

SECTION XVIII.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

§ 1. Posts.

1. **The Commonwealth Postal Department.**—Under the provisions of section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution Act the Commonwealth Parliament was empowered to make laws with respect to the control of the postal, telegraphic, and telephonic services in Australia, and by proclamation, made under section 69 of the same Act, the six separate State Post and Telegraph Departments were amalgamated and taken over by the Federal Executive on the 1st March, 1901. On the 1st December following, the Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Act 1901 came into operation, and the provisions of the various State Acts referring to the postal and telegraphic services thereby ceased to apply; it was, however, specially provided by the Act of 1901 that all regulations in force and all rates and charges levied under any State Act should continue in force and be applied in the same manner as if such State Act were not affected by the Commonwealth Act. The administration of the Act of 1901 was placed in the hands of a Postmaster-General, a responsible Minister with Cabinet rank, and of a Secretary having chief control of the Department throughout the Commonwealth under the Postmaster-General, whilst a principal officer in each State was provided for under the style of Deputy Postmaster-General. The rates and charges levied in each State for the transmission of letters, telegrams, and postal articles at the date of Federation remained in force until the Post and Telegraph Rates Act came into operation on the 1st November, 1902. This Act secured uniformity throughout the Commonwealth in the rates charged for the conveyance of newspapers by post, and for the transmission of telegrams, but did not alter the charges made in the individual States for the transmission of letters, cards, parcels, and packets. Uniform postage rates will, however, exist in all the States when the Postal Rates Act of 1910 comes into force. (See paragraph 8 hereof.)

2. **Postal Services in Early Days.**—The first Australian office for postal purposes was established in Sydney by Lieutenant-Governor Paterson under a Government order dated the 25th April, 1809, and the site selected was in High-street (now known as George-street) at the residence of Mr. Isaac Nicholls. The duties of this office were extended in June, 1810, by Governor Macquarie, who established it as a regular post office, at which all parcels and letters, either colonial or foreign, were to be deposited previous to their distribution. After the establishment of this office in Sydney very little improvement in regard to postal matters took place for a number of years, and it was not until 1825 that an Act was passed by Sir Thomas Brisbane, with the advice of the Council, "to regulate the postage of letters in New South Wales." A proclamation under this Act was issued, fixing the rates of postage and the salaries and allowances of postmasters, and inviting tenders for the conveyance of mails between Sydney and Parramatta, Windsor and Liverpool; between Liverpool and Campbelltown; from Parramatta to Emu Plains, and thence to Bathurst. It was not, however, until 1828 that the provisions of the Act were put into full force and a system of general post-office communication was established. In that year rates of postage were fixed, depending

upon the distance and the difficulty of transmission. The lowest single inland rate was threepence and the highest one shilling, the postage on a letter increasing according to its weight, the minimum fee being charged on letters not exceeding a quarter of an ounce. The fee for newspapers was one penny. Letters from New South Wales to Van Diemen's Land were charged threepence each, while other letters by ship were charged fourpence each single rate, and sixpence for any weight in excess. The Act of 1825 was amended by the Postal Act of 1835, under which the Governor was authorised to establish a General Post Office in Sydney, and to make rules and regulations, and to fix rates for the conveyance of letters and parcels. In 1837 a post office was established in Melbourne, and a fortnightly service was established between that city and Sydney. In the same year stamps were introduced in the form of stamped covers or wrappers, which are said to have been the first postage stamps ever used. Post offices were established and a postal service was organised in the other States of the Commonwealth shortly after their settlement, and a tolerably good overland service by horses and mail coaches soon developed between the capitals and the up-country towns, villages, and stations as settlement progressed.

3. Development of Postal Services.—In the early days mails were conveyed along the main roads by coaches, built after the style of the old-fashioned English mail coaches; after the discovery of gold, in 1851, coaches built on the model of the Mexican estafeta gradually supplanted the old style. Mails were despatched at night and were delivered with greater rapidity until they were finally sent by railway. The history of the post office in Australia, subsequent to the discovery of gold, has been one of great progress and improvement.

(i.) *Number of Post Offices, Letters and Postcards, and Newspapers, 1841 to 1909.* The number of post offices open in each State and in the Commonwealth at decennial periods since 1841, and at the end of the years 1907, 1908, and 1909 is given in the subjoined table, which also shews, for the same years, the total number (in thousands) of letters and postcards dealt with, and the number per 100 of the population, as well as the total number (in thousands) of newspapers dealt with, and the number per 100 of the population in each State and in the Commonwealth. The true total number of letters and postcards and of newspapers dealt with is not obtained by merely adding the figures of the several States together, since interstate letters are counted both in the State from which they are despatched and in that in which they are received for delivery. A second total is therefore given, excluding such interstate excess, obtained by subtracting from the first total for all the States half the sum of the number of interstate letters despatched and received in each of the States.

DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL SERVICES, 1841 to 1909.

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Commonwealth.	Commonwealth (excluding Interstate Excess).
1841	56	3	*	...	...	143	102	...
1851	101	44	†	72	...	51	268	...
1861	340	369	23	150	14	100	1,006	...
1871	570	706	81	236	39	144	1,826	...
1881	973	1,158	141	488	52	206	3,018	...
1891	1,384	1,729	307	629	86	328	4,463	...
1901	1,684	1,637	411	699	187	376	4,994	...
1907	1,809	1,656	480	704	298	375	5,322	...
1908	1,842	1,633	499	686	320	378	5,358	...
1909	1,884	1,642	522	631	331	377	5,387	...

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1841 TO 1909.

DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL SERVICES, 1841 TO 1909.—(Continued).

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.¶	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Commonwealth.	C'wealth (excluding Interstate Excess).
1841	720	56	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851	975	504	*	364	...	...	...	...
1861	4,370	6,110	515	1,540	193	836	13,564	12,844
1871	7,510	11,716	1,793	3,163	1,669	1,189	26,040	24,382
1881	26,356	26,308	5,178	10,759	995	2,682	72,278	67,640
1891	64,154	\$62,527	15,346	17,836	3,193	5,852	168,908	157,297
1901	82,783	82,599	23,270	21,395	17,451	11,173	238,671	220,177
1907	137,229	122,508	36,006	28,364	24,653	14,911	363,671	332,301
1908	149,654	128,986	40,363	27,132	25,614	15,323	387,072	354,718
1909	151,570	133,601	45,299	31,551	26,059	16,297	404,377	372,504

NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS DEALT WITH. (,000 OMITTED.)

1841	720	56	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851	975	504	*	364	...	...	...	...
1861	4,370	6,110	515	1,540	193	836	13,564	12,844
1871	7,510	11,716	1,793	3,163	1,669	1,189	26,040	24,382
1881	26,356	26,308	5,178	10,759	995	2,682	72,278	67,640
1891	64,154	\$62,527	15,346	17,836	3,193	5,852	168,908	157,297
1901	82,783	82,599	23,270	21,395	17,451	11,173	238,671	220,177
1907	137,229	122,508	36,006	28,364	24,653	14,911	363,671	332,301
1908	149,654	128,986	40,363	27,132	25,614	15,323	387,072	354,718
1909	151,570	133,601	45,299	31,551	26,059	16,297	404,377	372,504

NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS DEALT WITH PER 100 OF POPULATION.

1841	617	483	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851	495	652	*	548	...	...	...	...
1861	1,337	1,132	1,651	1,228	1,240	929	1,175	1,113
1871	1,478	1,590	1,489	1,712	1,668	1,175	1,553	1,454
1881	3,445	3,024	2,286	3,885	3,372	2,304	3,164	2,961
1891	5,616	\$5,460	3,870	5,548	6,414	3,929	5,270	4,907
1901	6,033	6,821	4,813	5,840	9,306	6,436	6,237	5,758
1907	8,848	9,904	6,638	7,329	9,329	8,433	8,746	7,991
1908	9,402	10,250	7,347	6,815	9,663	8,431	9,053	8,297
1909	9,346	10,251	7,910	7,584	9,526	8,722	9,245	8,516

NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS DEALT WITH. (,000 OMITTED.)

1841	1,126	120	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851	762	456	*	517	...	...	...	...
1861	3,384	4,277	427	1,089	138	896	10,211	9,603
1871	3,992	5,173	1,307	2,213	1,552	1,136	14,173	13,336
1881	16,528	11,441	4,530	5,927	715	2,345	41,486	38,063
1891	42,517	\$22,729	11,896	8,883	1,666	5,376	93,067	85,290
1901	52,318	26,297	12,805	9,573	7,975	7,440	116,408	102,727
1907	48,341	30,960	19,214	7,713	9,419	10,707	126,354	106,187
1908	50,461	31,890	20,445	7,843	9,505	12,113	132,257	110,574
1909	56,003	32,294	22,057	8,699	9,962	12,818	142,033	120,224

NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS DEALT WITH PER 100 OF THE POPULATION.

1841	965	1,024	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851	386	590	*	778	...	...	...	...
1861	958	792	1,370	868	882	695	885	832
1871	788	702	1,086	1,198	1,407	1,122	845	795
1881	2,160	1,315	2,000	2,140	2,423	2,015	1,816	1,666
1891	3,722	\$1,985	3,000	2,763	3,346	3,609	2,904	2,661
1901	3,813	2,172	2,538	2,617	4,253	4,285	3,042	2,685
1907	3,117	2,503	3,543	1,993	3,564	6,056	3,038	2,553
1908	3,171	2,509	3,721	1,970	3,586	6,665	3,094	2,587
1909	3,453	2,478	3,652	2,139	3,642	6,860	3,247	2,746

* Included in New South Wales. † In 1884. ‡ In 1872. § In 1890. ¶ The figures up to and including the year 1901 are partly estimated.

4. Interstate and Oversea Postages for whole Commonwealth, 1901 to 1909.—In the preceding tables is shown only the total number of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels and packets dealt with—i.e., despatched and received—by the Postal Department in each State, regardless of the place from which they are despatched or of the place at which they are received for delivery. In the following table the matter dealt with is divided into (i.) matter posted in the Commonwealth for delivery within the Commonwealth, (ii.) matter received from places outside the Commonwealth, and (iii.) matter despatched to places outside the Commonwealth.

**INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR WHOLE COMMONWEALTH,
1901 TO 1909.**

Year.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers.	Parcels.	Packets.
POSTED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH (,000 OMITTED).				
1901	209,530	92,383	1,253	36,395
1902	230,554	87,468	1,339	36,783
1903	232,174	78,503	1,515	35,659
1904	243,169	82,011	1,641	38,897
1905	270,767	82,205	1,807	45,466
1906	296,433	91,589	1,998	49,095
1907	309,069	92,223	2,363	64,784
1908	326,162	96,359	2,508	68,569
1909	347,594	107,516	2,761	76,348

OVERSEA RECEIVED (,000 OMITTED).

1901	5,682	7,283	81	2,876
1902	6,342	7,342	86	3,181
1903	6,292	7,115	90	2,821
1904	7,863	7,495	99	3,258
1905	9,689	8,195	94	3,536
1906	9,814	7,973	106	2,688
1907	9,541	8,753	119	3,498
1908	13,309*	8,446	107	4,124
1909	14,092	9,438	106	3,927

OVERSEA DESPATCHED (,000 OMITTED).

1901	4,945	3,055	35	1,319
1902	5,072	3,440	44	1,371
1903	6,024	4,449	47	1,463
1904	7,147	4,649	50	1,974
1905	8,552	4,790	54	2,170
1906	10,394	4,860	60	2,169
1907	10,894	5,548	64	2,356
1908	10,624	5,400	68	2,191
1909	11,279	5,712	70	2,406

* The increase is partly due to the fact that in New South Wales the method of counting was different in previous years.

5. **Interstate and Oversea Postages for each State, 1909.**—The following table shews separately for each State the postage matter dealt with in 1909 under the same classification adopted in the preceding paragraph :—

INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR EACH STATE, 1909.

State.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers.	Parcels.	Packets.
POSTED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN COMMONWEALTH (,000 OMITTED).				
New South Wales ...	132,702	48,046	1,349	34,331
Victoria	116,857	23,003	508	13,677
Queensland	37,318	15,317	528	11,673
South Australia ...	26,957	6,188	159	10,760
Western Australia ...	21,202	5,925	166	2,979
Tasmania	12,558	9,037	51	2,928
Commonwealth...	347,594*	107,516	2,761	76,348

INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR EACH STATE, 1909.—(Continued).

State.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers.	Parcels.	Packets.
OVERSEA RECEIVED (,000 OMITTED).				
New South Wales ...	5,975	2,337	31	900
Victoria ...	4,116	3,527	31	1,176
Queensland ...	1,682	1,468	17	508
South Australia ...	806	908	10	15
Western Australia ...	1,067	694	13	394
Tasmania ...	446	504	4	334
Commonwealth...	14,092	9,438	106	3,327
OVERSEA DESPATCHED (,000 OMITTED).				
New South Wales ...	4,525	2,433	32	1,167
Victoria ...	3,160	2,333	19	980
Queensland ...	935	316	6	79
South Australia ...	833	168	5	77
Western Australia ...	951	174	6	45
Tasmania ...	875	288	2	58
Commonwealth...	11,279	5,712	70	2,406

6. **Postal Business at Capital Cities.**—The following tables shew the number and class of articles posted and received at the chief post-offices in each of the States of the Commonwealth during the year 1909:—

POSTAL BUSINESS OF THE CAPITAL CITIES IN EACH STATE, 1909.

Cit	Letters.	Newspapers.	Packets.	Parcels.
NUMBER OF ARTICLES POSTED.				
Sydney ...	55,811,907	31,492,032	26,196,448	805,362
Melbourne ...	64,649,393	16,578,674	8,876,078	244,125
Brisbane ...	13,659,174	6,426,798	4,873,434	237,769
Adelaide ...	19,972,650	7,837,794	1,509,132	133,828
Perth ...	9,300,029	2,797,730	1,167,983	121,806
Hobart ...	4,804,526	2,192,768	921,210	14,528
NUMBER OF ARTICLES RECEIVED FOR DELIVERY.				
Sydney ...	34,279,026	16,597,683	7,817,982	153,851
Melbourne ...	*	*	*	*
Brisbane ...	11,403,031	3,319,451	2,292,988	231,879
Adelaide ...	11,427,354	3,046,314	1,525,500	104,124
Perth ...	7,879,170	2,531,819	1,828,489	43,042
Hobart ...	2,793,934	1,286,555	655,860	14,190

* Not available.

7. **Postal Facilities, 1909.**—The subjoined statement shews the number of post and receiving offices, the area in square miles and the number of inhabitants to each post office (including receiving offices) in each State and in the Commonwealth at the end of the year 1909. It will be observed that the most sparsely populated States have the greatest number of offices in comparison with their population, but in order to judge the

relative extension of postal facilities the area of country to each office must also be taken into account.

SQUARE MILES OF TERRITORY AND NUMBER OF INHABITANTS TO EACH POST AND RECEIVING OFFICE, 1909.

State.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwith.
Number of post and receiving offices...	2,397	2,370	1,378	723	413	417	7,698
Number of square miles of territory to each post office in State ...	129	37	487	1,250	2,363	63	386
Number of inhabitants to each office...	677	550	416	575	662	448	568
Number of inhabitants per 100 sq. miles	522	148	85	46	28	713	147

8. Rates of Postage.—The charges made for the postage of newspapers and parcels, and of interstate and foreign letters, are the same in all the States of the Commonwealth. The rates for the transmission of inland letters, however, are not uniform, the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 having specially provided that the rates and charges levied in any State should continue in force. The last-mentioned regulation, however, was repealed by the Postal Rates Act of 1910, which will come into force on a date—not later than 1st May, 1911—to be fixed by proclamation.

The following rates on letters, newspapers, and other postal articles posted in the Commonwealth for delivery therein will be in force after the date of proclamation of the operation of the Postal Rates Act of 1910:—

POSTAL RATES OF ARTICLES POSTED IN THE COMMONWEALTH FOR DELIVERY THEREIN AFTER APRIL, 1911.

Postal Articles.	Rates of Postage.
LETTERS	1d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
LETTER-CARDS	{ Single, 1d. each. Reply, 1d. each half.
POST CARDS	{ Single, 1d. each. Reply, 1d. each half.
PRINTED PAPERS AS PRESCRIBED	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 2 ounces or part of 2 ounces..
BOOKS PRINTED OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 ounces or part of 4 ounces..
BOOKS PRINTED IN AUSTRALIA	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 8 ounces or part of 8 ounces..
MAGAZINES.—That is to say—	
(a) magazines, reviews, serials, and other similar publications printed and published in Australia in numbers at intervals not exceeding three months	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 8 ounces or part of 8 ounces..
(b) magazines, reviews, serials, and other similar publications (including newspapers) printed and published outside Australia in numbers at intervals not exceeding three months	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 ounces or part of 4 ounces..
HANSARD.—That is, reports of Parliamentary Debates printed and published by the authority of the Commonwealth or of a State	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 12 ounces or part of 12 ounces..
COMMERCIAL PAPERS, PATTERNS, SAMPLES, AND MERCHANDISE AS PRESCRIBED	1d. per 2 ounces or part of 2 ounces..
NEWSPAPERS (without condition as to the number contained in each addressed wrapper) posted by registered newspaper proprietors, or by newsvendors, or returned by an agent or newsvendor to the publishing office	1d. per 20 ounces on the aggregate-weight of newspapers so posted by any one person at any one time.
ALL OTHER NEWSPAPERS	For each newspaper, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 10 ounces or part of 10 ounces.

Whilst the bookkeeping sections of the Constitution Act (see Section XIX., § 1, hereinafter) were in force, each State had necessarily to use its own postage stamps, and stamps sold in one State were only allowed to be used on letters posted in that State. The necessity for this arrangement disappeared with the change in the keeping of the Commonwealth accounts, and since the 14th October, 1910, stamps of any State can be affixed to letters, irrespective of the State in which they are posted. With the object of issuing a uniform postage stamp for the Commonwealth, the Postmaster-General has called for designs for a stamp which must contain characteristic features of Australia.

(i) *Letters.* The rates as mentioned hereunder will be, in some cases, altered when the rates specified in the preceding table come into force. At present the inland letter postage is at the rate of one penny per half-ounce on town and twopence per half-ounce on country letters throughout the Commonwealth, except in the States of Victoria and South Australia. In Victoria the charge made is one penny per half-ounce, and in South Australia twopence per half-ounce, on all letters posted for delivery within the State. In Victoria the minimum charge was altered in 1890 from twopence per ounce to one penny per half-ounce, but the diminution in revenue at that time was so great that in 1892 the rate was again raised to twopence per ounce; on the 1st April, 1901, it was once more reduced to one penny per half-ounce under the provisions of an Act passed in December, 1900. In New South Wales the town rate of one penny per half-ounce, which is now in force in the metropolitan suburban district, is also in operation within a twelve-mile radius of Newcastle, and a thirteen-mile radius of the majority of the other principal country towns. In Queensland the present town rate extends to all places within a radius of eleven miles from the General Post Office at Brisbane, and also includes all letters to be delivered from the same office at which they were posted. In Western Australia and Tasmania the existing town rates have effect within a radius of thirteen miles from the General Post Offices at Perth and Hobart respectively, and in other towns and suburbs within a radius depending upon their population. The postage to the United Kingdom was reduced in January, 1891, from sixpence per half-ounce *via* the Red Sea, and fourpence *via* the Cape of Good Hope, to the uniform rate of twopence halfpenny. In 1891 the States were represented at the Congress of the Universal Postal Union held in Vienna, and on the 4th July a convention was signed on their behalf, by which they joined the Union from the 1st October of that year. On that date the rate of postage to all British possessions and to foreign countries included in the Union was reduced to twopence halfpenny. The present charge for postage of interstate letters and of letters to the United Kingdom and to British possessions is now uniformly twopence per half-ounce throughout the Commonwealth; the rate on letters to foreign countries and to other places is twopence half-penny for each half-ounce.

(ii.) *Newspapers.* The different rates charged for the carriage of newspapers in the various States, prior to Federation, continued after the control of the Postal Departments had been taken over by the Commonwealth, until the 1st November, 1902, when a uniform rate was imposed by the Post and Telegraph Rates Act 1902. At present the rates on all newspapers posted for delivery within the Commonwealth (without condition as to the number contained in each addressed wrapper posted) by registered newspaper proprietors, or by newsvendors, or returned by newsvendor or agent to the publishing office, is one penny per twenty ounces on the aggregate weight. On all other registered newspapers posted within the Commonwealth for delivery therein the charge is a halfpenny per ten ounces for each newspaper. At the end of the year 1909 there were in all 1649 publications registered in the Commonwealth under section 29 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 for transmission by post as newspapers. The charge on postage of registered newspapers for transmission to the United Kingdom is one penny for each newspaper not exceeding eight ounces in weight by the ordinary route, and one penny for each newspaper not exceeding sixteen ounces in weight by the All Sea Route. To other parts of the world the rate is one penny up to four ounces, and a halfpenny for every additional two ounces. Newspapers which are not registered are charged at the same rates as other printed papers.

(iii.) *Parcels.* Parcels may not exceed 11 lbs. in weight, 3 ft. 6 in. in length, or 6 ft. in length and girth combined. The rate for the inland postage of parcels is sixpence up to 1 lb., and then threepence for every additional pound. For interstate transmission the rate is eightpence up to 1 lb., and then sixpence per lb., and for transmission to the United Kingdom the rate is one shilling up to 1 lb., and sixpence for every additional pound.

(iv.) *Packets.* The regulations for the conveyance of packets vary in the several States. The ordinary rate is one penny for each two ounces. Packets must not as a rule exceed 2 ft. in length, 1 ft. in breadth or depth; or, if in a roll, 2 ft. 6 in. in length. Special rates are allowed for the conveyance of commercial papers, patterns, samples, etc.

9. **Registered Letters.**—Under section 38 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 provision is made for the registration of any letter, packet, or newspaper upon payment of the prescribed fee, and any person who sends a registered article by post may obtain an acknowledgment of its due receipt by the person to whom it is addressed by paying the prescribed fee (see hereunder) in advance at the time of registration in addition to the registration fee.

(i.) *Registration Fees.* The fee payable upon registration of an article is threepence, and the fee payable in order to obtain an acknowledgment of the delivery of the registered article is twopence halfpenny in addition. Registered letters must, as a rule, be handed in at least half-an-hour before the closing of the mails.

(ii.) *Number of Registered Letters Posted, 1909.* The subjoined table shews the number of registered letters posted in each State during the year 1909, classified according to the places to which they were despatched for delivery:—

NUMBER OF REGISTERED LETTERS POSTED DURING 1909.

(,000 OMITTED.)

State.	Posted in each State for Delivery within that State.	Posted in each State for Delivery in other States.	Posted in each State for Delivery in Places outside the C'wealth.	Total.
New South Wales ...	694	70	49	813
Victoria ...	792	87	49	928
Queensland ...	384	46	22	452
South Australia ...	178	28	9	215
Western Australia ...	271	35	21	327
Tasmania ...	183	13	5	201
Commonwealth ...	2,502	279	155	2,936

10. **Ocean Mail Services.**—Regular steamship communication between Australia and Europe was established in 1852 by a service run by the Peninsular and Oriental Company between Singapore and Sydney, *via* King George's Sound, Adelaide, and Melbourne. This service was inaugurated in September, 1852, by the arrival at Melbourne of the "Chusan," and was continued until 1854, when it was stopped in consequence of the Crimean War; in 1856 a line of steamers was again started, and the service was carried

on by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, in conjunction with the Royal Mail Company, for some years.

(i.) *Mail Route via San Francisco.* The service *via* the Red Sea did not at that time give much satisfaction to the public, and was looked upon with a certain amount of disfavour in New South Wales and New Zealand. The effect was to stimulate the colonists to agitate for an improved service, and proposals were made for the establishment of a line of mail packets from Sydney to Panama *via* Wellington, by rail across the isthmus, and thence to Great Britain. The result was that in 1866 the line was started, and continued in operation until the end of 1868, when it was terminated through the failure of the company by which it had been carried out. The completion of the railway across the American continent in 1869, with its western terminus at San Francisco, opened up a new and agreeable route, and in that year a monthly service was inaugurated by the Union Steamship Company, in conjunction with the Pacific Steamship Company, from Sydney to San Francisco *via* Auckland. This service was subsidised to the extent of £37,000 per annum, of which New South Wales paid £25,750 and New Zealand £11,250, and was continued until November, 1890, when a new contract was entered into and the amount of the subsidy largely reduced, the amount of the contribution being based upon the weight of mail matter carried. Various extensions of the contract were made, but the last agreement made between the New Zealand Government and the Oceanic Steamship Company of San Francisco expired on the 10th November, 1906, and has not since been renewed. From that date mails were carried at Postal Union rates until the 12th April, 1907, when the service was discontinued.

(ii.) *Route via Suez Canal.* The establishment of a mail route *via* America had the effect of stimulating the steamship owners who were engaged in the service *via* Suez, and from that time there was a marked improvement in the steamers, as well as in the punctuality and speed with which the mails were delivered. The Peninsular and Oriental Company have, with very few interruptions, carried mails from the Australian States almost from the inception of the ocean steam service. Towards the end of 1878, the Orient-Pacific Company commenced carrying mails between Australia and the United Kingdom, and has continued to do so ever since. New contracts were entered into with the Peninsular and Oriental and the Orient-Pacific Companies for a weekly service, subsidised by the Imperial Government and by all the States of Australia, to commence on the 1st February, 1898, for a period of seven years. The total amount of the subsidy was £170,000 per annum, of which £98,000 was payable by the Imperial Government and £72,000 by the Australian States in proportion to their population. These contracts expired on the 31st January, 1905, and pending negotiations for a new contract the mails were carried at poundage rates. On the 1st February, 1905, the Peninsular and Oriental Company commenced its eighth Australian contract with the British Postmaster-General on behalf of the Imperial Post Office only, and in connection with the India and China mail services, one payment being arranged for the whole service, and the Commonwealth Government not, as hitherto, being a party to the contract. Mails are still carried from Australia by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, but are carried at Postal Union rates and not under contract with the Commonwealth. On the 25th April, 1905, the Orient-Pacific Company concluded a new contract with the Commonwealth Government for a fortnightly service between England and Australia. The subsidy was at the rate of £124,880 per annum. This contract has now been replaced by the new mail contract referred to in the next sub-section hereof. Fremantle has, since the year 1900, been the first and last port of call for the mail steamers to Europe, in lieu of Albany, the original port of call; the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient-Pacific Companies' steamers sail alternately conveying the weekly homeward and outward mails.

(a) *The New Mail Contract.* On the 1st January, 1906, tenders were invited by the Commonwealth Postmaster-General for a fortnightly mail service between Adelaide and Brindisi, to alternate with a similar service to be provided by the Imperial Government, and a contract was entered into with Sir James Laing and Company Limited, providing for a service at an annual subsidy of £125,000. This contract, however, fell through, and new tenders were accordingly called for. On the 15th November, 1907, an agreement was entered into with the Orient Steam Navigation Company Limited providing for a fortnightly service for a period of ten years, commencing in February, 1910. The mail service is to be carried out by existing vessels belonging to the company and by five new mail ships, which have been specially built, and which are each over 12,000 tons gross registered tonnage and of not less than seventeen knots speed. Two more new vessels are to be added within eighteen months and six years respectively from February, 1910. The vessels are to call at Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, and at least six of them at Hobart during the months of February to May inclusive. The voyage from Taranto to Adelaide is to be completed within twenty-six days fourteen hours, and from Adelaide to Taranto within twenty-seven days two hours, but the latter period may be exceeded by thirty-six hours during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon. The amount of the subsidy is fixed at £170,000 per annum; but, if the earnings of the company be decreased, or the expenses increased, by reason of any Commonwealth shipping legislation passed subsequently to the date of the agreement, to the extent of not less than £5000 a year, the contractors have the right to terminate the agreement unless the subsidy is increased. Insulated space of not less than 2000 tons of forty cubic feet is to be provided in each of the new vessels, and the freights are not to exceed one halfpenny per lb. for butter and sixty shillings per ton for fruit. White labour only is to be employed, and no discrimination is to be made between unionists and non-unionists. If before or during the sixth year of the period of the contract an accelerated service is provided by any competing line of mail ships, the contractors must, if so required by the Postmaster-General, provide a service equal to the competing service, at an increased subsidy, to be determined by agreement or arbitration. The Commonwealth flag must be flown on the mail ships, which the Commonwealth has the right to purchase at a valuation at any time. Within six months of the Postmaster-General establishing a permanent wireless telegraphy station at Rottneet Island, or at any point on the coast between Fremantle and Brisbane, the company must fit the mail ships with wireless telegraphy installations. The new service was inaugurated on the 11th February, 1910.

(b) *French and German Subsidised Mail Services.* Vessels belonging to the Messageries Maritimes and the Norddeutscher Lloyd, which are under contract respectively with the French and German Governments to convey mails monthly between Marseilles and New Caledonia and between Bremen and Sydney, *via* Genoa, also carry mails for the Commonwealth Government from Australia to Europe at Postal Union rates. The Messageries Maritimes service commenced in November, 1882; the amount of the annual subsidy granted by the French Government is £120,000. The first contract for the establishment and maintenance of a mail steamship line between Germany and Australia was made between the Imperial German Government and the Norddeutscher Lloyd in 1885, and the service was inaugurated in July, 1886, with the steamer "Salier."

(iii.) *Route via Vancouver and Canadian-Pacific Railway.* During the year 1893 a direct monthly service was started between Sydney and Vancouver, in British Columbia, *via* Wellington, in New Zealand, and thence to Liverpool *via* the Canadian-Pacific Railway, the New South Wales Government paying an annual subsidy of £10,000 for the maintenance of this service for a period of three years. In 1896 the agreement was renewed for a further period of three years, and in 1899 was again renewed for four years, subject to the same terms and conditions, except that the route was *via* Brisbane instead of Wellington. The contract was further extended, at an

increased subsidy, from time to time until the 31st July, 1910, at a subsidy of £26,626 per annum, pending the receipt of tenders for an improved and accelerated service.

(iv.) *Other Ocean Mail Services.* In addition to the mails *via* the Suez Canal and *via* Vancouver a number of other services, both regular and irregular, are maintained between the Commonwealth and various parts of the world, and also between the principal ports in the various States and a number of small ports in the less settled parts of the Commonwealth which are inaccessible by rail. The following statement gives a summary, in so far as returns are available, of all mail services maintained between the Commonwealth and other countries and between ports in the Commonwealth. - The amounts of subsidies specified are the amounts payable per annum unless otherwise stated.

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES, COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,

30th JUNE, 1910.

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
1. <i>To and from Europe, via Suez—</i>			
(a) Peninsular and Oriental* ...	Fortnightly	Adelaide, Fremantle and London, <i>via</i> Brindisi and Marseilles	Subsidised by Imperial Govt. Mails from Aust. at Postal Union rates
(b) Orient-Pacific* ...	"	Adelaide, Fremantle & London, <i>via</i> Taranto	Subsidised. Date of agreement, 15th Nov., 1907. Term from Feb., 1910. Amt. of subsidy £170,000. Subsidy paid by all States on a <i>per capita</i> basis.
(c) Messageries Maritimes ...	13 voyages yearly	New Caledonia and Marseilles, <i>via</i> Fremantle and Adelaide	Subsidised by French Govt. Mails from Aust. at Postal Union rates.
(d) Norddeutscher Lloyd ...	"	Fremantle, Adelaide & Bremen, <i>via</i> Genoa	Subsidised by German Govt. Mails from Aust. at Postal Union rates.
2. <i>To and from Europe, via Vancouver†</i> Canadian Australian Steamship Co.	Monthly	Sydney and Vancouver, B.C., <i>via</i> Brisbane, Fiji, Honolulu, and once every eight weeks to Fanning Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 31st July, 1907, for two years, extended to 31st July, 1911. Amount of subsidy, £26,626. Subsidy paid by all States on a <i>per capita</i> basis.†
3. <i>To and from New Zealand—</i>			
(a) Conjointly by Union S.S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Proprietary	Weekly	Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington	Poundage rates.
(b) Do. do. do. ...	"	Sydney, Hobart, and Auckland	" "
(c) Conjointly by Shaw, Savill and Albion Co. & N.Z. Shipping Co.	Fortnightly	Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, and Wellington	" "
(d) Other Steamers ...	Irregularly, when convenient	Sydney, Wellington, Auckland, and Lyttelton	" "
4. <i>To and from ports in N.S. Wales—</i>			
(i.) NORTHERN PORTS—			
(a) North Coast S.N. Co. ...	Twice weekly	Sydney, Manning River, Port Macquarie, Macleay, Nambucca, Belling River, Coffs Harbour, Clarence River, Byron Bay, and Richmond River	Poundage rates.
(b) Cain's Co-Operative S.S. Co....	Weekly	Sydney & Port Macquarie	" "
(ii.) SOUTH COAST PORTS—			
Illawarra and S. Coast S.N. Co....	Twice weekly	Sydney, Eden, Bega and Tathra	" "

* Mails carried also to India *via* Colombo. † Carries also mails to Canada and the United States. ‡ A new agreement for a service from New Zealand to Vancouver has been entered into. The matter of extending this service to Australian ports is under the consideration of the Commonwealth Government.

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES.—(Continued.)

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
5. To and from Northern Ports of Qld.— (a) Australian United Steam Navigation Co.	Weekly	Brisbane, Gladstone, Townsville, Cairns, Mourilyan, Innisfail, Pt. Douglas & Cook's n	Subsidised by agreement dated 29th Nov., 1905, for five years, and one year's extension. Amount of subsidy, £18,450.
(b) Do. do. do. ...	Once every three weeks	Brisbane, Normanton & Burketown, via Townsville, Cooktown, and Thursday Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 16th January, 1906, for five years, extended for one year. Amount of subsidy, £6000. Subsidies under 5 (a) and (b) paid by Queensland.
(c) Other steamers ...	Irregularly, when convenient	Various...	Poundage rates.
6. To and from Ports in S. Australia— (i.) NORTHERN TERRITORY— (a) The Eastern and Ausn., and the China Navigation Co.'s (b) Burns, Philp and Co. (c) Nippon Yusen Kaisha (d) Jolly and Co. (e) " " "	Irregularly Monthly Irregularly Four times a year Every eight weeks	To and from Adelaide, Melb'rne, and Sydney, via North Queensland ports, extending to China and Japan Port Darwin and Borooloa, calling half-yearly at Roper River Pt. Darwin & Wyndham	" " " " Postal Union Rates. Subsidised by agreement for three years. Amount of subsidy, (d) £350; (e) £125 per voyage.
(ii.) To SOUTH COAST PORTS— (a) Gulf Steamship Co. (b) " " " (c) " " " (d) " " " (e) Adelaide Steamship Co. (f) Adelaide Steam Tug Co.	Weekly Twice a wk. Weekly Weekly As required	Pt. Adelaide & Kingscote " Edithburgh " Stansbury " Pt. Vincent " Pt. Lincoln Port Pirie & Hummocks Hill	Subsidised to 31st December, 1910. Amount of subsidy, (a) £495; (b) £270; (c) £270; (d) £135. Subsidised for three years from 1st January, 1908. Amount of subsidy, £1680. Subsidised without agreement. Amount of subsidy, £36. Subsidies under 6 (i.) (d), (e), and (ii.) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), paid by South Aust.
7. Western Australia— (i.) INTERSTATE— (a) By P. & O. and Orient Lines (b) Adelaide Steamship, the Australian United S. Navigation, Huddart, Parker, Howard Smith, Melb. S.S. Co., and McIlwraith McEacharn lines (c) Messageries Maritimes, Norddeutscher Lloyd, and the German and Ausn. lines (d) White Star line (ii.) To & FROM PORTS ON N.W. COAST (a) Adelaide Steamship Co. (b) " " " (c) West Aust. & Ocean S. Co.'s (d) Ausn. United S. Navigation and Adelaide S. Co.'s (iii.) TO AND FROM PORTS ON S. COAST (a) Adelaide Steamship Co. (b) " " " (c) " " "	Weekly Conjointly, weekly Each monthly Monthly " Once each sixty days Fortnightly Irregularly during the cattle she's'n Weekly Fortnightly Quarterly	Fremantle and Adelaide Fremantle, Albany, and Adelaide Fremantle and Adelaide Albany and Adelaide Fremantle and Derby Fremantle & Wyndham Fremantle and Broome Fremantle, Derby, and Wyndham Albany and Esperance Albany & Israelite Bay Albany and Eucla	P. and O. at Postal Union rates. Orient line subsidised. See above 1 (a) and (b). Poundage rates. Postal Union rates by first two, and poundage rates by last two lines. Poundage rates. Subsidised by agreement dated 28th February, 1910, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £5000. Subsidy paid by Western Australia. Poundage rates. " " Subsidised by agreement dated 1st February, 1909, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £4000. W. A. I Govt. pays £750; Cwth. Govt. £3250.

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES.—(Continued.)

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
8. Tasmania—			
(a) Union S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Proprietary	3 times a week	Melb'rne & Launceston	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st October, 1909, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £13,000, payable by all States on a <i>per capita</i> basis. Poundage rates.
(b) Do. do. do. ...	Twice a wk.	„ Burnie	
(c) Do. do. do. ...	Weekly	Sydney, Hobart, and Wellington	„ „
(d) Union Steamship Co. ...	Fortnightly	Sydney, Eden, Launceston, and Devonport	
(e) New Zealand mail services, see above New Zealand, 3 (a) & (b)	Twice a wk.	Sydney, Melb'ne, Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland	„ „
(f) To and from ports in Western districts	Weekly	Hobart and Strahan	„ „
(g) Ellerker and Co. ...	„	Melbourne, Burnie, etc.	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1910, for three years. Amount of subsidy £160 per annum.
(h) Huon Channel and Peninsula Steamship Co. Ltd....	Twice a wk.	Hobart and Tasman Peninsula Ports	
(i) Holyman and Sons Ltd. ...	„	Hobart & Maria Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1910, for three years. Amount of subsidy £25 per annum
(j) „ „ ...	Once every three wks.	Launceston and Furneaux group of Islands	
(k) Stephenson & Gunn ...	„	Launceston and King Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1910, for three years. Amount of subsidy £200 per annum.
9. To Eastern Ports—			
(a) A. Currie and Co. ...	Once every five weeks	†Melbourne, Sourabaya, Samarai, Batavia, and Singapore	Subsidised by Victorian Government for trade purposes at £2000 a year for three years from December, 1907. Mails at poundage rates.
(b) Burns, Philp & Co. ...	Monthly	Sydney, do., do.	Subsidised by N.S.W. Govt. Mails at poundage rates. Poundage rates.
(c) China Navigation, Eastern & Ausn., and Burns, Philp Co.'s	About three times a month	Sydney, to Hong Kong, Manila, etc. <i>via</i> North Queensland ports	Postal Union rates.
(d) Norddeutscher Lloyd ...	Monthly	<i>Via</i> Germ'n New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, and Singapore	
(e) Nippon Yusen Kaisha ...	„	Sydney to Manila, China, and Japan, <i>via</i> N. Queensland ports	„ „
(f) Various other steamers ...	About monthly	Sydney or Newcastle and ports in Borneo, Java, Sumatra, and Malay Peninsula	Poundage rates.
(g) W.A.S.N. Co. & Ocean S.S. Co.	Fortnightly	W.A. Ports, Java, and Singapore	„ „
10. South Africa—			
White Star, Lund's, Currie's, and other Companies	Irregularly	Various ...	„ „
11. North America—			
(a) Weir line ...	„	Sydney, San Francisco, and Vancouver	Poundage rates.
(b) Various steamers ...	„	Sydney or Newcastle to San Francisco	Poundage rates.
(c) Various steamers ...	„	Sydney to Guaymas (Mexico)	„ „
(d) Union S.S. Co. ...	13 voyages yearly.	Syd., Wellington, Tahiti and San Francisco	„ „
12. South America—			
Various steamers ...	About weekly	Sydney or Newcastle to ports in Chili, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay	„ „

† Calling also irregularly at Sydney or Adelaide.

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES.—(Continued.)

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
13. <i>Pacific Islands</i> —			
(a) Burns, Philp and Co. ...	Monthly	Sydney to Lord Howe & Norfolk Islands, N. Hebrides	Subsidised by Commonwealth at £12,000 per annum.
(b) " " ...	Every two months	Sydney to Gilbert and Marshall Islands	
(c) " " ...	Fortnightly	British New Guinea	
(d) " " ...	Every six weeks	Solomon Islands	
(e) German S.S. Co. ...	Every 4 mth	... ..	Subsidised by German Gov.
14. <i>Noumea</i> —			
(a) Messageries Maritimes ...	Fortnightly	Sydney and Noumea and to Vila (New Hebrides) once a month	Postal Union rates.
(b) Other steamers ...	About fortnightly	Sydney and Noumea	Poundage rates.
15. <i>Fiji</i> —			
(a) Union S.S. Co. ...	Monthly	Sydney and Suva	" "
(b) S.S. South Australian ...	Every six weeks	Sydney & Suva, Fotuna, Rotamah & Wallis Is.	" "
(c) Union S.S. Co. ...	Monthly	Sydney, Auckland, Suva, Tonga, and Samoa	" "
16. <i>Fiji and Noumea</i> —			
Burns, Philp and Co. ...	"	Sydney, Noumea, & Suva	" "
17. <i>Ocean and Pleasant Islands</i> —			
Various steamships ...	"	Sydney, Ocean and Pleasant Islands	" "

11. **Amount of Mail Subsidies Paid by Each State, 1901 to 1909.**—The mail subsidies are paid by the Commonwealth Postal Department, but are debited to the several States. The following table shews the total amount paid by way of mail subsidies in 1901 and for each year from 1903 to 1909 inclusive:—

COMMONWEALTH MAIL SUBSIDIES.—TOTAL AMOUNTS PAID, 1901 to 1909.

Year ...	1901.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Amount £	134,332	140,097	163,622	171,294	199,463	198,475	215,609	164,623

The following table shews the amount paid by each State in respect of each mail subsidy during the year ended 30th June, 1909:—

MAIL SUBSIDIES.—AMOUNT PAID BY EACH STATE IN RESPECT OF EACH SUBSIDY, 1908-9.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwltth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Commonwealth subsidies—							
Orient-Pacific ...	46,535	37,165	16,148	11,905	7,810	5,434	124,997
Vancouver Service ...	9,944	7,918	3,438	2,501	1,661	1,165	26,627
Victoria-Tasmanian Service	4,840	3,865	1,679	1,238	812	565	12,999
State subsidies—							
Northern Ports of Q'land.	...	...	22,977	...	...	...	22,977
Sth. Coast of Sth. Australia	...	...	...	2,800	...	...	2,800
Northern Territory	...	...	...	2,025	...	...	2,025
W. Australia—N. W. Coast	...	...	...	...	4,000	...	4,000
South Coast	...	...	...	...	3,438	...	3,438
Grand total ...	61,819	48,948	44,242	20,469	17,721	7,164	199,863

Particulars of amounts paid for the carriage of mails at poundage rates and by rail-ways and other conveyances are given in a later part of this section. (See Paragraph 24. *Distribution of Expenditure of Postal Department.*)

12. **Average and Fastest Time of Mails to and from London.**—Great progress has been made in regard to the means of postal communication with the United Kingdom and the continents of Europe and America. In 1857 there was an unsatisfactory ocean mail service, which nominally brought monthly mails, with news nearly sixty days old; at the present time, though but fifty years have elapsed, there are four lines of modern ocean steamships, which bring the mails in about twenty-nine days to Adelaide, in addition to the monthly service *via* Vancouver, by which mails are sent from Sydney to London in thirty-five days. After leaving Fremantle, where the Western Australian mails are landed, the outward mail steamers *via* the Suez Canal all call at Adelaide, where the remaining mails are landed and conveyed to their ultimate destination by rail. The subjoined table shews the average and the fastest times occupied in the conveyance of mails from London to Adelaide and *vice versa* during the year 1909:—

AVERAGE AND FASTEST TIME OCCUPIED IN CONVEYANCE OF MAILS VIA SUEZ CANAL, BETWEEN LONDON AND ADELAIDE, AND VICE VERSA, DURING 1909.

Service.	London to Adelaide.				Adelaide to London.			
	Average Time.		Fastest Time.		Average Time.		Fastest Time.	
	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.
Peninsular and Oriental S.N. Co., <i>via</i> Brindisi and Colombo ...	28	6	28	0	29	20	29	8
Orient Pacific S. N. Co., <i>via</i> Naples and Suez ...	30	11	29	16	31	22	31	3
*Messageries Maritimes, <i>via</i> Mar- seilles ...	...	...	...	...	33	4	32	3
*Norddeutscher Lloyd, <i>via</i> Genoa	...	...	...	...	32	22	31	3

* No mails were received from London by the Messageries Maritimes or by the Norddeutscher Lloyd services.

The journey by rail from Adelaide, where the mails for the eastern States are landed, to Melbourne takes 17½ hours; from Adelaide to Sydney, 42 hours, including a stop of about seven hours at Melbourne; while the through journey from Adelaide to Brisbane takes just over three days. The journey from Melbourne to Hobart occupies about 29 hours, *via* Launceston, and about 32 hours direct.

The subjoined table shews the average and the fastest times occupied in the conveyance of mails between Sydney and London and *vice-versa* by the mail routes *via* Vancouver during the year 1909:—

AVERAGE AND FASTEST TIMES OCCUPIED IN CONVEYANCE OF MAILS VIA VANCOUVER BETWEEN LONDON AND SYDNEY, AND VICE VERSA, DURING 1909.

Service.	London to Sydney.		Sydney to London.	
	Average Time.	Fastest Time.	Average Time.	Fastest Time.
	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Canadian-Australian Line, <i>via</i> Vancouver ...	37½	36	36½	34

13. **Money Orders and Postal Notes.**—The issue of money orders and postal notes in the Commonwealth is regulated by sections 74 to 79 of the Post and Telegraph Act

1901. A money order, which may be issued for payment either within the Commonwealth or abroad, may not be granted for a larger sum than £20, nor a postal note, which is payable only within the Commonwealth, for a larger sum than twenty shillings. Money orders are sent direct from the Commonwealth to the United Kingdom, and to most of the British colonies and possessions; to the German Empire and German colonies; to Italy; and to the United States of America. Money orders, payable in Japan and China, are sent *via* Hong Kong; orders payable in all other countries are sent through the General Post Office in London, where new orders are issued and forwarded to the addresses of the payees, less threepence for every £5, or part thereof. In order that the full amount of the original order may be forwarded to the payee, this extra commission must be paid by the remitter.

(i.) *Value of Orders Issued and Paid and of Notes Sold, 1909.*—The following table shows the total value of money orders issued and paid, and of postal notes sold in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year 1909, together with the total amount of commission on money orders and poundage on postal notes received by the Postal Department:—

**VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED AND PAID AND OF POSTAL NOTES SOLD,
TOGETHER WITH THE TOTAL AMOUNTS OF COMMISSION AND POUNDAGE
RECEIVED IN EACH STATE DURING 1909.**

State.	Value of Money Orders Issued.	Value of Money Orders Paid.	Net Money Order Commission Received.	Value of Postal Notes Sold.	Poundage Received on Postal Notes.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	2,746,164	2,840,639	21,437	999,313	19,380
Victoria ...	1,031,215	1,363,064	9,578	826,995	16,216
Queensland ...	796,933	653,997	7,666	265,069	5,108
South Australia ...	323,932	319,983	3,243	176,837	3,556
Western Australia ...	935,231	649,894	7,605	217,357	3,905
Tasmania ...	259,792	213,020	2,589	108,517	2,088
Commonwealth ...	6,093,267	6,040,597	52,118	2,594,088	50,253

(ii.) *Rates of Commission on Money Orders.* The rates of commission chargeable for the issue of money orders are as follows:—

RATES OF COMMISSION, MONEY ORDERS, 1910.

If Payable in—	For sums—									
	Not exceeding £2.	Exceeding £2, but not exceeding £5.	Exceeding £5, but not exceeding £7.	Exceeding £7, but not exceeding £10.	Exceeding £10, but not exceeding £12.	Exceeding £12, but not exceeding £15.	Exceeding £15, but not exceeding £17.	Exceeding £17, but not exceeding £20.		
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
The Commonwealth...	0 6	0 6	1 0	1 0	1 6	1 6	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0
New Zealand and Fiji ...	0 6	1 0	1 6	2 0	2 6	3 0	3 6	4 0		
U. Kingdom & other countries	Sixpence for each £1 or fraction of £1									
Papua—British New Guinea ...	Ninépence ,, £5 ,, ,, £5 up to £20									

Remittances may also be made by telegraph to and from money order offices in the Commonwealth which are also telegraph or telephone offices, and to New Zealand.

The charge for a telegraph money order is the cost of the telegram of advice in addition to the ordinary commission. The remitter must also send a telegram to the payee advising the transmission of the money, which telegram must be produced by the payee when applying for payment.

(iii.) *Rates of POUNDAGE on Postal Notes.* The values of the notes issued have been so arranged that any sum of shillings and sixpences up to £1 can be remitted by not more than two of these notes. Broken amounts not exceeding fivepence (but not fractions of a penny) may be added by affixing postage stamps. The poundage or commission charged on notes of different denominations is as follows:—

POUNDAGE RATES, POSTAL NOTES, 1910.

Denomination of Note ...	6d. to 1s. 6d.	2s. to 4s. 6d.	5s.	7s. 6d.	10s. to 20s.
Poundage charged ...	½d.	1d.	1½d.	2d.	3d.

14. Number and Value of Money Orders and Postal Notes Issued and Paid, 1901 to 1909.—The following table shews the total number and face value of money orders and postal notes issued and paid in the Commonwealth during each year from 1901 to 1909:—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES ISSUED AND PAID, 1901 TO 1909.

Year.	Money Orders.				Postal Notes.			
	Issued.		Paid.		Issued.		Paid.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
1901 ...	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).
1901 ...	1,318	4,193	1,339	4,082	3,507	1,290	3,502	1,286
1902 ...	1,283	4,294	1,252	4,164	3,584	1,328	3,610	1,344
1903 ...	1,261	4,346	1,244	4,342	4,022	1,517	3,982	1,518
1904 ...	1,289	4,497	1,266	4,469	4,526	1,718	4,604	1,759
1905 ...	1,312	4,771	1,286	4,760	5,099	1,893	5,079	1,939
1906 ...	1,329	5,059	1,318	5,034	5,478	2,076	5,479	2,078
1907 ...	1,388	5,534	1,374	5,508	6,060	2,271	6,052	2,272
1908 ...	1,437	5,733	1,402	5,725	6,321	2,392	6,321	2,392
1909 ...	1,460	6,093	1,426	6,041	6,866	2,594	6,866	2,594

15. Classification of Money Orders Issued and Paid, 1909.—The following table shews the number and value of money orders issued in each State during the year 1909 and classified according to the country where payable:—

MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY WHERE PAYABLE, 1909.

State in which Issued.	Where Payable.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United K'dom.	In Other Countries.	
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	552,033	9,082	46,588	10,157	617,860
Victoria ...	203,620	5,805	27,391	9,095	245,911
Queensland ...	182,527	1,738	21,306	5,544	211,115
South Australia ...	74,222	982	11,357	2,965	89,526
Western Australia	189,345	1,139	20,235	2,926	213,645
Tasmania ...	73,790	1,886	5,028	1,101	81,805
Commonwealth	1,275,537	20,632	131,905	31,788	1,459,862

MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE, Etc.—(Continued).

State in which Issued.	Where Payable.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United Kingdom.	In Other Countries.	
VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,575,343	27,339	102,858	40,624	2,746,164
Victoria ...	930,294	17,797	55,511	27,613	1,031,215
Queensland ...	709,435	6,027	51,689	29,782	796,933
South Australia ...	289,418	3,461	22,451	8,602	323,932
Western Australia	857,139	5,468	48,563	24,061	935,231
Tasmania ...	241,056	6,742	9,653	2,341	259,792
Commonwealth	5,602,685	66,834	290,725	133,023	6,093,267

The following table shows the number and value of money orders paid in each State during the year 1909, and classified according to the country where issued :—

MONEY ORDERS PAID IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE COUNTRY OF ISSUE, 1909.

State in which paid.	Where Issued.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United K'dom.	In Other Countries.	
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	568,420	36,939	16,858	12,197	634,414
Victoria ...	276,441	27,446	11,297	9,056	324,240
Queensland ...	159,371	2,699	5,041	2,300	169,411
South Australia ...	75,484	1,942	2,882	1,425	81,733
Western Australia	142,665	2,020	4,515	1,050	150,250
Tasmania ...	56,013	6,320	1,909	1,946	66,188
Commonwealth	1,278,394	77,366	42,502	27,974	1,426,236
VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,643,469	92,869	51,641	52,660	2,840,639
Victoria... ...	1,222,142	69,396	34,500	37,026	1,363,064
Queensland ...	617,225	9,389	17,301	10,082	653,997
South Australia ...	300,565	5,381	8,375	5,662	319,983
Western Australia	624,910	5,127	14,999	4,858	649,894
Tasmania ...	188,991	14,411	4,577	5,041	213,020
Commonwealth	5,597,302	196,573	131,393	115,329	6,040,597

In the above tables money orders payable or issued in foreign countries, which have been sent from or to the Commonwealth through the General Post Office at London, are included in those payable or issued in the United Kingdom.

16. **Money Orders Issued and Paid at Capital Cities.**—Particulars as to the number and value of money orders issued and paid at the capital cities in each of the several States of the Commonwealth during the year 1909 are given in the following table:—

**NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED AND PAID AT THE CAPITAL
CITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH DURING 1909.**

City.	Money Orders Issued.		Money Orders Paid.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
		£		£
Sydney	119,129	365,623	226,184	1,317,829
Melbourne	31,519	286,450	119,404	416,227
Brisbane	21,036	83,798	62,989	223,825
Adelaide	18,311	72,743	41,805	164,029
Perth	21,869	102,829	74,542	267,165
Hobart	12,942	47,853	24,824	78,861

17. **Classification of Postal Notes Paid, 1909.**—The subjoined table shews the number and value of postal notes paid during the year 1909 in each State and in the Commonwealth, classified according to the State in which they were issued.

Particulars regarding the total number and value of postal notes issued and paid during previous years since the inauguration of the Commonwealth have already been given in paragraph 14 hereof.

**NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO
STATE OF ISSUE, 1909.**

State in which Paid.	Postal Notes Issued in—						
	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwth.
NUMBER.							
New South Wales	2,271,949	100,834	118,080	39,897	23,684	21,864	2,576,308
Victoria	154,918	1,887,728	32,625	52,071	44,967	54,440	2,226,749
Queensland	38,969	8,544	510,377	1,692	1,601	930	562,113
South Australia	32,467	22,120	2,112	368,371	15,322	1,334	441,726
Western Australia	5,810	9,943	902	5,952	376,555	663	399,825
Tasmania	166,980	217,070	24,520	33,553	5,341	211,605	659,069
Commonwealth	2,671,093	2,246,239	688,616	501,536	467,470	290,836	6,865,790
VALUE.							
New South Wales	£ 851,166	£ 42,794	£ 45,919	£ 14,645	£ 11,167	£ 7,737	£ 973,428
Victoria	65,789	702,641	12,759	20,511	25,316	23,140	850,156
Queensland	16,527	3,973	195,737	709	846	413	218,205
South Australia	15,972	9,727	1,024	127,600	9,040	634	163,997
Western Australia	2,585	5,135	476	2,984	168,474	240	179,894
Tasmania	47,274	62,725	9,154	10,388	2,514	76,353	208,408
Commonwealth	999,313	826,995	265,069	176,837	217,357	108,517	2,594,088

The following statement shews the number of postal notes of each denomination paid in the Commonwealth during the year 1909 :—

**NUMBER OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DENOMINATION,
1909.**

Denomination.	Number Paid.	Denomination.	Number Paid.	Denomination.	Number Paid.
s. d. 0 6	67,693	s. d. 3 6	352,538	s. d. 10 6	171,685
1 0	314,256	4 0	566,469	15 0	419,756
1 6	213,981	4 6	410,743	20 0	931,441
2 0	378,323	5 0	822,327		
2 6	471,242	7 6	352,937		
3 0	548,390	10 0	844,009	Total ...	6,865,790

18. **Postal Notes Issued and Paid at Capital Cities.**—In the subjoined table, figures are given shewing the number and value of postal notes issued and paid at the principal cities in each of the States of the Commonwealth during the year 1909 :—

**POSTAL NOTES ISSUED AND PAID AT CAPITAL CITIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH
DURING 1909.**

City.	Postal Notes Issued.		Postal Notes Paid.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
		£		£
Sydney	134,177	52,014	933,951	334,375
Melbourne	101,007	40,872	790,664	282,892
Brisbane	47,862	19,666	191,770	73,720
Adelaide	59,280	22,837	262,567	95,029
Perth	39,565	20,015	230,999	97,306
Hobart	24,493	9,771	421,826	130,681

19. **The Value Payable Post.**—This is a system under which the Postal Department undertakes to deliver registered articles sent by parcel post within the Commonwealth, and to recover from the addressee on delivery a specified sum of money fixed by the sender, and to remit the sum to the sender by money order, for which the usual commission is charged. The object of the system is to meet the requirements of persons who wish to pay at the time of receipt for articles sent to them, and also to meet the requirements of traders and others who do not wish their goods to be delivered except on payment. In addition to the ordinary postage, commission on the value of the articles transmitted at the rate of twopence on sums not exceeding ten shillings, and one penny for each additional five shillings or part thereof, must be prepaid by postage stamps affixed to the articles distinct from the postage and marked "commission." The registration fee (threepence) and the proper postage must also be prepaid. If the addressee refuse delivery, the parcel is returned to the sender free of charge. Any article that can be sent by parcel post may be transmitted as a value-payable parcel. Letters may also be sent as value-payable parcels, if prepaid at the letter rate of postage and handed

to the parcels clerk in the same manner as in the case of parcels. The subjoined statement gives particulars of the number and value of parcels sent through the Value Payable Post in each State during the years 1907, 1908, and 1909. From these figures it will be seen that the business in Queensland is greatly in excess of the combined transactions of all the other States, owing to the fact that the system has been established in that State for some years, but was only extended to the whole Commonwealth with the advent of Federal control of the post office.

VALUE PAYABLE PARCELS POST.—NUMBER POSTED, VALUE COLLECTED, AND REVENUE, 1907 to 1909.

State.	Number of Parcels Posted.			Value collected.			Revenue, including Postage, Commission on Value, Registration and Money Order Commission.		
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1907.	1908.	1909.
	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	4,814	6,400	7,585	7,763	11,755	10,926	702	985	937
Victoria ...	617	270	1,051	1,075	347	1,697	96	30*	164
Queensland ...	27,729	26,865	31,765	36,876	36,924	39,351	3,954	3,713	4,112
South Australia ...	39	125	149	77	236	234	6	18	22
Western Australia	9,236	13,093	19,250	15,783	21,331	30,712	1,333	1,869	2,603
Tasmania ...	72	62	42	83	132	93	7	9	6
Commonwealth	42,507	46,815	59,842	61,657	70,725	83,013	6,098	6,624	7,844

* Exclusive of postage.

20. **Transactions of the Dead Letter Office, 1909.**—Under sections 45 to 53 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 the Postmaster-General may cause all unclaimed and undelivered postal articles originally posted within the Commonwealth which have been returned from the place to which they were forwarded to be treated as unclaimed articles and opened. Every unclaimed letter and postal article must be kept for the prescribed period at the office to which it has been transmitted for delivery, and must then be sent to the General Post Office. Letters and packets originally posted elsewhere than in the Commonwealth are returned to the proper authorities in the country in which they were so posted, or, if originally posted in another State, are returned to the General Post Office of that State; but unclaimed or undelivered newspapers may be forthwith sold, destroyed, or used for any public purpose. Opened postal articles not containing anything of value are returned to the writer or sender if his name and address can be ascertained, but may otherwise be destroyed forthwith. As regards opened letters and packets containing valuable or saleable enclosures, a list and memorandum of the contents are kept, and a notice is sent to the person to whom the letter or packet is addressed if he be known, or otherwise to the writer or sender thereof if he be known. Upon application within three months of the date of such notice the letter or packet may be claimed by the addressee, or, failing him, by the writer or sender. If unclaimed within three months, the letter and contents may be destroyed or sold, and the proceeds paid into the consolidated revenue fund. The following table shows the total number of letters, postcards, and packets dealt with by the Dead Letter Offices in the Commonwealth during the year 1909, together with the number of inland, interstate, and international letters either returned to writers, delivered, etc., destroyed, or returned as unclaimed:—

TRANSACTIONS OF DEAD LETTER OFFICES IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1909.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwth.
LETTERS (,000 omitted).							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	325	235	118	22	55	43	798
Destroyed in accordance with Act	65	58	13	9	6	4	155
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	46	36	25	19	16	15	157
Total ...	436	329	156	50	77	62	1,110
POSTCARDS (,000 omitted).							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	7	8	19	7	14	3	58
Destroyed in accordance with Act	80	12	5	9	4	3	113
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	6	8	3	3	3	2	25
Total ...	93	28	27	19	21	8	196
PACKETS (,000 omitted).							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	739	34	83	33	42	5	936
Destroyed in accordance with Act	39	76	9	6	5	...	135
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	10	41	35	17	22	16	141
Total ...	788	151	127	56	69	21	1,212
Grand Total (letters, postcards, & packets)	1,317	508	310	125	167	91	2,518

21. **Post Offices and Receiving Offices and Employees, 1901 to 1909.**—The following tables shew, as far as returns are available, the numbers of post and receiving offices and the corresponding numbers of employees in each State and in the Commonwealth at the end of the year 1901, and from 1905 to 1909 inclusive :—

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES AND RECEIVING OFFICES, 1901 to 1909.

State.	1901.		1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.		1909.	
	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.
New South Wales ...	1,684	524	1,744	522	1,769	519	1,809	510	1,842	526	1,884	513
Victoria ...	1,637	18	1,655	18	1,659	657	1,656	670	1,633	713	1,642	728
Queensland* ...	411	823	447	913	468	886	480	909	499	896	522	856
South Australia ...	699	...	710	...	706	7	704	12	686	29	631	92
Western Australia ...	187	28	261	34	281	57	298	67	320	72	331	82
Tasmania† ...	376	...	370	9	373	19	375	31	378	36	377	40
Commonwealth ...	4,994	1,393	5,187	1,496	5,256	2,145	5,322	2,199	5,358	2,272	5,387	2,311

* For the year 1901 the number of receiving offices is included in post offices in the official returns, and separate figures here given are estimated. † The return for 1901 includes both post offices and receiving offices.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND NUMBER OF MAIL CONTRACTORS, 1901 to 1909.

State.	1901.		1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.		1909.	
	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.
New South Wales ...	5,636	984	5,890	1,029	5,943	1,037	6,964	1,072	7,343	1,305	7,469	1,553
Victoria ...	3,962	890	4,086	912	4,896	919	5,744	758	5,989	776	6,285	804
Queensland*	2,616	—	2,640	—	2,610	630	3,021	640	3,073	550	3,146	589
South Australia†	1,945	—	1,727	259	1,734	255	1,767	261	1,871	237	1,896	259
Western Australia†	1,303	140	1,273	154	1,941	152	1,579	208	1,670	206	1,736	234
Tasmania†	865	—	—	—	811	164	814	172	843	177	874	186
Commonwealth	16,327	2,014	15,616	2,354	17,935	3,157	19,889	3,111	20,789	3,251	21,406	3,625

* Country postmasters and receiving officers included in employees. † Non-official postmasters are included in employees. ‡ The return for 1901 includes all persons in the pay of the Postal Department.

At the end of the year 1909, out of the total number of persons, 25,031, employed in the Postmaster-General's Department, 14,491 were employed wholly, and 10,540 were employed partially in the service.

22. **Postal Routes, 1909.** The following table shews the length of postal routes and the number of miles travelled by mail conveyances during the year 1909:—

POSTAL ROUTES, 1909.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
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MILES OF ROUTE.

Railway ...	3,469	3,300	3,937	2,174	2,157	631	15,668
Water ...	4,438	52	2,267	9,179	2,951	881	19,768
Other ...	35,825	10,955	28,998	8,522	9,335	1,897	95,532
Total... ..	43,732	14,307	35,202	19,875	14,443	3,409	130,968

MILES TRAVELLED BY MAIL CONVEYANCES (,000 omitted.)

Railway ...	1,238	4,290	3,249	1,734	1,425	812	12,748
Water ...	688	21	278	297	155	207	1,646
Other ...	8,801	3,722	4,031	1,591	873	866	19,884
Total	10,727	8,033	7,558	3,622	2,453	1,885	34,278

23. **Gross Revenue of Postal Department, 1901 to 1909.**—The following table shews the gross revenue of the Postal Department for the years ended 30th June, 1901 to 1909 inclusive, under three heads, viz., the Postal, the Telegraph, and the Telephone branches. In the Postal branch is included the revenue derived from money-order commissions, poundage on postal notes, private boxes and bags, and miscellaneous sources.

GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1901 to 1909.

Year ended 30th June.				Postal Branch.	Telegraph Branch.	Telephone Branch.	Total.
				£	£	£	£
1901*	...	...	...	516,181	224,484†	†	740,665
1902	...	...	...	1,743,662	629,199†	†	2,372,861
1903	...	...	...	2,046,999	358,805†	†	2,405,804
1904	...	...	...	1,726,467	498,957	286,328	2,511,752
1905	...	...	...	1,791,023	530,220	312,321	2,633,564
1906	...	...	...	1,907,277	565,422	352,214	2,824,913
1907	...	...	...	2,153,141	588,167	388,226	3,129,534
1908	...	...	...	2,240,367	649,481	410,741	3,300,589
1909	...	...	...	2,325,327	642,548	441,551	3,409,426

* Period from 1st March to 30th June, 1901. † Including telephone revenue. ‡ Included in telegraph revenue.

The following tables give an analysis of the gross earnings of the Postal Department in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year ended 30th June, 1909:—

ANALYSIS OF GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1908-9.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwlth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Postage	857,243	536,189	288,656	189,608	142,645	96,992	2,111,333
Telegraphs	206,758	138,939	106,686	97,951	73,732	18,482	642,548
Telephones	175,961	131,766	50,655	34,329	34,442	14,398	441,551
Money order commission	21,080	9,767	7,210	3,131	7,570	2,589	51,347
Poupage on postal notes	19,342	15,155	5,108	3,454	3,540	2,088	48,687
Private boxes and bags	7,200	3,175	3,312	1,378	1,648	835	17,548
Miscellaneous	32,171	21,641	14,708	15,431	9,375	3,086	96,412
Total	1,319,755	856,632	476,335	345,282	272,952	138,470	3,409,426

24. **Expenditure in respect of the Postal Departments, 1901 to 1909.**—The sub-joined table shews the total expenditure in respect of the Postal Department in the Commonwealth for each of the years ended 30th June, 1902 to 1909 inclusive. The figures given include certain items of expenditure, such as rent, repairs and maintenance of buildings, fittings and furniture, sanitation, water supply, and new buildings and additions, which are under the control of the Department of Home Affairs.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT; 1901-2 to 1908-9.

Year.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.
Expenditure ... £	2,478,796	2,568,846	2,697,454	2,699,666	2,784,665	2,966,099	3,345,840	3,611,677

The following table shews the distribution of expenditure on various items in each State during the year ended 30th June, 1909:—

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENTS, 1908-9.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Proportion of Central office expenses	4,013	3,205	1,393	1,027	674	469	10,781
Salaries	551,289	395,978	184,189	146,487	166,223	52,789	1,496,955
Contingencies	214,226	153,060	112,556	51,323	67,122	29,026	627,313
Conveyance of mails—							
Steamship—Subsidised	61,319	48,948	21,265	15,644	10,283	7,164	164,623
Poundage rates	7,600	3,840	4,263	761	1,962	1,087	19,513
Railway	98,498	63,646	61,289	29,311	26,472	13,771	292,987
Other	117,833	50,535	80,291	29,890	32,279	10,881	321,709
Cable subsidies, etc.	36,202	29,149	18,396	6,976	4,576	8,090	103,389
Telegraph works	17,246	3,038	6,089	1,491	1,782	129	29,775
Telephone works	89,886	96,535	41,674	31,777	21,702	15,093	296,667
Rent	8,199	2,723		528	560	42	
Repairs and maintenance of buildings	8,138	4,873	8,775	2,181	3,325	1,395	51,847
Fittings and furniture	892	1,759		617			
Sanitation and water supply	3,275	2,931		421	1,056	157	
Additions, new works, etc.	19,357	101,347	21,239	7,494	6,358	2,614	158,409
Pensions, etc.	11,235	10,836	1,760		2,097		25,928
Supervision of works	779	224	655	270	337	74	2,339
Proportion of Audit Office expenses	661	507	377	330	314	216	2,405
Miscellaneous	1,878	1,332	1,972	322	1,070	463	7,037
Total	1,252,526	974,466	566,183	326,850	348,192	143,460	3,611,677

25. **Royal Commission on Postal Services.**—On 22nd June, 1908, a Royal Commission was appointed to report upon the Postal, Telegraphic, and Telephonic Services of the Commonwealth, and more particularly in relation to the following matters :—(a) Management; (b) Finance; (c) Organisation, including discipline; (d) Extensions in country districts, and particularly in remote or sparsely-populated parts of the Commonwealth; and (e) Complaints in relation to the services. The inquiry was commenced in July, 1908, and occupied 228 sittings. The Commissioners visited every State and took evidence at each State capital and also at Fremantle, Kalgoorlie, and Launceston. In addition; personal visits of inspection were made to all the General Post Office buildings and many branch telephone exchanges and suburban post-offices of Sydney and Melbourne. The number of witnesses examined by the Commissioners was 190, including representatives of public and commercial institutions, experts, and prominent members of the Commonwealth Public Service. Recommendations numbering 175, were made by the Commission in a report laid before Parliament on 30th September, 1910. These refer to a great variety of subjects and matters, but owing to exigencies of space particulars in regard thereto cannot be given in this publication.

§ 2. Telegraphs.

1. **First Lines Constructed.**—The electric telegraph was first introduced into Australia for use by the public in the year 1854, when a line from Melbourne to Williamstown, was opened. The first line in South Australia, from Adelaide to Port Adelaide, was opened in 1856, while the first line in New South Wales was brought into operation in 1858, when the line from Sydney to Liverpool, twenty-two miles in length, was opened. In Tasmania the first telegraphic line was completed in 1857, while in the following year communication was established between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. The first line to be constructed in Queensland was that between Brisbane and Rockhampton, a distance of 396 miles, which was opened in 1864. In Western Australia the first telegraph constructed was from Perth to Fremantle, a distance of twelve miles, which was brought into use in 1869, and in the same year the cable joining Tasmania with the continent of Australia was completed.

2. **Development of Services.**—During the period from 1871 to 1881 great progress was made throughout Australia in the way of telegraphic construction, over 14,000 miles of line, exclusive of railway telegraph lines, being opened for use during the period mentioned, making the total length of the line open at the end of the year 1881, 25,470 miles. In the case of South Australia this increase was to a large extent due to the construction of the transcontinental lines (a) from Adelaide to Port Darwin (a distance of 2230 miles), which was completed on the 22nd August, 1872, at a cost of nearly half a million sterling, and (b) from Port Augusta to Port Lincoln, and thence along the coast of the Great Australian Bight as far as Eucla, on the Western Australian border. In Queensland there was a large increase resulting from the construction of the line to Normanton, on the Gulf of Carpentaria, while in Western Australia the line from Perth to Albany was extended as far as Eucla on the 9th December, 1877, thus establishing telegraphic communication between the six capital towns, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, and Hobart. At the present time the systems of telegraph lines throughout Australia are well developed. The longest line extends from Thursday Island, in Torres Straits, by submarine cable to Paterson, on the mainland of Cape York Peninsula; from Paterson the line runs in a southerly direction as far as Brisbane, where it joins the main interstate line to Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide; from Adelaide it runs to Port Augusta, then on to Port Lincoln, on Eyre's Peninsula, and thence to Eucla, on the Western Australian boundary; from Eucla the line extends along the coast of the Great Australian Bight to Albany, and thence it runs adjacent to the west coast of Western Australia as far as Onslow, *via* Perth, Geraldton, and Carnarvon. From Onslow connection extends to Broome, in Roebuck Bay, from which place communication is made to Singapore by the Eastern Extension Company's cable. From Roebuck Bay the line crosses the Kimberley district in an easterly direction, and then runs north as far as the terminus at Wyndham. In Queensland a line runs to Burketown, near the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, *via* Normanton; another line extends to Cloncurry and Urandangi, in the extreme west of the State. Branch lines extend to all important coastal and inland towns, while considerable networks of lines converge from the country districts towards the centres of population. From Adelaide the transcontinental line, referred to above, runs in a northerly direction to Port Darwin, from which place communication is provided with Europe by submarine cable by way of Batavia, Singapore, and Madras. In Western Australia a line runs from Eucla to the Coolgardie goldfields *via* Balladonia and Dundas, and from Coolgardie communication is provided with Perth and with Sir Samuel, in the East Murchison district.

3. **Number of Telegraph Offices and Length of Lines and Wire Open, 1901 to 1909.**—The following table shews the number of telegraph offices and the length of telegraphic lines and of telegraph wire, exclusive of railway telegraphs, available for use in the Commonwealth at the end of the year 1901, and from 1905 to 1909 inclusive:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES, LENGTH OF LINE AND WIRE, AVAILABLE FOR USE, 1901 to 1909.

Particulars.		1901.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
No. of Offices	... No.	2,567	2,785	2,955	3,211	3,445	3,597
Length of Line	... miles*	41,951	42,630	42,575	43,384	44,132	42,298
,, Wire	... ,, †	101,708	129,739	131,939	85,173	94,025	89,468

* Including telephone and railway telegraph lines in New South Wales, up to and including 1908, and including railway telegraph lines in South Australia up to and including 1905. † Including telephone and railway telegraph wires in New South Wales up to and including 1906, and including railway telegraph wires in South Australia up to and including 1905.

The following table gives corresponding particulars for each State for the year 1909. The particulars are exclusive of railway telegraphs:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES, LENGTH OF LINE AND WIRE IN EACH STATE, 1909.

Particulars.		N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwith.
No. of Offices	No.	1,329	794	582	346	292	254	3,597
Length of Line	miles	14,580	4,093	10,439	5,332	6,222	1,632	42,298
„ Wire	„	28,280	11,530	22,197	13,309	10,944	3,208	89,468

4. **Revenue and Expenditure, 1901 to 1909.**—Particulars as to the revenue from the telegraph systems for the years 1901 to 1909 are given on page 782, while particulars as to the expenditure on telegraph works for the year 1908-9 are given on page 783.

5. **Number of Telegrams Despatched, 1901 to 1909.**—The following table shows the total number of telegrams despatched in the Commonwealth in 1901 and in each of the years 1903 to 1909 inclusive:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED, (,000 OMITTED) 1901 to 1909.

Year ...	1901.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Number* ...	8,003	8,743	8,688	9,098	10,099	10,867	11,280	11,299

* Including inter-state cablegrams..

The following table shows the number of telegrams despatched in each State in 1909 for delivery in that State, and the number despatched in each State for delivery in other States, and also the total number of telegrams—exclusive of cablegrams—despatched in each State:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED IN EACH STATE, 1909 (,000 OMITTED).

State, etc. ...	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Inland (counted once)	3,067	1,796	1,530	848	1,251	225	8,717
Interstate* ...	743	685	385	331	302	136	2,582
Total ...	3,810	2,481	1,915	1,179	1,553	361	11,299

* Including interstate cablegrams.

6. **Telegrams Despatched from, and Received at, Capital Cities.**—The following table shows the number of telegrams despatched from, and received at, the principal offices in each State of the Commonwealth during 1909:—

TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED FROM, AND RECEIVED AT, CAPITAL CITIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1909.

City.	De-spatched.	Received.	City.	De-spatched.	Received.
	Number.	Number.		Number.	Number.
Sydney ...	574,995	•	Adelaide ...	261,792	341,405
Melbourne ...	452,961	869,868	Perth ...	307,432	398,693
Brisbane ...	428,256	481,722	Hobart ...	98,880	150,190

* Not available.

7. **Rates for Transmission of Telegrams.**—The present rates for the transmission of telegrams within the Commonwealth were fixed by section 7 of the Post and Telegraph Rates Act 1902, and came into force on the 1st November, 1902. Under this Act charges are made for telegrams according to whether they are "ordinary" or "press" telegrams. "Press" telegrams are defined to mean those the text of which consists of political, commercial, etc., information, and of news intended for publication in a newspaper. The telegram must be sent by an authorised correspondent, and must be addressed to a registered newspaper or recognised news agency. The subjoined tables shew the scales of charges:—

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ORDINARY TELEGRAMS, 1910.

Particulars.	Town and Suburban, within Prescribed Limits, or within 15 Miles from the Sending Station.	Other Places within the State, except Town and Suburban.	Interstate.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Including address and signature—			
Not exceeding 16 words	0 6	0 9	1 0
Each additional word	0 1	0 1	0 1

Double the foregoing rates are imposed for the transmission of telegrams on Sunday, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, and between the hours of 8 p.m. and 9 a.m., and for telegrams sent on "urgent" forms.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR PRESS TELEGRAMS, 1910.

Particulars.	Within any State.		Interstate.	Relating to Parliamentary, Executive, Departmental, and other Commonwealth Proceedings as may be prescribed.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Not exceeding 25 words	0 6	1 0	...	...
From 25 to 50 words	0 9	1 6	...	...
From 50 to 100 words	1 6	3 0	...	...
Every additional 50 words	0 6	1 0	...	...
Within the Commonwealth.				
Not exceeding 25 words ... ..	...	...	...	1 0
From 25 to 100 words ... ..	...	...	...	1 6
Every additional 50 words ... ..	...	...	...	0 6

8. **Wireless Telegraphy.**—Under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1905 the Postmaster-General is given the exclusive privilege of establishing and using stations and appliances for receiving and transmitting messages by wireless telegraphy within Australia. The Postmaster-General is empowered to grant licenses to establish and use stations and appliances for wireless telegraphy, on the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions and payment of the prescribed fees. The Act does not apply to ships belonging to the King's Navy. Tenders for the erection of high-power stations at Sydney and Fremantle were invited and received by the Postmaster-General early in 1910, and the tender of the Australasian Wireless Ltd. was accepted at a contract price of £4150 for each station. The site originally chosen for the wireless station in the former State was altered to Pennant Hills, about thirteen miles from Sydney, on the Newcastle railway line, while Fremantle is the selected position in Western Australia. In consequence of the New South Wales site having been changed, the contract price for that station was increased to £6150, on

account of the higher-powered plant that will be required. The contractors have agreed to complete the installation of these stations within twelve months from the dates on which the sites are handed over to them. The system to be used is the "Telefunken." The company guarantees that the plant shall be effective over a range of 1250 miles, subject to a penalty of £5000. Tenders are being called for the erection of stations at Thursday Island and Papua. Certain vessels trading on the coast of Australia are being fitted with wireless telegraphy apparatus of the "singing spark" type, which is largely used in Japan, Africa, and the United States.

In December, 1909, a conference of representatives of the Commonwealth, New Zealand, the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, Fiji, the Admiralty, and the Pacific Cable Board was convened at Melbourne to report upon the establishment of wireless telegraphy in the Pacific. The chief recommendations of this Conference were:—(a) That high-power stations be established at Sydney, Doubtless Bay (New Zealand), Suva (Fiji), and Ocean Island, and (b) that medium-power stations be established at Tulagi (Solomon Islands), and Vila (New Hebrides). The total cost of construction of the scheme covered by these recommendations was £42,000, while the total annual cost was estimated at £13,820 for a continuous service, and £9970 for a restricted service. It was proposed to apportion the cost between Great Britain, New Zealand, Fiji, and Australia. These recommendations have been adopted by the Commonwealth Government.

§ 3. Submarine Cables.

1. **First Cable Communication with the Old World.**—As far back as 1857 the question of connecting Australia with the old world by means of submarine cables was brought forward in South Australia. No steps, however, were taken in the direction of constructing the cable until the year 1869, when various schemes were proposed. About this time the British Australian Telegraph Company was formed for the purpose of laying a cable to Australia without subsidy or guarantee. Communication had already been provided between London and Singapore *via* Bombay and Madras, and also through Java from Batavia to Banjoewangie. The proposal of the above company was to lay cables from Singapore to Batavia and from Banjoewangie to Port Darwin, from which place connection would be made overland with the Queensland telegraph system at Normanston. It was, however, subsequently decided that the company's line should end at Port Darwin, the South Australian Government undertaking to construct an overland line from Port Augusta to Port Darwin, a distance of 1971 miles. In November, 1871, the submarine cable was completed, and communication was established between Port Darwin and London. On the 22nd August, 1872, the construction of the line from Port Darwin to Adelaide was accomplished at an expenditure of nearly £500,000. The cable from Port Darwin is now under the control of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company.

2. **The Tasmania-Victoria Cables.**—In the meantime the cable joining Tasmania to the continent of Australia had been laid, and was open for use in 1869, the total length being 170 miles. The line was owned by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, and was subsidised by the Tasmanian Government until the year 1909. On the 28th February, 1908, the Postmaster-General entered into an agreement with Messrs. Siemens Brothers and Company Ltd., of London, for the manufacture and laying of two submarine cables between Tasmania and Victoria. The laying of these cables was completed in February, 1909. Their aggregate length is approximately 350 nautical miles of main cable, and 20 nautical miles each of intermediate and shore end cable, making a total of 390 nautical miles. The contract price, excluding the supply of spare cable, was £49,455.

3. **The Eastern Extension Company's Cables.**—In addition to the Victoria-Tasmania cable and the original cable from Port Darwin referred to above, the Eastern Extension

Company has constructed and has control over several other cables connecting with various places in the Commonwealth. (a) In 1879 the original cable *via* Banjoewangie was duplicated, the States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania having agreed to pay the above company a subsidy of £32,400 per annum for a period of twenty years, the amount to be divided between the States on a population basis. (b) In 1881 a cable was constructed connecting Broome, in Roebuck Bay, W.A., with Banjoewangie; from Broome there is direct telegraphic communication with Perth, from which place communication is made with the Eastern States by the interstate line *via* Albany, Eucla, and Port Augusta. (c) In July, 1899, the company offered to lay a cable direct to Great Britain *via* the Cape of Good Hope, and also offered reductions in the rates charged, if the States would agree to certain conditions giving the company the right of direct dealing with the public. The States of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania accepted the terms offered, and New South Wales entered into the agreement in January, 1901. The cable was opened *via* Fremantle and Durban in October, 1901. (d) Another submarine cable from Fremantle to Adelaide forms an alternative line of communication between the eastern States and Western Australia. (e) There is an alternative route, partly belonging to the Eastern Extension Company and connecting the Port Darwin-Singapore cable with London, *via* Hong Kong, Shanghai, Possiet Bay (Pacific Russia), Libau (Russian Baltic), and Newbiggin (England).

4. **The Pacific Cable.**—In July, 1898, a conference of representatives of Great Britain, Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and New Zealand was held for the purpose of considering a project for a cable to be laid across the Pacific Ocean, touching only British territory on its way from Australia to Canada, thus providing an "All Red" route, as it is termed, for a cable system between England and Australia. In the following year it was agreed at a meeting held by representatives of the countries interested that the cable should be laid and that Great Britain and Canada should each pay five-eighteenths of the cost, and the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and the Dominion of New Zealand should each pay one-ninth. The construction and management of the cable were placed under the control of a Board composed of seven members—two each from Great Britain, Canada, and Australia, and one from New Zealand—called the Pacific Cable Board. The Australian shore-end of the cable was landed at Southport, Queensland, in March, 1902, and the cable was completed and opened for use on the 3rd November, 1902. There are cable-stations at Norfolk Island, Fiji, and Fanning Island, and a branch cable runs from Norfolk Island to New Zealand. The following table shews particulars of the revenue, expenditure, total loss, and the proportion of the loss payable by the Commonwealth for each financial year since the opening of the cable:—

**REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, AND LOSS ON WORKING OF PACIFIC CABLE,
1903 to 1910.**

Year ended the 31st March.	Revenue.	Expenditure (in- cluding Annuities and Renewal Fund).	Loss.	Commonwealth Proportion of Loss.
	£	£	£	£
1903 ...	...	...	90,518	30,172
1904 ...	80,118	167,869	87,751	29,250
1905 ...	87,446	163,296	75,850	25,283
1906 ...	91,952	164,508	72,556	24,185
1907 ...	113,516	167,439	53,923	18,307
1908 ...	110,160	172,523	62,363	20,787
1909 ...	113,093	173,981	60,888	20,296
1910 ...	111,724	171,312	59,588	19,863

The total cost of construction to the 31st March, 1910, was £1,999,127, originally paid by Great Britain. The proportions of this cost payable by the other countries is to be paid off by 50 annual instalments. The total amount of the annuity paid to Great Britain during the year 1909-10 was £77,545, while the amount paid to the renewal fund was £30,000.

5. **New Zealand Cables.**—A submarine cable joining New Zealand to the Australian Continent was laid in 1876. The line is 1191 miles in length. The Australian shore-end of the cable is at Botany Bay, while the New Zealand terminus is at Wakapuaka, near Nelson, in the Middle Island, from which place another cable, 109 miles in length, is laid to Wanganui, in the North Island. For a period of ten years after its opening the cable was subsidised by the New South Wales and New Zealand Governments, the total contributions amounting to £10,000 a year. The branch from Norfolk Island to New Zealand of the Pacific cable was opened on the 23rd April, 1902. The length of this cable is 597 miles, the New Zealand terminus being at Doubtless Bay in the north of the North Island.

6. **The New Caledonian Cable.**—In April, 1892, a French company, known as the Compagnie Française des Câbles Télégraphiques, entered into an agreement with the French, the New South Wales, and the Queensland Governments to lay down a submarine cable between New Caledonia and Queensland in return for guarantees by the French Government to the extent of £3000, and by the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland to the amount of £2000 each annually for a period of thirty years. The cable was opened for use in October, 1893, the Australian shore-end being at Bundaberg. The Governments of New South Wales and Queensland are entitled to use the cable for the transmission of official messages up to the amount of their guarantees.

7. **Number of Cablegrams Received and Despatched, 1907 to 1909.**—The subjoined table shews the number of cablegrams received and despatched in the Commonwealth from 1907 to 1909 :—

CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED, COMMONWEALTH, 1907 to 1909.

Particulars.	Cablegrams Received.			Cablegrams Despatched.			Total Cablegrams Received and Despatched.		
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Number...	219,854	221,976	221,442	230,808	231,214	231,701	450,662	453,190	453,143

The following table shews the total number of cablegrams received and despatched in each State during the year 1909. The figures given are exclusive of interstate cablegrams, which are classed as interstate telegrams (See § 2 hereof) :—

NUMBER OF CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED IN EACH STATE, 1909.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.†	C'wealth.
Number received ...	102,785	73,645	9,317	18,433	11,707	5,555	221,442
„ despatched...	108,031	75,649	10,735	15,883	15,313	6,090	231,701
Total ...	210,816	149,294	20,052	34,316	27,020	11,645	453,143

* Exclusive of interstate cablegrams, which are included with interstate telegrams (see § 2 ante).

It may be seen that the figures given in the above table for Tasmania and the Commonwealth are exclusive of interstate cablegrams. In 1909 the number of such cablegrams received in Tasmania was 146,687, and the number despatched 135,959, giving a total of 282,646.

8. **Lengths of Cable Routes.**—The following table gives the lengths of various cable routes:—

LENGTHS OF CABLE ROUTES.

<i>Via Roebuck Bay.</i>		<i>Via Port Darwin.</i>		<i>Via South Africa.</i>	
	Miles.		Miles.		Miles.
Perth to Roebuck Bay ...	1,485	Adelaide to Port Darwin ...	2,134	Perth to Mauritius ...	4,417
Roebuck Bay to Banjoewangie ...	970	Port Darwin to Banjoewangie ...	1,150	Mauritius to Durban ...	1,786
Banjoewangie to London ...	9,841	Banjoewangie to London ...	9,841	Durban to Cape Town ...	800
				Cape Town to Madeira ...	5,715
				Madeira to Penzance ...	1,341
				Penzance to London ...	260
Total ...	12,296	Total ...	13,125	Total ...	14,319

<i>Via Vancouver.</i>		<i>Via Russia.</i>	
	Miles.		Miles.
Southport (Queensland) to Norfolk Island ...	963	Sydney to Port Darwin ...	2,992
Norfolk Island to Suva (Fiji) ...	1,129	Port Darwin to Hong Kong ...	4,237
Suva to Fanning Island ...	2,351	Hong Kong to Possiet Bay ...	2,647
Fanning Island to Bamfield (Canada) ...	3,980	Possiet Bay to Libau ...	6,399
Across Canada ...	3,450	Libau to Newbiggin (England) ...	1,657
Canada to Ireland ...	2,450		
Total ...	14,323	Total ...	17,932

9. **Cable Rates.**—In 1872 the cable rate to England was nine guineas for twenty words, but when word rates were brought into general use in 1875, the rate between Great Britain and Australia was fixed at ten shillings and sixpence, subsequently altered to ten shillings and eightpence. This remained the standard rate for eleven years, when the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company reduced it in 1886 to nine shillings and fourpence a word for ordinary messages, to seven shillings and a penny for Government messages, and to two shillings and eightpence a word for press messages. At a conference of the postal and telegraphic authorities held in March, 1891, the proposal to reduce the rates to four shillings a word for ordinary messages, three shillings and eightpence for Government, and one shilling and tenpence for press messages was agreed to, the States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania undertaking to make good half the loss which the Eastern Company might suffer through such reductions. The States guaranteed to the company one-half of the amount of receipts short of the sum of £237,736—the amount received by the company in 1889 in respect of cable charges—the other half to be borne by the company. The Government of South Australia was also guaranteed by the other contracting States against any loss to the revenue which the lower cable rates might cause in the working of the overland lines. Queensland subsequently joined the other States in these guarantees. Owing to various circumstances the cable traffic did not respond to the reductions, and heavy losses were incurred. It was therefore decided at a conference held at Melbourne to increase the rates for ordinary messages to four shillings and ninepence per word. The new rates came into force on the 1st January, 1893, concurrently with an agreement under which New Zealand joined the guarantees to the company and to South Australia.

(i.) *Present Rates to Great Britain.* On the acceptance by three of the States of the terms offered by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for the construction of a

cable *via* South Africa the rate for ordinary messages was reduced in May, 1900, to four shillings a word. It was further reduced to three shillings and sixpence in January, 1901, and to three shillings in January, 1902, at which amount the standard rate by all routes for cablegrams to Great Britain has since remained. The scale of reductions is governed by a revenue standard, and when the latter averages £330,000 per annum a further reduction to two shillings and sixpence will be made. In July, 1909, the "through" charge for press cables was reduced from one shilling to ninepence per word.

(ii.) *Rates to New Zealand.* As a result of the completion of the New Zealand branch of the Pacific cable in 1902, the rates charged for cablegrams between Australia and New Zealand, except to and from Tasmania, were uniformly reduced to fourpence-halfpenny per word. Between New Zealand and Tasmania the charge was fixed at fivepence-halfpenny a word, but it has since been reduced to fourpence-halfpenny. The charge for ordinary cablegrams from New Zealand to Great Britain was reduced from the 1st June, 1902, from five shillings and twopence to three shillings and fourpence a word, and has since been further reduced to three shillings a word.

10. Subsidised Press Cable Service.—In October, 1909, a Select Committee of the Commonwealth Senate was appointed to report upon the question of the supply, conditions of sale, and distribution, which control the Press Cable Service within and from outside the Commonwealth. A majority report of this Committee was issued in December, 1909, and recommended (a) the completion of an "All Red" cable route *via* Canada, (b) the conditional subsidisation of a press cable association, (c) the utilisation of the High Commissioner's office for the dissemination in Australia of Empire news, and (d) the amendment of the Copyright Act in regard to cables.

In accordance with the recommendations of this Committee the Commonwealth has granted a subsidy of £6000, extending over a period of three years, to the Independent Press Cable Service, on the conditions that at least 6000 cable words are supplied each week, to be sent *via* Pacific, and that any newspaper proprietary in the Commonwealth is permitted to become a subscriber at rates approved by the Government.

11. Cable Subsidies paid by each State, 1901 to 1909.—The agreement between the State Governments and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company expired on the 30th April, 1900. Since the year 1895 the amounts guaranteed—£237,736 to the company and £37,552 to South Australia—have been met by the receipts, and the contracting States have, therefore, not been called upon to contribute.

(i.) *Total Subsidies Paid, 1901-9.* The following table shews the total amounts paid by way of cable subsidies for the calendar year 1901, and from 1903 to 1909 inclusive:—

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CABLE SUBSIDIES PAID, 1901 to 1909.

Year.	1901.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Amount ... £	13,207	38,056	37,911	35,160	24,997	30,837	29,313	40,898

(ii.) *Subsidies Paid by each State, 1909.* The subjoined statement shews the amounts paid by each State in respect of each cable service during the year 1909:—

**AMOUNTS PAID BY THE SEVERAL STATES IN RESPECT OF EACH SUBSIDISED
CABLE SERVICE, 1909.**

State.	Tasmania- Victoria.	New Caledonia.	Pacific.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ... ..	...	2,000	6,932	8,932
Victoria	5,135	...	6,769	11,904
Queensland ... ..	...	2,000	11,932	13,932
South Australia	1,587	...	...	1,587
Western Australia	1,043	...	...	1,043
Tasmania	3,500	...	...	3,500
Commonwealth	11,265	4,000	25,633	40,898

As the agreement in connection with the Tasmanian cable expired in 1909, and as new cables have been laid by the Commonwealth Government (see page 787 *ante*), the guarantees were, in the course of the year 1909, reduced to those in connection with the New Caledonia and Pacific cables.

§ 4. Telephones.

1. Development of Telephone Services.—The Postal Department has established telephone services in all the capital towns and in many of the important centres of population throughout the Commonwealth. Particulars as to the revenue from telephone services in each State for the years 1901 to 1909 are given on page 782 *ante*, while particulars of the expenditure on telephone works in each State for the year 1909 are given in a subsequent table on the following page.

(i.) *Number of Telephone Exchanges, etc., in Commonwealth, 1901 to 1909.* The following table shows the number of telephone exchanges, the number of telephone connections, and the length of telephone wire, exclusive of telegraph and railway telephone wire, in the Commonwealth at the end of the year 1901 and from 1905 to 1909 inclusive:—

**NUMBER OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGES AND CONNECTIONS AND LENGTH OF WIRE,
1901 TO 1909.**

Particulars.	1901.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909s
Telephone Exchanges ... No.	119	150	178	226	285	328
„ Connections ... „	24,583	35,321	38,152	47,205	54,512	62,091
Length of Wire ... miles	47,276	71,911	78,854	119,052	145,572	166,489

(ii.) *Number of Telephone Exchanges, etc., in each State, 1909.* The following table gives corresponding particulars for each State at the end of 1909:—

**TELEPHONE EXCHANGES, CONNECTIONS, AND LENGTH OF WIRE IN EACH STATE,
1909.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwlth.
Tel. Exchanges No.	132	56	55	25	38	22	328
„ Connections „	25,682	17,004	8,017	4,109	5,142	2,137	62,091
Length of Wire miles	69,332	54,788	17,306	10,359	12,223	2,481	166,489

2. **Telephone Rates.**—The charges mentioned in the table hereunder are payable for the different classes of telephone services specified therein :—

TELEPHONES.—RENTAL CHARGES, 1910-11.

In Telephone Networks having a Population of—	Radius of Network with Main Exchange as Centre.	Minimum Annual Charge—		
		For an Exclusive Service.	For each Subscriber or Instrument on a Two-party Line.	For each Subscriber or Instrument on a Three or more party Service.
	Miles.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From 1 to 10,000 ...	5	3 0 0	2 10 0	2 0 0
„ 10,001 to 100,000 ...	10	3 10 0	2 15 0	2 5 0
„ 100,001 upwards ...	10	4 0 0	3 0 0	2 10 0

It is provided that for all effective calls originated the subscriber will be charged the following rates:—(a) For calls not exceeding 2000 half-yearly, two calls for one penny; and (b) for calls above 2000 half-yearly, three calls for one penny.

Another regulation permits persons occupying offices in the same building, or occupying the same private residence, to subscribe jointly under one exchange number (in addition to rental as for one person at the respective rates prescribed) of £1 per annum for each additional subscriber. This fee covers the insertion of the additional subscriber's name in the telephone list. If additional instruments are required the subscribers must pay the rates prescribed for party lines.

3. **Miscellaneous Particulars, 1909.**—The following table gives various interesting particulars of the operation of the telephone services in each State for the year 1909 :—

PARTICULARS OF OPERATION OF TELEPHONE SERVICES, 1909.

Particulars.		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwlth.
Telephone Exchanges ...	No.	132	56	55	25	38	22	328
Public Telephone Bureaux ...	No.	236	1,009	188	368	127	264	2,092
Extension Lines—								
Metropolitan ...	No.	3,851	3,630	509	207	1,060	227	9,484
Country ...	No.	558	627	394	53	312	117	2,061
Total ...	No.	4,409	4,257	903	260	1,372	344	11,545
Private Lines—								
Metropolitan ...	No.	353	232	104	246	140	17	1,092
Country ...	No.	1,056	209	329	209	39	171	2,013
Total ...	No.	1,409	441	433	455	179	188	3,105
Connections—								
Central Exchange ...	No.	6,058	6,543	3,205	2,948	1,942	1,043	21,739
Suburban Exchanges ...	No.	12,181	6,780	488	691	1,206	28	21,374
Country Exchanges ...	No.	7,443	3,681	4,324	470	1,994	1,066	18,978
Total ...	No.	25,682	17,004	8,017	4,109	5,142	2,137	62,091
Telephone instruments in use ...	No.	31,888	23,928	9,108	6,506	6,514	3,056	81,000
Rental received ...	£	149,453	107,976	39,567	31,825	30,654	12,224	371,699
Length of wire opened during year ...	Miles	9,638	6,235	2,423	1,584	989	256	21,125
Total length of wire at end of year ...	Miles	69,332	54,788	17,306	10,359	12,223	2,481	166,489
Total cost to end of year ...	£	816,255	*431,254	262,053	219,075	185,827	80,743	1,995,207

* Capital value of telephone networks (excluding telephone trunk lines) on 30th June, 1909.

4. **Financial Position of Telephone Branch.**—In 1909 an investigation into the financial position of the telephone branch of the Postmaster-General's Department was commenced, and in December of that year a report was issued dealing with the telephone accounts of the system in the State of Victoria. This report shows that during each of the years 1901 to 1908 there was a profit on the working of the system, amounting in all to £150,580; in the financial year 1908-9 there was a loss of £7789, giving a net profit up to the 30th June, 1909, of £142,791.

The following table shows the revenue and expenses of the Melbourne metropolitan network during each year of Federal control, the expenses comprising working expenses, maintenance, depreciation, rent, interest on capital, insurance, and head-office charges:—

**MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN TELEPHONES.—REVENUE AND EXPENSES,
1901 to 1909.**

Particulars.	Four mths. to 30th June, 1901.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.
Revenue £	16,392	56,733	62,720	71,077	73,818	80,118	88,828	89,466	92,960
Expenses £	11,225	36,692	44,234	49,169	54,671	60,844	66,383	83,924	100,455

The total revenue for the period specified in the above table was £632,112, and the total expenses £507,597, giving a net profit on metropolitan lines of £124,515, out of a total net profit on all lines of £142,791. It is stated in the report that the decrease in profit 1907-8 and the loss in 1908-9 are attributable to the introduction of the measured system of telephone rates introduced in February, 1907.