

## SECTION XVIII.

## POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

## § 1. Posts.

**1. The Commonwealth Postal Department.**—Under the provisions of section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution Act the Commonwealth Parliament was empowered to make laws with respect to the control of the postal, telegraphic, and telephonic services in Australia, and by proclamation, made under section 69 of the same Act, the six separate State Post and Telegraph Departments were amalgamated and taken over by the Federal Executive on the 1st March, 1901. On the 1st December following, the Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Act 1901 came into operation, and the provisions of the various State Acts referring to the postal and telegraphic services thereby ceased to apply; it was, however, specially provided by the Act of 1901 that, until such provisions should be revoked by the Governor-General, all regulations in force, and all rates and charges levied under any State Act, should continue in force and be applied in the same manner as if such State Act were not affected by the Commonwealth Act. The administration of the Act of 1901 was placed in the hands of a Postmaster-General, a responsible Minister with Cabinet rank, and of a Secretary having chief control of the Department throughout the Commonwealth under the Postmaster-General, whilst a principal officer in each State was provided for under the style of Deputy Postmaster-General. The rates and charges levied in each State for the transmission of letters, telegrams, and postal articles at the date of Federation remained in force until the Post and Telegraph Rates Act came into operation on the 1st November, 1902. This Act secured uniformity throughout the Commonwealth in the rates charged for the conveyance of newspapers by post, and for the transmission of telegrams, but did not alter the charges made in the individual States for the transmission of letters, cards, parcels, and packets. Uniform postage rates now exist in all the States under the Postal Rates Act of 1910, which came into operation by proclamation on the 1st May, 1911. (See paragraph 6 hereof.)

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

**2. Development of Postal Services.**—In 1841 the number of post offices open in Australia was 102, situated mainly in New South Wales and Tasmania. At the end of ten years 101 post offices were open in New South Wales, 44 in Victoria, 72 in South Australia, and 51 in Tasmania. From the year 1851 onwards a remarkable increase in the number of post offices in Australia took place, until, in 1891, the number open 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, 1917, the postal business had increased to such an extent that 5980 post offices were open for business, of which number 2040 were situated in New South Wales, 1782 in Victoria, 643 in Queensland, 705 in South Australia, 412 in Western Australia, and 398 in Tasmania.

3. State, Interstate, and Oversea Postages for whole Commonwealth.—In the following table the matter dealt with from 1911 to 1916-17 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 but excluding interstate excess. The large increase in oversea mail matter despatched and received in 1916-17 is mainly attributable to postages in connection with the Australian troops abroad.

**STATE, INTERSTATE, AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH,  
1911 to 1916-17.**

Year.	Letters and Postcards.		Newspapers.		Packets.		Parcels.	
	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1000 of Population.	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1000 of Population.	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1000 of Population.	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1000 of Population.

**POSTED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH.**

1911	...	416,353	92,721	122,020	27,174	70,975	15,806	3,205	714
1912	...	431,996	93,005	122,373	26,346	60,439	13,012	3,583	771
1913	...	449,928	93,664	115,662	24,078	62,731	13,059	3,976	828
1914	...	467,114	94,957	122,534	24,909	59,989	12,195	4,163	846
1915-16	...	461,167	93,505	128,928	26,141	51,498	10,442	4,366	885
1916-17	...	478,287	98,104	124,939	25,627	45,926	9,420	4,337	890

**OVERSEA RECEIVED.**

1911	...	19,445	4,330	11,691	2,604	4,568	1,017	142	32
1912	...	24,266	5,224	13,565	2,920	5,275	1,136	196	42
1913	...	37,986	7,908	13,043	2,715	4,424	921	213	44
1914	...	30,952	6,292	11,068	2,250	2,316	471	191	39
1915-16	...	32,292	6,547	8,603	1,744	2,115	429	220	45
1916-17	...	59,301	12,163	10,209	2,094	3,007	617	245	50

**OVERSEA DESPATCHED.**

1911	...	17,265	3,845	7,926	1,765	3,120	695	83	18
1912	...	24,146	5,198	9,364	2,016	3,357	723	89	19
1913	...	30,569	6,364	10,658	2,219	4,131	860	108	22
1914	...	26,724	5,433	7,517	1,528	2,227	453	86	17
1915-16	...	33,668	6,826	10,011	2,030	2,955	599	466	94
1916-17	...	47,464	9,736	12,095	2,481	3,226	662	1,173	241

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

1911	...	453,975	101,100	139,603	31,089	79,017	17,597	3,419	761
1912	...	479,677	103,271	138,170	29,747	70,609	15,202	3,764	810
1913	...	520,518	108,359	136,195	28,352	69,771	14,525	4,286	892
1914	...	524,483	106,620	136,670	27,783	62,634	12,733	4,436	902
1915-16	...	526,777	106,808	143,472	29,090	55,563	11,266	5,104	1,035
1916-17	...	584,149	119,817	146,858	30,123	51,516	10,567	5,735	1,176

4. **State, Interstate, and Oversea Postages for each State.**—The following table shews separately for each State the postal matter dealt with in 1916-17 under the classification adopted in the preceding paragraph. The returns given for South Australia in this and all succeeding tables include those for the Northern Territory. Similarly, the returns for the Federal Territory are included in those for New South Wales :—

#### STATE, INTERSTATE, AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR EACH STATE, 1916-17.

State.	Letters and Postcards.		Newspapers.		Packets.		Parcels.	
	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Popula- tion.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Popula- tion.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Popula- tion.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Popula- tion.
POSTED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN COMMONWEALTH.								
New South Wales...	190,399	102,323	54,060	29,053	23,905	12,847	2,190	1,177
Victoria ...	148,451	106,053	32,702	23,362	8,798	6,285	748	534
Queensland ...	55,477	82,867	19,847	29,646	7,529	11,246	855	1,277
South Australia ...	37,523	85,947	7,263	16,636	3,049	6,984	255	584
Western Australia	27,094	87,738	4,759	15,411	1,574	5,097	216	699
Tasmania ...	19,343	96,751	6,308	31,552	1,071	5,357	73	365
Commonwealth...	478,287	98,104	124,939	25,627	45,926	9,420	4,337	890

#### OVERSEA RECEIVED.

New South Wales	29,783	16,006	4,696	2,524	1,122	603	85	46
Victoria ...	17,847	12,750	2,710	1,936	731	522	62	44
Queensland ...	4,088	6,106	1,009	1,507	243	363	42	63
South Australia ...	3,216	7,366	625	1,432	122	279	23	53
Western Australia	2,990	9,682	957	3,099	369	1,194	23	74
Tasmania ...	1,377	6,888	212	1,060	420	2,101	10	50
Commonwealth...	59,301	12,163	10,209	2,094	3,007	617	245	50

#### OVERSEA DESPATCHED.

New South Wales	19,627	10,548	5,348	2,874	1,970	1,059	463	249
Victoria ...	15,843	11,318	2,987	2,134	881	629	358	256
Queensland ...	3,974	5,936	1,485	2,218	130	194	104	155
South Australia ...	3,808	8,722	1,160	2,657	118	270	130	298
Western Australia	2,685	8,695	778	2,519	51	165	84	272
Tasmania ...	1,527	7,638	337	1,686	76	335	34	170
Commonwealth...	47,464	9,736	12,095	2,481	3,226	662	1,173	241

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 1916-17. It will be observed that the most sparsely populated States have the greatest number of offices in comparison with their population, but in order to judge the relative extension of postal facilities the area of country to each office must also be taken into account.

**SQUARE MILES OF TERRITORY AND NUMBER OF INHABITANTS TO EACH POST  
AND RECEIVING OFFICE ON 30th JUNE, 1917.**

State.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
Number of post and receiving offices...	2,588	2,638	1,328	830	618	481	8,483
Number of square miles of territory to each post office in State ...	120	33	505	1,089	1,579	55	351
Number of inhabitants to each office...	723	532	513	524	499	410	577
Number of inhabitants per 100 sq. miles	603	1,596	102	48	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 letters within the borders of a State, however, were not uniform, the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 having specially provided that the rates and charges levied in any State should continue in force. The last-mentioned provision, however, was repealed by the Postal Rates Act of 1910, which came into force by proclamation on 1st May, 1911, and uniform rates are now applicable throughout the Commonwealth.

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 were in force, each State had necessarily to use its own postage stamps, and stamps sold in one State were only allowed to be used on letters posted in that State. The necessity for this arrangement

disappeared with the change in the keeping of the Commonwealth accounts, and since the 14th October, 1910, stamps of any State can be affixed to letters, irrespective of the State in which they are posted. Stamps of a uniform design are now used throughout the Commonwealth.

(i.) *Letters.* Under the Postal Rates Act of 1910, the charge (1d. for every  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz.) for letters posted for delivery within the Commonwealth is now uniform throughout all States. Previous to 1st May, 1911, various local and interstate rates were in operation within the States. The postage to the United Kingdom was reduced in January, 1891, from sixpence per half-ounce *via* the Red Sea, and fourpence *via* the Cape of Good Hope, to the uniform rate of twopence halfpenny. In 1891 the States were represented at the Congress of the Universal Postal Union held in Vienna, and on the 4th July a convention was signed on their behalf, by which they joined the Union from the 1st October of that year. On that date the rate of postage to all British possessions and to foreign countries included in the union was reduced to twopence halfpenny. The present charge for postage of interstate letters and of letters to the United Kingdom and to British possessions, including the captured (formerly German) islands in the Pacific, is uniformly one penny per half-ounce throughout the Commonwealth; 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 1917 there were in all 1467 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 shows the number of registered articles posted in each State during the year 1916-17, classified according to the places to which they were despatched for delivery:—

#### NUMBER OF REGISTERED ARTICLES POSTED DURING 1916-17.

State.	Posted in each State for Delivery within that State.		Posted in each State for Delivery in other States.		Posted in each State for Delivery in Places outside the C'wealth.		Total.	
	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1000 of Population.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1000 of Population.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1000 of Population.	Number (,000 omitted).	Per 1000 of Population.
New South Wales ...	1,389	746	201	108	153	82	1,743	937
Victoria ...	1,062	759	166	119	93	66	1,321	944
Queensland ...	576	860	110	164	50	75	736	1,099
South Australia ...	268	614	52	119	19	44	339	776
Western Australia ...	354	1,146	37	120	40	130	431	1,396
Tasmania ...	153	765	31	155	10	50	194	970
Commonwealth ...	3,802	780	597	122	365	75	4,764	977

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. Postal Union rates are charged in respect of Australian mails conveyed by the Union Company, and poundage rates in the case of the Oceanic Company.

(ii.) *Route via Suez Canal.* The establishment of a mail route *via* America had the effect of stimulating the steamship owners who were engaged in the service *via* Suez, and from that time there was a marked improvement in the steamers, as well as in the punctuality and speed with which the mails were delivered. 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. Until discontinued, owing to the war, mails were carried from Australia by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, but at Postal Union rates and not under contract with the Commonwealth. On the 25th April, 1905, the Orient-Pacific Company concluded a new contract with the Commonwealth Government for a fortnightly service between England and Australia. The subsidy was at the rate of £124,880 per annum. This contract has now been replaced by the present mail contract referred to in the next sub-section hereof. Fremantle has, since the year 1900, been the first and last port of call for European mail steamers, in lieu of Albany, the original port of call. The Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Steam Navigation Companies' steamers, before the outbreak of war in 1914, sailed alternately every week, both from London and Australia, conveying the outward and homeward mails. At the present time the P. & O. service is suspended, while the Orient service, though not actually discontinued, is very limited, and is carried on by the Cape route instead of *via* the 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 later 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. With the expiration of the period in 1916, this clause in the agreement lapsed. 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, 1918.

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
1. <i>To and from Europe, via Suez—</i>			
Orient Steam Navigation Co.*	Irregular Intervals	Adelaide, Fremantle & London, <i>via</i> South Africa	Subsidised. Date of agreement, 15th Nov., 1907. Term, from Feb., 1910. Amt. of subsidy, £170,000.

\* 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 Postal Union rates.
(b) Oceanic Steamship Co. ...	Every three weeks	Sydney, Apia, Honolulu, and San Francisco	Poundage rates.
4. <i>To and from New Zealand</i> — (a) Conjointly by Union S.S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Ltd.	Bi-weekly	Sydney and Wellington, Sydney and Auckland	.. ..
(b) Other Steamers ...	Irregularly, when convenient	Sydney, Wellington, Auckland, and Lyttelton	.. ..
5. <i>To and from ports in N.S. Wales</i> — (i.) NORTHERN PORTS— (a) North Coast S.N. Co. ...	Weekly Twice weekly	Sydney, Macleay River, Coff's Harbour, Clarence River, Byron Bay, and Richmond River	.. ..
(b) Cain's Co-Operative S.S. Co....	Twice a month	Sydney & Port Macquarie	.. ..
(ii.) SOUTH COAST PORTS— Illawarra and S. Coast S.N. Co....	Weekly	Sydney, Montague Island	.. ..
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. Extended two years from 5th Dec., 1917. Amount of subsidy, £17,950.
(b) Australian United Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.	Once every four weeks	Brisbane, Normanton & Burketown, via Townsville, Cooktown, and Thursday Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 16th Jan., 1915, for five years. Amount of subsidy, £6500. Frequency altered from once in three to once in four weeks from 4th Oct., 1917, and Subsidy reduced to £6000. 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, 1919. Amount of subsidy, (a) £900; (b) £350; (c) £450; (d) £350. Subsidised for three years from 1st January, 1917. Amount of subsidy, £3000. Subsidised without agreement. Amount of subsidy, £120. Subsidies under 7 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), paid by South Australia.
(b) .. ..	Twice a wk.	.. Edithburgh	
(c) .. ..	..	.. Stansbury	
(d) .. ..	..	.. Pt. Vincent	
(e) Adelaide Steamship Co. ...	Weekly	.. Pt. Lincoln	
(f) Adelaide Steam Tug Co. ...	As required	Port Pirie & Hummocks Hill	
8. <i>Western Australia</i> — (i) INTERSTATE— (a) Orient Line ...	In abeyance	Fremantle and Adelaide	Orient line subsidised. See above, 1.
(b) The Australian United Steam Navigation, Huddart Parker, Melbourne S.S. Co., and McIlwraith, McEacharn lines	Three times in four weeks.	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 28th February, 1913, for three years. Later extended to a date three months after expiration of war. 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. Tasmania—			
(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 t.s. <i>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) Holyman & Sons Ltd.	Every three weeks	Launceston and Furneaux group of Islands	
(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. To and from Northern Territory—			
(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.	Irregularly	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.
<b>11. To Eastern Ports—*</b>			
(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	" "
<b>12. South Africa—</b>			
(a) White Star, P. & O. Branch Service, and other Companies	Irregularly	Various ...	" "
(b) Orient Line ...	Four times a year.	Adelaide and Capetown	" "
<b>13. North America—</b>			
(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	" "
<b>14. South America—</b>			
Oceanic S.S. Co. ...	Four times a month	Sydney or Newcastle via San Francisco to ports in Chile, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, and Argentina	Poundage rates.
<b>15. Pacific Islands—</b>			
(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	Poundage rates.
(e) Royal Dutch Packet S. N. Co.	Irregularly	Melbourne to Papua via Sydney and Queensland ports	
(f) Pacific Phosphate Co. Ltd. ...	Four times a year	Rabaul and Nauru	Contract with Defence Department.
<b>16. Noumea—</b>			
(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.
<b>17. Fiji—</b>			
(a) Union S.S. Co. ...	Monthly	Sydney and Suva	" "
(b) " " ...	"	Sydney, Auckland, Suva, Tonga, and Samoa	" "
(c) A.U.S.N. Co. ...	"	Sydney and Suva	" "
<b>18. Fiji and Noumea—</b>			
Burns, Philp and Co. ...	"	Sydney and Suva	" "
<b>19. Ocean and Pleasant Islands—</b>			
Various steamships ...	"	Sydney, Ocean and Pleasant Islands	" "

\* Frequency of services not maintained owing to exigencies of war.

9. **Amount of Mail Subsidies Paid.**—The following table shows the amounts of subsidies paid by the Commonwealth Postal Department for ocean and coastal mail services during the year ended 30th June, 1917 :—

**MAIL SUBSIDIES.—OCEAN AND POSTAL SUBSIDIES DURING YEAR 1916-17.**

Service...	Orient S.N. Co.	Queensl'd Ports.	South Australian Ports.	Western Australian Ports.	Tasmanian Ports.
Annual Subsidy	£ 26,154	£ 24,450	£ 5,050	£ 7,513	£ 13,485

During the year 1916-17 the amount paid by the Commonwealth for conveyance of mails at poundage rates by non-contract vessels was £41,428; by road services, £458,056; and by railway services, £373,667. The total expenditure in 1916-17 on the carriage of mails, including the items and subsidies specified and sundry other payments, was £1,247,763.

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. Upon the arrival of over-sea mails at Fremantle, letters for the eastern States and New Zealand are now landed, and the Australian letters are conveyed to their several destinations by rail. By landing at Fremantle instead of as formerly at Adelaide, a saving of approximately sixty-six hours is effected. It is probable that at the conclusion of the war all mails arriving by P. & O. and Orient steamers will be conveyed by rail from Fremantle. In consequence of the war in Europe, steamers belonging to the Orient S.N. Co. travel to and from England by way of South Africa. The subjoined table shews the average and the fastest times occupied in the conveyance of mails from London to Adelaide and *vice versa* during the year 1916-17 :—

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

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

\* Letters for Eastern States now landed at Fremantle.

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

The average time occupied in the conveyance of mails from London to Sydney *via* Vancouver is a little over 37 days, and from Sydney to London by the same route nearly 35. A table shewing the average and fastest times of this service was given in earlier issues (see Year Book No. 5, p. 766), but the discontinuance of the contract with the company operating between Australia and Vancouver renders the table no longer 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 1916-17, together with the total amount of commission on money orders and poundage on postal notes received by the Postal Department. The number and value of money orders issued and paid within the Commonwealth shews a decrease as compared with 1915-16, accounted for by the discontinuance of the payment by money order of military allotments:—

**VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED AND PAID AND OF POSTAL NOTES SOLD,  
AND TOTAL AMOUNTS OF COMMISSION AND POUNDAGE RECEIVED IN  
EACH STATE DURING 1916-17.**

State.	Value of Money Orders Issued.	Value of Money Orders Paid.	Net Money Order Commission Received.	Value of Postal Notes Sold.	Poundage Received on Postal Notes.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	4,527,557	4,389,944	27,866	1,443,113	28,127
Victoria ...	2,046,113	2,213,594	10,116	884,586	17,922
Queensland ...	1,478,943	1,236,758	10,612	385,950	7,634
South Australia ...	704,904	626,546	4,519	219,071	4,456
Western Australia ...	1,115,735	916,348	6,719	226,366	4,360
Tasmania ...	411,451	373,677	2,573	114,331	2,325
Commonwealth ...	10,284,703	9,756,867	62,405	3,273,417	64,824

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

**RATES OF COMMISSION, MONEY ORDERS.**

If Payable in—	For sums—								
	Not exceeding £2.	Exceeding £2, but not exceeding £5.	Exceeding £5, but not exceeding £7.	Exceeding £7, but not exceeding £10.	Exceeding £10, but not exceeding £12.	Exceeding £12, but not exceeding £15.	Exceeding £15, but not exceeding £17.	Exceeding £17, but not exceeding £20.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Commonwealth of Australia ...	0 6	0 6	1 0	1 0	1 6	1 6	2 0	2 0	
New Zealand and Fiji ...	0 6	1 0	1 6	2 0	2 6	3 0	3 6	4 0	
Papua ...	0 9	0 9	1 6	1 6	2 3	2 3	3 0	3 0	
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. Where payment is to be made within the Commonwealth the remitter must also send a telegram advising the transmission of the money, which telegram must be produced by the payee when applying for payment. In the case of New Zealand a second telegram is not required, but an additional charge of sixpence is made by the Department to cover the cost of notifying the payee.

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

#### POUNDAGE RATES, POSTAL NOTES.

Denomination of Note ...	6d. to 1s. 6d.	2s. to 4s. 6d.	5s.	7s. 6d.	10s. to 20s.
Poundage charged ...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	1d.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ d.	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 1911 to 1916-17 :—

#### NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES ISSUED AND PAID, 1901 and 1911 to 1916-17.

Year.	Money Orders.				Postal Notes.			
	Issued.		Paid.		Issued.		Paid.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).
1901 ...	1,318	4,193	1,339	4,081	3,515	1,292	3,522	1,293
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
1916-17	2,293	10,285	2,105	9,757	9,663	3,273	9,549	3,265

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 1916-17, classified according to the country where payable :—

#### MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY WHERE PAYABLE, 1916-17.

State in which Issued.	Where Payable.				Total.
	In the Com- monwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United K'dom.	In Other Countries.	
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	880,320	17,339	97,821	16,946	1,012,426
Victoria ...	350,839	8,733	49,941	10,834	420,347
Queensland ...	294,760	2,992	35,453	8,454	341,659
South Australia ...	144,610	1,381	17,978	4,094	168,063
Western Australia	220,930	1,629	27,548	4,854	254,961
Tasmania ...	86,375	1,979	5,584	1,274	95,212
Commonwealth	1,977,834 <sup>0</sup>	34,053	234,325	46,456	2,292,668

## 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	4,110,811	52,870	259,691	104,185	4,527,557
Victoria ...	1,847,019	27,957	110,219	60,918	2,046,113
Queensland ...	1,315,637	8,591	87,271	67,444	1,478,943
South Australia ...	634,532	4,634	41,374	24,364	704,904
Western Australia	1,017,211	6,022	63,204	29,298	1,115,735
Tasmania ...	388,245	8,084	12,000	3,122	411,451
Commonwealth	9,313,455	108,158	573,759	289,331	10,284,703

The following table shews the number and value of money orders paid in each State during the year 1916-17, classified according to the country where issued :—

## MONEY ORDERS PAID IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF ISSUE, 1916-17.

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	865,320	32,623	18,494	12,247	928,684
Victoria ...	421,983	20,955	11,695	6,844	461,477
Queensland ...	269,333	1,918	4,329	2,762	278,342
South Australia ...	140,603	1,731	3,288	1,219	146,841
Western Australia	195,160	2,429	5,515	1,387	204,491
Tasmania ...	77,895	3,997	1,425	1,436	84,753
Commonwealth	1,970,294	63,653	44,746	25,895	2,104,588
VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	4,192,896	93,002	58,931	45,115	4,389,944
Victoria... ..	2,091,709	61,068	37,861	22,956	2,213,594
Queensland ...	1,202,390	8,640	16,628	9,100	1,236,758
South Australia ...	606,053	5,705	10,150	4,638	626,546
Western Australia	888,786	5,795	15,845	5,922	916,348
Tasmania ...	353,380	12,239	4,286	3,772	373,677
Commonwealth	9,335,214	186,449	143,701	91,503	9,756,867

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

14. **Classification of Postal Notes Paid.**—The subjoined table shews the number and value of postal notes paid during the year 1916-17 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, 1916-17.**

Particulars.	Postal Notes Paid in—						
	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
<b>NUMBER.</b>							
Issued in same State ...	3,104,202	2,087,326	877,130	497,127	532,868	268,534	7,367,187
Issued in other States ...	333,674	348,019	69,258	61,824	21,947	1,346,981	2,181,703
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>3,437,876</b>	<b>2,435,345</b>	<b>946,388</b>	<b>558,951</b>	<b>554,815</b>	<b>1,615,515</b>	<b>9,548,890</b>
<b>VALUE.</b>							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Issued in same State ...	1,125,817	689,222	301,884	155,723	200,090	88,061	2,560,797
Issued in Other States ...	120,372	127,684	25,532	24,628	8,481	397,681	704,378
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1,246,189</b>	<b>816,906</b>	<b>327,416</b>	<b>180,351</b>	<b>208,571</b>	<b>485,742</b>	<b>3,265,175</b>

**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 1910 to 1916-17. 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 in 1916-17 amounting to about 80 per cent. of the total for the Commonwealth in respect of number of parcels and also of value collected.



**VALUE PAYABLE PARCELS POST.—NUMBER POSTED, VALUE COLLECTED,  
AND REVENUE, 1910 to 1916-17.**

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
<b>NUMBER OF PARCELS POSTED.</b>							
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
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
1916-17	16,794	1,530	53,585	318	22,427	28	94,682

<b>VALUE COLLECTED.</b>							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1910	14,736	1,656	43,478	238	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
1916-17	24,268	2,704	74,418	463	35,496	56	137,405

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

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
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
1916-17	2,154	190	6,779	39	3,060	4	12,226

In 1905, the first year for which complete figures for the Commonwealth are available, the number of value payable parcels posted was 24,920, of an aggregate value of £34,990. By 1916-17 the increase in number was 69,762 and in value £102,415. The States chiefly responsible for the increase are Queensland, Western Australia, and New South Wales. The average value collected on parcels in 1905 was £1 8s., and in 1916-17 £1 9s. These averages are fairly representative of the intervening years, the fluctuations throughout being inappreciable. The average value payable by the addressees in each State for the seven years 1910 to 1916-17 was highest in the case of Tasmania, viz., £2 9s., next in order being South Australia £2 1s., Victoria £1 17s., Western Australia, £1 12s., New South Wales £1 9s., and Queensland £1 6s. The average for the Commonwealth for the same period was £1 9s.

**16. Agricultural Produce Parcels Post.**—On the 1st July, 1914, the Postal Department, acting in conjunction with the Railway Department, inaugurated a system under which parcels of agricultural produce, fish, cut flowers, 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 Posts and Telegraph Act 1901, the Postmaster-General may cause to be opened all unclaimed and undelivered postal articles originally posted within the Commonwealth which have been returned from the places to which they were forwarded. Every

unclaimed letter and postal article must be kept for the prescribed period at the office to which it has been transmitted for delivery, and must then be sent to the General Post Office. Letters and packets originally posted elsewhere than in the Commonwealth are returned to the proper authorities in the country in which they were so posted, or, if originally posted in the Commonwealth are returned to the General Post Office in the State where posted; but unclaimed or undelivered newspapers may be forthwith sold, destroyed, or used for any public purpose. Opened postal articles not containing anything of value are returned to the writer or sender if his name and address can be ascertained, but may otherwise be destroyed forthwith. As regards 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 shews the total number of letters, postcards, and packets dealt with by the Dead Letter Offices in the Commonwealth during the year 1916-17, together with the number of inland, interstate, and international letters either returned to writers, delivered, destroyed, or returned as unclaimed.

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

#### TRANSACTIONS OF DEAD LETTER OFFICES IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1916-17.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
LETTERS (,000 OMITTED).							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	545	390	267	129	216	78	1,625
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	131	78	37	16	26	13	301
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	123	56	45	23	34	15	296
Total ...	799	524	349	168	276	106	2,222
POSTCARDS (,000 OMITTED).							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	1	2	6	8	26	2	45
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	1	2	1	...	2	...	6
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	4	4	2	1	2	1	14
Total ...	6	8	9	9	30	3	65
PACKETS (,000 OMITTED).							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	434	36	112	21	155	3	761
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	110	225	10	23	...	...	368
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	2	8	34	15	13	9	81
Total ...	546	269	156	59	168	12	1,210
Grand total (letters, postcards, & packets)	1,351	801	514	236	474	121	3,497

18. **Post Offices and Receiving Offices and Employees.**—The following tables shew 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 1912 to 1916-17 inclusive :—

## NUMBER OF POST AND RECEIVING OFFICES, 1901 and 1912-17.

State.	1901.		1912.		1913.		1914.		1915-16.		1916-17.	
	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.
New South Wales ...	1,684	524	2,000	559	2,025	571	2,049	574	2,074	566	2,040	548
Victoria ...	1,637	18	1,730	844	1,749	883	1,815	871	1,787	873	1,782	856
Queensland* ...	411	823	593	770	614	772	629	728	642	680	643	685
South Australia ...	609	...	668	95	672	124	680	131	739	105	705	125
Western Australia ...	187	28	300	130	398	146	418	158	431	182	412	206
Tasmania† ...	376	...	391	55	395	60	400	63	409	69	398	83
Commonwealth ...	4,994	1,393	5,772	2,453	5,853	2,556	5,991	2,525	6,082	2,483	5,960	2,503

\* 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 1912-17.

State.	1901.		1912.		1913.		1914.		1915-16.		1916-17.	
	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.
New South Wales ...	5,636	984	12,614	1,798	10,823	2,376	11,131	2,512	13,166	1,899	12,902	1,915
Victoria ...	3,962	890	7,845	1,060	8,437	1,123	8,614	1,132	8,840	1,152	8,826	1,137
Queensland ...	2,616	...	3,942	768	4,134	812	4,343	813	4,051	806	4,442	801
South Australia ...	1,945	...	2,173	364	2,364	382	2,432	307	2,316	348	2,942	352
Western Australia ...	1,303	140	2,246	251	2,444	355	2,327	351	2,558	284	2,693	279
Tasmania ...	865	...	1,094	217	1,141	294	1,176	281	1,275	224	1,313	221
Commonwealth ...	16,327	2,014	29,914	4,458	29,343	5,342	30,023	5,396	32,706	4,713	33,118	4,705

The figures in the above table are exclusive of casual and exempt officers employed intermittently.

19. Gross Revenue of Postal Department.—The following table shews the gross revenue of the Postal Department for the years ended 30th June, 1902 and 1912 to 1917 inclusive, under three heads, viz., the Postal, the Telegraph, and the Telephone branches. In the Postal branch is included the revenue derived from money-order commissions, poundage on postal notes, private boxes and bags, and miscellaneous sources. The following figures and also those for expenditure are supplied by the Treasury and represent the actual collections and payments for the periods mentioned:—

## GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1901-2 and 1911-12 to 1916-17.

Year ended 30th June.				Postal Branch.	Telegraph Branch.	Telephone Branch.	Total.
				£	£	£	£
1902	...	...	...	1,743,662	629,199*	†	2,372,861
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	878,233	1,099,417	4,594,542
1916	...	...	...	2,938,837	893,904	1,220,855	5,053,596
1917	...	...	...	2,991,669	947,178	1,549,918	5,488,765

\* Including telephone revenue. † Included in telegraph revenue.

The following table gives an analysis of the actual collections of the Postal Department in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year ended 30th June, 1917:—

### ANALYSIS OF GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1916-17.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wlth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Postage ... ..	1,034,609	746,555	361,833	222,976	153,297	94,590	2,613,860
Telegraphs ... ..	340,162	200,728	164,893	128,456	83,449	29,490	947,178
Telephones ... ..	629,259	431,796	218,603	135,355	92,739	42,166	1,549,918
Money order commission ... ..	54,992	28,954	18,073	8,881	11,079	4,918	126,897
Poundage on postal notes ... ..	13,305	5,885	6,906	3,494	2,221	1,345	33,086
Private boxes and bags ... ..	76,853	66,214	24,807	13,017	30,465	6,480	217,836
Miscellaneous ... ..							
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>2,149,180</b>	<b>1,480,132</b>	<b>795,105</b>	<b>512,109</b>	<b>373,250</b>	<b>178,989</b>	<b>5,488,765</b>

**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, 1902 and 1912 to 1917 inclusive. The figures given include certain items of expenditure, such as rent, repairs and maintenance of buildings, fittings and furniture, sanitation, water supply, new buildings and additions which are under the control of the Department of Home Affairs, and interest on transferred properties.

### TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1901-2 AND 1911-12 TO 1916-17.

Year.	1901-2.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Expenditure ... .. £	2,478,796	5,344,421	6,435,039	6,597,123	6,315,744	6,366,431	5,883,570

The following table shews, as far as possible, the distribution of expenditure on various items in each State during the year ended 30th June, 1917. 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, 1916-17.

Particulars.	Central Office.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wlth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Salaries and Contingencies—</b>								
Salaries ... ..	19,369	1,052,573	666,908	334,934	223,258	221,693	80,021	2,598,756
Conveyance of mails ... ..	...	372,730	160,848	197,421	89,760	73,865	42,938	836,563
Contingencies ... ..	2,802	491,050	318,639	195,816	127,557	119,072	53,545	1,298,781
Cables ... ..	3,929	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,929
Ocean mails ... ..	26,221	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,221
Miscellaneous ... ..	713	5,354	4,859	1,519	1,689	1,241	251	15,626
<b>Pensions and retiring allowances ... ..</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>22,524</b>	<b>27,315</b>	<b>1,713</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>4,325</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>55,877</b>
Rent, repairs, maintenance ... ..	213	33,480	14,768	8,107	3,633	5,800	1,599	67,600
Supervision of works ... ..	...	1,168	879	420	274	194	125	3,060
Proport'n of Audit Office exps. ... ..	...	1,128	849	406	265	187	121	2,956
Unforeseen expenditure ... ..	...	138	104	50	32	23	15	363
<b>New Works—</b>								
Telegraph and telephone ... ..	...	199,976	76,117	59,193	69,410	40,170	14,956	459,822
New buildings, etc. ... ..	...	22,117	56,298	230	2,367	33,793	30	114,824
Interest on transferred properties ... ..	...	81,748	46,713	32,333	29,333	19,972	7,503	217,602
Purchase of sites ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*16,607
Other ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*64,985
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>53,247</b>	<b>2,273,986</b>	<b>1,374,297</b>	<b>832,142</b>	<b>547,878</b>	<b>519,324</b>	<b>201,104</b>	<b>5,883,570</b>

\* 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 1916-17 as shewn hereunder discloses the fact that the working of the Postmaster-General's Department for that year resulted in a surplus of £381,236, after providing for depreciation, pension and retiring allowances. From this amount must be deducted £558,382 for interest on capital, making a total deficit of £177,146.

Tables shewing the results of the working of the Department for the years 1913-14, to 1916-17 are appended :—

**GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,  
1913-14 to 1916-17.**

Items.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.*	1916-17.*
Total earnings ...	£ 4,523,368	£ 4,620,061	£ 5,049,569	£ 5,515,769
Total working expenses	4,589,601	4,761,714	4,841,667	5,134,533
Deficit ...	66,233	141,653	*207,902	*381,236
Interest on capital ...	435,223	488,069	523,892	558,382
Total deficit ...	501,456	629,722	315,990	177,146

\* 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 in 1914-15 was £629,722. The net result for 1915-16, however, shewed a marked improvement on the figures for the previous year, while in 1916-17 there was a further large decrease in the deficit, this being the best year since the issue of balance-sheets. 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 excess of working expenses in 1915-16 and 1916-17.

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 1916-17 :—

**PROFIT OR LOSS OF THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT,  
1914-15 to 1916-17.**

Branch.	1914-15.	1915-16.		1916-17.	
	Loss.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£
Postal ...	81,296	...	42,131	168,896	...
Telegraph ...	114,555	86,426	...	25,484	...
Telephone ...	390,704	271,695	...	...	17,234
Wireless Telegraph ...	43,167	*	*	*	*
	629,722	358,121	42,131	194,380	17,234

\* Wireless telegraphy transferred to Navy Department.

The Telephone branch shewed a profit for the first time on record in 1916-17. The loss in the same period on the working of the Postal branch is largely accounted for by the payment of £68,107 for the carriage of oversea mails in previous years, and an increased payment of £56,218 to the Railway Departments in 1916-17.

**PROFIT OR LOSS OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT IN THE VARIOUS STATES,  
1914-15 to 1916-17.**

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

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

## § 2. Telegraphs.

**1. First Lines Constructed.**—The electric telegraph was first introduced into Australia for use by the public in the year 1854, when a line from Melbourne to Williamstown was opened. The first line in South Australia, from Adelaide to Port Adelaide, was opened in 1856, while the first line in New South Wales was brought into operation in 1858, when the line from Sydney to Liverpool, 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, making the total length of the line open at the end of the year 1881, 25,470 miles. At the present time the systems of telegraph lines throughout Australia are well developed. The longest line extends from Thursday Island, in Torres Strait, by submarine cable to Paterson, on the mainland of Cape York Peninsula; from Paterson the line runs in a southerly direction as far as Brisbane, where it joins the main interstate line to Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide; from Adelaide it runs to Port Augusta, then on to Port Lincoln, on Eyre's Peninsula, and thence to Eucla, on the Western Australia boundary; from Eucla the line extends along the coast of the Great Australian Bight to Albany, and thence it runs adjacent to the west coast of Western

Australia as far as Onslow, via Perth, Geraldton, and Carnarvon. From Onslow connection extends to Broome, in Roebuck Bay. From Roebuck Bay the line crosses the Kimberley district in an easterly direction, and then runs north as far as the terminus at Wyndham. In Queensland a line runs to Burketown, near the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, via Normanton; another line extends to Cloncurry and 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 shews the number of telegraph offices and the length of telegraphic lines and of telegraph wire available for use in the Commonwealth from 1914 to 1917 inclusive. It will be noticed that 73,663 miles of wire are available for both telegraph and telephone purposes:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES AND LENGTH OF LINE AVAILABLE  
FOR USE, 1914 to 1917.

Particulars.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Number of Offices ... ..	5,160	5,812	6,119	6,189
Length of Wire—	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.
Telegraph purposes only ... ..	70,992	71,680	62,224	62,804
Telegraph and telephone purposes ... ..	52,288	60,061	71,267	73,663
Length of Line—				
Conductors in Morse Cable ... ..	2,834	2,883	2,959	3,232
Conductors in Submarine Cable ... ..	910	1,080	1,196	1,680
Pole routes ... ..	55,362	57,424	58,889	59,706

The following table gives corresponding particulars for each State for the year 1916-17:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES, LENGTH OF LINE AND WIRE, IN  
EACH STATE, 1916-17.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wlth.
No. of Offices ... ..	2,231	1,711	795	516	503	433	6,189
Length of Wire (miles)—							
Telegraph purposes only ... ..	21,470	5,187	15,282	11,889	8,840	136	62,804
Telegraph and Telephone purposes ... ..	28,408	16,230	11,987	5,285	6,816	4,937	73,663
Length of Line (miles)—							
Conductors in Morse Cable ... ..	675	2,107	416	...	21	13	3,232
Conductors in Submarine Cable ... ..	1,074	437	66	54	...	49	1,680
Pole routes ... ..	22,902	7,067	12,358	6,551	8,343	2,485	59,706

4. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—Particulars as to the revenue from the telegraph systems for the years 1902 and 1912-17 are given on page 744.

5. **Number of Telegrams Despatched.**—The following table shows the total number of telegrams despatched to destinations within the Commonwealth in 1901 and in each of the years 1911 to 1916-17 inclusive:—

**NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED (,000 OMITTED), 1901 and 1911-17.**

Year ... ..	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Number* ... ..	8,003	12,821	13,343	13,556	13,918	13,939	14,089

\* Including interstate cablegrams.

The following table shows the number of telegrams despatched in each State in 1916-17 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, 1916-17 (,000 OMITTED).**

State, etc. ... ..	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Inland (counted once)	3,864	2,258	1,894	846	1,248	371	10,481
Interstate* ... ..	1,089	1,038	532	410	364	175	3,608
Total ... ..	4,953	3,296	2,426	1,256	1,612	546	14,089

\* Including interstate cablegrams.

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

**SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ORDINARY TELEGRAMS.**

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



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

### SCALE OF CHARGES FOR PRESS TELEGRAMS.

Particulars.	Within any State.	Interstate.	Relating to Parlia- mentary, Executive, Departmental, and other Common- wealth Proceedings as may be prescribed.*
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Not exceeding 25 words ... ..	0 6	1 0	1 0
From 26 to 50 words ... ..	0 9	1 6	} 1 6
From 51 to 100 words ... ..	1 6	3 0	
Every additional 50 words ... ..	0 6	1 0	0 6

\* 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 the end of 1917 the service applied to 109 offices throughout the Commonwealth.

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

## § 3. Submarine Cables.

1. **First Cable Communication with the Old World.**—In earlier issues of the Year Book (No. 6, p. 770) will be found a detailed account of 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, and remained in operation until 1914, in which year it was taken up. (c) In July, 1899, the company offered to lay a cable direct to Great Britain *via* the Cape of Good Hope, and also offered reductions in the rates charged, if the States would agree to certain conditions giving the company the right of direct dealing with the public. The States of South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania accepted the terms offered, and New South Wales entered into the agreement in January, 1901. The cable was opened *via* Fremantle and Durban in October, 1901. (d) Another submarine cable from Fremantle to Adelaide forms an alternative line of communication between the eastern States and Western Australia. (e) There is an alternative route, partly belonging to the Eastern Extension Company and connecting the Port Darwin-Singapore cable with London, *via* Hong Kong, Shanghai, Possiet Bay (Pacific Russia), Libau (Russian Baltic), and Newbiggin (England). (f) In 1909 a cable was laid from Java to Cocos Island, thus affording another route from Australia to South Africa, whilst in April, 1911, a radio-telegraphic station was opened at Cocos Island, thus strengthening the line of communication between Australia and the East.

**4. The Pacific Cable.**—In July, 1898, a conference of representatives of Great Britain, Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and New Zealand was held for the purpose of considering a project for a cable to be laid across the Pacific Ocean, touching only British territory on its way from Australia to Canada, thus providing an "All Red" route, as it is termed, for a cable system between England and Australia. In the following year it was agreed at a meeting held by representatives of the countries interested that the cable should be laid and that Great Britain and Canada should each pay five-eightieths 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, 1917, after providing for working expenses, interest, sinking fund, etc., shewed a surplus of £4231, of which the Commonwealth's share is £1410. The financial year 1916 resulted in a surplus of £17,924, but to enable an equitable comparison to be made, it is necessary to explain that in addition to the usual annual contribution to the renewal fund in 1917, a further sum of £60,000 was transferred to replace loss by depreciation of securities in which the fund is invested and to strengthen the position generally. As in 1916, the surplus must be applied in reduction of the outstanding balance of the original loan of £2,000,000 in accordance with the Pacific Cable Act of 1901. The following table shews particulars of the revenue, expenditure, total profit or loss, and the proportion of the loss payable by the Commonwealth for the financial years 1903 and 1910-17:—

**REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, AND PROFIT AND LOSS ON WORKING OF PACIFIC CABLE, 1903 and 1910-17.**

Year ended the 31st March.	Revenue.	Expenditure (including Annuities and Renewal Fund).	Profit or Loss.	Commonwealth Proportion of Loss, or Profit.
	£	£	£	£
1903 ...	...	...	Loss 90,518	Loss 30,514
1910 ...	111,724	171,312	„ 59,588	„ 19,862
1911 ...	138,678	186,888	„ 48,210	„ 16,071
1912 ...	159,150	199,649	„ 40,499	„ 13,500
1913 ...	167,901	200,171	„ 32,270	„ 10,757
1914 ...	197,848	217,798	„ 19,950	„ 6,650
1915 ...	225,045	232,961	„ 7,916	„ 2,638
1916 ...	310,516	292,592	Profit 17,924	Profit 5,975
1917 ...	336,774	332,543	„ 4,231	„ 1,410

\* 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 1914 to 1916-17:—

**CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED, COMMONWEALTH, 1914 to 1916-17.**

Particulars.	Cablegrams Received.			Cablegrams Despatched.			Total Cablegrams Received and Despatched.		
	1914.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1914.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1914.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Number...	305,384	437,151	533,055	325,841	387,402	392,381	631,225	824,553	925,436

The following table shews the total number of cablegrams received and despatched in each State during the year 1916-17. The figures given are exclusive of interstate cablegrams, which are classed as interstate telegrams (see § 2 hereof):—

## NUMBER OF CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED IN EACH STATE, 1916-17.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.*	C'wealth.
Number received ...	260,284	160,497	38,989	36,055	24,933	12,297	533,055
„ despatched...	186,143	132,025	24,218	21,002	21,052	7,941	392,381
Total ...	446,427	292,522	63,207	57,057	45,985	20,238	925,436

\* 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 Darwin.				Via South Africa.			
			Miles.				Miles.
Adelaide to Darwin ...	...	...	2,134	Perth to Mauritius ...	...	...	4,417
Darwin to Banjoewangie ...	...	...	1,150	Mauritius to Durban ...	...	...	1,786
Banjoewangie to London ...	...	...	9,841	Durban to Cape Town ...	...	...	800
				Cape Town to Madeira ...	...	...	5,715
				Madeira to Penzance ...	...	...	1,341
				Penzance to London ...	...	...	360
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 ...	...	...	17,932

9. **Cable Rates.**—In 1872 the cable rate to England was nine guineas for twenty words, but when word rates were brought into general use in 1875, the rate between Great Britain and Australia was fixed at ten shillings and sixpence, subsequently altered to ten shillings and eightpence. In 1886 the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company reduced the rate to nine shillings and fourpence a word for ordinary messages, to seven shillings and a penny for Government messages, and to two shillings and eightpence a word for press messages. At a conference of the postal and telegraphic authorities held in March, 1891, the proposal to reduce the rates to four shillings a word for ordinary messages, three shillings and eightpence for Government, and one shilling and tenpence for press messages was agreed to, the States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania undertaking to make good half the loss which the Eastern Company might suffer through such reductions. The States guaranteed to the company one-half of the amount of receipts short of the sum of £237,736—the amount received by the company in 1889 in respect of cable charges—the other half to be borne by the company. The Government of South Australia was also guaranteed by the other contracting States against any loss to the revenue which the lower cable rates might cause in the working of the overland lines. Queensland subsequently joined the other States in these guarantees. In 1893, however, owing to the heavy losses incurred,

the 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. In 1916-17, 6,055,387 words were transmitted to and from Australia, the Commonwealth revenue from this source amounting to £63,373, an increase over the previous year of 772,916 words and of £8153 revenue. 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, Burma, Canada, Portugal, and Newfoundland. A further benefit has been conferred on users, as week-end cables to the countries enumerated may now be transmitted by telegraph throughout without extra charge. The rates to these countries and to the United Kingdom are shewn hereunder :—

## RATES FOR WEEK-END CABLE LETTERS.

Country.	Rate per Word.	Minimum Charge per Telegram.
United Kingdom ...	9d.	15/-
Union of South Africa ...	7d. (plus $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.**—The agreement between the State Governments and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company expired on the 30th April, 1900. From the year 1895 onwards the amounts guaranteed—£237,736 to the company and £37,552 to South Australia—were met by the receipts.

The following table shews the total amounts paid by way of cable subsidies for the years 1910-11 to 1916-17 :—

## TOTAL AMOUNT OF CABLE SUBSIDIES PAID, 1910-11 to 1916-17.

Year.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Amount ... £	20,093	17,522	14,779	10,650	6,638	4,860	3,929

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 were laid by the Commonwealth Government, the guarantees were, in the course of the year 1910, reduced to those in connection with the New Caledonia and Pacific cables. The amount of cable subsidies paid by the Commonwealth in 1916-17 was £3929 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 1902 and 1912-17 are given on page 744 *ante*.

**2. Telephone Rates.**—On the 10th December, 1915, revised charges for telephone services came into operation. Under the new scale, ground-rent for telephones is calculated on the number of subscribers connected with the exchange or network, instead of being based on the total population residing within the telephone network, as formerly. The smallest and greatest rental charges remain the same as under the old system, but between these a more gradual scale was introduced. Previously the charge for calls made by a subscriber was at the rate of two calls for one penny up to 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, 1917.

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

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

**3. Particulars of Telephone Services.**—On 30th June, 1917, there were in the Commonwealth 137,652 telephone lines connected to 2044 exchanges, as compared with 128,862 lines connected to 1882 exchanges a year previously. The following tables shew the mileage of lines, etc., for telephone purposes, shewing trunk lines separately, on 30th June, 1916 and 1917:—

TELEPHONES.

757

MILEAGE OF LINES, Etc., FOR TELEPHONE PURPOSES (EXCLUSIVE OF TRUNK LINES), 1916 and 1917.

Particulars.	1916.	1917
Conduits ... duct miles	2,101	2,297
Conductors in Aerial Cables ... loop mileage	39,299	40,306
Underground Cables ... "	178,161	194,029
Cables for Junction Circuits ... "	22,081	23,673
Open Conductors ... single wire mileage	168,440	169,383

MILEAGE OF WIRES, TELEPHONE TRUNK LINES, 1916 and 1917.

Particulars.	1916.	1917.
	Miles.	Miles.
Telephone Trunk Lines only ...	23,226	27,055
Telegraph and Telephone purposes ...	71,267	73,663

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

PARTICULARS OF TELEPHONE SERVICE, 1905, 1916 and 1917.

Particulars.	Year.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total C'with.
No. of Exchanges ...	1905	64	23	19	11	16	16	149
	1916	705	586	248	143	105	95	1,882
	1917	765	622	256	189	111	101	2,044
No. of Lines Connected ...	1905	14,338	9,269	3,864	2,335	*3,462	1,523	*34,791
	1916	51,905	36,372	17,742	10,184	8,530	4,129	123,862
	1917	57,553	38,025	18,562	10,743	8,470	4,300	137,652
No. of Instruments Connected ...	1905	18,616	14,299	4,235	3,246	*4,857	1,751	*47,004
	1916	69,010	48,812	21,430	13,404	10,852	4,908	168,416
	1917	72,884	51,820	22,616	14,521	10,760	5,136	177,737
No. of Subscribers' Instruments ...	1916	66,532	46,497	20,312	12,846	10,235	4,421	160,843
	1917	70,058	49,358	21,474	13,916	10,135	5,000	169,941
No. of Public Telephones ...	1916	1,317	1,169	736	457	325	459	4,463
	1917	1,421	1,278	748	402	328	106	4,283
No. of other Local Instruments ...	1916	1,161	1,146	382	101	292	28	3,110
	1917	1,405	1,184	394	203	297	30	3,513
Instruments per 100 of Population ...	1905	1.3	1.2	.8	.9	1.9	.9	1.2
	1916	3.7	3.5	3.1	3.1	3.4	2.4	3.4
	1917	3.9	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.5	2.6	3.6
Earnings ...	1916	£ 508,594	£ 355,484	£ 180,577	£ 112,103	£ 79,117	£ 37,612	£ 1,273,487
	1917	648,850	447,120	231,180	137,579	94,219	44,159	1,603,107
Working Expenses ...	1916	533,411	319,575	150,379	84,173	110,721	39,028	1,237,287
	1917	538,832	317,026	166,525	84,436	101,020	38,987	1,246,826
Percentage of Working Expenses to Earnings ...	1916	% 104.88	% 89.90	% 83.28	% 75.09	% 139.95	% 103.77	% 97.16
	1917	83.04	70.90	72.03	61.37	107.22	88.29	77.78

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

\* Approximate.