridge
			Avoca				Pakenham
			St. Arnaud				Dandenong
			Maryborough				Berwick
			Benalla				Warragul
			Dunolly	GIFFSLAND ..	59½	202	Bunyip
			Carlsbrook				Oakleigh
Sandhurst to Inglewood }		10½	Sandhurst				Moe
2nd wire .. }			Elmore				Salo
			Rochester				Traralgon
			Echuca				
			Williamstown Pier				
			Williamstown				
			Newport				
			Warrabee				
			Little River				
			Lara				
			Geelong	BALLARAT ..		97	
			Drysdale	Williamstown ..		9½	
			Queenscliff	Ballarat to Maryborough..		44	
			Winchelsea	Castlemaine to Sandhurst		22	
			Colac	Benalla ..		1	
			Lal Lal	Terang ..		187	
			Warrenheip	Everton to Tarravinee ..		6	
			Yendon	Sandhurst and Kilmore ..		40	
			Ballarat West	Powder-magazine ..		2	
			Beaufort	Private Wires, &c. ..		30	
			Buangor	Flinders ..		77	
			Ararat	South Australian border..		66	
			Stawell				
			Jung Jung				
			Horsesham				
			Murtoa				
			Hamilton				
			Condah				
			Portland				
			Dunkeld				
			Lubeck				
			Glen Thompson				
			Glenorchy				
ARARAT TO PORTLAND, VIA HAMILTON ..	96½	184½					

APPENDIX K.

STATISTICS of Telegraph Business from 1854 to 1881, inclusive.

Year.	Cash Revenue.	Value of Government Telegrams.	Number of Government Telegrams.	Total Number of Telegrams.	Year.	Cash Revenue.	Value of Government Telegrams.	Number of Government Telegrams.	Total Number of Telegrams.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
1854	223 2 7	1,037 0 5	1,570	3,869	1869	34,183 0 5	10,450 10 7	57,966	277,132
1855	3,162 13 11	3,074 11 8	2,559	12,241	1870	33,145 10 4	5,996 12 9	60,634	454,598
1856	3,225 13 5	2,422 2 3	2,685	13,174	1871	36,941 17 1	5,247 0 4	63,877	537,398
1857	10,024 16 10	3,023 12 2	6,628	60,058	1872	42,617 17 3	7,029 11 9	83,645	639,960
1858	16,474 17 10	10,126 15 10	17,834	131,486	1873	45,322 17 5	9,056 7 7	124,319	718,167
1859	25,249 17 0	21,301 8 7	31,699	197,320	1874	42,825 9 7	9,055 1 4	121,285	701,080
1860	24,555 18 2	21,270 12 2	49,918	167,872	1875	46,995 7 11	7,870 15 1	109,355	732,869
1861	25,217 5 4	8,566 13 11	40,818	184,688	1876	52,467 10 2	8,722 19 0	119,262	801,946
1862	26,834 19 8	15,465 0 9	49,038	211,685	1877	57,429 4 10	13,734 1 0	190,549	919,985
1863	25,768 15 8	18,289 8 2	78,038	234,520	1878	60,287 12 10	16,523 7 11	236,259	1,003,654
1864	30,601 17 11	14,375 12 0	71,939	256,380	1879	56,704 12 1	19,839 13 3	284,317	1,010,116
1865	35,767 17 4	11,546 19 3	68,946	279,741	1880	61,478 16 9	23,881 13 7	348,446	1,160,912
1866	36,178 17 4	12,899 16 0	63,506	277,787	1881	70,654 12 5	23,378 17 9	360,107	1,281,749
1867	29,148 12 2	6,588 18 0	59,887	235,648					
1868	31,058 6 8	9,916 1 11	57,047	276,677	Totals	964,948 0 11	320,702 5 0	2,764,133	12,782,712

APPENDIX L.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1880 and 1881, and Number of Telegraphic Messages Transmitted from each Office during the Year 1881.

Name of Station.	Date of Opening Office.	Number of Messages Transmitted.	Revenue, 1880.	Revenue, 1881.	Increase, 1881.	Decrease, 1881.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Melbourne, Central Office ...	Mar. 1854	197,599	21,613 7 3	21,688 19 11	75 12 8	...
" Customs ...	Aug. 1872	39,038	3,427 0 6	3,552 10 6	125 10 0	...
Alexandra ...	Dec. 1873	2,178	92 14 9	109 8 4	16 13 7	...
Amherst ...	Oct. 1881	95	New office	4 19 11	4 19 11	...
Ararat ...	Nov. 1858	4,684	286 3 7	281 13 6	...	4 10 1
Avenel ...	Nov. 1874	705	35 14 4	33 13 6	...	2 0 10
Avoca ...	Nov. 1859	2,388	109 14 11	119 3 7	9 8 8	...
Bacchus Marsh ...	Oct. 1874	1,108	60 7 10	56 5 4	...	4 2 6
Bairnsdale ...	July 1869	6,267	334 19 5	393 15 1	58 15 8	...
Ballan ...	Sept. 1874	1,202	61 0 11	62 5 11	1 5 0	...
Ballarat ...	Dec. 1856	70,348	4,052 16 10	4,784 19 6	732 2 8	...
" East ...	July 1879	3,559	180 9 0	198 13 11	18 4 11	...
Balmoral ...	Oct. 1875	1,066	75 12 8	64 13 4	...	10 19 4
Beaconsfield ...	April 1879	279	20 13 6	14 12 0	...	6 1 6
Bcaufort ...	Mar. 1858	2,099	127 12 0	114 6 4	...	13 5 8
Beechworth ...	Jan. 1858	6,842	452 11 6	411 9 0	...	41 2 6
Belfast ...	Mar. 1858	4,438	247 18 5	271 2 8	23 4 3	...
Benalla ...	May 1858	4,670	236 17 8	230 14 5	...	6 3 3
Berwick ...	Mar. 1873	902	44 13 4	47 13 3	2 19 11	...
Birregurra ...	Feb. 1874	1,306	66 3 9	65 14 7	...	0 9 2
Bransholme ...	Nov. 1875	1,069	49 16 1	56 18 5	7 2 4	...
Bridgewater ...	June 1877	2,194	82 11 11	73 19 4	...	8 12 7
Bright ...	Aug. 1867	1,633	107 15 8	92 5 10	...	15 9 10
Brighton ...	Nov. 1872	1,957	89 18 8	124 7 11	34 9 3	...
Brunswick ...	Aug. 1872	1,148	60 0 7	70 9 9	10 9 2	...
Bruthen ...	May 1880	1,018	20 15 5	56 3 7	35 8 2	...
Buln Buln ...	Mar. 1877	422	23 18 6	19 4 9	...	4 13 9
Buninyong ...	Oct. 1862	916	43 19 1	49 16 3	5 17 2	...
Camperdown ...	Oct. 1863	3,862	194 2 4	210 12 4	16 10 0	...
Cape Otway ...	Sept. 1859	1,111	14 12 8	18 13 4	4 0 8	...
Cape Schanck ...	Sept. 1861	611	6 13 7	8 6 5	1 12 10	...
Caramut ...	Mar. 1874	851	46 3 1	45 13 5	...	0 9 8
Carlton ...	Feb. 1875	4,790	229 19 10	339 13 5	109 13 7	...
Casterton ...	July 1865	3,684	260 16 11	233 13 1	...	27 3 10
Castlemaine ...	Jan. 1857	7,050	359 13 1	365 15 0	6 1 11	...
Charlton ...	Jan. 1878	3,852	199 3 0	178 9 11	...	20 13 1
Chewton ...	Oct. 1872	403	20 15 10	19 7 4	...	1 8 6
Chiltern ...	Mar. 1861	1,938	85 12 1	93 16 4	8 4 3	...
Clunes ...	Feb. 1861	4,471	248 1 1	261 17 9	13 16 8	...
Coburg ...	Aug. 1873	579	27 19 11	40 9 2	12 9 3	...
Colac ...	Aug. 1863	4,489	265 6 1	265 16 8	0 10 7	...
Coleraine ...	Aug. 1867	2,318	189 14 9	156 9 2	...	33 5 7
Collingwood ...	Nov. 1865	4,144	251 3 3	292 2 0	40 18 9	...
Cranbourne ...	Feb. 1877	536	29 9 11	33 1 11	3 12 0	...
Creswick ...	Aug. 1859	7,032	262 14 7	406 13 6	143 18 11	...
Cudgee ...	Nov. 1878	275	33 17 8	15 14 8	...	18 3 0
Cunningham ...	Oct. 1879	1,291	37 19 4	51 9 8	13 10 4	...
Dandenong ...	June 1871	1,574	76 12 2	78 0 1	1 7 11	...
Daylesford ...	Aug. 1859	4,503	244 9 0	241 0 11	...	3 8 1
Dimboola ...	June 1880	2,192	58 15 10	126 15 7	66 19 9	...
Donald ...	July 1879	2,754	146 9 9	172 19 1	26 9 4	...
Dromana ...	April 1875	557	27 8 2	26 7 3	...	1 0 11
Drouin ...	Feb. 1879	1,140	78 1 5	54 16 11	...	23 4 6
Dunolly ...	Aug. 1859	5,708	419 6 3	299 13 5	...	119 12 10
Durham Ox ...	June 1876	1,194	72 6 8	60 15 11	...	11 10 9
Faglehawk ...	Oct. 1871	2,029	85 19 4	116 4 2	30 4 10	...
Eastern Market ...	Jan. 1880	13,858	654 4 0	913 14 10	259 10 10	...
Echuca ...	Dec. 1858	14,382	900 18 0	909 12 11	8 14 11	...
Elsie ...	April 1875	269	14 18 9	14 1 2	...	0 17 7
Elizabethe street north	July 1871	475	24 8 5	23 17 10	...	0 10 7
Eltham ...	Aug. 1879	4,382	270 12 6	279 6 0	8 13 6	...
Emerald Hill ...	June 1877	223	16 8 8	12 3 1	...	4 5 7
Exchange ...	Feb. 1872	4,720	267 5 0	316 3 6	48 18 6	...
Exhibition ...	Dec. 1880	63,448	223 3 6	5,327 19 6	5,104 16 0	...
Fitzroy ...	Aug. 1880	2,759	167 8 8	190 1 0	22 12 4	...
" North	Sept. 1877	3,751	224 10 3	265 2 4	40 12 1	...
Flemington ...	April 1879	538	24 6 5	30 7 2	6 0 9	...
Flinders ...	Dec. 1876	2,412	167 5 8	167 6 11	0 1 3	...
Footscray ...	May 1869	189	8 13 6	8 9 1	...	0 4 5
Foster ...	Oct. 1873	1,226	54 6 7	71 3 10	16 17 3	...
Frankston ...	April 1873	436	19 8 7	17 14 7	...	1 14 0
Fryerstown ...	Oct. 1880	535	6 16 8	29 5 5	22 8 9	...
Gaffney's Creek	April 1872	560	34 3 11	28 3 6	...	6 0 5
Geelong ...	May 1871	316	16 12 3	13 18 11	...	2 13 4
Glenhompson	Dec. 1854	32,200	1,897 18 10	2,180 1 4	282 2 6	...
Goornong ...	Aug. 1878	991	20 6 2	21 15 1	1 8 11	...
	Sept. 1877	926	21 13 1	20 6 8	...	1 6 5

† Exhibition Telegraph Office "closed" 2nd July 1881.

* Local collections only.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1880 and 1881, and Number of Telegraphic Messages Transmitted from each Office during the Year 1881—*continued.*

Name of Station.	Date of Opening Office.	Number of Messages Transmitted.	Revenue, 1880.			Revenue, 1881.			Increase, 1881.			Decrease, 1881.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Glenorchy ¹ ...	Sept. 1877	309	20	0	4	17	0	5	...	...	...	2	19	11
Gordons ...	Mar. 1876	1,497	75	15	7	79	2	6	3	6	11	...	...	...
Hamilton ...	Mar. 1861	11,627	756	11	1	733	10	0	...	...	...	23	1	1
Harrow ...	July 1876	2,035	116	5	8	124	17	11	8	12	3	...	...	...
Hawthorn ...	July 1872	1,918	89	16	7	131	0	2	41	3	7	...	...	...
Heathcote ...	Oct. 1859	2,343	107	7	1	112	6	1	4	19	0	...	...	...
Heidelberg ...	Aug. 1876	328	20	18	0	17	6	11	...	...	...	3	11	1
Hexham ...	April 1858	476	23	13	6	28	5	9	4	12	3	...	...	...
Heywood ...	July 1877	956	45	15	9	50	7	5	4	11	8	...	...	...
Hobson's Bay ...	April 1879	16,759	1,126	16	3	1,226	11	4	99	15	1	...	...	...
Horsham ...	Jan. 1875	9,222	615	7	7	628	13	6	13	5	11	...	...	...
Hotham ...	June 1875	3,858	194	10	2	242	17	0	48	6	10	...	...	...
Inglewood ...	Oct. 1861	3,389	164	9	11	165	17	4	1	7	5	...	...	...
Ivanhoe ² ...	Aug. 1876	...	0	16	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	16	0
Jamieson ...	June 1865	1,015	46	9	1	49	4	11	2	15	10	...	...	...
Kerang ...	Aug. 1863	2,939	185	19	0	167	15	7	...	...	...	18	3	5
Kew ...	Feb. 1875	2,514	109	7	4	145	4	9	35	17	5	...	...	...
Kilmore ...	Oct. 1867	2,833	119	19	0	149	2	2	29	3	2	...	...	...
Koroit ...	Sept. 1872	1,295	75	13	2	72	9	2	...	...	...	3	4	0
Kyneton ...	April 1867	5,921	331	6	7	341	2	1	9	15	6	...	...	...
Lancefield ...	May 1874	1,153	48	0	6	56	2	7	8	2	1	...	...	...
Learnmonth ...	May 1874	783	42	19	11	44	7	5	1	7	6	...	...	...
Lilydale ...	July 1876	1,482	62	5	8	76	11	10	14	6	2	...	...	...
Linton ...	Oct. 1868	702	35	14	5	35	9	8	...	...	...	0	4	9
Longwood ³ ...	Nov. 1857	...	20	18	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	18	3
Lorne ...	Jan. 1876	1,511	86	8	10	83	12	6	...	...	...	2	16	4
Macarthur ...	Jan. 1880	1,733	85	2	2	106	8	9	21	6	7	...	...	...
Maffra ...	July 1875	2,537	125	8	6	160	14	7	35	6	1	...	...	...
Majorca ...	April 1870	657	24	18	6	32	7	2	7	8	8	...	...	...
Maldon ...	Aug. 1859	2,129	94	19	8	109	2	1	14	2	5	...	...	...
Malmesbury ...	Oct. 1865	1,428	56	0	5	69	6	0	13	5	7	...	...	...
Malvern ...	Jan. 1876	315	14	10	2	18	19	9	4	9	7	...	...	...
Mansfield ...	Nov. 1868	2,247	125	2	6	118	8	6	...	...	...	6	14	0
Maryborough ...	April 1859	7,354	389	0	6	426	7	11	37	7	5	...	...	...
Melton ...	Sept. 1877	432	21	13	7	23	15	9	2	2	2	...	...	...
Meredith ...	April 1875	874	23	13	10	30	2	2	6	8	4	...	...	...
Merino ...	May 1879	1,167	81	15	8	62	19	6	...	...	...	18	16	2
Moe ⁴ ...	Jan. 1877	393	24	19	3	16	8	6	...	...	...	8	10	9
Mooroopna ...	Jan. 1880	2,684	138	1	8	148	12	4	10	10	8	...	...	...
Morang ...	Jan. 1880	224	5	16	3	9	17	2	4	0	11	...	...	...
Mordialloc ...	Aug. 1876	781	33	19	3	46	19	1	12	19	10	...	...	...
Mornington ...	Mar. 1861	1,288	65	11	6	70	18	8	5	7	2	...	...	...
Mortlake ...	June 1864	1,778	92	8	3	93	14	7	1	6	4	...	...	...
Morwell ...	Aug. 1879	843	43	18	0	42	19	3	...	...	...	0	18	9
Mount Blackwood ...	Aug. 1875	911	45	8	8	44	1	4	...	...	...	1	7	4
Mount Egerton ...	Jan. 1878	1,229	58	7	9	57	7	7	...	...	...	1	0	2
Murchison ...	Dec. 1874	1,950	136	18	0	105	5	11	...	...	...	31	12	1
Murtoa ...	June 1880	3,431	94	5	0	199	10	11	105	5	11	...	...	...
Myrniong ...	Feb. 1876	410	20	4	1	21	5	5	1	1	4	...	...	...
Myrtleford ...	May 1879	813	48	17	0	41	2	5	...	...	...	7	14	7
Nagambie ...	Jan. 1875	1,768	95	15	3	92	7	2	...	...	...	3	8	1
New Gisborne ...	July 1873	767	32	10	3	40	3	8	7	13	5	...	...	...
Newstead ...	Oct. 1863	537	25	2	11	28	5	0	3	2	1	...	...	...
Northcote ...	Aug. 1876	395	17	15	0	25	2	6	7	7	6	...	...	...
Oakleigh ...	Sept. 1875	384	22	3	10	20	4	10	...	...	...	1	19	0
Omeo ...	Nov. 1879	1,412	83	8	3	80	9	6	...	...	...	2	18	9
Pakenham ...	Aug. 1877	504	24	11	9	26	16	3	2	4	6	...	...	...
Penshurst ...	Jan. 1867	1,899	98	9	6	102	6	5	3	16	11	...	...	...
Piggoreet ...	Mar. 1875	194	9	11	5	8	16	7	...	...	...	0	14	10
Port Albert ...	Dec. 1864	1,389	72	2	1	61	3	9	...	...	...	10	18	4
Portland ...	Feb. 1858	6,636	437	19	5	388	16	5	...	...	...	49	3	0
Portsea ...	Jan. 1877	803	35	11	8	42	9	9	6	18	1	...	...	...
Prahran ...	Aug. 1872	4,964	234	6	2	300	9	2	66	3	0	...	...	...
Preston ...	Aug. 1876	1,171	13	3	4	14	3	9	1	0	5	...	...	...
Queenscliff ⁵ ...	Jan. 1855	9,325	218	9	10	236	14	9	18	4	11	...	...	...
Richmond ...	Jan. 1872	3,153	168	14	5	207	16	11	39	2	6	...	...	...
„ South ...	April 1876	1,430	70	10	4	87	2	4	16	12	0	...	...	...
Rochester ...	May 1875	3,228	157	9	9	150	2	5	...	...	...	7	7	4
Rokewood ...	Sept. 1873	640	32	5	0	35	19	6	3	14	6	...	...	...
Romsey ...	May 1874	903	38	2	8	45	1	9	6	19	1	...	...	...
Rosedale ...	Mar. 1867	1,722	84	4	2	76	7	2	...	...	...	7	17	0
Rushworth ...	Dec. 1874	1,530	88	1	11	77	17	0	...	...	...	10	4	11
Rutherglen ...	Aug. 1862	1,483	75	12	1	75	7	11	...	...	...	0	4	2
St. Arnaud ...	Jan. 1865	6,752	353	13	3	389	10	1	35	16	10	...	...	...
St. Kilda ...	Feb. 1871	4,505	263	19	10	322	12	4	58	12	6	...	...	...
„ Railway Station ...	Dec. 1878	5,089	350	11	8	375	14	11	25	3	3	...	...	...
Salc ...	Sept. 1864	10,715	616	15	7	634	18	4	18	2	9	...	...	...
Sandhurst ...	Jan. 1857	42,632	2,100	10	11	2,746	2	9	645	11	10	...	...	...
Sandridge ...	July 1855	2,327	143	5	11	179	13	6	36	7	7	...	...	...
Sandridge West ...	Mar. 1879	2,870	153	8	0	170	1	4	16	13	4	...	...	...
Scarsdale ...	Sept. 1872	291	27	16	1	15	2	8	...	...	...	12	13	5
Sebastopol ...	Jan. 1870	346	24	11	0	18	6	0	...	...	...	6	5	0

¹ Glenorchy business transferred to Railway Station office 1st September 1881.

² Ivanhoe telegraph office closed 1st February 1880.

³ Longwood business transferred to Railway Station office 1st January 1881.

⁴ Moe telegraph business transferred to Railway Station office 1st September 1881.

⁵ Queenscliff: 2,370 messages were "collect," value £164 19s. 9d.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1880 and 1881, and Number of Telegraphic Messages Transmitted from each Office during the Year 1881—*continued*.

Name of Station.	Date of Opening Office.	Number of Messages Transmitted.	Revenue, 1880.	Revenue, 1881.	Increase, 1881.	Decrease, 1881.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Serpentine Creek ...	Sept. 1873	802	51 4 2	45 10 11	...	5 13 3
Seymour ...	June 1865	1,844	96 6 2	81 5 9	...	15 0 5
Shepparton ...	Oct. 1879	7,643	347 16 11	418 11 7	70 14 8	...
Skipton ...	Sept. 1876	713	42 15 1	46 3 6	3 8 5	...
Smythesdale ...	June 1863	955	49 6 4	44 15 6	...	4 10 10
Sorrento ...	Feb. 1874	1,466	64 2 11	71 13 10	7 10 11	...
South Yarra ...	Aug. 1872	4,532	288 15 7	340 13 8	51 18 1	...
Stawell ...	Oct. 1861	10,967	628 4 2	642 15 3	14 11 1	...
Stratford ...	May 1873	1,250	71 8 11	62 5 7	...	9 3 4
Streatham ...	July 1858	615	29 14 5	35 17 1	6 2 8	...
Swan Hill ...	April 1863	2,804	178 16 9	174 15 7	...	4 1 2
Talbot ...	Dec. 1860	3,084	184 14 2	146 15 6	...	37 18 8
Taradale ...	Nov. 1861	699	31 2 4	36 4 6	5 2 2	...
Tarnagulla ...	Nov. 1860	1,168	81 16 9	62 10 10	...	19 5 11
Tarraville ...	June 1877	552	25 14 6	32 5 2	6 10 8	...
Terang ...	Nov. 1871	1,201	78 14 10	68 8 3	...	10 6 7
Toongabbie ...	May 1878	595	31 9 5	31 19 6	0 10 1	...
Traralgon ...	May 1875	1,496	69 18 7	72 9 6	2 10 11	...
Upper Macedon ...	July 1880	378	7 14 3	23 17 2	16 2 11	...
Vaughan ...	Dec. 1878	90	4 18 0	4 7 5	...	0 10 7
Waddallah ...	May 1873	666	29 14 6	34 0 8	4 6 2	...
Wahgunyah ...	Feb. 1861	2,499	78 8 1	78 9 5	0 1 4	...
Walhalla ...	Nov. 1870	5,128	308 5 6	294 14 8	...	13 10 10
Wangaratta ...	July 1858	3,777	205 1 6	207 0 6	1 19 0	...
Warragul ...	June 1881	923	New office	47 9 4	47 9 4	...
Warrnambool ...	Mar. 1858	14,076	922 3 4	893 1 7	...	29 1 9
Waterloo (G. L.) ...	Jan. 1880	622	30 14 3	32 3 10	1 9 7	...
Wedderburn ...	Feb. 1876	1,209	86 5 8	67 1 7	...	19 4 1
Whittlesea ...	June 1879	467	27 18 6	23 12 7	...	4 5 11
Williamstown ...	Mar. 1854	4,807	293 10 6	323 13 6	30 3 0	...
Wilson's Promontory ¹ ...	April 1873	666	...	...	...	...
Winchelsea ...	Feb. 1874	806	50 7 1	42 14 11	...	7 12 2
Wodonga ...	Jan. 1858	3,624	128 19 1	182 19 8	54 0 7	...
Wood's Point ...	Oct. 1865	1,815	77 11 7	70 1 11	...	7 9 8
Yackandandah ...	Feb. 1861	1,151	55 4 1	57 10 3	2 6 2	...
Yan Yean ...	Aug. 1879	230	3 5 2	2 12 2	...	0 13 0
Yea ...	July 1879	889	41 3 8	45 12 4	4 8 8	...
Point Lonsdale ² ...	Oct. 1861	...	...	...	...	...
RAILWAY STATION CIRCUIT.						
Ararat ...	Mar. 1878	4,836	50 4 1	53 7 3	3 3 2	...
Arcadia ³ ...	Feb. 1880	...	1 3 9	...	...	1 3 9
Avenel ...	Dec. 1872	3,576	2 10 2	3 2 7	0 12 5	...
Avoca ...	Aug. 1878	1,024	2 4 7	4 4 10	2 0 3	...
Ballarat West ...	July 1863	12,543	105 15 5	134 13 11	28 18 6	...
Bealiba ...	Sept. 1878	1,562	36 12 2	41 12 1	4 19 11	...
Beaufort ...	Aug. 1874	1,667	7 8 1	7 8 4	0 0 3	...
Beechworth ...	Aug. 1878	1,204	0 14 1	1 13 1	0 19 0	...
Benalla ...	Aug. 1873	4,753	96 7 9	116 7 11	20 0 2	...
Berwick ...	Mar. 1878	4,408	1 16 5	3 4 3	1 7 10	...
Brighton Beach ...	Oct. 1881	103	New office	3 5 7	3 5 7	...
Broadford ...	May 1872	7,470	26 17 1	48 0 3	21 3 2	...
Broadmeadows ...	Mar. 1880	11,065	2 10 9	4 1 2	1 10 5	...
Buangaor ...	Aug. 1879	973	14 18 1	13 18 10	...	0 19 3
Bunyip ...	Nov. 1877	4,476	11 8 7	14 17 6	3 8 11	...
Castlemaine ...	July 1863	10,008	41 10 10	50 9 11	8 19 1	...
Carisbrook ...	Jan. 1861	2,332	46 12 8	56 5 10	9 13 2	...
Carlsruhe ...	Mar. 1880	4,110	9 14 6	4 10 4	...	5 4 2
Caufield ...	Dec. 1881	71	New office	0 8 0	0 8 0	...
Chiltern ...	Dec. 1873	1,267	6 7 10	6 15 5	0 7 7	...
Clunes ...	Aug. 1878	1,884	8 15 2	12 1 3	3 6 1	...
Colac ...	Aug. 1878	860	9 2 8	13 16 0	4 13 4	...
Condah ...	Aug. 1878	908	14 10 1	18 0 9	3 10 8	...
Craigieburn ...	Nov. 1877	7,055	10 16 11	11 10 10	0 13 11	...
Creswick ...	June 1880	796	5 2 3	3 17 5	...	1 4 10
Dandenong ...	Mar. 1879	4,383	4 12 5	5 4 4	0 11 11	...
Daylesford ...	Feb. 1881	439	New office	4 10 10	4 10 10	...
Drouin ...	Dec. 1881	290	New office	...	...	...
Drysdale ...	Dec. 1879	1,094	28 3 1	38 15 4	10 12 3	...
Dunkeld ...	April 1877	2,005	62 7 1	68 1 3	5 14 2	...
Dunolly ...	Aug. 1878	988	0 4 6	0 12 6	0 8 0	...
Echuca ...	June 1865	6,491	145 18 5	140 13 3	...	5 5 2
Elmore ...	June 1865	3,027	105 18 10	96 7 10	...	9 11 0
Elphinstone ...	April 1873	8,972	11 15 9	16 1 8	4 5 11	...
Elsternwick ...	Dec. 1881	76	New office	1 3 10	1 3 10	...
Emerald Hill ...	Nov. 1881	18	New office	0 9 1	0 9 1	...
Essendon ...	Aug. 1878	5,116	17 5 3	18 9 11	1 4 8	...
Euroa ...	Aug. 1876	2,314	78 7 9	78 12 10	0 5 1	...
Geelong ...	April 1862	7,434	121 8 4	166 18 8	45 10 4	...
Glenorchy ...	Jan. 1879	946	2 16 10	10 2 4	7 5 6	...
Guildford ...	Nov. 1878	2,946	8 10 9	9 17 6	1 6 9	...
Hamilton ...	Aug. 1878	1,487	13 3 8	14 11 4	1 7 8	...
Hawthorn ...	Dec. 1881	10	New office	0 5 5	0 5 5	...

¹ Wilson's Promontory—revenue included in Melbourne return.² Point Lonsdale—look-out station; no revenue.³ Arcadia Telegraph Office closed 1st March 1880.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Cash Revenue for 1880 and 1881, and Number of Telegraphic Messages Transmitted from each Office during the Year 1881—*continued.*

Name of Station.	Date of Opening Office.	Number of Messages Transmitted.	Revenue, 1880.	Revenue, 1881.	Increase, 1881.	Decrease, 1881.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Horsham	Aug. 1879	831	3 8 8	3 15 10	0 7 2	...
Inglewood	Aug. 1878	1,097	2 11 5	3 14 5	1 3 0	...
Jung Jung	Sept. 1879	2,100	29 18 5	25 2 9	...	4 15 8
Keilor Road	Nov. 1877	866	8 8 4	8 1 3	...	0 7 1
Kilmore East	Sept. 1877	7,454	14 18 10	20 6 7	5 7 9	...
Kyneton	July 1876	1,711	24 4 1	23 4 0	3 19 11	...
Lal Lal	Oct. 1880	617	1 12 10	7 8 11	5 16 1	...
Jancefield Road	July 1873	6,030	23 10 9	23 14 6	5 3 9	...
" Railway	July 1881	480	New office	1 3 2	1 3 2	...
Lara	Feb. 1878	1,204	25 11 10	26 17 6	1 5 8	...
Little River	Sept. 1876	946	7 7 1	10 12 0	3 4 11	...
Longwood	Dec. 1880	2,066	1 12 0	18 3 1	16 11 1	...
Lubeck	Aug. 1879	1,365	22 0 9	21 10 9	...	0 10 0
Macedon	June 1874	5,731	34 17 1	18 10 5	...	16 6 8
Mangalore	Feb. 1880	6,305	8 14 4	11 11 6	2 17 2	...
Maryborough	July 1874	7,931	33 12 8	43 15 4	10 2 8	...
Middle Brighton	Oct. 1881	68	New office	3 6 8	3 6 8	...
Moe	July 1878	3,116	1 10 0	13 3 3	11 13 3	...
Murchison	Feb. 1880	1,829	16 9 7	17 4 1	0 14 6	...
Murtoa	Dec. 1878	2,119	98 18 3	15 17 1	...	83 1 2
Nagambie	Feb. 1880	2,342	8 7 7	8 10 7	0 3 0	...
Newmarket	Oct. 1874	1,711	43 19 2	56 0 2	12 1 0	...
Newport ¹	April 1862	890	8 1 7	8 5 11	0 4 4	...
Newstead	July 1874	3,128	3 13 3	8 14 8	5 1 5	...
North Brighton	Nov. 1881	87	New office	6 1 9	6 1 9	...
Numurkah	Sept. 1881	1,742	New office	77 14 8	77 14 8	...
Oakleigh	Aug. 1878	2,129	3 3 3	5 9 0	2 5 9	...
Pakenham	Nov. 1877	4,297	0 6 0	3 15 5	3 9 5	...
Portland	Aug. 1878	718	2 4 2	2 11 2	0 7 0	...
Princes Bridge	July 1881	1,589	New office	3 17 0	3 17 0	...
Queenscliff	July 1881	351	New office	6 17 5	6 17 5	...
Riddell's Creek	July 1876	5,187	15 11 5	15 19 1	0 7 8	...
Romsey	July 1881	827	New office	0 10 7	0 10 7	...
Rutherglen	April 1879	830	1 12 11	1 17 8	0 4 9	...
St. Arnaud	Mar. 1879	1,318	1 6 6	4 4 11	2 18 5	...
Sale	Aug. 1878	2,525	31 17 2	28 0 7	...	3 16
Sandhurst	July 1863	6,310	147 12 6	157 9 11	9 17 5	...
Seymour	May 1872	13,403	76 19 10	105 7 4	28 7 6	...
Shepparton	Feb. 1880	2,346	5 7 4	15 18 3	10 10 11	...
South Yarra	Dec. 1881	11	New office	0 2 0	0 2 0	...
Spencer street	Oct. 1861	43,903	787 2 9	946 18 2	159 15 5	...
Springs	Nov. 1878	577	13 12 4	15 5 8	1 13 4	...
Stawell	Dec. 1877	3,234	36 17 5	31 4 2	...	5 13 3
Sunbury	Feb. 1867	6,861	51 7 7	52 9 9	1 2 2	...
Tallagaroopna	Sept. 1881	500	New office	7 4 9	7 4 9	...
Tallarook	Nov. 1877	6,224	25 7 4	28 1 10	2 14 6	...
Tatura	Feb. 1880	2,730	62 4 0	89 9 10	27 5 10	...
Toolamba	Feb. 1880	3,080	18 19 5	19 12 10	0 13 5	...
Traralgon	Aug. 1878	2,396	0 17 2	3 15 3	2 18 1	...
Trentham	July 1880	2,875	13 17 3	33 16 10	19 19 7	...
Violettown	Jan. 1877	2,015	38 18 9	31 14 5	...	7 4 4
Wahgunyah	Mar. 1879	1,404	9 19 4	11 4 0	1 4 8	...
Wallan Wallan	May 1872	8,442	15 0 4	20 5 1	5 4 9	...
Wangaratta	Nov. 1873	2,929	44 0 9	58 19 5	14 18 8	...
Warragul	Mar. 1878	5,902	76 13 10	46 10 1	...	30 3 9
Warrenheip	Sept. 1879	3,304	5 0 2	5 10 5	0 10 3	...
Werribee	April 1862	2,288	83 9 4	57 8 1	...	26 1 3
Williamstown Pier	Jan. 1870	4,092	18 9 5	25 18 1	7 8 8	...
" Railway	Dec. 1881	26	New office	0 5 10	0 5 10	...
Winchelsea	Aug. 1878	654	6 6 11	8 10 5	2 3 6	...
Windsor	Nov. 1881	237	New office	4 5 1	4 5 1	...
Wodonga	Nov. 1873	2,884	15 6 10	65 10 2	50 3 4	...
Woodend	Oct. 1861	25,734	59 14 9	69 1 0	9 6 3	...
Wunghnu	Dec. 1881	66	New office	3 5 2	3 5 2	...
Yendon	Mar. 1873	758	9 14 5	12 14 5	3 0 0	...
		1,281,749	61,478 16 9	70,654 12 5	10,226 18 4	1,051 2 8

¹ Newport, late Williamstown Junction.

APPENDIX M.

RETURN of the Number of Money Order Offices, the Number and Amount of Orders Issued and Paid, in the Colony of Victoria during the Year 1881, and the Amount of Revenue received for Commission.

Number of Money Order Offices at close of 1880.	Net Revenue received for Commission.	Orders Issued.		Orders Paid.		Total Transactions.	
		Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
296	6,816 14 7	162,202	447,856 3 10	179,882	520,978 10 11	342,084	968,834 14 9