

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, until such provisions should be revoked by the Governor-General, 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 now exist in all the States under the Postal Rates Act of 1910, which came into operation by proclamation on the 1st May, 1911. (See paragraph 6 hereof.)

For a brief description of the postal services in the earlier period of Australian history, see Year Book No. 5, page 754.

2. **Development of Postal Services.**—In 1841 the number of post offices open in Australia was 102, situated mainly in New South Wales and Tasmania. At the end of ten years 101 post offices were open in New South Wales, 44 in Victoria, 72 in South Australia, and 51 in Tasmania. From the year 1851 onwards a remarkable increase in the number of post offices in Australia took place, until, in 1891, the number open totalled 4,463, of which 1,384 were situated in New South Wales, 1,729 in Victoria, 307 in Queensland, 629 in South Australia, 86 in Western Australia, and 328 in Tasmania. The number continued to increase until the end of the financial year 1916, when there were 6,082 post offices open in the Commonwealth. In the following year, however, the number in operation had fallen to 5,980, a decrease of 102 for the twelve months. A further reduction of 107 was made in 1917-18, with the result that the number of offices in the several States at 30th June, 1918, was New South Wales 2,031, Victoria 1,726, Queensland 643, South Australia 670, Western Australia 407, Tasmania 396, giving a total for the Commonwealth of 5,873.

3. State, Interstate, and Oversea Postages for whole Commonwealth.—In the following table the matter dealt with from 1912 to 1917-18 is divided into (i) matter posted in the Commonwealth for delivery within the Commonwealth, (ii) matter received from places outside the Commonwealth, (iii) matter despatched to places outside the Commonwealth, and (iv) total postal matter dealt with by the Commonwealth Postal Department. Although mail matter posted in the Commonwealth for delivery therein is necessarily handled at least twice, only the numbers despatched are included in the table following, which consequently gives the number of distinct articles handled. The large increase in oversea mail matter despatched and received in 1916-17 and 1917-18 is mainly attributable to postages in connection with the Australian troops abroad.

STATE, INTERSTATE, AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH,
1912 TO 1917-18.

Year.	Letters and Post-cards.		Newspapers.		Packets.		Parcels.		Registered Articles.	
	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.

POSTED WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH FOR DELIVERY THEREIN.

1912 ..	431,906	93,005	122,373	26,346	60,439	13,012	3,583	771	3,701	797
1913 ..	449,923	93,664	115,662	24,078	62,731	13,059	3,976	828	3,750	781
1914 ..	467,114	94,957	122,534	24,909	59,989	12,195	4,163	846	3,855	784
1915-16	461,167	93,505	128,923	26,141	51,498	10,442	4,366	885	4,165	844
1916-17	478,287	98,104	124,939	25,627	45,926	9,420	4,337	890	4,399	902
1917-18	483,048	97,876	116,899	23,686	42,455	8,602	4,421	896	4,677	948

OVERSEA RECEIVED.

1912 ..	24,266	5,224	13,565	2,920	5,275	1,136	196	42	394	85
1913 ..	37,986	7,908	13,043	2,715	4,424	921	213	44	462	96
1914 ..	30,952	6,292	11,068	2,250	2,316	471	191	39	390	79
1915-16	32,292	6,547	8,603	1,744	2,115	429	220	45	470	95
1916-17	59,301	12,163	10,209	2,094	3,007	617	245	50	468	96
1917-18	48,961	9,920	7,152	1,449	2,099	425	278	56	537	109

OVERSEA DESPATCHED.

1912 ..	24,146	5,198	9,364	2,016	3,357	723	89	19	309	67
1913 ..	30,569	6,364	10,658	2,219	4,131	860	108	22	350	73
1914 ..	26,724	5,433	7,517	1,528	2,227	453	86	17	301	61
1915-16	33,668	6,826	10,011	2,080	2,955	599	466	94	334	68
1916-17	47,464	9,736	12,095	2,481	3,226	662	1,173	241	365	75
1917-18	44,942	9,106	10,896	2,208	2,826	573	1,179	239	357	72

TOTAL POSTAL MATTER DEALT WITH BY THE COMMONWEALTH POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

1912 ..	480,408	103,428	145,302	31,282	69,071	14,870	3,868	833	4,404	948
1913 ..	518,483	107,935	139,363	29,012	71,286	14,840	4,297	895	4,562	950
1914 ..	524,790	106,682	141,119	28,687	64,532	13,118	4,440	903	4,546	924
1915-16	527,127	106,879	147,542	29,915	56,568	11,470	5,052	1,024	4,969	1,008
1916-17	585,052	120,003	147,243	30,202	52,159	10,699	5,755	1,180	5,232	1,073
1917-18	576,951	116,903	134,947	27,343	47,380	9,600	5,878	1,191	5,571	1,129

4. State, Interstate, and Oversea Postages for each State.—The following table shows separately for each State the postal matter dealt with in 1917-18 under the classification adopted in the preceding paragraph. The returns given for South Australia in this and all succeeding tables include those for the Northern Territory. Similarly, the returns for the Federal Territory are included in those for New South Wales:—

STATE, INTERSTATE, AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR EACH STATE, 1917-18.

State.	Letters and Post-cards.		Newspapers.		Packets.		Parcels.	
	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.
POSTED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN COMMONWEALTH.								
New South Wales	194,497	103,343	51,139	27,172	21,277	11,305	2,166	1,151
Victoria ..	145,737	103,286	29,023	20,569	8,504	6,027	799	566
Queensland ..	58,630	85,153	19,236	28,010	6,674	9,693	893	1,296
South Australia	38,442	87,146	6,729	15,254	3,438	7,794	273	619
Western Australia	25,888	83,667	4,861	15,709	1,566	5,061	215	693
Tasmania ..	19,854	97,717	5,861	28,846	996	4,904	75	369
Commonwealth	483,048	97,876	116,899	23,686	42,455	8,602	4,421	896

OVERSEA RECEIVED.

New South Wales	20,840	11,073	2,856	1,517	840	446	90	48
Victoria ..	16,473	11,675	1,588	1,126	446	316	80	57
Queensland ..	3,974	5,771	1,111	1,614	264	354	51	75
South Australia	3,231	7,323	445	1,008	92	208	30	69
Western Australia	3,070	9,920	817	2,640	325	1,052	17	56
Tasmania ..	1,373	6,759	335	1,650	132	648	10	47
Commonwealth	48,961	9,920	7,152	1,449	2,099	425	278	56

OVERSEA DESPATCHED.

New South Wales	20,287	10,779	4,556	2,420	1,543	820	478	254
Victoria ..	13,615	9,649	3,504	2,483	956	677	358	253
Queensland ..	3,924	5,700	1,302	1,890	132	192	114	165
South Australia	3,428	7,771	801	1,816	103	232	120	273
Western Australia	2,393	7,733	470	1,519	33	107	72	234
Tasmania ..	1,295	6,372	263	1,296	59	291	37	183
Commonwealth	44,942	9,106	10,896	2,208	2,826	573	1,179	239

5. Postal Facilities.—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 1917-18. In order to judge clearly the relative postal facilities provided in each State, the area of country to each office, as well as the number of inhabitants per office, should be taken into account.

SQUARE MILES OF TERRITORY AND NUMBER OF INHABITANTS TO EACH POST AND RECEIVING OFFICE ON 30th JUNE, 1918.

State.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	C'wth.
Number of post and receiving offices	2,579	2,604	1,302	813	619	481	8,398
Number of square miles of territory to each post office in State ..	120	34	515	1,112	1,577	55	354
Number of inhabitants to each office	742	544	532	547	503	422	593
Number of inhabitants per 100 square miles	616	1,612	163	49	32	774	167

(a) Including Federal Territory. (b) Including Northern Territory.

6. **Rates of Postage.**—Prior to the operation of the Postal Rates Act of 1910, the charges made for the postage of newspapers and parcels, and of interstate and foreign letters, were the same in all the States of the Commonwealth. The rates for the transmission of letters within the borders of a State, however, were 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 provision, however, was repealed by the Postal Rates Act of 1910, which came into force by proclamation on 1st May, 1911, and uniform rates are now applicable throughout the Commonwealth.

On 28th October, 1918, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. War Postage, in addition to ordinary postage, was imposed. An exception was made in the case of letters for members of the Australian Imperial Force abroad and for men serving on ships of the Australian Navy. The war postage to be affixed is indicated hereunder:—

WAR POSTAGE.

Postal Articles.	Rates of Postage.
(a) For delivery within the Commonwealth—	
Letters	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. each.
Letter-cards	Single, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each; reply, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each half.
Post-cards	Single, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each; reply, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each half.
Packets, namely—Commercial papers, printed papers, patterns, samples, merchandise, books, catalogues, magazines, <i>Hansard</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. each packet.
Newspapers posted by newspaper proprietors or newsvendors, or returned by an agent or newsvendor to the publishing office	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 20 oz. on the aggregate weight posted by one person at one time.
Other newspapers	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. each newspaper.
(b) For delivery outside the Commonwealth—	
Letters (except letters for members of the A.I.F. abroad, and those serving on ships of the Australian Navy)	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. each.
Letter-cards	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. each.
Post-cards addressed to places in the British Empire and the United States of America, New Hebrides, Banks and Torres Islands	Single, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each; reply, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each half.
Newspapers addressed to New Zealand and Fiji posted by newspaper proprietors or newsvendors, in parcels containing not fewer than four newspapers of the same issue	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 16 oz. on the aggregate weight posted by one person at one time.
Other newspapers exceeding 2 oz. in weight ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. for each newspaper.

The following rates on letters, newspapers, and certain other postal articles posted in the Commonwealth for delivery therein came into force on the 1st May, 1911, the date of proclamation of the operation of the Postal Rates Act of 1910. War postage as shewn in the preceding table must be added.

POSTAL RATES ON CERTAIN ARTICLES POSTED IN THE COMMONWEALTH FOR DELIVERY THEREIN ON AND AFTER 1st MAY, 1911.

Postal Articles.	Rates of Postage (Exclusive of War 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
CATALOGUES.—Set up and printed in Australia, for each catalogue	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 ounces
MAGAZINES.—Printed in Australia, for each magazine	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 8 ounces or part of 8 ounces
MAGAZINES.—Printed outside Australia, for each magazine	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 ounces or part of 4 ounces
HANSARD.—Reports of Parliamentary Debates.. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ 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 (in bulk), posted by registered news- paper proprietors, or by newsvendors, or re- turned by an agent or newsvendor to the publishing office	1d. per 20 ounces on the aggregate weight of newspapers
NEWSPAPERS.—Printed outside Australia	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 ounces or part of 4 ounces
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 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. Stamps of a uniform design are now used throughout the Commonwealth.

(i) *Letters.* Under the Postal Rates Act of 1910, the charge (1d. for every $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz.) for letters posted for delivery within the Commonwealth is now uniform throughout all States. Previous to 1st May, 1911, various local and interstate rates were in operation within the States. 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, including the captured (formerly German) islands in the Pacific, is uniformly one penny per half-ounce throughout the Commonwealth; and the rate on letters to foreign countries (with the exception of New Hebrides, Banks and Torres Islands, where the rate is a penny per half-ounce) is twopence halfpenny for each half-ounce. In addition to the above rates, one halfpenny (war postage) must be affixed to each article.

(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 rate on all newspapers posted for delivery in the Commonwealth or for transmission to Papua (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, plus one halfpenny (war postage), per twenty ounces on the aggregate weight. The rate to New Zealand, the islands annexed thereto, and Fiji is one penny, plus one halfpenny (war postage), per sixteen ounces on the aggregate weight, which must not exceed 20 lbs. On all other registered newspapers posted within the Commonwealth for delivery therein or for transmission to New Zealand and the islands annexed thereto, Fiji, and Papua, the charge is a halfpenny per ten ounces for each newspaper. In addition each newspaper must bear one halfpenny (war postage). At the end of the year 1918 there were in all 1,451 publications registered in the Commonwealth under section 29 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 for transmission by post as newspapers. The rates on registered newspapers for transmission to the United Kingdom are, by the ordinary route, for each newspaper not exceeding eight ounces one penny, exceeding eight ounces but not exceeding ten ounces twopence halfpenny, every additional two ounces one halfpenny. By the all-sea route the rate for each newspaper exceeding eight ounces is one penny per sixteen ounces. To other parts of the world the rate is one penny up to four ounces and one halfpenny for every additional two ounces. An additional one halfpenny (war postage) is charged on each newspaper exceeding two ounces. The limit of weight allowed is 5 lbs. 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 feet 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. Various rates are charged for the conveyance of parcels to other parts of the world.

(iv) *Packets.* The following articles are classed as packets and are accepted for oversea destinations at the rates given. A table of charges for delivery within the Commonwealth is to be found on page 711:—Commercial Papers: For New Zealand (including islands annexed thereto) and Fiji, penny per two ounces (*a*); for all other places, two ounces threepence, each additional two ounces up to ten ounces halfpenny, each two ounces thereafter penny. Printed Papers: For New Zealand, Fiji, New Hebrides, and Solomon Islands, two ounces penny (*a*), each additional two ounces halfpenny; for all other places, two ounces penny. Patterns and Samples: For New Zealand (including islands annexed thereto) and Fiji, penny per two ounces (*a*) (up to 1 lb.); for United Kingdom, penny per two ounces (up to 5 lbs.); for all other places, penny per two ounces (up to twelve ounces). Merchandise: For New Zealand (including islands annexed thereto) and Fiji, penny per two ounces (*a*) (up to 1 lb.); to all other places parcels rates are charged. Books: For New Zealand (including islands annexed thereto), Fiji, New Hebrides, and Solomon Islands, penny per four ounces; for all other places, penny per two ounces. Catalogues: Rates applicable Commonwealth only. Magazines: For New Zealand (including islands annexed thereto), Fiji, New Hebrides, and Solomon Islands, penny per eight ounces, each additional four ounces halfpenny; for all other places, penny per two ounces. Packets for transmission within the Commonwealth must not as a rule exceed 2 feet in length, 1 foot in breadth or depth; or, if in a roll, 2 ft. 6 in. in length, while the maximum weights allowed are—commercial and printed papers, 5 lbs.; patterns, samples, and merchandise, 1 lb.

7. *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 a fee of threepence, 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 an additional fee of twopence halfpenny in advance at the time of registration.

(*a*) An additional halfpenny (war postage) must be affixed to each packet.

Number of Registered Articles Posted. The subjoined table shews the number of registered articles posted in each State during the year 1917-18, classified according to the places to which they were despatched for delivery :—

NUMBER OF REGISTERED ARTICLES POSTED DURING 1917-18.

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.	
	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.
New South Wales	1,492	793	209	111	149	79	1,850	983
Victoria	1,120	794	179	127	93	66	1,392	986
Queensland	628	912	90	132	53	77	771	1,121
South Australia	290	658	55	124	19	43	364	825
Western Australia	349	1,127	41	132	33	107	423	1,366
Tasmania	187	921	37	181	10	47	234	1,149
Commonwealth	4,066	824	611	124	357	72	5,034	1,020

8. *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 first 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. At present mails to and from Europe are carried by the Union Steamship Company, which receives a subsidy from the New Zealand

Government, with a four-weekly service; and by the Oceanic Company, with a three-weekly service. Postal Union rates are charged in respect of Australian mails conveyed by the Union Company, and poundage rates in the case of the Oceanic Company.

(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. Almost since the inception of ocean steam services, the Peninsular and Oriental Company, and, at a little later date, the Orient-Pacific Company, have carried mails to and from Australia. Postal matter was carried by contract until 1905, when the contract between the Peninsular and Oriental Company and the Commonwealth Government ceased, although that between the company and the Imperial Post Office is still in force. Until discontinued, owing to the war, mails were carried from Australia by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, but 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 present 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 European mail steamers, in lieu of Albany, the original port of call. The Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Steam Navigation Companies' steamers, before the outbreak of war in 1914, sailed alternately every week, both from London and Australia, conveying the outward and homeward mails. As before stated, the Peninsular and Oriental service was entirely suspended as a result of the war, while a very limited service was carried on for a greater part of the time by the Orient line *via* the Cape route. With the conclusion of peace, however, it is confidently anticipated that an early though partial resumption of both services *via* the Suez Canal will be arranged.

(a) *Present 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 was to be carried out by existing vessels belonging to the company and by five new mail ships, which had been specially built, and which were each over 12,000 tons gross registered tonnage and of not less than seventeen knots speed. An additional new vessel was to be added within eighteen months, and another within six years, from February, 1910, and the first of these—the *Orama*—entered into running during November, 1911. War conditions have, however, delayed the addition of the later vessel to the mail fleet. The vessels were to call at Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, and, during the months of February to May inclusive, at least six of them at Hobart. The voyage from Taranto to Adelaide was to be completed within twenty-six days, fourteen hours, and from Adelaide to Taranto within twenty-seven days, two hours, but the latter period might be exceeded by thirty-six hours during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon. The amount of the subsidy was fixed at £170,000 per annum; but, if the earnings of the company were 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 £5,000 a year, the contractors had the right to terminate the agreement unless the subsidy were increased. Insulated space of not less than 2,000 tons of forty cubic feet per ton was to be provided in each of the new vessels, and the freights were not to exceed one halfpenny per lb. for butter and sixty shillings per ton for fruit. White labour only was to be employed, and no discrimination was to be made between unionists and non-unionists. If before or during the sixth year of the period of the contract an accelerated service were provided by any competing line of mail ships, the contractors had, if so required by the Postmaster-General, to provide a service equal to the

competing service, at an increased subsidy, to be determined by agreement or arbitration. With the expiration of the period in 1916, this clause in the agreement lapsed. The Commonwealth flag had to be flown on the mail ships, which the Commonwealth had the right to purchase at a valuation at any time. Within six months of the Postmaster-General establishing a permanent wireless telegraphy station at Rottnest Island, or at any point on the coast between Fremantle and Brisbane, the company was required to 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 were 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 carried 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 being £120,000. The vessels have, however, for the time being, been withdrawn from the Australian service. 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*. The service afforded by German vessels was, of course, discontinued on the outbreak of hostilities in Europe in 1914.

(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, 1911, at a subsidy of £26,626 per annum. This subsidised service has now been discontinued. Mails for Canada are forwarded via New Zealand through Sydney at poundage rates.

(iv) *Other Ocean Mail Services.* In addition to the mails via the Suez Canal, 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 COMMONWEALTH MAIL SERVICES, 1919.

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) Orient Steam Navigation Co.	Irregular intervals	Adelaide, Fremantle and London, via Suez	Subsidised. Date of agreement, 15th Nov., 1907. Term, from Feb., 1910. Amt. of subsidy, £170,000
(b) Peninsular and Oriental S.N. Co. Ltd.	"	" " "	Poundage rates

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES—*continued.*

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
2. <i>To and from Europe, via Vancouver (1)</i> — Union Steamship Co. . .	Every four weeks	Sydney and Vancouver, B.C., via Auckland, Fiji, Honolulu, and once every four weeks to Fanning Island	Poundage rates
3. <i>To and from Europe, via San Francisco</i> — (a) Union Steamship Company	"	Sydney, Wellington, and San Francisco	Subsidised by New Zealand Govt. Mails from Aust. at Postal Union rates
(b) Oceanic Steamship Co. . .	Every three weeks	Sydney, 'Apia, Honolulu, and San Francisco	Poundage rates
4. <i>To and from New Zealand</i> — (a) Conjointly by Union S.S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Ltd.	Weekly	Sydney and Wellington, Sydney and Auckland	" "
(b) Other steamers . . .	Irregularly, when convenient	Sydney, Wellington, Auckland, and Lyttelton	" "
5. <i>To and from ports in New South Wales</i> — (i) NORTHERN PORTS— (a) North Coast S.N. Co.	Weekly Twice weekly	Sydney, Macleay River Coff's Harbour, Clarence River, Byron Bay and Richmond River	" "
(b) Langley Bros. . .	Weekly	Sydney and Coff's Harbour	" "
(c) Cain's Co-operative S.S. Co.	Twice a month	Sydney and Port Macquarie	" "
(ii) SOUTH COAST PORTS— Illawarra and S. Coast S.N. Co.	Bi-weekly	Sydney, Montague Island	" "
6. <i>To and from Northern Ports of Queensland</i> — (a) Australian Steamships Limited	Weekly	Gladstone, Mackay, Bowen, Townsville, Cairns, Cardwell, Mourilyan, Innisfail, Port Douglas, and Cooktown	Subsidised by agreement dated 5th Dec., 1914, for three years. Extended two years from 5th Dec., 1917. Amount of subsidy, £17,950
(b) Australian United Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.	Once every four weeks	Brisbane, Normanton and Burketown, via Townsville, Cooktown, and Thursday Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 16th Jan., 1915, for five years. Amount of subsidy, £6,500. Frequency altered from once in three to once in four weeks from 4th Oct., 1917, and Subsidy reduced to £6,000.
(c) Other steamers . . .	Irregularly	Various . . .	Poundage rates
7. <i>To and from Ports in South Australia</i> — (a) Coast Steamship Co. Ltd.	Weekly	Port Adelaide and Kingscote	Subsidised to 31st December, 1919. Amount of subsidy, (a) £900; (b) £350; (c) 450; (d) £350
(b) " "	Twice a week	Port Adelaide and Edithburgh	
(c) " "	"	Port Adelaide and Stansbury	
(d) " "	"	Port Adelaide and Port Vincent	
(e) Adelaide Steamship Co. . .	Weekly	Port Adelaide and Port Lincoln	Subsidised for three years from 1st January, 1917. Amount of subsidy, £3,000
(f) Adelaide Steam Tug Co. . .	As required	Port Pirie and Hummocks Hill	Subsidised without agreement. Amount of subsidy, £120.

(1) Carries also mails to Canada and the United States.

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES—*continued.*

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
8. Western Australia—			
(i) TO AND FROM PORTS ON N.W. COAST—			
(a) State Steamship Service	Monthly ..	Fremantle and Derby ..	} Subsidised by agreement dated 28th February, 1913, for three years. Later extended to a date three months after expiration of war. Amount of subsidy, £5,500.
(b) " " "	Once each sixty days	Fremantle and Darwin ..	
(c) West Australian S.N. Co.	Fortnightly	Fremantle and Broome	
(d) Ausn. United S. Navigation and State S.S. Co. and Melbourne S.S. Coy.	Irregularly, during the cattle season	Fremantle, Derby, and Wyndham	"} Poundage rates
(ii) TO AND FROM PORTS ON S. COAST—			
(a) State Steamship Service	Fortnightly	Albany and Esperance ..	} Subsidised by agreement for three years, dating from 1st July, 1918. Amount of subsidy, £1,500
(b) " " "	About every eight weeks	Albany and Israelite Bay	
(c) " " "	Every six months	Albany and Eucla ..	
9. Tasmania—			
(a) Union S.S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Proprietary	Three times a week	Melbourne and Launceston	} Subsidised by agreement dated 27th October, 1913, for five years from date on which a new steamer similar to <i>t.s. Loongana</i> is run on Launceston - Melbourne service. £13,000 only to be paid prior to running of new steamer and £15,000 thereafter
(b) " " "	Twice a week	Melbourne and Burnie	
(c) " " "	Weekly ..	Sydney, Hobart, and Wellington	"} Poundage rates
(d) Union Steamship Co. . .	Fortnightly	Sydney, Launceston, and Devonport	" "
(e) To and from ports in Western Districts	Weekly . . .	Hobart and Strahan ..	" "
(f) Holyman and Sons Ltd.	" ..	Melbourne, Burnie, etc	" "
(g) Huon Channel and Peninsular Co.	Twice a week	Hobart and Kelly's Point, via Pearson's Point	} Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1919, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £40 per annum
(h) C. A. Coghlan	Every three weeks	Launceston and Furneaux group of islands	} Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1919, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £800 per annum, of which £300 contributed by State Government, contract terminable by month's notice either side
(i) King Island Steamers Ltd.	Fortnightly	Launceston and King Island	} Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1919, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £300 per annum
10. To and from Northern Territory—			
(a) The Eastern and Ausn. and the China Navigation Co.	Irregularly	{ To and from Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney, via Queensland ports, extending to China and Japan	} Poundage rates
(b) Burns, Philp and Co. . .	Monthly ..		
(c) Royal Dutch Packet S.N. Co	Irregularly	Melbourne to Darwin, via Queensland Ports <i>en route</i> to Java	" "
(d) State Steamship Service of Western Australia	Every two months	Fremantle and Darwin..	} Subsidised by Western Australian Government

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES—*continued.*

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
11. <i>To Eastern Ports</i> —(1)			
(a) Burns, Philp and Co. . .	Monthly . .	Sydney, Sourabaya, Samarang, Batavia, and Singapore, <i>via</i> Queensland Ports	Subsidised by N.S.W. Govt. Mails at poundage rates
(b) China Navigation, Eastern and Ausn., and Burns, Philp Co.'s	About three times a month	Sydney to Hong Kong, Manila, etc., <i>via</i> Queensland Ports	Poundage rates
(c) Nippon Yusen Kaisha	Every four weeks	Sydney to Manila, China, and Japan, <i>via</i> Queensland Ports	Postal Union rates
(d) Royal Dutch Packet S.N. Co.	Irregularly	Melbourne to Java, <i>via</i> Sydney and Queensland Ports	Poundage rates
(e) Various other steamers	About monthly	Sydney or Newcastle and ports in Borneo, Java, Sumatra, and Malay Peninsula	" "
(f) W.A.S.N. Co. . .	Fortnightly	W.A. Ports, Java, and Singapore	" "
12. <i>South Africa</i> — White Star, P. and O. Branch Service, and other Companies	Irregularly	Various	" "
13. <i>North America</i> —			
(a) Various steamers . .	Irregularly	Sydney or Newcastle to San Francisco	" "
(b) " " . .	"	Sydney to Guaymas (Mexico)	" "
(c) Union S.S. Co. . .	13 voyages yearly	Sydney, Wellington, Tahiti and San Francisco	" "
(d) " " . .	Every four weeks	Sydney, Auckland, Fiji and Vancouver	" "
(e) Oceanic S.S. Co. . .	Every three weeks	Sydney, Samoa, Pago Pago and San Francisco	" "
14. <i>South America</i> — Oceanic S.S. Co. } Union S.S. Co. . . }	Four times a month	Sydney or Newcastle, <i>via</i> San Francisco to ports in Chile, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, and Argentina	" "
15. <i>Pacific Islands</i> —			
(a) Burns, Philp and Co. . .	Every two months	Sydney to Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands and New Hebrides	Subsidised by Commonwealth at £31,050 per annum
(b) " " . .	Every eight weeks	Sydney to Nauru and Ocean Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Groups	
(c) " " . .	Every twelve weeks	Sydney to Marshall Islands	
(d) " " . .	Two sailings in five weeks	Sydney to Papua and Rabaul	
(e) " " . .	Every five weeks	Sydney to Rabaul . .	
(f) " " . .	Every seven weeks	Sydney to Solomon Islands	
16. <i>Noumea</i> —			
(a) Messageries Maritimes	Monthly . .	Sydney and Noumea and to Vila (New Hebrides)	Postal Union rates
(b) Other steamers . .	About fortnightly	Sydney and Noumea . .	Poundage rates
17. <i>Fiji</i> —			
(a) Union S.S. Co. . .	Every four weeks	Sydney and Suva . .	" "
(b) " " . .	"	Sydney, Auckland, Suva, Tonga and Samoa	" "
(c) A.U.S.N. Co. . .	"	Sydney and Suva . .	" "
(d) Burns, Philp and Co. . .	"	Sydney and Suva . .	" "

(1) Frequency of services not maintained owing to exigencies of war.

9. **Amount of Mail Subsidies Paid.**—The following table shews the amounts of subsidies paid by the Commonwealth Postal Department for ocean and coastal mail services during the year ended 30th June, 1918 :—

MAIL SUBSIDIES.—OCEAN AND POSTAL SUBSIDIES DURING YEAR 1917-18.

Service.	Orient S. N. Co.	Queensland Ports.	South Australian Ports.	Western Australian Ports.	Tasmanian Ports.
	£	£	£	£	£
Annual subsidy	9,193	23,950	5,050	7,513	(a)13,890

(a) Including £290 paid by Tasmania.

During the year 1917-18 the amount paid by the Commonwealth for conveyance of mails at poundage rates by non-contract vessels was £89,998 ; by road services, £469,582 ; and by railway services, £283,260. The total expenditure in 1917-18 on the carriage of mails, including the items and subsidies specified and sundry other payments, was approximately £900,000. The payment shewn for railway services scarcely represents the true position as certain sums due have been withheld pending a basis of settlement.

10. **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 ; before the outbreak of the war there were three lines of modern ocean steamships, which brought the mails from the United Kingdom in about twenty-nine days to Adelaide, in addition to services by way of New Zealand, *via* San Francisco and Vancouver. Upon the arrival of oversea mails at Fremantle, letters for the eastern States and New Zealand are now landed, and the Australian letters are conveyed to their several destinations by rail. By landing at Fremantle instead of as formerly at Adelaide, a saving of approximately sixty-six hours is effected. It is probable that all future mails arriving by P. & O. and Orient steamers will be landed at Fremantle for despatch overland. In consequence of the war in Europe, steamers belonging to the Orient S. N. Co. were diverted from the Suez Canal to the Cape route, but arrangements are in train with a view to the partial resumption of both the Orient and P. & O. Companies' services by the Suez route at an early date. 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 1916-17. In 1917-18 the bulk of the mails was despatched *via* America.

AVERAGE AND FASTEST TIME OCCUPIED IN CONVEYANCE OF MAILS VIA SOUTH AFRICA AND SUEZ CANAL BETWEEN LONDON AND ADELAIDE, AND VICE VERSA, DURING 1916-17.

Service.	London to Adelaide.(a)				Adelaide to London.			
	Average Time.		Fastest Time.		Average Time.		Fastest Time.	
	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.
Orient S. N. Co., <i>via</i> South Africa	44	20	40	6	49	19	41	7
Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Co., <i>via</i> Marseilles ..	41	15	33	14	41	11	33	22

(a) Letters for eastern States now landed at Fremantle.

At present a mail leaving Perth by train for the eastern States, say, at 5 p.m. on Monday, arrives at Adelaide at 3.37 p.m. on Thursday, at Melbourne at 9.55 a.m. on Friday, at Sydney at 10.45 a.m. on Saturday, and at Brisbane at 6.40 p.m. on Sunday. The time over all between Perth and Brisbane is 143 hours 40 minutes, of which the stops at changing stations take 18 hours 31 minutes. The journey from Melbourne to Hobart occupies about 26 hours *via* Launceston, and about 32 hours direct.

The average time occupied in the conveyance of mails from London to Sydney *via* Vancouver is a little over 37 days, and from Sydney to London by the same route nearly 35. A table showing the average and fastest times of this service was given in earlier issues (see Year Book No. 5, p. 766), but the discontinuance of the contract with the company operating between Australia and Vancouver renders the table no longer of value.

11. **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 may be issued for payment of sums up to £20 within the Commonwealth and not exceeding £40 (in some cases £30, £20, or £10) in places abroad. A postal note, which is payable only within the Commonwealth, cannot be issued 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 British Solomon Islands Protectorate and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorates; 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. To secure the full amount of the original order being forwarded to the payee, this extra commission must be paid by the sender.

(i) *Value of Orders Issued and Paid and of Notes Sold.* The following table shews the total value of money orders issued and paid, and of postal notes sold in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year 1917-18, together with the total amount of commission on money orders and poundage on postal notes received by the Postal Department. The results under each head, with the exception of the value of postal notes sold and the poundage thereon, are in excess of the corresponding figures for 1916-17:—

**VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED AND PAID AND OF POSTAL NOTES SOLD,
AND TOTAL AMOUNTS OF COMMISSION AND POUNDAGE RECEIVED IN EACH
STATE DURING 1917-18.**

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 ..	4,595,389	4,574,808	27,558	1,397,636	27,702
Victoria ..	2,297,313	2,524,316	10,102	896,753	17,739
Queensland ..	1,661,485	1,372,629	11,907	400,250	7,878
South Australia ..	737,462	657,142	4,969	224,021	4,569
Western Australia ..	1,157,001	971,895	7,144	217,655	4,185
Tasmania ..	452,790	408,983	2,805	115,910	2,358
Commonwealth ..	10,901,440	10,509,773	64,485	3,252,225	64,429

(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.

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.
Commonwealth of Australia	0 6	0 6	1 0	1 0	1 6	1 6	2 0	2 0
New Zealand and Fiji ..	0 6	1 0	1 6	2 0	2 6	3 0	3 6	4 0
Papua	0 9	0 9	1 6	1 6	2 3	2 3	3 0	3 0
United Kingdom and other countries ..	Sixpence for any amount up to £2 and 3d. for each additional £1 or fraction thereof							

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. Where payment is to be made within the Commonwealth the remitter must also send a telegram advising the transmission of the money, which telegram must be produced by the payee when applying for payment. In the case of New Zealand a second telegram is not required, but an additional charge of sixpence is made by the Department to cover the cost of notifying the payee.

(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. The poundage or commission charged on notes of different denominations is as follows :—

POUNDRAGE RATES, POSTAL NOTES.

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

12. *Number and Value of Money Orders and Postal Notes Issued and Paid.*—The following table shows the total number and value of money orders and postal notes issued and paid in the Commonwealth during 1901 and from 1912 to 1917-18. The payment of military allotments by money order was chiefly responsible for the increase in business recorded in 1915-16. Payment of military allotments by this method was discontinued in 1916-17.

NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES ISSUED AND PAID, 1901 AND 1912 TO 1917-18.

Year.	Money Orders.				Postal Notes.			
	Issued.		Paid.		Issued.		Paid.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).
1901 ..	1,318	4,193	1,339	4,081	3,515	1,292	3,522	1,293
1912 ..	1,822	7,417	1,557	6,886	8,608	3,259	8,533	3,235
1913 ..	2,091	8,750	1,814	8,133	9,425	3,551	9,341	3,527
1914 ..	2,062	8,858	1,823	8,326	9,881	3,680	8,893	3,671
1915-16 ..	(a)3,007	12,336	2,904	11,815	9,536	3,292	9,517	3,316
1916-17 ..	2,293	10,285	2,105	9,757	9,663	3,273	9,549	3,265
1917-18 ..	2,196	10,901	2,138	10,510	9,842	3,252	9,814	3,221

(a) Increases due to payment by money order of military allotments.

13. Classification of Money Orders Issued and Paid.—The following table shows the number and value of money orders issued in each State during the year 1917-18, classified according to the country where payable :—

MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY WHERE PAYABLE, 1917-18.

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 ..	804,021	16,593	68,716	14,763	904,093
Victoria ..	383,314	8,435	37,009	10,139	438,897
Queensland ..	313,754	2,839	29,009	3,108	353,710
South Australia ..	151,292	1,310	13,265	3,087	168,954
Western Australia ..	208,311	1,428	17,524	2,434	229,697
Tasmania ..	93,345	1,822	4,185	1,172	100,524
Commonwealth ..	1,954,037	32,427	169,708	39,703	2,195,875
VALUE.					
New South Wales ..	£ 4,289,526	£ 52,964	£ 179,423	£ 73,476	£ 4,595,389
Victoria ..	2,145,871	22,061	84,322	45,059	2,297,313
Queensland ..	1,513,653	8,758	77,613	61,461	1,661,485
South Australia ..	683,939	4,290	33,938	15,295	737,462
Western Australia ..	1,096,306	4,827	42,508	13,360	1,157,001
Tasmania ..	431,938	7,413	10,840	2,599	452,790
Commonwealth ..	10,161,233	100,313	428,644	211,250	10,901,440

The following table shews the number and value of money orders paid in each State during the year 1917-18, classified according to the country where issued :—

MONEY ORDERS PAID IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF ISSUE, 1917-18.

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 ..	896,466	29,579	14,416	11,254	951,715
Victoria ..	441,766	18,748	8,593	6,199	475,306
Queensland ..	273,949	2,088	4,122	2,294	282,453
South Australia ..	143,855	1,614	2,387	1,031	148,887
Western Australia ..	182,868	2,245	3,500	1,294	189,907
Tasmania ..	83,486	3,561	1,088	1,235	89,370
Commonwealth ..	2,022,390	57,835	34,106	23,307	2,137,638
VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	4,384,387	95,791	48,655	45,975	4,574,808
Victoria ..	2,420,485	53,858	27,910	22,063	2,524,316
Queensland ..	1,343,371	7,537	14,021	7,700	1,372,629
South Australia ..	639,739	6,000	7,404	3,999	657,142
Western Australia ..	949,871	5,567	10,906	5,551	971,895
Tasmania ..	390,705	11,865	3,418	2,995	408,983
Commonwealth ..	10,128,558	180,618	112,314	88,283	10,509,773

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.

14. Classification of Postal Notes Paid.—The subjoined table shews the number and value of postal notes paid during the year 1917-18 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 1901, the first year after the inauguration of the Commonwealth, and for the last six years are given in paragraph 12 hereof.

NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO STATE OF ISSUE, 1917-18.

Particulars.	Postal Notes Paid in—						
	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
NUMBER.							
Issued in same State ..	2,988,237	2,080,231	897,786	501,209	511,009	279,560	7,258,032
Issued in other States ..	340,240	361,835	71,264	60,135	22,070	1,700,354	2,555,898
Total ..	3,328,477	2,442,066	969,050	561,344	533,079	1,979,914	9,813,930

**NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING
TO STATE OF ISSUE, 1917-18—continued.**

Particulars.	Postal Notes Paid in—						
	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
	VALUE.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Issued in same State ..	1,090,582	681,955	312,096	156,187	189,741	89,031	2,519,592
Issued in other States ...	122,419	123,709	26,341	23,885	8,456	396,784	701,594
Total ..	1,213,001	805,664	338,437	180,072	198,197	485,815	3,221,186

15. **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, or between Papua and 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 1911 to 1917-18. From these figures it will be seen that the business in Queensland is 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. The system has also found favor for a number of years in Western Australia, and the figures for 1917-18 furnish evidence that its popularity is rapidly growing in New South Wales. On the other hand the amount of business transacted under this head in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania continues negligible.

**VALUE PAYABLE PARCELS POST.—NUMBER POSTED, VALUE COLLECTED,
AND REVENUE, 1911 TO 1917-18.**

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
NUMBER OF PARCELS POSTED.							
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1911	9,198	1,142	37,803	195	21,391	66	69,795
1912	10,210	1,072	44,973	395	21,821	41	78,512
1913	12,175	1,691	39,434	255	22,335	8	75,898
1914	12,987	1,698	37,657	251	22,759	26	75,378
1915-16 ..	13,979	1,395	45,467	206	22,108	35	83,190
1916-17 ..	16,794	1,530	53,585	318	22,427	28	94,682
1917-18 ..	21,962	1,204	63,523	473	23,421	37	110,620

VALUE PAYABLE PARCELS POST.—NUMBER POSTED, VALUE COLLECTED,
AND REVENUE, 1911 TO 1917-18—*continued.*

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
VALUE COLLECTED.							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1911	15,314	2,312	52,628	413	35,659	165	106,491
1912	13,053	2,160	53,061	827	37,307	92	106,500
1913	14,881	2,857	53,461	435	35,945	20	107,599
1914	20,181	3,412	51,205	872	36,972	27	112,669
1915-16	20,214	2,095	50,917	451	35,239	61	108,977
1916-17	24,268	2,704	74,418	463	35,496	56	137,405
1917-18	37,813	2,310	88,388	1,089	37,155	97	166,852

REVENUE, INCLUDING POSTAGE, COMMISSION ON VALUE, REGISTRATION AND MONEY
ORDER COMMISSION.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1911	1,087	225	5,241	28	2,943	9	9,533
1912	1,147	143	5,418	54	3,027	6	9,795
1913	1,343	261	5,113	30	3,124	1	9,872
1914	1,618	304	4,901	47	3,108	3	9,981
1915-16	1,715	183	5,793	33	3,022	3	10,749
1916-17	2,154	190	6,779	39	3,060	4	12,226
1917-18	3,338	153	8,839	70	3,165	5	15,570

In 1905, the first year for which complete figures for the Commonwealth are available, the number of value-payable parcels posted was 24,920, of an aggregate value of £34,990. By 1917-18 the increase in number was 85,700 and in value £131,862. The States chiefly responsible for the increase are Queensland, Western Australia, and New South Wales. The average value collected on parcels in 1905 was £1 8s., and in 1917-18, £1 10s. These averages are fairly representative of the intervening years, the fluctuations throughout being inappreciable. The average value payable by the addressees in each State for the seven years 1911 to 1917-18 was in order of value South Australia and Tasmania £2 3s., Victoria £1 17s., Western Australia £1 12s., New South Wales £1 10s., and Queensland £1 6s. The average for the Commonwealth for the same period was £1 9s.

16. **Agricultural Produce Parcels Post.**—On the 1st July, 1914, the Postal Department, acting in conjunction with the Railway Department, inaugurated a system under which parcels of agricultural produce, fish, cut flowers, &c., might be transmitted at cheap rates from places in the country to persons living within six miles of the General Post Office, Melbourne. The service was introduced, by way of experiment, into the State of Victoria only, but as a loss of £3,000 per annum was incurred, the service has been discontinued.

17. **Transactions of the Dead Letter Office.**—Under sections 45 to 53 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901, the Postmaster-General may cause to be opened all unclaimed and undelivered postal articles originally posted within the Commonwealth which have been returned from the places to which they were forwarded. 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 the Commonwealth are returned to the General Post Office in the State where posted; 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 an opened letter or packet 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 1917-18, together with the number of inland, interstate, and international letters either returned to writers, delivered, destroyed, or returned as unclaimed.

The greater part of the Australian Expeditionary Force mails undelivered is dealt with by Military Dead Letter Offices attached to the Defence headquarters in the different States, and is not included herein.

TRANSACTIONS OF DEAD LETTER OFFICES IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1917-18.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
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LETTERS (,000 OMITTED).

Returned to writers, delivered, etc...	609	482	263	157	258	76	1,845
Destroyed in accordance with Act	111	54	26	24	29	12	256
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed	117	57	50	22	30	14	290
Total	837	593	339	203	317	102	2,391

POSTCARDS (,000 OMITTED).

Returned to writers, delivered, etc...	5	7	5	9	19	2	47
Destroyed in accordance with Act	3	3	1	..	1	..	8
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed	4	2	1	1	1	..	9
Total	12	12	7	10	21	2	64

PACKETS (,000 OMITTED).

Returned to writers, delivered, etc...	418	65	88	23	144	3	741
Destroyed in accordance with Act	95	391	6	28	1	..	521
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed	18	8	31	14	10	5	86
Total	531	464	125	65	155	8	1,348
Grand total (letters, postcards, and packets)	1,380	1,069	471	278	493	112	3,803

18. Post Offices and Receiving Offices and Employees.—The following tables show 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 1913 to 1917-18 inclusive :—

NUMBER OF POST AND RECEIVING OFFICES, 1901 AND 1913 TO 1918.

State.	1901.		1913.		1914.		1915-16.		1916-17.		1917-18.	
	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	2,025	571	2,049	574	2,074	566	2,040	548	2,031	548
Victoria	1,637	18	1,749	883	1,815	871	1,787	872	1,782	856	1,726	878
Queensland(a) ..	411	823	614	772	629	728	642	680	643	685	643	659
South Australia(b)	699	..	672	124	680	131	730	105	705	125	670	143
Western Australia	187	..28	398	146	418	158	431	182	412	206	407	212
Tasmania (b) ..	376	..	395	60	400	63	409	69	398	83	396	85
Commonwealth	4,904	1,393	5,853	2,556	5,991	2,525	6,082	2,483	5,980	2,503	5,873	2,525

(a) 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. (b) The return for 1901 includes both Post Offices and Receiving Offices.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES(a) AND NUMBER OF MAIL CONTRACTORS, 1901 AND 1913 TO 1918.

State.	1901.		1913.		1914.		1915-16.		1916-17.		1917-18.	
	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.
New South Wales	5,636	984	10,823	2,376	11,131	2,512	13,166	1,899	12,902	1,915	12,884	1,972
Victoria	3,962	890	8,437	1,123	8,614	1,132	8,840	1,152	8,828	1,137	8,458	1,105
Queensland ..	2,616	..	4,134	812	4,343	813	4,051	806	4,442	801	3,959	794
South Australia	1,945	..	2,364	382	2,432	307	2,816	348	2,942	352	2,862	368
Western Australia	1,303	140	2,444	355	2,327	351	2,558	284	2,693	279	2,468	271
Tasmania ..	865	..	1,141	294	1,176	281	1,275	224	1,313	221	1,326	250
Commonwealth	16,327	2,014	29,343	5,342	30,023	5,896	32,706	4,713	33,118	4,705	31,957	4,760

(a) The figures in this table are exclusive of casual and exempt officers employed intermittently.

19. Gross Revenue of Postal Department.—The following table shows the gross revenue of the Postal Department for the years ended 30th June, 1902 and 1913 to 1918 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. The following figures and also those for expenditure are supplied by the Treasury and represent the actual collections and payments for the periods mentioned :—

GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1901-2 AND 1912-13 TO 1917-18.

Year ended 30th June—	Postal Branch.	Telegraph Branch.	Telephone Branch.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1902	1,743,662	(a) 629,199	(b)	2,372,861
1913	2,553,995	811,592	860,726	4,226,313
1914	2,680,944	834,316	996,047	4,511,307
1915	2,616,887	878,238	1,099,417	4,594,542
1916	2,938,837	893,904	1,220,855	5,053,596
1917	2,997,714	950,842	1,549,961	5,498,517
1918	2,992,559	1,031,885	1,731,278	5,755,722

(a) Including telephone revenue. (b) Included in telegraph revenue.

The following table gives an analysis of the actual collections of the Postal Department in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year ended 30th June, 1918 :—

ANALYSIS OF GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1917-18.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Postage	1,028,649	750,878	376,406	225,380	150,274	92,447	2,624,034
Telegraphs	358,258	203,646	175,553	176,392	87,101	30,935	1,031,885
Telephones	706,919	474,328	251,496	152,230	99,140	47,165	1,731,278
Money order commission	55,635	27,941	19,165	9,118	11,330	5,218	128,407
Poundage on postal notes							
Private boxes and bags	13,581	6,340	7,174	3,938	2,473	1,414	34,920
Miscellaneous	64,809	53,880	26,413	17,778	31,007	11,311	205,198
Total	2,227,851	1,517,013	856,207	584,836	381,325	188,490	5,755,722

20. **Expenditure in respect of the Postal Department.**—The subjoined table represents the actual payments made as shewn by records kept for Treasury purposes in respect of the Postal Department in the Commonwealth for each of the years ended 30th June, 1902 and 1913 to 1918 inclusive. The figures given include certain items of expenditure, such as rent, repairs and maintenance of buildings, fittings and furniture, sanitation, water supply, new buildings and additions which are under the control of the Department of Home Affairs, and interest on transferred properties.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1901-2 AND 1912-13 TO 1917-18.

Year	1901-2.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
Expenditure	£ 2,478,796	6,435,039	6,597,123	6,315,744	6,366,431	5,879,768	5,678,145

The following table shews, as far as possible, the distribution of expenditure on various items in each State during the year ended 30th June, 1918. The table is not to be regarded as a statement of the working expenses of the Department, since items relating to new works, interest, etc., are included therein.

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1917-18.

Particulars.	Central Office.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries and contingencies—								
Salaries	18,889	1,078,971	683,562	344,156	230,671	222,229	81,767	2,660,245
Conveyance of mails		378,425	194,242	199,424	80,657	78,860	42,418	974,026
Contingencies	2,605	468,024	320,469	189,983	132,770	113,385	51,470	1,278,706
Cables	3,851	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,851
Ocean mails	9,808	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,808
Miscellaneous	466	6,461	4,680	2,234	1,271	482	459	16,053
Pensions and retiring allowances .. .. .	..	22,801	29,732	1,713	..	4,927	..	59,173
Rent, repairs, maintenance	95	26,974	16,377	6,752	3,380	5,446	929	59,953
Supervision of works .. ..	..	740	555	271	173	122	79	1,940
Proportion of Audit Office expenses .. .. .	..	1,055	791	386	247	173	115	2,767
Unforeseen expenditure .. ..	..	42	37	19	..	1	..	99
New works—								
Telegraph and telephone .. .. .	..	122,360	64,535	37,209	28,540	12,415	6,055	271,114
New buildings, etc. .. ..	..	13,633	11,629	295	2,151	26,137	4	53,849
Interest on transferred properties .. .. .	..	81,759	46,710	32,331	29,321	19,972	7,502	217,595
Purchase of sites .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(a) 2,808
Other .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(a) 66,158
Total	35,714	2,201,245	1,373,319	814,773	509,181	484,149	190,798	5,678,145

(a) Particulars of apportionment to each State not available.

21. **Balance Sheet of the Postmaster-General's Department.**—The first complete balance sheet and profit and loss account of the Postmaster-General's Department was presented in November, 1913, for the year ending 30th June, 1913. The balance sheet for the year 1917-18 as shown hereunder discloses the fact that the working of the Postmaster-General's Department for that year resulted in a surplus of £964,383, after providing for depreciation, pension and retiring allowances. From this amount must be deducted £577,001 for interest on capital, leaving a profit, the first on record, of £387,382.

Tables shewing the results of the working of the Department for the years 1914-15 to 1917-18 are appended :—

GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, 1914-15 TO 1917-18.

Items.	1914-15.	1915-16.(b)	1916-17.(b)	1917-18.(b)
	£	£	£	£
Total earnings	4,620,061	5,049,569	5,515,769	5,773,954
Total working expenses	4,761,714	4,841,667	5,134,533	4,809,571
Deficit	141,653	(a)207,902	(a)381,236	(a)964,383
Interest on capital	488,069	523,892	558,382	577,001
Total deficit	629,722	315,990	177,146	(a)387,382

(a) Profit. (b) Excluding Wireless Telegraphy Branch, which was transferred to the Department of the Navy as from 1st July, 1915.

Although the revenue received in 1914-15 exceeded by £96,693 the amount received in 1913-14, the deficit on the year's working was greater than that of 1913-14 by no less than £128,266. A marked improvement was effected in 1915-16, the deficit for the twelve months being £315,990, a reduction of £313,732 as compared with the previous year. A still more satisfactory result was obtained in 1916-17 when the year's operations closed with a loss of only £177,146. All previous achievements, however, were eclipsed in 1917-18, for which period the statement of accounts, after providing for all contingencies, disclosed a profit, the first in the history of the Department, amounting to £387,382. The reasons furnished by the Department for the excess of expenditure over revenue in the years 1913-14 to 1916-17 were increases in wages and salaries, higher rates for the conveyance of inland mails, and increased prices for stores, etc., while in 1914-15 the prevailing drought and the effect of the war upon earnings were also contributing factors.

The following tables shew the yearly results of the working of the various branches, and the Department as a whole, and in each State from 1912-13 to 1917-18 :—

PROFIT OR LOSS OF THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1912-13 TO 1917-18.

Year ended 30th June—	Postal.		Telegraph.		Telephone.		All Branches.	
	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1913 .. ..	..	23,132	164,108	..	221,757	..	a407,102	..
1914 .. ..	..	24,155	151,446	..	296,424	..	b501,457	..
1915	81,296	..	114,555	..	390,704	..	c629,722	..
1916 .. ..	..	42,131	86,426	..	271,695	..	315,990	..
1917	168,896	..	25,484	..	..	17,234	177,146	..
1918 .. ..	..	237,421	..	28,116	..	121,845	..	387,382

(a) Includes wireless £11,599, pensions and interest on assets £32,770. (b) Includes wireless £35,656 pensions and interest on assets £42,086. (c) Includes wireless £43,167.

In the period of six years covered by the foregoing table it will be observed that the operations of the Postal branch closed with a profit in each of the years 1913, 1914, 1916, and 1918, the Telephone branch in 1917 and 1918, and the Telegraph branch for the first time in 1918.

**PROFIT OR LOSS OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT IN THE VARIOUS STATES,
1914-15 TO 1917-18.**

State.	1914-15.	1915-16.		1916-17.		1917-18.	
	Loss.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	238,612	170,800	..	102,434	..	..	140,354
Victoria ..	32,555	..	59,412	..	86,330	..	177,805
Queensland ..	97,480	68,594	..	33,037	..	..	68,929
South Australia ..	7,226	..	34,446	..	31,969	..	104,868
Western Australia	224,065	154,874	..	146,909	..	102,409	..
Tasmania ..	29,784	15,580	..	13,065	..	2,165	..
Commonwealth	629,722	409,848	93,858	295,445	118,299	104,574	491,956

22. **Royal Commission on Postal Services.**—In 1908 a Royal Commission was appointed to report on the Postal, Telegraphic, and Telephonic services of the Commonwealth. An account of the work done by the Commission will be found in earlier issues of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 6, p. 766.)

§ 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, 22 miles in length, was opened. In Tasmania the first telegraph line was completed in 1857, while in the following year communication was established between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. The first lines to be constructed in Queensland were those between Brisbane and Warwick, and Brisbane and Lytton, distances of 169 and 12 miles respectively. These lines were working in 1861. In Western Australia the first telegraph constructed was from Perth to Fremantle, a distance of 12 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, making the total length of the line open at the end of the year 1881, 25,470 miles. At the present time the systems of telegraph lines throughout Australia are well developed. The longest line extends from Thursday Island, in Torres Strait, 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 Australia 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 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 Urundangi, 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 runs in a northerly direction to 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.—The following table shews the number of telegraph offices and the length of telegraph lines and of telegraph wire available for use in the Commonwealth from 1915 to 1918 inclusive. It will be noticed that 74,682 miles of wire are available for both telegraph and telephone purposes :—

**NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES AND LENGTH OF LINE AVAILABLE
FOR USE, 1915 TO 1918.**

Particulars.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Number of offices	5,812	6,119	6,189	6,196
Length of wire (miles)—				
Telegraph purposes only	71,680	62,224	62,804	62,981
Telegraph and telephone purposes	60,061	71,267	73,663	74,682
Length of line (miles)—				
Conductors in Morse cable	2,883	2,959	3,232	3,254
Conductors in submarine cable	1,080	1,196	1,680	1,708
Pole routes	57,424	58,889	59,706	59,849

The following table gives corresponding particulars for each State for the year 1917-18 :—

**NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES, LENGTH OF LINE AND WIRE, IN
EACH STATE, 1917-18.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Number of offices	2,237	1,695	810	524	493	437	6,196
Length of wire (miles)—							
Telegraph purposes only	21,413	5,634	14,889	11,999	8,910	136	62,981
Telegraph and telephone purposes	28,963	15,934	12,446	5,389	6,823	5,127	74,682
Length of line (miles)—							
Conductors in Morse cable	695	2,108	416	..	21	14	3,254
Conductors in submarine cable	1,089	437	66	67	..	49	1,708
Pole routes	23,257	7,199	11,888	6,594	8,313	2,598	59,849

4. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—Particulars as to the revenue from the telegraph systems for the years 1902 and 1913 to 1918 are given on page 727.

5. **Number of Telegrams Despatched.**—The following table shows the total number of telegrams despatched to destinations within the Commonwealth in 1901 and in each of the years 1912 to 1917-18 inclusive :—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED (,000 OMITTED), 1901 AND 1912 TO 1918.

Year	1901.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
Number (a) ..	8,003	13,343	13,556	13,918	13,939	14,089	14,634

(a) Including interstate cablegrams.

The following table shows the number of telegrams despatched in each State in 1917-18 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 for places outside the Commonwealth—despatched in each State :—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED IN EACH STATE, 1917-18 (,000 OMITTED).

State, etc. ..	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
Inland	4,035	2,296	1,959	893	1,262	365	10,810
Interstate (a) ..	1,181	1,099	573	426	358	187	3,824
Total	5,216	3,395	2,532	1,319	1,620	552	14,634

(a) Including interstate cablegrams.

6. **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.

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 lodged for "urgent" transmission.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR PRESS TELEGRAMS.

Particulars.	Within any State.	Interstate.	Relating to Parli- amentary, Executive, Departmental, and other Common- wealth Proceedings as may be prescribed.(a).
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Not exceeding 25 words	0 6	1 0	1 0
From 26 to 50 words	0 9	1 6	1 6
From 51 to 100 words	1 6	3 0	
Every additional 50 words	0 6	1 0	0 6

(a) Within the Commonwealth.

7. **Letter-telegrams.**—Commencing in February, 1914, the Postal Department instituted a system of letter-telegrams between all telegraph offices which are open between 7 p.m. and midnight. The letter telegrams are forwarded during the night by telegraph to the office of destination and are delivered as ordinary letters by the first letter delivery, or are despatched by mail to the address in the ordinary way. The rates charged throughout the Commonwealth are one shilling for the first 40 words, and one halfpenny for each additional word, double these rates being charged on Sundays. At the end of 1918 the service applied to 102 offices throughout the Commonwealth.

8. **Wireless Telegraphy.**—The information dealing with wireless telegraphy, which appeared in earlier issues of the Year Book, has, for the present, been discontinued.

§ 3. Submarine Cables.

1. **First Cable Communication with the Old World.**—In earlier issues of the Year Book will be found a detailed account of the connection of Australia with the old world by means of submarine cables. (See No. 6, p. 770.)

2. **The Tasmania-Victoria Cables.**—A submarine cable joining Tasmania to the continent of Australia was opened 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 new cables were taken over on the 24th March, 1909, and opened to the public on the 1st May, 1909, the day following the expiration of the agreement with the Eastern Extension Company. 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 was £52,447.

3. The Eastern Extension Company's Cables.—In addition to the first Victoria-Tasmania cable and the original cable from Darwin (see Year Book No. 6, p. 770), the Eastern Extension Company has constructed 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, and remained in operation until 1914, in which year it was taken up. (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). (f) In 1909 a cable was laid from Java to Cocos Island, thus affording another route from Australia to South Africa, whilst in April, 1911, a radio-telegraphic station was opened at Cocos Island, thus strengthening the line of communication between Australia and the East.

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 on the 31st October, 1902, and opened for traffic on the 7th December of the same year. There are cable stations at Norfolk Island, Fiji, and Fanning Island, and a branch cable runs from Norfolk Island to New Zealand. In 1910 the Board leased a wire from Bamfield, British Columbia, to Montreal, thus extending the Pacific cable system from Queensland to Montreal. The traffic is then carried across the Atlantic to the United Kingdom by the cables of the Anglo-American and Commercial Companies. The receipts for the year ended 31st March, 1918, after providing for working expenses, interest, sinking fund, etc., shewed a surplus of £25,393, of which the Commonwealth's share is £8,464. The excess of receipts over expenditure for the financial year ended 31st March, 1918, was greater by £21,162 than for the previous year. The comparison would be much more in favour of 1918 but for the fact that the amount contributed to the renewal fund was £137,000 as against £90,000 in 1917. It is recognised that the expenditure on renewals, etc., must continue to be much greater than before the war. As in the two previous years, the surplus must be applied in reduction of the outstanding balance of the original loan of £2,000,000 in accordance with the Pacific Cable Act of 1901. The following table shews particulars of the revenue, expenditure, total profit or loss, and the proportion of the loss payable by the Commonwealth for the financial years 1903 and 1911-15, and the proportion of profit credited to the Commonwealth for the years 1916-18.

**REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, AND PROFIT OR LOSS ON WORKING OF PACIFIC
CABLE, 1903 AND 1911 TO 1918.**

Year ended the 31st March—	Revenue.	Expenditure (including Annuities and Renewal Fund).	Profit or Loss.	Commonwealth Proportion of Loss, or Profit.(a)
	£	£	£	£
1903 ..	..	..	Loss 90,518	Loss 30,514
1911 ..	138,678	186,888	.. 48,210	.. 16,071
1912 ..	159,150	199,649	.. 40,499	.. 13,500
1913 ..	167,901	200,171	.. 32,270	.. 10,757
1914 ..	197,848	217,798	.. 19,950	.. 6,650
1915 ..	225,045	232,961	.. 7,916	.. 2,638
1916 ..	310,516	292,592	Profit 17,924	Profit 5,975
1917 ..	336,774	332,543	.. 4,231	.. 1,410
1918 ..	411,061	385,668	.. 25,393	.. 8,464

(a) To 30th June in each year.

5. **New Zealand Cables.**—A submarine cable joining New Zealand to the Australian Continent was laid in 1876. The line is 1,191 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. During 1911 a scheme to lay a second cable between New Zealand and Australia (Auckland to Sydney) was adopted by the various Governments concerned, and the laying of the new cable was completed on the 24th December, 1912, the cable being opened for traffic on the 31st December, 1912.

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 £8,000, and by the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland to the amount of £2,000 each annually for a period of 30 years. The cable was opened for use in October, 1893, the Australian shore-end being at Burnett Heads, near Bundaberg. The guarantees of the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland have now been transferred to the Commonwealth Government.

7. **Number of Cablegrams Received and Despatched.**—The subjoined table shows the number of cablegrams received and despatched in the Commonwealth from 1915–16 to 1917–18 :—

**CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED, COMMONWEALTH,
1915–16 TO 1917–18.**

Particulars	Cablegrams Received.			Cablegrams Despatched.			Total Cablegrams Received and Despatched.		
	1915–16.	1916–17.	1917–18.	1915–16.	1916–17.	1917–18.	1915–16.	1916–17.	1917–18.
Number ..	437,151	533,055	522,746	387,402	392,381	407,293	824,553	925,436	930,039

The following table shows the total number of cablegrams received and despatched in each State during the year 1917-18. 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,
1917-18.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.(a)	C'wealth.
Number received ..	251,919	169,047	35,818	30,692	23,052	12,218	522,746
Number despatched	192,467	137,758	25,813	21,331	22,045	7,879	407,293
Total ..	444,386	306,805	61,631	52,023	45,097	20,097	930,039

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

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

LENGTHS OF CABLE ROUTES.

<i>Via Darwin.</i>		<i>Via South Africa.</i>	
	Miles.		Miles.
Adelaide to Darwin ..	2,134	Perth to Mauritius ..	4,417
Darwin to Banjoewangle ..	1,150	Mauritius to Durban ..	1,786
Banjoewangle 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 ..	13,125	Total ..	14,319
<i>Via Vancouver.</i>		<i>Via Russia.</i>	
	Miles.		Miles.
Southport (Queensland) to Norfolk Island ..	963	Sydney to Darwin ..	2,992
Norfolk Island to Suva (Fiji) ..	1,129	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. In 1886 the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company reduced the rate 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. In 1893, however, owing to the heavy losses incurred, the rate for ordinary messages was increased to four shillings and ninepence per word, and at the same time New Zealand joined in 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 for all routes for cablegrams to Great Britain has since remained. The scale for future reductions was to be based on a revenue standard and provided that the rate should be reduced to two shillings and sixpence per word, when the revenue averaged £330,000 per annum. In consequence of the abnormal conditions created by the war, which involved a large increase in expenditure, this provision has been abrogated, but its restoration is anticipated with a return to normal conditions. In September, 1912, the "through" charge for press cables was reduced from ninepence to sevenpence-halfpenny per word.

(ii) *Deferred Cablegrams.* With a view to affording additional cable facilities and to keeping the Pacific cable fully occupied during the whole 24 hours, proposals were made by the Postmaster-General's Department for the adoption of a system of deferred cablegrams. A meeting of representatives of the administrations and companies concerned was held in London in November, 1910, and the new rates came into force on the 1st January, 1912. Under this system a reduction of 50 per cent. in the charges is made, providing the message is written in plain language, and conveys no other meaning than that which appears on the face of it. Messages can only be transmitted after non-urgent private cablegrams and press cablegrams. Those which have not reached their destination within a period of 24 hours from the time of handing in are transmitted in turn with cablegrams charged full rate. They may be sent *via* the Pacific or Eastern routes to all countries to which the ordinary rate exceeds tenpence per word. The arrangement, previous to the war, extended to some 60 countries, and became very popular. In 1917–18, 6,000,531 words were transmitted to and from Australia, the Commonwealth revenue from this source amounting to £62,970, a slight decrease on the figures for 1916–17, but this decrease was due entirely to the suspension of the service for a considerable part of the year by the Pacific Cable Board. This service, together with that of the week-end cable letters, has affected the ordinary cable business to a large extent. Deferred press cablegrams, subject to a delay of eighteen hours, may be exchanged between the Commonwealth and the United Kingdom at the rate of fourpence halfpenny per word, and between the Commonwealth and Vancouver at the rate of one penny three farthings per word. Since the commencement of the war, it has been found necessary on several occasions, owing partly to the interruption to the Pacific cable from September to November, 1914, and partly to the pressure of other cable matter, to temporarily suspend the operation of the deferred cablegram service, as well as that of the week-end cable messages.

(iii) *Week-end Cable Letters.* The service of the week-end cable letters between the Commonwealth and the United Kingdom was introduced on the 4th January, 1913. Under this arrangement, messages written in plain language might be lodged at any post office in the Commonwealth or the United Kingdom in time to reach the forwarding cable office by post or telegraph by midnight on Saturday. The messages, which were deliverable by post on Tuesday morning, were charged at the rate of ninepence per word, plus ordinary telegraph rates if required to be forwarded by land telegraph in either the country of despatch or destination.

The system has since been extended to apply to messages between the Commonwealth and the Union of South Africa, India, Ceylon, Burma, Canada, Portugal, and Newfoundland. A further benefit has been conferred on users, as week-end cables to the countries enumerated may now be transmitted by telegraph throughout without extra charge. The rates to these countries and to the United Kingdom are shewn hereunder :—

RATES FOR WEEK-END CABLE LETTERS.

Country.	Rate per Word.	Minimum Charge per Telegram.
United Kingdom	9d.	15/-
Union of South Africa	7d. (plus $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for those lodged in Tasmania)	11/8
India, Ceylon, and Burma	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	12/6
Canada (ordinary rate 2s. 4d.)	7d.	11/8
Other parts of Canada	8d. to 10d.	12/11 to 16/8
Newfoundland	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	13/9
Portugal	9d.	15/-

Week-end cable letters may also be sent to the United Kingdom or Canada for transmission by registered post to other countries at an extra charge of 5d. per message. As in the case of deferred cablegrams, the pressure on the cables during the war has, on several occasions, necessitated the temporary suspension of this service.

(iv) *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 granted a total subsidy of £6,000, extending over a period of three years, to the Independent Press Cable Service, on the conditions that at least 6,000 cable words were supplied each week, to be sent *via* Pacific, and that any newspaper proprietary in the Commonwealth was permitted to become a subscriber at rates approved by the Government. This terminated on the 1st July, 1912, and a new arrangement was entered into under which the Commonwealth agrees to grant a subsidy of £2,000 per annum, providing that not less than 26,000 words are sent each month. This agreement has been extended for a period of three years from 1st October, 1916, with an annual grant of £1,500.

11. *Cable Subsidies Paid.*—The agreement between the State Governments and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company expired on the 30th April, 1900. From the year 1895 onwards the amounts guaranteed—£237,736 to the company and £37,552 to South Australia—were met by the receipts.

The following table shews the total amounts paid by way of cable subsidies for the years 1911-12 to 1917-18 :—

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CABLE SUBSIDIES PAID, 1911-12 TO 1917-18.

Year	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
Amount	£ 17,522	14,779	10,650	6,638	4,860	3,929	3,851

As the agreement in connection with the Tasmanian cable expired in 1909, and as new cables were laid by the Commonwealth Government, the guarantees were, in the course of the year 1910, reduced to those in connection with the New Caledonia and Pacific cables. The amount of cable subsidies paid by the Commonwealth in 1917-18 was £3,851 in respect of the New Caledonian cable guarantee.

§ 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 for the years 1902 and 1913-18 are given on page 727 *ante*.

2. **Telephone Rates.**—On the 10th December, 1915, revised charges for telephone services came into operation. Under the new scale, ground-rent for telephones is calculated on the number of subscribers connected with the exchange or network, instead of being based on the total population residing within the telephone network, as formerly. The smallest and greatest rental charges remain the same as under the old system, but between these a more gradual scale was introduced. Previously the charge for calls made by a subscriber was at the rate of two calls for one penny up to 2,000 calls per half-year; above that number, three calls for one penny. This charge was increased to one penny per call, without any progressive reduction. At the same time, the public telephone charge per call was increased from one penny to twopence. The charges mentioned in the table hereunder are payable for the different classes of telephone services specified therein :—

TELEPHONES.—RENTAL CHARGES, 30th JUNE, 1918.

Exchanges or Networks with Subscribers' Lines Connected, as shewn hereunder.	Radius of Network with Main Exchange as Centre.	Annual Ground Rent, within Two-mile Radius.		
		For an Exclusive Service.	For each Subscriber or Instrument on a Two-party Service.	For each Subscriber or Instrument on a Three or more party Service.
	Miles.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From 1 to 300	5	3 0 0	2 10 0	2 0 0
„ 301 to 600	5	3 5 0	2 10 0	2 0 0
„ 601 to 1,500	5	3 10 0	2 15 0	2 5 0
„ 1,501 to 4,000	10	3 15 0	3 0 0	2 10 0
4,001 and upwards	10	4 0 0	3 0 0	2 10 0

It is provided that for each effective call originating from a subscriber's instrument the charge shall be one penny.

3. Particulars of Telephone Services.—On 30th June, 1918, there were in the Commonwealth 147,509 telephone lines connected to 2,178 exchanges, as compared with 137,652 lines connected to 2,044 exchanges a year previously. The following tables show the mileage of lines, etc., for telephone purposes, shewing trunk lines separately, on 30th June, 1917 and 1918 :—

MILEAGE OF LINES, ETC., FOR TELEPHONE PURPOSES (EXCLUSIVE OF TRUNK LINES), 1917 AND 1918.

Particulars.	1917.	1918.
Conduits duct miles	2,297	2,433
Conductors in aerial cables loop mileage	40,306	38,747
Conductors in underground cables "	194,029	200,277
Conductors in cables for junction circuits "	23,673	25,117
Open conductors single wire mileage	169,383	177,185

MILEAGE OF WIRES, TELEPHONE TRUNK LINES, 1917 AND 1918.

Particulars.	1917.	1918.
Telephone trunk lines only Miles.	27,055	27,858
Telegraph and telephone purposes Miles.	73,663	74,682

Particulars relating to the telephone service in each State will be found in the following table :—

PARTICULARS OF TELEPHONE SERVICE, 1905, 1917, AND 1918.

Particulars.	Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total C'wealth.
No. of Exchanges ..	1905	64	23	19	11	16	16	149
	1917	765	622	256	189	111	101	2,044
	1918	825	662	270	196	111	114	2,178
No. of lines connected ..	1905	14,338	9,269	3,864	2,335	(a)3,462	1,523	(a) 34,791
	1917	57,553	38,025	18,562	10,742	8,470	4,300	137,652
	1918	62,123	40,754	19,923	11,598	8,574	4,537	147,509
No. of instruments connected	1905	18,616	14,299	4,235	3,246	(a)4,857	1,751	(a) 47,004
	1917	72,884	51,820	22,616	14,521	10,760	5,136	177,737
	1918	78,886	55,839	24,421	15,780	10,995	5,454	191,375
No. of subscribers' instruments	1917	70,058	49,358	21,474	13,916	10,135	5,000	169,941
	1918	75,793	53,320	23,216	15,125	10,338	5,272	183,064
No. of public telephones ..	1917	1,421	1,278	748	402	328	106	4,233
	1918	1,521	1,321	793	421	329	74	4,459
No. of other local instruments	1917	1,405	1,184	394	203	297	30	3,513
	1918	1,572	1,198	412	234	323	103	3,852
Instruments per 100 of population	1905	1.3	1.2	.8	.9	1.9	.9	1.2
	1917	3.9	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.5	2.6	3.6
	1918	4.2	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.5	2.7	3.9
Earnings		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	1917	648,850	447,120	231,180	137,579	94,219	44,159	1,603,107
1918	715,566	479,684	257,226	152,496	99,905	47,692	1,752,569	
Working expenses ..	1917	538,832	317,026	166,525	84,436	101,020	38,987	1,246,826
	1918	536,741	330,587	168,238	99,987	98,648	40,853	1,275,054
Percentage of working expenses to earnings	1917	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
	1918	83.04	70.90	72.03	61.37	107.22	88.29	77.78
		75.01	68.92	65.40	65.57	98.74	85.66	72.75

Note.—For 1905 the figures are shewn as on 31st December, and for the subsequent years on 30th June (the close of the financial year). (a) Approximate.

The subjoined table gives the number of subscribers' lines and the daily calling rate at Central, Suburban, and Country telephone exchanges in the several States for the year 1917-18. Taking each class separately, New South Wales shows the highest average of central exchanges with 11.42 outward calls for each line, Western Australia of suburban exchanges with 5.01 calls, and Queensland of country exchanges with 2.92 calls. Queensland also ranks highest in the case of all lines, with an average of 4.58 calls.

NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS' LINES AND DAILY CALLING RATE AT TELEPHONE EXCHANGES, 1917-1918.

State.	Central Exchanges.		Suburban Exchanges.		Country Exchanges.		Total.	
	Subscribers' Lines.	Average Outward Calls Daily per line.	Subscribers' Lines.	Average Outward Calls Daily per line.	Subscribers' Lines.	Average Outward Calls Daily per line.	Subscribers' Lines.	Average Outward Calls Daily per line.
New South Wales	9,444	11.42	27,372	4.36	25,307	1.73	62,123	4.36
Victoria ..	10,399	8.67	17,054	4.10	13,226	1.71	40,679	4.49
Queensland ..	5,366	8.73	2,511	3.69	12,046	2.92	19,923	4.58
South Australia...	6,375	4.64	1,772	5.00	3,312	.92	11,459	3.62
Western Australia	3,047	6.37	1,826	5.01	3,177	2.20	8,050	4.42
Tasmania ..	1,753	4.70	200	2.75	2,337	2.05	4,290	3.17
Commonwealth	36,384	8.30	50,735	4.28	59,405	1.96	146,524	4.34