

## 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.)

In previous issues of the Year Book will be found 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 on the mainland and Tasmania totalled 4463, of which 1384 were situated in New South Wales, 1729 in Victoria, 307 in Queensland, 629 in South Australia, 86 in Western Australia, and 328 in Tasmania.

On the 30th June, 1916, the postal business had increased to such an extent that 6082 post offices were open for business, of which number 2074 were situated in New South Wales, 1787 in Victoria, 642 in Queensland, 739 in South Australia, 431 in Western Australia, and 409 in Tasmania.

3. **State, Interstate, and Oversea Postages for whole Commonwealth.**—In the following table the matter dealt with is divided into (i.) matter posted in the Commonwealth for delivery within the Commonwealth, (ii.) matter received from places outside the Commonwealth, (iii.) matter despatched to places outside the Commonwealth, and (iv.) total postal matter dealt with by the Commonwealth Postal Department from 1910 to 1915-16, but excluding interstate excess.

**STATE, INTERSTATE, AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR WHOLE COMMONWEALTH,  
1910 to 1915-16.**

Year.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers.	* Packets.	Parcels.
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**POSTED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH (,000 OMITTED).**

1910	363,893	118,674	76,991	2,956
1911	416,353	122,020	70,975	3,205
1912	431,996	122,373	60,439	3,583
1913	449,928	115,662	62,731	3,976
1914	467,114	122,534	59,989	4,163
1915-16	461,167	128,928	51,498	4,366

**OVERSEA RECEIVED (,000 OMITTED).**

1910	15,729	10,042	3,852	119
1911	19,445	11,691	4,568	142
1912	24,266	13,565	5,275	196
1913	37,986	13,043	4,424	213
1914	30,952	11,068	2,316	191
1915-16	32,292	8,603	2,115	220

**OVERSEA DESPATCHED (,000 OMITTED).**

1910	13,039	6,003	3,076	79
1911	17,265	7,926	3,120	83
1912	24,146	9,364	3,357	89
1913	30,569	10,658	4,131	108
1914	26,724	7,517	2,227	86
1915-16	33,668	10,011	2,955	466

**TOTAL POSTAL MATTER DEALT WITH BY THE COMMONWEALTH POSTAL DEPARTMENT, BUT EXCLUDING INTERSTATE EXCESS (,000 OMITTED).**

1910	392,351	132,415	83,599	3,155
1911	453,975	139,603	79,017	3,419
1912	479,677	138,170	70,609	3,764
1913	520,518	136,195	69,771	4,286
1914	524,483	136,670	62,634	4,436
1915-16	526,777	143,472	55,563	5,104

4. **State, Interstate, and Oversea Postages for each State.**—The following table shews separately for each State the postage matter dealt with in 1915-16 under the same classification adopted in the preceding paragraph :—

**STATE, INTERSTATE, AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR EACH STATE, 1915-16.**

State.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers.	Packets.	Parcels.
POSTED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN COMMONWEALTH (,000 OMITTED).				
New South Wales ...	175,550	60,893	30,115	2,154
Victoria ...	149,346	29,234	8,631	838
Queensland ...	52,807	20,263	6,279	830
South Australia ...	36,119	7,209	3,228	250
Western Australia ...	27,643	4,503	2,192	221
Tasmania ...	19,702	6,826	1,053	73
Commonwealth...	461,167	128,928	51,498	4,366

OVERSEA RECEIVED (,000 OMITTED).

New South Wales ...	12,719	2,931	633	76
Victoria ...	10,428	2,371	552	60
Queensland ...	3,184	1,402	425	37
South Australia ...	2,626	581	113	17
Western Australia ...	2,635	923	216	23
Tasmania ...	700	395	176	7
Commonwealth...	32,292	8,603	2,115	220

OVERSEA DESPATCHED (,000 OMITTED).

New South Wales ...	11,307	3,336	1,554	155
Victoria ...	13,855	3,955	922	146
Queensland ...	2,772	1,095	146	38
South Australia ...	2,312	753	82	64
Western Australia ...	2,332	619	190	43
Tasmania ...	1,090	253	61	20
Commonwealth...	33,668	10,011	2,955	466

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 1915-16. It will be observed that the most sparsely populated States have the greatest number of offices in comparison with their population, but in order to judge the relative extension of postal facilities the area of country to each office must also be taken into account. 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.

**SQUARE MILES OF TERRITORY AND NUMBER OF INHABITANTS TO EACH POST  
AND RECEIVING OFFICE ON 30th JUNE, 1916.**

State.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
Number of post and receiving offices...	2,640	2,659	1,331	844	613	478	8,565.
Number of square miles of territory to each post office in State ...	118	33	504	1,071	1,592	55	347
Number of inhabitants to each office...	704	529	516	519	513	413	572
Number of inhabitants per 100 sq. miles	599	1,600	103	49	32	753	165

\* Including Federal Territory.

† 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 inland letters, 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.

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 :—

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

Postal Articles.	Rates of Postage.
LETTERS ... ..	1d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
LETTER-CARDS ... ..	{ Single, 1d. each. Reply, 1d. each half.
POST CARDS ... ..	{ Single, 1d. each. Reply, 1d. each half.
PRINTED PAPERS AS PRESCRIBED ... ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 2 ounces or part of 2 ounces.
BOOKS PRINTED OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA ... ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 ounces or part of 4 ounces.
BOOKS PRINTED IN AUSTRALIA ... ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 8 ounces or part of 8 ounces.
MAGAZINES.—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 newspaper proprietors, or by newsvendors, or returned by an agent or newsvendor to the publishing office ... ..	1d. per 20 ounces on the aggregate weight of newspapers.
NEWSPAPERS.—Printed outside Australia ... ..	Magazine rates.
ALL OTHER NEWSPAPERS ... ..	For each newspaper, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 10 ounces or part of 10 ounces.

Whilst the bookkeeping sections of the Constitution Act (see section XIX., § 1, hereinafter) were in force, each State had necessarily to use its own postage stamps, and stamps sold in one State were only allowed to be used on letters posted in that State. The necessity for this arrangement disappeared with the change in the keeping of the Commonwealth accounts, and since the 14th October, 1910, stamps of any State can be affixed to letters, irrespective of the State in which they are posted. 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 is now uniformly one penny per half-ounce throughout the Commonwealth; 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.

(ii.) *Newspapers.* The different rates charged for the carriage of newspapers in the various States, prior to Federation, continued after the control of the Postal Departments had been taken over by the Commonwealth, until the 1st November, 1902, when a uniform rate was imposed by the Post and Telegraph Rates Act 1902. At present the rates on all newspapers posted for delivery in the Commonwealth (without condition as to the number contained in each addressed wrapper posted) by registered newspaper proprietors, or by newsvendors, or returned by newsvendor or agent to the publishing office, is one penny per twenty ounces on the aggregate weight. On all other registered newspapers posted within the Commonwealth for delivery therein, the charge is a halfpenny per ten ounces for each newspaper. At the end of the year 1915 there were in all 1943 publications registered in the Commonwealth under section 29 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 for transmission by post as newspapers. The charge on postage of registered newspapers for transmission to the United Kingdom is one penny for each newspaper not exceeding eight ounces in weight by the ordinary route, and one penny for each newspaper not exceeding sixteen ounces in weight by the All-Sea route. To other parts of the world the rate is one penny up to four ounces, and a halfpenny for every additional two ounces. Newspapers which are not registered are charged at the same rates as other printed papers.

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

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

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.

*Number of Registered Articles Posted.* The subjoined table shews the number of registered articles posted in each State during the year 1915-16, classified according to the places to which they were despatched for delivery:—

### NUMBER OF REGISTERED ARTICLES POSTED DURING 1915-16.

(,000 OMITTED.)

State.	Posted in each State for Delivery within that State.	Posted in each State for Delivery in other States.	Posted in each State for Delivery in Places outside the C'wealth.	Total.
New South Wales ...	1,365	189	143	1,697
Victoria ...	986	149	90	1,225
Queensland ...	549	83	40	672
South Australia ...	252	39	18	309
Western Australia ...	351	35	35	421
Tasmania ...	138	29	8	175
Commonwealth ...	3,641	524	334	4,499

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

(ii.) *Route via Suez Canal.* The establishment of a mail route *via* America had the effect of stimulating the steamship owners who were engaged in the service *via* Suez, and from that time there was a marked improvement in the steamers, as well as in the punctuality and speed with which the mails were delivered. The Peninsular and Oriental Company, and, at a little later date, the Orient-Pacific Company, have carried mails to and from Australia almost since the inception of ocean steam services. 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. Mails are still carried from Australia by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, but are carried at Postal Union rates and not under contract with the Commonwealth. On the 25th April, 1905, the Orient-Pacific Company concluded a new contract with the Commonwealth Government for a fortnightly service between England and Australia. The subsidy was at the rate of £124,880 per annum. This contract has now been replaced by the 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-Pacific Companies' steamers sail, as far as possible, alternately every week, both from London and Australia, conveying the outward and homeward mails. This service has to some extent been disorganised since the outbreak of war in August, 1914. The steamers of the Orient Steam Navigation Company have for some time travelled *via* South Africa instead of through Suez Canal.

(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 have been specially built, and which are 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 latter vessel to the mail fleet. The vessels are to call at Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, and at least six of them at Hobart, during the months of February to May inclusive. The voyage from Taranto to Adelaide is to be completed within twenty-six days fourteen hours, and from Adelaide to Taranto within twenty-seven days two hours, but the latter period may be exceeded by thirty-six hours during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon. The amount of the subsidy is fixed at £170,000 per annum; but, if the earnings of the company be decreased, or the expenses increased, by reason of any Commonwealth shipping legislation passed subsequently to the date of the agreement, to the extent of not less than £5000 a year, the contractors have the right to terminate the agreement unless the subsidy is increased. Insulated space of not less than 2000 tons of forty cubic feet is to be provided in each of the new vessels, and the freights are not to exceed one halfpenny per lb. for butter and sixty shillings per ton for fruit. White labour only is to be employed, and no discrimination is to be made between unionists and non-unionists. If before or during the sixth year of the period of the contract an accelerated service is provided by any competing line of mail ships, the contractors must, if so required by the Postmaster-General, provide a service equal to the

competing service, at an increased subsidy, to be determined by agreement or arbitration. The Commonwealth flag must be flown on the mail ships, which the Commonwealth has the right to purchase at a valuation at any time. Within six months of the Postmaster-General establishing a permanent wireless telegraphy station at Rottnest Island, or at any point on the coast between Fremantle and Brisbane, the company must fit the mail ships with wireless telegraphy installations. The new service was inaugurated on the 11th February, 1910.

(b) *French and German Subsidised Mail Services.* Vessels belonging to the Messageries Maritimes and the Norddeutscher Lloyd, which 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, interrupted by 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, 1917.

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
1. <i>To and from Europe, via Suez—</i>			
(a) Peninsular and Oriental* ...	Fortnightly	Adelaide, Fremantle and London, <i>via</i> Brindisi and Marseilles	Subsidised by Imperial Govt. Mails from Aust. at Postal Union rates.
(b) Orient Steam Navigation Co.† ...	..	Adelaide, Fremantle & London, <i>via</i> Taranto	Subsidised. Date of agreement, 15th Nov., 1907. Term, from Feb., 1910. Amt. of subsidy, £170,000.

\* Mails carried also to India *via* Colombo. † Owing to the war, the steamers of this company temporarily travel *via* Capetown instead of Suez Canal.



## 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</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 Poundage 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 Shaw, Savill and Albion Co. & N.Z. Shipping Co.	Fortnightly	Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, and Wellington	Poundage rates.
(b) Conjointly by Union S.S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Ltd.	Bi-weekly	Sydney and Wellington, Sydney and Auckland	.. ..
(c) Other Steamers ...	Irregularly, when convenient	Sydney, Wellington, Auckland, and Lyttelton	.. ..
5. <i>To and from ports in N.S. Wales</i> —			
(i.) NORTHERN PORTS— (a) North Coast S.N. Co. ...	Weekly	Sydney, Manning River, Macleay, Nambucca, Bellinger Rivers.	.. ..
	Twice weekly	Coff's Harbour, Clarence River, Byron Bay, and Richmond River	.. ..
(b) Cain's Co-Operative S.S. Co. ...	Six times a month	Sydney & Port Macquarie	.. ..
(ii.) SOUTH COAST PORTS— Illawarra and S. Coast S.N. Co. ...	Twice weekly	Sydney, Eden, Bega and Tathra	.. ..
6. <i>To and from Northern Ports of Qld.</i> —			
(a) Australian Steamships Limited	Weekly	Gladstone, Mackay, Bowen, Townsville, Cairns, Cardwell, Mourilyan, Innisfail, Pt. Douglas & Cooktown	Subsidised by agreement dated 5th Dec., 1914, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £17,950.
(b) Australian United Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.	Once every three weeks	Brisbane, Normanton & Burketown, via Townsville, Cooktown, and Thursday Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 16th Jan., 1915, for five years. Amount of subsidy, £6500. Subsidies under 6 (a) and (b) paid by Queensland.
(c) Other steamers ...	Irregularly	Various... ..	Poundage rates.
7. <i>To and from Ports in S. Australia</i> —			
(a) Coast Steamship Co. Ltd. ...	Weekly	Pt. Adelaide & Kingscote	Subsidised to 31st December, 1917. Amount of subsidy, (a) £900; (b) £350; (c) £450; (d) £350. Subsidised for three years from 1st January, 1917. Amount of subsidy, £3000.
(b) .. ..	Twice a wk.	.. Edithburgh	
(c) .. ..	..	.. Stansbury	
(d) .. ..	..	.. Pt. Vincent	
(e) Adelaide Steamship Co. ...	Weekly	.. Pt. Lincoln	Subsidised for three years from 1st January, 1917. Amount of subsidy, £3000.
(f) Adelaide Steam Tug Co. ...	As required	Port Pirie & Hummocks Hill	Subsidised without agreement. Amount of subsidy, £120. Subsidies under 7 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), paid by South Australia.
8. <i>Western Australia</i> —			
(i) INTERSTATE—			
(a) By P. & O. ...	Fortnightly	Fremantle and Adelaide	P. and O. at Postal Union rates. Orient line subsidised. See above 1 (a) and (b).
(b) Orient Line ...	Four times a year.	.. ..	
(c) The Australian United Steam Navigation, Huddart Parker, Melbourne S.S. Co., and McIlwraith, McEachern lines	Conjointly Weekly	Fremantle, Albany, and Adelaide	Poundage rates.

† 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.
<i>Western Australia—continued—</i>			
(ii.) To & FROM PORTS ON N.W. COAST			
(a) State Steamship Service	Monthly	Fremantle and Derby	Subsidised by agreement dated 23th February, 1913, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £5500. Subsidy paid by Western Australia.
(b) " " "	Once each sixty days	Fremantle & 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	
(iii.) 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, 1915. Amount of subsidy, £2000
(b) " " "	Every four weeks	Albany & Israelite Bay	
(c) " " "	Quarterly	Albany and Eucla	
9. <i>Tasmania—</i>			
(a) Union S.S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Proprietary	Three times a week	Melb'rne & Launceston	Subsidised by agreement dated 27th October, 1913, for five years. Amount of subsidy, £15,000, provided 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.
(b) " " "	Twice a wk.	" Burnie	
(c) " " "	Weekly	Sydney, Hobart, and Wellington	Poundage rates.
(d) Union Steamship Co.	Fortnightly	Sydney, Eden, Launceston, and Devonport	" "
(e) To and from ports in Western districts	Weekly	Hobart and Strahan	" "
(f) Holyman and Sons Ltd.	"	Melbourne, Burnie, etc.	" "
(g) " " "	Twice a wk.	Hobart & Maria Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1916, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £25 per annum.
(h) F. G. Cutts	Every three weeks	Launceston and Furneaux group of Islands	Subsidised. Amount of subsidy per trip, £8 10s. Contract terminable by two months' notice being given by Mr. Cutts or Postmaster-General.
(i) King Island Steamers Ltd.	Fortnightly	Launceston and King Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1916, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £300 per annum.
10. <i>To and from Northern Territory—</i>			
(a) The Eastern and Ausn., and the China Navigation Co.	Irregularly	(To and from Adelaide, Melb'rne, and Sydney, via North Queensland ports, extending to China and Japan	Poundage rates.
(b) Burns, Philp and Co.	Monthly		
(c) Royal Dutch Packet S.N. Co.	Every two months	Melbourne to Darwin, via North Queensland ports en route to Java	Poundage rates
(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>			
(a) Burns, Philp & Co. ...	Monthly	Sydney, Sourabaya, Samarang, Batavia, and Singapore	Subsidised by N.S.W. Govt Mails at poundage rates.
(b) China Navigation, Eastern & Ausn., and Burns, Philp Co.'s	About three times a month	Sydney, to Hong Kong, Manila, etc., via North Queensland ports	Poundage rates.
(c) Nippon Yusen Kaisha ...	Monthly	Sydney to Manila, China, and Japan, via N. Queensland ports	Postal Union rates.
(d) Royal Dutch Packet S. N. Co.	Monthly	Melbourne to Java, via 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>			
(a) White Star, P. & O. Branch Service, and other Companies	Irregularly	Various	" "
(b) Orient Line ...	Four times a year.	Adelaide and Capetown	" "
13. <i>North America—</i>			
(a) Various steamers ...	Irregularly	Sydney or Newcastle to San Francisco	Poundage rates.
(b) Various steamers ...	"	Sydney to Guaymas (Mexico)	" "
(c) Union S.S. Co. ...	13 voyages yearly	Syd., Wellington, Tahiti and San Francisco	" "
(d) " " ...	Every four weeks	Sydney, Auckland, Fiji and Vancouver	" "
(e) Oceanic S. S. Co. ...	Every three wks.	Sydney, Samoa, Pago Pago & San Francisco	" "
14. <i>South America—</i>			
Various steamers ...	About weekly	Sydney or Newcastle via N. Zealand to ports in Chile, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, and Argentine	Poundage rates.
15. <i>Pacific Islands—</i>			
(a) Burns, Philp and Co. ...	Monthly	Sydney to Lord Howe & Norfolk Islands, N. Hebrides	Subsidised by Commonwealth at £19,850 per annum.
(b) " " ...	Every two months	Sydney to Gilbert and Marshall Islands	
(c) " " ...	Every six weeks	Papua	
(d) " " ...	"	Solomon Islands	
(e) Royal Dutch Packet S. N. Co.	Monthly	Melbourne to Papua via Sydney and Queensland ports	Poundage rates.
(f) Pacific Phosphate Co. Ltd. ...	Four times a year	Rabaul and Nauru	Contract with Defence Department.
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. ...	Monthly	Sydney and Suva	" "
(b) " " ...	"	Sydney, Auckland, Suva, Tonga, and Samoa	" "
(c) A.U.S.N. Coy ...	"	Sydney and Suva	" "
18. <i>Fiji and Noumea—</i>			
Burns, Philp and Co. ...	"	Sydney and Suva	" "
19. <i>Ocean and Pleasant Islands—</i>			
Various steamships ...	"	Sydney, Ocean and Pleasant Islands	" "

9. **Amount of Mail Subsidies Paid.**—The following table shows the amounts of subsidies which are paid by the Commonwealth Postal Department for ocean and coastal mail services during the year ended 30th June, 1916 :—

**MAIL SUBSIDIES.—OCEAN AND POSTAL SUBSIDIES DURING THE YEAR 1915-16.**

Service...	Orient Pacific.	Queens'l'd Ports.	South Australian Ports.	Western Australian Ports.	Tasmanian Ports.
Annual Subsidy	£ 55,577	£ 24,450	£ 3,650	£ 7,536	£ 13,890

During the year 1915-16 the amount paid by the Commonwealth for conveyance of mails at poundage rates by non-contract vessels was £36,974; by road services, £487,808; and by railway services, £371,759.

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 four lines of modern ocean steamships, which brought the mails in about twenty-nine days to Adelaide, in addition to services by way of New Zealand, *via* San Francisco and Vancouver. After leaving Fremantle, where the Western Australian mails are landed, the outward mail steamers *via* the Suez Canal all call at Adelaide, where the remaining mails are landed and conveyed to their ultimate destination by rail. In consequence of the war in Europe, some steamers belonging to the Orient-Pacific S.N. Co. travelled to England by way of South Africa. The subjoined table shows the average and the fastest times occupied in the conveyance of mails from London to Adelaide and *vice versa* during the year 1915-16 :—

**AVERAGE AND FASTEST TIME OCCUPIED IN CONVEYANCE OF MAILS VIA SUEZ CANAL BETWEEN LONDON AND ADELAIDE, AND VICE VERSA, DURING 1915-16.**

Service.	London to Adelaide.				Adelaide to London.			
	Average Time.		Fastest Time.		Average Time.		Fastest Time.	
	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.
Orient Pacific S. N. Co., <i>via</i> Naples ...	*33	23	30	23	*39	21	31	4
Peninsular and Oriental S.N. Co., <i>via</i> Brindisi ...	34	12	30	15	36	3	33	6

\* Some trips by the Orient-Pacific S.N. Co. were made *via* South Africa.

The journey by rail from Adelaide, where the mails for the eastern States are landed, to Melbourne takes 17½ hours; from Adelaide to Sydney, 42 hours, including a stop of about seven hours at Melbourne; while the through journey from Adelaide to Brisbane takes just over three days. The journey from Melbourne to Hobart occupies about 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 shewing the average and fastest times of this service was given in previous 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 desirable.

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. In order that the full amount of the original order may be forwarded to the payee, this extra commission must be paid by the remitter.

(i.) *Value of Orders Issued and Paid and of Notes Sold.*—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 1915-16, together with the total amount of commission on money orders and poundage on postal notes received by the Postal Department:—

**VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED AND PAID AND OF POSTAL NOTES SOLD, TOGETHER WITH THE TOTAL AMOUNTS OF COMMISSION AND POUNDAGE RECEIVED IN EACH STATE DURING 1915-16.**

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 ...	5,282,556	5,197,500	27,246	1,422,215	28,168
Victoria ...	2,646,486	2,800,879	10,381	918,600	18,536
Queensland ...	1,578,302	1,325,352	10,007	374,796	7,376
South Australia ...	1,000,844	914,679	4,330	215,135	4,371
Western Australia ...	1,288,218	1,075,303	7,994	245,091	4,660
Tasmania ...	539,358	501,270	2,549	116,567	2,398
Commonwealth ...	12,335,764	11,814,983	62,507	3,292,404	65,509

(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.	s. d.	s. d.
The Commonwealth...	0 6	0 6	1 0	1 0	1 6	1 6	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0
New Zealand and Fiji	0 6	1 0	1 6	2 0	2 6	3 0	3 6	4 0	4 0	4 0
Papua ...	0 9	0 9	1 6	1 6	2 3	2 3	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0
U. Kingdom & 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. The remitter must also send a telegram to the payee advising the transmission of the money, which telegram must be produced by the payee when applying for payment.

(iii.) *Rates of POUNDAGE on Postal Notes.* The values of the notes issued have been so arranged that any sum of shillings and sixpences up to £1 can be remitted by not more than two of these notes. The poundage or commission charged on notes of different denominations is as follows:—

**POUNDAGE 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 face value of money orders and postal notes issued and paid in the Commonwealth during 1901 and from 1910 to 1915-16:—

**NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES ISSUED AND PAID, 1901 and 1910 to 1915-16.**

Year.	Money Orders.				Postal Notes.			
	Issued.		Paid.		Issued.		Paid.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
1901 ...	No. (,000). 1,318	£ (,000). 4,193	No. (,000). 1,339	£ (,000). 4,081	No. (,000). 3,515	£ (,000). 1,292	No. (,000). 3,522	£ (,000). 1,293
1910 ...	1,500	6,368	1,424	6,254	7,447	2,796	7,446	2,796
1911 ...	1,583	6,584	1,448	6,455	8,042	3,017	8,042	3,017
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	3,007	12,336	2,904	11,815	9,536	3,292	9,517	3,316

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 1915-16 and classified according to the country where payable:—

**MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY WHERE PAYABLE, 1915-16.**

State in which Issued.	Where Payable.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United K'dom.	In Other Countries.	
<b>NUMBER.</b>					
New South Wales	1,062,547	15,145	102,843	17,032	1,197,567
Victoria	582,346	7,678	54,091	10,209	654,324
Queensland	348,203	2,687	37,562	8,416	396,868
South Australia	264,682	1,309	18,966	5,699	290,656
Western Australia	283,660	1,431	31,134	4,505	320,730
Tasmania	137,563	2,039	6,059	1,302	146,963
Commonwealth	2,679,001	30,289	250,655	47,168	3,007,108

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

State in which Issued.	Where Payable.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United Kingdom.	In Other Countries.	
VALUE.					
New South Wales	£ 4,862,815	£ 47,246	£ 259,762	£ 112,733	£ 5,282,556
Victoria ...	2,452,227	24,022	113,934	56,303	2,646,486
Queensland ...	1,409,189	8,460	92,487	68,166	1,578,302
South Australia ...	921,473	7,103	41,962	30,306	1,000,844
Western Australia	1,187,356	5,365	69,612	25,885	1,288,213
Tasmania ...	515,913	8,334	11,785	3,326	539,358
Commonwealth	11,348,973	100,530	589,542	296,719	12,335,764

The following table shows the number and value of money orders paid in each State during the year 1915-16, and classified according to the country where issued :—

## MONEY ORDERS PAID IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE COUNTRY OF ISSUE, 1915-16.

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	1,170,502	32,087	20,142	12,668	1,235,399
Victoria ...	634,273	21,503	12,990	7,296	676,062
Queensland ...	312,168	2,414	6,194	2,799	323,575
South Australia ...	257,656	1,655	3,469	1,471	264,251
Western Australia	259,820	2,574	6,036	1,726	270,156
Tasmania ...	126,771	1,692	4,320	1,368	134,151
Commonwealth	2,761,190	61,925	53,151	27,328	2,903,594
VALUE.					
New South Wales	£ 4,986,991	£ 96,393	£ 62,721	£ 51,395	£ 5,197,500
Victoria... ...	2,678,650	58,585	38,663	24,981	2,800,879
Queensland ...	1,288,133	8,841	18,573	9,805	1,325,352
South Australia ...	893,490	5,474	9,429	6,286	914,679
Western Australia	1,043,903	6,395	17,345	7,660	1,075,303
Tasmania ...	480,305	12,388	4,870	3,707	501,270
Commonwealth	11,371,472	188,076	151,601	103,834	11,814,983

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 shows the number and value of postal notes paid during the year 1915-16 in each State and in the Commonwealth, classified according to the State in which they were issued.

Particulars regarding the total number and value of postal notes issued and paid during previous years since the inauguration of the Commonwealth have already been given in paragraph 12 hereof.

**NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO STATE OF ISSUE, 1915-16.**

Particulars.	Postal Notes Paid in—						
	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
NUMBER.							
Issued in same State ...	3,180,683	2,173,546	840,357	480,576	548,914	272,754	7,496,830
Issued in other States ...	337,037	360,070	66,401	63,521	22,907	1,170,008	2,019,944
Total ...	3,517,720	2,533,616	906,758	544,097	571,821	1,442,762	9,516,774
VALUE.							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Issued in same State ...	1,155,445	731,044	294,947	153,321	212,073	90,826	2,637,656
Issued in Other States ...	123,057	132,428	25,886	25,918	9,162	361,551	678,002
Total ...	1,278,502	863,472	320,833	179,239	221,235	452,377	3,315,658

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 1909



to 1915-16. From these figures it will be seen that the business in Queensland is greatly in excess of the combined transactions of all the other States, owing to the fact that the system has been established in that State for some years, but was only extended to the whole Commonwealth with the advent of Federal control of the post office. Western Australia is the only other State to make use of this system to any extent, the business transacted by that State and Queensland amounting to 84 per cent. of the total for the Commonwealth.

**VALUE PAYABLE PARCELS POST.—NUMBER POSTED, VALUE COLLECTED, AND REVENUE, 1909 to 1915-16.**

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.
1909	7,585	1,051	31,765	149	19,250	42	59,842
1910	7,901	894	34,917	214	21,940	110	65,976
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

VALUE COLLECTED.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1909	10,926	1,697	39,351	234	30,712	93	83,013
1910	14,736	1,656	43,478	288	34,697	344	95,199
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

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

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1909	937	164	4,112	22	2,603	6	7,844
1910	1,201	162	4,634	19	3,178	18	9,212
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

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, etc., 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 £3000 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 all unclaimed and undelivered postal articles originally posted within the Commonwealth which have been returned from the place to which they were forwarded to be treated as unclaimed articles and opened. Every unclaimed letter and postal article must be kept for the prescribed period at the office to which it has been transmitted for delivery, and must then be sent to the General Post Office. Letters and packets originally posted elsewhere than in the Commonwealth are returned to the proper authorities in the country in which they were so posted, or, if originally posted in another State, are returned to the General

Post Office of that State; but unclaimed or undelivered newspapers may be forthwith sold, destroyed, or used for any public purpose. Opened postal articles not containing anything of value are returned to the writer or sender if his name and address can be ascertained, but may otherwise be destroyed forthwith. As regards opened letters and packets containing valuable or saleable enclosures, a list and memorandum of the contents are kept, and a notice is sent to the person to whom the letter or packet is addressed if he be known, or otherwise to the writer or sender thereof if he be known. Upon application within three months of the date of such notice the letter or packet may be claimed by the addressee, or, failing him, by the writer or sender. If unclaimed within three months, the letter and contents may be destroyed or sold, and the proceeds paid into the consolidated revenue fund. The following table shows the total number of letters, postcards, and packets dealt with by the Dead Letter Offices in the Commonwealth during the year 1915-16, together with the number of inland, interstate, and international letters either returned to writers, delivered, destroyed, or returned as unclaimed:—

### TRANSACTIONS OF DEAD LETTER OFFICES IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1915-16.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
LETTERS (,000 OMITTED).							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	502	581	250	111	175	58	1,677
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	166	127	33	23	20	8	377
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	124	182	50	26	37	14	433
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>792</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2,487</b>
POSTCARDS (,000 OMITTED).							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	6	5	12	8	26	3	60
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	4	5	2	1	2	...	14
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	4	3	2	1	2	1	13
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>87</b>
PACKETS (,000 OMITTED).							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	471	106	90	20	121	19	827
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	118	377	10	24	...	...	529
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	1	8	40	16	23	10	98
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>590</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1,454</b>
<b>Grand total (letters, postcards, &amp; packets)</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>4,028</b>

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 1911 to 1915-16 inclusive:—

**NUMBER OF POST OFFICES AND RECEIVING OFFICES, 1901 and 1911-16.**

State.	1901.		1911.		1912.		1913.		1914.		1915-16.	
	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.
New South Wales	1,684	524	1,948	542	2,000	559	2,025	571	2,049	574	2,074	566
Victoria	1,637	18	1,720	824	1,730	844	1,749	883	1,815	871	1,787	872
Queensland*	411	823	576	786	593	770	614	772	629	728	642	689
South Australia	699	...	662	84	668	95	672	124	680	131	739	105
Western Australia	187	28	372	107	390	130	398	146	418	158	431	182
Tasmania†	376	...	386	47	391	55	395	60	400	63	409	69
Commonwealth	4,994	1,393	5,664	2,390	5,772	2,453	5,853	2,556	5,991	2,525	6,082	2,483

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

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND NUMBER OF MAIL CONTRACTORS,  
1901 AND 1911-16.**

State.	1901.		1911.		1912.		1913.		1914.		1915-16.	
	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.
New South Wales	5,636	984	10,844	1,733	12,614	1,798	10,823	2,376	11,131	2,512	13,166	1,899
Victoria	2,962	890	8,533	866	7,845	1,060	8,437	1,123	8,614	1,132	8,840	1,152
Queensland*	2,616	—	4,455	747	3,942	768	4,134	812	4,343	813	4,162	806
South Australia†	1,945	—	2,298	361	2,173	364	2,364	382	2,432	307	2,816	348
Western Australia	1,303	140	2,621	251	2,246	251	2,444	355	2,327	351	2,558	284
Tasmania†	865	—	1,178	260	1,094	217	1,141	294	1,176	281	1,275	224
Commonwealth	16,327	2,014	29,929	4,218	29,914	4,458	29,343	5,342	30,023	5,396	32,817	4,713

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

19. **Gross Revenue of Postal Department.**—The following table shews the gross revenue of the Postal Department for the years ended 30th June, 1901 and 1911 to 1916 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 and 1911-16.**

Year ended 30th June.	Postal Branch.	Telegraph Branch.	Telephone Branch.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1901*	516,181	224,484†	†	740,665
1911	2,646,730	740,428	518,857	3,906,015
1912	2,375,390	788,441	752,423	3,916,254
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	2,940,631	912,950	1,221,450	5,075,081

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

The following table gives an analysis of the gross earnings of the Postal Department in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year ended 30th June, 1916:—

### ANALYSIS OF GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1915-16.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wlth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Postage ... ..	998,997	722,646	350,723	206,930	153,147	95,358	2,527,101
Telegraphs ... ..	321,492	178,737	162,100	138,470	83,993	28,158	912,950
Telephones ... ..	489,121	340,221	172,773	106,058	77,265	36,012	1,221,450
Money order commission	59,136	32,152	17,643	10,212	12,654	5,559	137,356
Foundage on postal notes	12,009	5,502	6,525	3,360	2,149	1,226	30,770
Private boxes and bags	79,075	72,561	34,260	21,252	29,258	9,048	245,454
Miscellaneous							
Total ... ..	1,959,130	1,351,819	744,024	486,282	358,465	175,361	5,075,081

20. *Expenditure in respect of the Postal Department.*—The subjoined table shews the total expenditure in respect of the Postal Department in the Commonwealth for each of the years ended 30th June, 1903 and 1911 to 1916 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, 1902-3 AND 1910-11 TO 1915-16.

Year.	1902-3.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
Expenditure ... ..	£ 2,568,846	4,343,231	5,344,421	6,435,039	6,597,123	6,315,744	6,347,537

The following table shews, as far as possible, the distribution of expenditure on various items in each State during the year ended 30th June, 1916. 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, 1915-16.

Particulars.	Central Office.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wlth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries and Contingencies—								
Salaries ... ..	18,910	1,059,379	673,638	335,688	216,017	232,907	80,671	2,617,210
Conveyance of mails ... ..		381,275	165,577	190,815	89,230	78,431	44,741	950,069
Contingencies ... ..	2,490	463,026	313,829	203,169	116,161	125,818	51,507	1,281,000
Cables ... ..	7,499	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,499
Ocean mails ... ..	55,577	...	...	...	...	...	...	55,577
Miscellaneous ... ..	1,008	5,078	3,585	2,835	1,162	866	299	14,833
Pensions and retiring allowances ... ..		22,611	24,772	1,839	...	4,136	...	53,358
Rent, repairs, maintenance	131	46,512	18,648	10,349	7,959	6,629	1,395	91,623
Supervision of works ... ..		125	...	485	1,314	3,072	35	5,031
Proport'n of Audit Office exs.		1,054	1,465	425	299	275	157	3,675
Unforeseen expenditure ... ..		357	182	22	6	21	1	589
New Works—								
Telegraph and telephone		302,201	127,472	113,163	71,044	48,153	18,946	680,879
New buildings, etc. ... ..		46,489	120,421	4,621	10,726	49,811	355	222,423
Interest on transferred properties ... ..		81,780	46,710	32,332	29,330	19,972	7,502	217,626
Purchase of sites ... ..		...	...	...	...	...	...	*92,587
Other ... ..		...	...	...	...	...	...	*43,558
Total ... ..	85,615*	2,414,887	1,496,299	895,743	543,248	570,091	205,509	6,347,537

\* 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 1915-16 has now become available, and discloses the fact that the working of the Postmaster-General's Department for that year resulted in a surplus of £207,902, from which must be deducted £523,892 for interest on capital, pensions and retiring allowances, making a total deficit of £315,990.

Tables shewing the results of the working of the Department for the years 1912-13, to 1915-16 are appended :—

**GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,  
1912-13 to 1915-16.**

Items.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.†
Total earnings ...	£ 4,243,292	£ 4,523,368	£ 4,620,061	£ 5,049,569
Total working expenses	4,273,985	4,589,601	4,761,714	4,841,667
Deficit	30,693	66,233	141,653	*207,902
Interest on capital ...	376,409	435,223	488,069	523,892
Total deficit	407,102	501,456	629,722	315,990

\* Profit. † Excluding Wireless Telegraphy Branch, which was transferred to the Department of the Navy as from 1st July, 1915.

It will be seen from the above that, despite the increasing revenue of the Department, the total deficit has grown from £407,102 in 1912-13 to £629,722 in 1914-15. The deficit for 1915-16, however, was the smallest for the period for which balance-sheets have been issued. In the annual report for the year 1913-14, the increased deficit of that year over 1912-13 was stated by the Department to be "due to several factors, chief amongst which are higher rates of salaries and wages resulting from statutory increments, and large increases under Arbitration awards affecting postal electricians and linesmen, increased cost of contracts for the conveyance of inland mails, and increased prices for stores, fodder, horse-hire, printing, and increased debits for interest on additional capital expenditure." Effects of the drought and the war upon earnings, combined with increased charges to working expenses under the heading of depreciation (on account of assets dismantled during the year), are regarded by the Department as responsible for the deficit of £629,722 on the working for 1914-15. Increases of salaries under arbitration awards, increased amounts payable for mail contracts, and greatly enhanced prices for various items of stores, are responsible for the larger total of working expenses in 1915-16.

The following tables show the yearly results of the working of the various branches, and the Department as a whole, and in each State from 1913-14 to 1915-16 :—

**PROFIT OR LOSS OF THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT,  
1913-14 to 1915-16.**

Branch.	1913-14.		1914-15.	1915-16.	
	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Loss.	Profit.
Postal ...	£ ...	£ 24,155	£ 81,296	£ ...	£ 42,131
Telegraph ...	151,446	...	114,555	86,426	...
Telephone ...	296,424	...	390,704	271,695	...
Wireless Telegraph ...	35,656	...	43,167	...	...
Pensions and retiring allowances and interest on general assets...	42,086	...	*	*	...
	525,612	24,155	629,722	358,121	42,131

\* The amounts have been distributed among the above branches.

**PROFIT OR LOSS OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT IN THE VARIOUS STATES,  
1913-14 to 1915-16.**

State.	1913-14.		1914-15.	1915-16.	
	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Loss.	Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	228,949	...	238,612	170,800	...
Victoria ...	...	13,683	32,555	...	59,413
Queensland ...	110,221	...	97,480	68,594	...
South Australia ...	...	327	7,226	...	34,446
Western Australia ...	148,244	...	224,065	154,874	...
Tasmania ...	28,053	...	29,784	15,580	...
	515,467	14,010	629,722	409,848	93,858

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 previous 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, twenty-two miles in length, was opened. In Tasmania the first telegraphic line was completed in 1857, while in the following year communication was established between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. The first 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 twelve miles, which was brought into use in 1869, and in the same year the cable joining Tasmania with the continent of Australia was completed.

2. **Development of Services.**—During the period from 1871 to 1881 great progress was made throughout Australia in the way of telegraphic construction, over 14,000 miles of line, exclusive of railway telegraph lines, being opened for use during the period mentioned, making the total length of the line open at the end of the year 1881, 25,470 miles. 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 which place communication is made to Singapore by the Eastern Extension Company's cable. From Roebuck Bay the line crosses the Kimberley district in an easterly direction, and then runs north as far as the

terminus at Wyndham. In Queensland a line runs to Burketown, near the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, *via* Normanton; another line extends to Cloncurry and Urandangi, in the extreme west of the State. Branch lines extend to all important coastal and inland towns, while considerable networks of lines converge from the country districts towards the centres of population. From Adelaide the transcontinental line 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 shows the number of telegraph offices and the length of telegraphic lines and of telegraph wire available for use in the Commonwealth from 1914 to 1916 inclusive. It will be noticed that 71,267 miles of wire are available for both telegraph and telephone purposes:—

**NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES, AND LENGTH OF LINE AVAILABLE FOR USE, 1914 to 1916.**

Particulars.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Number of Offices ... ..	5,160	5,612	6,119
Length of Wire—			
Telegraph purposes only ... ..	70,992	71,680	62,224
Telegraph and telephone purposes ..	52,288	60,061	71,267
Length of Line—			
Conductors in Morse Cable ... ..	2,834	2,883	2,959
Conductors in Submarine Cable ..	910	1,080	1,196
Pole routes .. .. .	55,362	57,424	58,889

The following table gives corresponding particulars for each State for the year 1915-16:—

**NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES, LENGTH OF LINE AND WIRE, IN EACH STATE, 1915-16.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wth.
No. of Offices ... ..	2,107	1,796	798	501	492	430	6,119
Length of Wire (miles)—							
Telegraph purposes only ... ..	21,741	4,748	14,942	11,821	8,807	165	62,224
Telegraph and Telephone purposes ...	26,806	16,095	11,703	5,202	6,620	4,841	71,267
Length of Line (miles)—							
Conductors in Morse Cable ... ..	486	2,117	322	...	21	13	2,959
Conductors in Submarine Cable ...	590	437	66	54	...	49	1,196
Pole routes ... ..	22,398	6,784	12,411	6,554	8,344	2,398	58,889

4. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—Particulars as to the revenue from the telegraph systems for the years 1901 and 1911-16 are given on page 706, while particulars as to the expenditure on telegraph works for the year 1915-16 are given on page 707.

5. **Number of Telegrams Despatched.**—The following table shows the total number of telegrams despatched in the Commonwealth in 1901 and in each of the years 1910 to 1915-16 inclusive:—

**NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED (,000 OMITTED), 1901 and 1911-16.**

Year ... ..	1901.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915-16.
Number* ... ..	8,003	12,238	12,821	13,343	13,556	13,918	13,939

\* Including interstate cablegrams.

The following table shows the number of telegrams despatched in each State in 1915-16 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, 1915-16 (000 OMITTED).**

State, etc. ... ..	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Inland (counted once)	3,852	2,189	1,899	327	1,301	361	10,369
Interstate* ... ..	1,078	1,013	541	397	368	173	3,570
Total ... ..	4,930	3,202	2,380	1,224	1,669	534	13,939

\* 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 show 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 sent on "urgent" forms.



## SCALE OF CHARGES FOR PRESS TELEGRAMS.

Particulars.	Within any State.		Interstate.		Relating to Parliamentary, Executive, Departmental, and other Commonwealth Proceedings as may be prescribed.*	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
No 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	1	6
Every additional 50 words ... ..	0	6	1	0	0	6

\*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 half-penny for each additional word, double these rates being charged on Sundays. At present the service extends to 104 offices in the Commonwealth.

8. **Wireless Telegraphy.**—Previous to September, 1915, the Postmaster-General was, under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1905, given the exclusive privilege of establishing and using stations and appliances for receiving and transmitting messages by wireless telegraphy within Australia. Licenses for experimental work were granted by the Postmaster-General under the authority of the Act, but were withdrawn on the outbreak of hostilities. In September, 1915, the administration of the Act was transferred to the Minister for the Navy.

In preparing the initial scheme for the construction of wireless stations in the Commonwealth it was evident viewing the insular position of Australia, that, for an effective system of radio-telegraphic communication to be given, not only must the service offered be continuous, but the distances separating the stations must to a great extent be governed by the normal working range of the vessels with which communication would have to be established. With this object in view, the Commonwealth Government have constructed and erected twenty stations at or near the following localities:—Port Moresby, Thursday Island, Cooktown, Townsville, Rockhampton, Brisbane, Sydney, Flinders Island, Melbourne, Hobart, King Island, Mount Gambier, Adelaide, Esperance, Perth, Geraldton, Broome, Roebourne, Wyndham, and Darwin. A low power station is in course of erection at Samarai Island (New Guinea). To these must be added the station installed at Macquarie Island (which has been used chiefly for meteorological purposes, but is not at present in use), also the lighthouses at Tasman Island and Cape Don, which have small installations. In the Pacific, the Commonwealth controls stations at Woodlark Island, Rabaul, Mandang, Nauru, and Kieta; all these, with the exception of Woodlark Island, being on former German territory now occupied by Australia. The rates for messages forwarded between the foregoing stations in the Pacific and the Commonwealth are 3d. per word, plus the ordinary land line charges of the Commonwealth. The stations at Sydney, Perth, and Woodlark Island are of a high-power type, the first-named being capable of communication with New Zealand and the radio-telegraphic stations in the Pacific, and the Perth

station with Cocos Island. All the other stations are of a lower power, and constitute the internal scheme of inter and ship-to-shore communication.

The working range by day—and under unfavourable conditions—of the low-power stations is 300 miles; that of the high-power stations being 1000 miles.

The ordinary ship-to-shore communication rates for ships registered by the Commonwealth or New Zealand are 5d. per word, allocated as follows:—3d. for land station and 2d. for ship station charge, while for vessels registered by other administrations the rates are 10d. per word, allocated as follows:—6d. for land station, and 4d. for the ship station charge. In all cases must be added the inland forwarding charge of 1d. per word. Between the Commonwealth and Port Moresby and Thursday Island the rate is 2d. per word, and between the mainland and Flinders' Island, King Island, or Macquarie Island, one penny per word, plus ordinary land line charges.

In December, 1909, a conference of representatives of the Commonwealth, New Zealand, the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, Fiji, the Admiralty, and the Pacific Cable Board was convened at Melbourne to report upon the establishment of wireless telegraphy in the Pacific. The chief recommendations of this Conference were:—(a) That high-power stations be established at Sydney, Doubtless Bay (New Zealand), Suva (Fiji), and Ocean Island, and (b) that medium-power stations be established at Tulagi (Solomon Islands), and Vila (New Hebrides). The total cost of construction of the scheme covered by these recommendations was £42,000, while the total annual cost was estimated at £13,820 for a continuous service, and £9970 for a restricted service. It was proposed to apportion the cost between Great Britain, New Zealand, Fiji, and Australia. These recommendations were adopted by the Commonwealth Government, but the British Government would not agree to the erection of high-power stations at Suva and Ocean Island. Up to the present no further concerted action has taken place, but radio-telegraphic stations have been erected at Suva, Ocean Island, and Tulagi, under the control of the High Commissioner of the Pacific, and another at Vila is under construction, while the New Zealand Government has erected high-power stations at Awanui (Auckland), and Awarua (Bluff), and low-power stations at Auckland, Chatham Island and Wellington, and is also considering the erection of stations at Gisborne, New Plymouth, and Christchurch.

### § 3. Submarine Cables.

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

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; from Broome there is direct telegraphic communication with Perth, from which place communication is made with the Eastern States by the interstate line *via* Albany, Eucla, and Port Augusta. (c) In July, 1899, the company offered to lay a cable direct to Great Britain *via* the Cape of Good Hope, and also offered reductions in the rates charged, if the States would agree to certain conditions giving the company the right of direct dealing with the public. The States of South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania accepted the terms offered, and New South Wales entered into the agreement in January, 1901. The cable was opened *via* Fremantle and Durban in October, 1901. (d) Another submarine cable from Fremantle to Adelaide forms an alternative line of communication between the Eastern States and Western Australia. (e) There is an alternative route, partly belonging to the Eastern Extension Company and connecting the Port Darwin-Singapore cable with London, *via* Hong Kong, Shanghai, Possiet Bay (Pacific Russia), Libau (Russian Baltic), and Newbiggin (England). (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, 1916, were sufficient to meet the working expenses, interest and sinking fund, and, in addition, provided a surplus of £17,925, of which the Commonwealth proportion is £5975. No distribution of this surplus will, however, be made, as it 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 each financial year since the opening of the cable:—

**REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, AND PROFIT AND LOSS ON WORKING OF  
PACIFIC CABLE, 1903 to 1916.**

Year ended the 31st March.	Revenue.		Expenditure (in- cluding Annuities and Renewal Fund).	Profit or Loss.		Commonwealth Proportion of Loss, or Profit. *
	£	£		£	£	
1903 ...	...	...	...	Loss 90,518	Loss 30,514	
1904 ...	80,118	167,869	167,869	„ 87,751	„ 29,250	
1905 ...	87,446	163,296	163,296	„ 75,850	„ 25,283	
1906 ...	91,952	164,508	164,508	„ 72,556	„ 24,185	
1907 ...	113,516	167,439	167,439	„ 53,923	„ 18,307	
1908 ...	110,160	172,523	172,523	„ 62,363	„ 20,787	
1909 ...	113,093	173,981	173,981	„ 60,888	„ 20,295	
1910 ...	111,724	171,312	171,312	„ 59,588	„ 19,862	
1911 ...	138,678	186,888	186,888	„ 48,210	„ 16,071	
1912 ...	159,150	199,649	199,649	„ 40,499	„ 13,500	
1913 ...	167,901	200,171	200,171	„ 32,270	„ 10,757	
1914 ...	197,848	217,798	217,798	„ 19,950	„ 6,650	
1915 ...	225,045	232,961	232,961	„ 7,916	„ 2,638	
1916 ...	310,516	292,592	292,592	Profit 17,924	Profit 5,975	

\* 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 1191 miles in length. The Australian shore-end of the cable is at Botany Bay, while the New Zealand terminus is at Wakapuaka, near Nelson, in the Middle Island, from which place another cable, 109 miles in length, is laid to Wanganui, in the North Island. For a period of ten years after its opening the cable was subsidised by the New South Wales and New Zealand Governments, the total contributions amounting to £10,000 a year. The branch from Norfolk Island to New Zealand of the Pacific cable was opened on the 23rd April, 1902. The length of this cable is 597 miles, the New Zealand terminus being at Doubtless Bay in the north of the North Island. 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 £8000, and by the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland to the amount of £2000 each annually for a period of thirty years. The cable was opened for use in October, 1893, the Australian shore-end being at Bundaberg. The 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 shews the number of cablegrams received and despatched in the Commonwealth from 1913 to 1915-16:—

**CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED, COMMONWEALTH, 1913 to 1915-16.**

Particulars.	Cablegrams Received.			Cablegrams Despatched.			Total Cablegrams Received and Despatched.		
	1913.	1914.	1915-16.	1913.	1914.	1915-16.	1913.	1914.	1915-16.
Number... ..	301,621	305,384	437,151	309,140	325,841	387,402	610,761	631,225	824,553

The following table shews the total number of cablegrams received and despatched in each State during the year 1915-16. The figures given are exclusive of interstate cablegrams, which are classed as interstate telegrams (see § 2 hereof):—

## NUMBER OF CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPACHED IN EACH STATE. 1915-16.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.*	C'wealth.
Number received ...	211,490	150,951	23,313	24,510	18,855	8,032	437,151
„ despatched ...	186,487	133,088	22,077	18,660	20,040	7,050	387,402
Total ...	397,977	284,039	45,390	43,170	38,895	15,082	824,553

\* 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.

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

  

Via Vancouver.		Via Russia.	
	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 ...	17,933

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 rates for ordinary messages were increased to four shillings and ninepence per word, and at the same time New Zealand joined the guarantees to the company and to South Australia.

(i.) *Present Rates to Great Britain.* On the acceptance by three of the States of the terms offered by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for the construction of a cable *via* South Africa, the rate for ordinary messages was reduced in May, 1900, to four shillings a word. It was further reduced to three shillings and sixpence in January, 1901, and to three shillings in January, 1902, at which amount the standard rate by all routes for cablegrams to Great Britain has since remained. The scale of reductions is governed by a revenue standard, and when the latter averages £330,000 per annum a further reduction to two shillings and sixpence will be made. In 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 twenty-four 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 % 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 twenty-four 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 sixty countries, and became very popular. The number of deferred ordinary words transmitted to and received from all countries with which the system is in operation, in 1915-16, was 5,283,191, the resulting Commonwealth revenue being £55,220. A comparison with the previous year's results discloses an increase in the number of words of 2,349,012, and in the revenue of £24,593. This service, together with that of the week-end cable letters, has to some extent affected the ordinary cable business. Deferred press cablegrams, subject to a delay of 18 hours, may be exchanged between the Commonwealth and the United Kingdom at the rate of 4½d. per word, and between the Commonwealth and Vancouver at the rate of 1½d. 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, Burmah, Canada, Portugal, and Newfoundland. A further benefit has been conferred on users, and 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 £6000, extending over a period of three years, to the Independent Press Cable Service, on the conditions that at least 6000 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 £2000 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 £1500.

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

(i.) *Total Subsidies Paid.* The following table shews the total amounts paid by way of cable subsidies for the years 1909-10 to 1915-16:—

## TOTAL AMOUNT OF CABLE SUBSIDIES PAID, 1909-16.

Year.	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
Amount ...	£ 23,862	20,093	17,522	14,779	10,650	6,638	4,860

(ii.) *Subsidies Paid by each State.* The total amount of cable subsidies paid prior to the year 1908-9 included the subsidy paid in respect of the Tasmania-Victoria cable service.

As the agreement in connection with the Tasmanian cable expired in 1909, and as new cables have been laid by the Commonwealth Government (see page 713 *ante*), 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 1915-16 was £4860 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 in each State for the years 1901 and 1911-16 are given on page 706 *ante*, while particulars of the expenditure on telephone works in each State for the year 1915-16 are given in a table on page 707.

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 2000 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, 1916.

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.
From 1 to 300 ... ..	Miles. 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	£ s. d. 3 0 0	£ s. d. 2 10 0	£ s. d. 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, 1916, there were in the Commonwealth 128,862 telephone lines connected to 1882 exchanges, as compared with 125,108 lines connected to 1673 exchanges a year previously. The following tables shew the mileage of lines, etc., for telephone purposes, shewing trunk lines separately, on 30th June, 1915 and 1916:—



**MILEAGE OF LINES, ETC., FOR TELEPHONE PURPOSES (EXCLUSIVE OF TRUNK LINES, 1915 and 1916.**

Particulars.	1915.	1916.
Conduits ... duct miles	1,853	2,101
Conductors in Aerial Cables ... loop mileage	34,437	39,299
„ Underground Cables ... „	160,115	178,161
„ Cables for Junction Circuits ... „	18,331	22,081
Open Conductors ... single wire mileage	161,133	168,440

**MILEAGE OF WIRES, TELEPHONE TRUNK LINES, 1915 and 1916.**

Particulars.	1915.	1916.
	Miles.	Miles.
Telephone Trunk Lines only ...	24,883	23,226
Telegraph and Telephone purposes ...	60,061	71,267

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

**PARTICULARS OF TELEPHONE SERVICE, 1905, 1915 and 1916.**

Particulars.	Year.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total C'wth.
No. of Exchanges ...	1905	64	23	19	11	16	16	149
	1915	608	536	223	128	95	83	1,673
	1916	705	586	248	143	105	95	1,882
No. of Lines Connected ...	1905	14,338	9,269	3,864	2,335	*3,462	1,523	*34,791
	1915	50,765	35,592	16,747	9,608	8,437	3,959	125,108
	1916	51,905	36,372	17,742	10,184	8,530	4,129	128,862
No. of Instruments Connected ...	1905	18,616	14,299	4,235	3,246	*4,857	1,751	*47,004
	1915	63,422	45,939	20,175	12,615	10,627	4,535	157,313
	1916	69,010	48,812	21,433	13,404	10,852	4,908	168,416
No. of Subscribers' Instruments ...	1915	63,318	44,815	19,236	12,312	10,061	4,496	154,238
	1916	66,532	46,497	20,312	12,846	10,235	4,421	160,843
No. of Public Telephones ...	1915	1,074	1,125	546	428	272	292	3,737
	1916	1,317	1,169	736	457	325	459	4,463
No. of other Local Instruments ...	1915	104	1,124	939	303	566	39	3,075
	1916	1,161	1,146	382	101	292	28	3,110
Instruments per 100 of Population ...	1905	1.3	1.2	.8	.9	1.9	.9	1.2
	1915	3.2	3.2	2.9	2.8	3.2	2.2	3.1
	1916	3.7	3.5	3.1	3.1	3.4	2.4	3.4
Earnings ...	1915	£ 432,391	£ 321,170	£ 157,461	£ 95,498	£ 70,438	£ 32,934	£ 1,109,892
	1916	508,594	355,484	180,577	112,103	79,117	37,612	1,273,467
Working Expenses ...	1915	508,190	326,959	132,266	81,834	136,214	38,437	1,223,900
	1916	533,411	319,576	150,379	84,173	110,721	39,028	1,237,287
Percentage of Working Expenses to Earnings ...	1915	117.53	101.80	84.00	85.69	193.38	116.71	110.27
	1916	104.88	89.90	83.28	75.09	139.95	103.77	97.16

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