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NINETEENTH REPORT
OF
THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,
ON
THE POST OFFICE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1873.

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NINETEENTH REPORT.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

MY LORDS,

I HAVE the honour to present to your Lordships the Nineteenth Annual Report on the Post Office; being that for the year 1872.

INLAND SERVICE.

The number of Post Offices in the United Kingdom was increased last year by nearly 300; so that there are now upwards of 12,200, of which nearly 870 are Head Offices. Post Offices.

The number of Road Letter Boxes was increased by over 700; making a total of nearly 8,400.

Thus, the whole number of postal receptacles is now upwards of 20,600; as compared with about 14,800 ten years ago, and with little more than 4,500 before the establishment of Penny Postage in 1840.

In London alone there are now more than 1,500 such receptacles.

The new Post Office in St. Martins-le-Grand is approaching completion, and is already in partial occupation.

The new Offices at Sunderland and Wolverhampton have been completed and occupied. Progress has been made with the Offices at Birmingham and Colchester; the office at Bury is nearly finished, and building operations will soon be commenced at Aberdeen, Carlisle, and Rochdale. Building-sites, including, in two instances, large buildings suitable for adaptation as Post Offices, have been purchased or are on the eve of purchase at Chester, Shrewsbury, Cork, Limerick, Peterborough, Stockport, Oldham, and Warrington; improvements have been made at many other Offices, and further improvements are in contemplation.

At nearly 450 places free deliveries have been established for the first time; and at more than 800 other places the deliveries have been extended in their area or increased in number. Free deliveries.

The measures mentioned in the last Report as about to be adopted, with a view of relieving Rural Messengers of part of Sunday. Delivery on Sunday.

their Sunday duty, (by arranging for the performance of this duty on alternate Sundays by substitutes,) and for diminishing, where practicable, the whole amount of Sunday labour, have been carried into effect.

Day Mails.

Many places have been provided with Day Mail accommodation for the first time; and additional Day Mails have been established between many other places. The Day Mail from London to Edinburgh and Glasgow has been accelerated, so as to allow of the delivery of letters on the evening of arrival; and the Day Mail Service to London from Ipswich, Norwich, and Yarmouth has also been greatly improved.

Night Mails.

An important acceleration has been made in the Night Mail to Perth, Dundee, and Aberdeen; benefiting by the way several towns in Fifeshire. A similar improvement has been effected in the Night Mail from the north to the west of England; and the arrangement described in the last Report, under which extra Night Mails are despatched to many places, and an early delivery obtained for a great number of letters posted at late hours, has been much extended.

LETTERS, POST CARDS, NEWSPAPERS, AND BOOK PACKETS.

Returns of letters.

The number of letters in 1871, as stated in the last Report, was nearly 915,000,000; but since that Report was written grave doubts have arisen regarding the accuracy of some of the Returns on which the statement was made; and a strict examination has shown that the real number was probably about 870,000,000. Beginning with the last quarter of 1872, such a system of check-counting has now been established as will, in future, bring to light any considerable error which a Postmaster may make in his Return. In my next Report, therefore, I shall be able to give the number of letters with confidence.

**Returns of post cards, newspapers, and books.
Compulsory registration.**

The same remarks apply to the numbers of post cards, newspapers, and book packets; which were respectively entered in the Report for 1871 at 75,000,000, 99,000,000, and 103,000,000.

In my last Report I called attention to the temptations to which many of our officers, especially among the Sorters and Letter Carriers, are exposed, through the neglect of a portion of the public to register packets containing valuable enclosures; coupled often with so careless a manner of folding as to make the nature of the contents quite evident; and I expressed my intention of applying for your Lordships' authority to make registration, which is now compulsory only in regard to letters containing coin, compulsory also in regard to letters containing bank-notes, jewellery, or postage stamps; unless these are so packed that their contents cannot be detected; adding that, as a preliminary step, I had issued a public notice, very widely circulated, urging the public carefully to fold, seal, and register all packets containing bank-notes or jewellery, and, besides careful folding, either to register all letters containing postage stamps or

to keep down the number of such stamps by the use, when necessary, of stamps of considerable value. I said that I was not sanguine as to the success of this notice, but that the result would settle, beyond doubt, the necessity of resorting to compulsory registration. The practical effect has accorded with my expectation. The notice has not, indeed, been wholly inoperative; but the evil to be remedied is still so great that, as you are aware, I have been obliged to ask for the authority adverted to; and as you have been pleased to grant it, I have now to announce that as soon as the necessary arrangements can be completed the measure will be brought into operation.

I again gladly express my conviction that the great body of men in our service are strictly honest; but to what an extent even a few thieves can now plunder the public may be gathered from the fact that, on a late occasion, a single Letter Carrier, suspected of stealing, was found, on examination, to have in his pockets not fewer than seven letters containing postage stamps.

The heedlessness with which risks are sometimes run is astounding; but of all cases that have come before me, one of the most surprising relates to what is generally regarded as an exemplar of caution and prudence, viz., a Scotch bank; from which an unregistered letter was lately sent, containing an uncrossed cheque for 500*l.*, which was stolen and quickly cashed.

In compliance with the urgent solicitations of the Committee of Wholesale and Retail Stationers of the United Kingdom, permission was given, under certain restrictions, for private cards, impressed with a halfpenny stamp at the Office of Inland Revenue and serving as letters, to pass through the post like post cards issued by Government. But of this concession little use has been made. Private post cards.

The privileges of the Inland Book Post are, I regret to say, greatly abused. Not only letters, partly printed and partly written, which have no claim to be regarded as circulars, but letters, about which there cannot possibly be any mistake, are posted, in large numbers, in halfpenny wrappers; contrary to the express regulations of the Book Post; a common notion on the part of the public appearing to be that because a letter may be sent for a halfpenny as a post card it may also be sent for a halfpenny as a book packet. Abuse of the Book Post.

As it is impossible for the officers of the Department, however vigilant, to detect every contravention of the rules, many of these letters, no doubt, pass unnoticed, and are delivered without any surcharge; of course to the injury of the Revenue.

In order, if possible, to diminish the evil, I issued, last August, a notice to the public, explaining very fully that there is no legal way of sending letters, even though partly printed, through the post for a halfpenny, except by means of post cards; and I think it well to take this opportunity of again directing public attention to the subject.

**Autumnal
manœuvres.**

As on a previous occasion, arrangements were made to provide postal accommodation for the troops assembled, last year, for the autumnal manœuvres at the Blandford and Pewsey Camps. At these camps not fewer than 130,000 letters were despatched, and no less than 200,000 letters, with nearly 3,000 newspapers, received.

**Letters sent
to Returned
Letter Office.**

The number of letters which, owing to wrong addresses and other causes, found their way to the Returned Letter Office did not greatly differ from the number in 1871; and was about 3,600,000. Of these about 170,000 were sent back to foreign countries; and of the remainder it was found practicable to re-issue with corrected addresses, or to return to the senders, upwards of 3,000,000, or more than eleven-twelfths.*

**Valuable
enclosures.**

About 88,000 of the undelivered letters contained property of different kinds, (being an increase of about 10 per cent. upon the previous year,) and of these, more than 300 had no address, although containing coin or bank notes.

Besides the property thus posted, there were 2,700 valuable books which, owing to careless packing or weak envelopes, escaped from their covers, but were recorded so as to allow of their being traced if enquired for; and more than 51,000 postage stamps were found loose in the different Post Offices.

**Letters without
any address.**

The total number of letters posted, last year, without any address was upwards of 15,000; being about 500 more than in the previous year.

**Undelivered
newspapers.**

In my last Annual Report reference was made to the enormous number of newspapers posted for transmission abroad which have to be stopped in their progress, owing to insufficient payment of postage. Great efforts have been made by the Department to direct public attention to this matter; but notwithstanding all that has been done, the number of such newspapers continues to be very large, having been last year nearly 600,000; causing, no doubt, much disappointment, and leading often to unmerited complaint against the Post Office. It seems to be thought by a large number of persons that a penny or even a halfpenny stamp will carry a newspaper of any weight to any place whatever; whereas no newspaper can be sent abroad for a halfpenny, and it is only to certain countries, and by certain routes, and when the weight does not exceed a quarter of a pound, that even a penny will suffice; while as a rule, unless the full postage is prepaid, the newspaper cannot be forwarded at all. As the Post Office has generally no means of ascertaining who are the senders of newspapers, insufficiently paid copies are necessarily destroyed; and thus, not only the newspaper, but also the sum paid upon it, is sacrificed.

It cannot be too strongly impressed upon persons sending newspapers to their friends in the colonies and other places abroad that the halfpenny rate is applicable to inland newspapers only; that on newspapers going abroad the lowest rate

* See table in Appendix, page 19, giving details.

is one penny ; and that when the weight of any such newspaper exceeds four ounces the lowest rate is twopence. The true amount, however, will always be found by reference to the table in the Postal Guide. The rule as to weight should be especially borne in mind in sending the illustrated newspapers.

The neglect of another rule, viz., that fixing eight days from the date of publication as the limit within which a newspaper must be posted for foreign transmission, also leads to the loss of a large number of newspapers ; such number last year having been more than 100,000.

Owing to the loose manner in which many newspapers and other large packets are made up, it often happens that letters of ordinary size get between the folds, and go wide of their destination. A record of such cases kept in the Post Office of Liverpool (comprising, probably, but a small portion of the whole number) shows that during a single quarter of a year not fewer than 49 letters were found to be thus concealed. And a gentleman residing in Manchester who is in the habit of posting a weekly newspaper to Canada, states that in the copies so despatched three such concealed letters were found within a space of nine months. This evil, which should be guarded against by careful folding, has naturally increased since the reduction in the rates of postage ; which has of course led to a large increase in the number of bulky packets.

For similar reasons care should be taken when sending letters to tropical countries either to avoid the use of wax or to employ the special kind of wax made to resist the action of heat. There was lately an instance of a valuable letter which had been sent to Buenos Ayres, and which for a time was supposed to be lost, being at last discovered adhering to another and larger letter which had been sealed with ordinary wax.

TELEGRAPHS.

There has again been a large and steady increase of Postal Telegraphic business.

The number of new offices opened (305) is, indeed, small compared with the number in 1871, but this is owing to the previous wide extension of the telegraphic system ; an extension reaching to a large number of villages and hamlets which, for many years at least, would probably not have enjoyed these advantages, except for the transfer of the telegraphs to the State. The total number of telegraph offices open at the end of the year was rather more than 5,400.

The number of ordinary messages last year reached a total of nearly 15,000,000 ;* showing an increase of nearly 3,000,000, or about 25 per cent. ; while a still greater increase took place in the number of words transmitted for the newspaper press ;

* See Appendix, page 24.

Press messages. the press messages (excluding some sent as ordinary telegrams) having, last year, contained more than 28,000,000 words ; being an increase of 7,000,000 words, or more than 33 per cent.

Number of words sent in one night. During a single night, when important ministerial statements were made in Parliament, upwards of 200,000 words, or about 100 columns of the "Times" newspaper, were transmitted from the Central Station in London for publication in the provincial papers.

Mileage of Telegraph wires. The total length of the Postal Telegraph wires at the end of the year was more than 105,000 miles ; of which about 5,000 miles were rented by private persons. In 1871 the total mileage was rather less than 88,000.

Private wires. The progress of the Private Wire system during the past year has been very satisfactory ; for while it was estimated that the aggregate rentals for private wires in the year ending last March would be 31,000*l.*, the actual amount was 38,000*l.*

The prospects of the current financial year are still more satisfactory ; and already the aggregate rentals are at the rate of 39,000*l.**

Number of instruments. The telegraph instruments at the end of the year numbered more than 7,500 ; being an increase during the year of nearly 1,200.

Autumnal manœuvres. The autumnal manœuvres, occurring, as the last of them did, in a district which is only served by minor telegraph offices, called for special arrangements of no ordinary character. Often the work had to be performed under curiously devised arrangements. At one place a shed in the Postmaster's back-yard was used as an office ; and on more than one occasion 500 ordinary messages and 50,000 words of news were there dealt with in a single day. At another place the instruments were fitted up temporarily in a barber's shop ; to the no slight discomfiture of the rustic customers when they learnt that they could not be shaved until the manœuvres were over.

The special telegraph work in connection with these manœuvres amounted to nearly 14,000 private messages and upwards of half-a-million words for the Press ; the total charge being upwards of 1,000*l.* The National Rifle Meeting at Wimbledon produced over 3,000 private messages and nearly 80,000 words for the Press. The telegraphic business of agricultural shows increased from 2,500 messages in 1871 to 9,500 in 1872 ; while even regattas and cricket matches yielded nearly 3,000 messages.

Wimbledon Rifle Meeting.
Agricultural shows, &c.
Other events. In addition to public events of these kinds, Royal progresses, parliamentary elections, political demonstrations, funerals, trials, accidents, fêtes, and fairs have engaged the attention of the Special Staff.

Guy Fawkes Day at Lewes. On the 5th of November a leading London newspaper had to telegraph a column and a half of news from Lewes ; where it

* For further details, see Appendix, pages 25 and 26.

appears this anniversary is kept as a kind of fête. A special telegraphist, then engaged at Brighton, was sent over for the occasion; but had considerable difficulty in doing his work; for the crowd outside pelted him with squibs and other fireworks through the Post Office window; so that his attention was divided between getting off his news and quenching the fires caused by the mob.

On the occasion of the chess tournament at the Crystal Palace, the telegraphic wires communicating with Glasgow, Hull, Nottingham, Birmingham, and Bristol were carried into the building; and the operation of telegraphing the different moves was conducted in a railed enclosure in full view of a large number of interested spectators.

Chess tournament at the Crystal Palace.

The New Telegraph Carriage or "office on wheels" as it is commonly called, has fully answered its purpose, and has proved an object of general interest. It was employed at the autumnal manoeuvres, at the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, the Henley regatta, the Oxford and Cambridge and Eton and Harrow cricket matches, and the Smithfield Club cattle show.

Travelling Telegraph Office.

MONEY ORDERS.*

During the last year nearly 270 additional Money Order Offices (serving also as Savings Banks) were opened; making the whole number upwards of 4,600.

Money Order Offices.

The hope expressed in the last Report that I should soon receive the consent of the Governments both of India and Ceylon to the extension of the Money Order system to those dependencies has been fulfilled, and for a considerable time the business has been in full operation; leading, in the case of India, to a large amount of business.

Money Order system with the colonies.

With a few exceptions of minor importance, the Money Order system is now in full action between this country and all her colonies and possessions.

In addition to the colonial extension, the system was last year established with Italy; and, on the 1st of May in the present year, with Paris; this latter, I trust, being but a forerunner of its extension to the whole of France.

Money Order conventions.

The number of Inland Money Orders increased from rather more than 12,000,000 in 1871 to nearly 14,000,000 (amounting to 24,000,000*l.*) in 1872; or by nearly 16 per cent. Owing, however, to the great reduction in the commission on Money Orders for small sums (which constitute a large portion of the whole), this increase of business, instead of producing an increase of profit, has led to a positive diminution thereof; the estimated amount in 1872 (including about 3,000*l.* for unclaimed money orders) being less than 10,000*l.*; as compared with nearly 23,000*l.* in 1871, or with nearly 49,000*l.* in 1870; the last complete year before the reduction in the rate of commission.

Number of Inland Money Orders.

Profit.

* For detailed information, see Appendix, page 27.

**Number of
Colonial and
Foreign Orders.**

The number of Colonial and Foreign Money Orders last year, counting the issues both in this country and abroad, was about 260,000; being an increase of about 70,000, or nearly 37 per cent. on the number in 1871. These Orders amounted to more than 1,000,000*l.* (as compared with about 770,000*l.* in 1871), and yielded a profit of nearly 9,000*l.*; being an increase, during the year, of about 3,500*l.*

**Decrease of
business with
Belgium and
Switzerland.**

To the foregoing increase, the Money Orders between this country and Belgium and Switzerland were an exception; these having actually diminished; a falling off attributable to the cessation of the Franco-German War; during which the immigration of French citizens into the United Kingdom and into the countries adjoining France caused, for the time, a large augmentation in the number of Money Orders between the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Switzerland.

**Money Order
business with
Canada and
United States.**

The greatest amount of Colonial business is still with Canada; whence more than 31,000 Orders, amounting to above 100,000*l.*, were last year received, and to which nearly 7,000 Orders, amounting to about 29,000*l.*, were sent. Of foreign business the greatest amount is with the United States; from whence, last year, nearly 60,000 Money Orders, amounting to about 215,000*l.*, were received, and to which about 9,000 Orders, amounting to 36,000*l.* were sent.

Christmas gifts.

The number of Orders received from the United States and Canada in the month of December was especially large; owing probably to many persons availing themselves of the Money Order system to send Christmas gifts to their relatives and friends in the United Kingdom.

**Insufficiency
of addresses.**

Notwithstanding the precautions taken to ensure the safe delivery of Orders sent to Foreign Countries, there have been numerous cases (more especially in the United States) where, from insufficiency of address, they have failed to reach their proper destination; thereby causing unnecessary delay and correspondence before payment could be effected. A new form of application for Foreign and Colonial Money Orders has been lately introduced (obtainable at all Money Order Offices) and by complying with the instructions on this form, and giving the full particulars asked for, applicants will afford material assistance in securing the correct transmission of their Orders.

A similar statement (as to insufficiency of address) may be made concerning the Money Orders received from Foreign Countries; and as evidence of this, it may be stated that on an average there are always nearly 200 Orders from the United States alone lying at the Chief Office, awaiting application, owing to the inability of the Department to trace out the intended recipients.

**Description of
remitters and
payees.**

Descriptions of remitters and payees given in Orders received from abroad are sometimes rather vague. Thus the remitter of an Order lately received from Denmark described himself as "a Danish farmer who is very kind with your father."

In illustration of the amount of business at the Chief Money Order Office in London and of the celerity with which much of it is performed, it may be mentioned that at this office about 13,000 accounts, with an average of more than 200,000 documents (consisting of Money Orders, advices, and other vouchers) are received every morning; and that all these papers are sorted and arranged so as to be ready to be dealt with, by the examining officers, before 9 a.m. Business at Chief Office.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.*

The Post Office Savings Banks continue to show a steady and rapid advance in their business; with a remarkable increase, last year, in the number of Friendly, Provident, and other Societies and Institutions placing money in them. Savings Banks.

By the closing of nine more of the old Savings Banks, the number of such Banks was reduced to 480, and deposits amounting to upwards of 260,000*l.* were transferred to the Post Office.

The number of depositors last year increased in round numbers from upwards of 1,300,000 to upwards of 1,440,000; and the whole amount of deposits (including interest) from 17,000,000*l.* to upwards of 19,000,000*l.*; giving an average of more than 13*l.* for each depositor. Depositors and deposits.

The sum accruing to the depositors for interest was 430,000*l.*; being an increase of about 53,000*l.* on the previous year. Interest.

The whole sum held jointly by the Post Office and Old Savings Banks at the end of 1872 was nearly 59,000,000*l.* against rather less than 56,000,000*l.* at the end of 1871. Post Office and Old Savings Banks.

The proportion of depositors (including those in the old Savings Banks) to population was, in England and Wales, 1 to about 9, and in Scotland 1 to about 13; but in Ireland it was only 1 to about 50. Proportion of depositors to population.

The cost to the Post Office of each transaction in Savings Bank business, that is of each separate deposit or withdrawal, (including postage) is now about 6*d.*; as compared with about 1*s.* in the old Savings Banks. Cost per transaction.

POST OFFICE ANNUITIES AND LIFE INSURANCES.†

At the end of 1872 the number of immediate Annuities was upwards of 2,700; being an increase during the year of about 900; an increase chiefly owing to the grant, under the Greenwich Hospital Act, 1872, of annuities to masters and seamen of the Mercantile Marine who had formerly contributed out of their wages the sum of 6*d.* a month towards the support of Greenwich Hospital. Immediate Annuities.

The amount payable for immediate Annuities rose, during the year, from rather more than 37,000*l.* to nearly 46,000*l.*

* For detailed information, see Appendix, page 29.

† For details, see Appendix, pages 32–36.

Deferred Annuities.

The number of deferred Annuities at the end of the year was 275; being an increase of 17; while their amount rose from about 5,000*l.* to nearly 5,300*l.*

Life Policies.

Of Life Policies at the end of the year there were upwards of 3,300; being an increase of about 640 on the previous year; while the amount advanced from more than 200,000*l.* to upwards of 250,000*l.*

LICENSES.***Licenses.**

Last year, the Post Office, on behalf of the Board of Inland Revenue, issued more than a million licenses of various kinds producing a revenue of nearly 500,000*l.*; being an increase of about 3 per cent. on the previous year. Of these licenses more than 570,000 were for keeping dogs; being an increase of 22,000 on the number in 1871.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POSTS.**Reductions of postage.**

A few reductions have taken place in the rates of foreign postage, though none of much importance.

It has long been the wish of the British Post Office to see a low and, as nearly as practicable, uniform rate established throughout the whole of Europe; and I shall much rejoice when this object is attained. The rate, as between the United Kingdom and several European countries, has already been reduced to 3*d.* (a measure which was last year extended to Denmark); but the European rate which the British Office would prefer is 2*d.*

Brazilian Mail service.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company have entered into a new contract by which they engage to carry the Mails, once a week, between this country and Brazil, Monte Video, and Valparaiso, by packets of great power; receiving as payment a proportion of the postage instead of a fixed annual subsidy. This mode of remuneration, which is gradually superseding the old practice, has the important advantages of regulating the amount according to the income, and of presenting a constant motive to the contractors for speed and regularity.

West African Mails.

The contract with the African Steam Ship Company for the conveyance of mails between Liverpool and the ports on the West African Coast expired in September last, and a new agreement has since been made with this Company and with the British and African Steam Navigation Company to perform a regular and frequent service for a payment calculated upon the sea postage alone.

Services to West Indies, Brazil, &c.

Notice has been given to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company that in December 1874 their contracts for the conveyance of the Mails between this country and the West Indies, Brazil, Buenos Ayres, and Monte Video will be terminated.†

* For further information, see Appendix, page 37.

† For further information, including a list of mail packets with the heads of the contracts relating to them, see Appendix, pages 21-23.

STAFF OF OFFICERS.

Last year the number of officers was increased by about 2,000; making a total of rather more than 40,000,* of whom about 9,600, or nearly one quarter, are employed exclusively on telegraph work. Number of officers.

Upwards of 12,000 of the officers are postmasters, about 8,600 clerks, &c., and upwards of 19,000 letter carriers, sorters, messengers, &c.

Of the foregoing staff, nearly 9,000 belong to the London district; and of these, more than 3,000 are attached to the Chief Offices, St. Martins-le-Grand, and over 1,500 to the Central Telegraph Office.

It is with pleasure that I have given my approval to the measures that have been proposed for increasing the employment of women in the Post Office; the first great step in that direction having been taken by my predecessor, Lord Hartington, in relation to the Telegraphs. How much remains to be done towards removing those artificial barriers which have hitherto shut out women from lucrative employment may be gathered from the fact that, on a late occasion, when it was announced, by advertisement, that there were 12 vacancies for junior counter-women, at wages from 14s. to 17s. a week, more than 1,200 candidates presented themselves; the very thoroughfare, as I am informed, in the neighbourhood of the office of the Civil Service Commissioners in Cannon Row having been, for a time, blocked up. Employment of women.

A considerable portion of the addition that has been made to the force is in Letter Carriers, at the chief provincial towns, to provide for the great increase in the duties. At many of these places, and in many other parts of the country (more especially in the manufacturing and mining districts), owing to a general increase in the payment for labour, it has been found necessary, in order to procure and retain the services of men fully competent to carry on the business of the Department, to raise the wages. Letter Carriers.
Increase of wages.

From the report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Department, Dr. Waller Lewis, whose duties, as stated in previous reports, are principally confined to the London District, it appears that the health of the large body of officers under his charge and that of Mr. Steet, who has medical care of the telegraph officers, was very good; as, indeed, since medical superintendence was provided, now some 18 years ago, has always been the case. Health of the Officers.

Among the 7,600 men and women to whom the report relates there were only 46 deaths, or about one in 160 or six in a 1,000; the cause of death, in just one half of the cases, being consumption. Forty-six deaths occurring, as Dr. Lewis observes, among so large a staff of officers, many of whom are, from the Death rate.

* For detailed information, see Appendix, page 38.

nature of their duties, exposed to all variations of weather, must be acknowledged to be a small number.

Among the retired officers, living on pension, the deaths, as might be expected, are more numerous; nevertheless even among these, numbering rather more than 600, there were only 28 deaths; the average age at which they occurred being 61.

Candidates
medically
examined.

Of nearly 2,500 candidates medically examined last year for admission into the service, within the London District, rather more than 2,100 passed.

Conduct of
officers.

Of these candidates somewhat more than 200 were females.

The general conduct of the officers has, as usual, been good; but, in his report concerning Manchester and its neighbourhood, Mr. Beaufort, the Postmaster and District Surveyor, states that last Christmas there were more cases of drunkenness than he remembers at any previous Christmas; the fault, in almost every instance, resting with the public; who cannot be prevailed upon to exercise ordinary discretion in their mode of testifying their satisfaction with the Letter Carriers, and who will give them drink. A similar complaint is applicable to a quarter of London occupied largely by Manchester houses.

Drunkenness.

Of all causes of dismissal from the service, with the penury often arising therefrom, drunkenness is the most common; and I would strongly appeal to all concerned to refrain henceforth from manifesting their approval of the conduct of the Letter Carriers in a way which is in truth the reverse of real kindness.

Attempts to
excite dis-
satisfaction.

In a report on the large body of officers under his control at the General Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, Mr. Boucher, the Controller of the Circulation Department, says, "Attempts have been made by persons not connected with the Department to excite dissatisfaction amongst the Sorters and Letter Carriers; but I am happy to say that the men generally have acted in a very proper and praiseworthy manner, and have not given any encouragement to the agitation."

Belfast riots.

The Postmaster of Belfast states that during the riots in that town last August, the Letter Carriers were exposed to great danger from the firing in the streets by the opposing mobs; but he bears testimony to the unflinching conduct of the men during that perilous time, and reports, I am glad to say, that none of them sustained any injury.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN RELATION TO POSTAGE AND MONEY ORDERS.*

Gross Revenue.

Gross revenue.

The gross revenue from postage and Money Orders last year was, in round numbers, 5,209,000*l.*; namely, 5,013,000*l.* from postage, and 196,000*l.* from Money Orders. In 1871 the total (exclusive of a sum of about 17,000*l.*; not properly appertaining to the year) was 4,884,000*l.*; namely 4,698,000*l.* from postage, and 186,000*l.* from Money Orders; showing an increase of 315,000*l.*

* For full details, see Appendix, pages 39-41.

from postage and 10,000*l.* from Money Orders; or a total increase of 325,000*l.*

Of the revenue from Money Orders, 3,500*l.* was derived from unclaimed Orders; this sum being about the usual yearly amount.

In the gross revenue from postage in 1871, as compared with that of 1870, there was a falling-off of about 50,000*l.*, owing to the then recent large reductions in the rates of postage; but your Lordships will observe with satisfaction that not only has this falling-off been made good, but that there is now a clear increase upon the year 1870 of more than 275,000*l.*, as compared with an increase of 106,000*l.* in the last two complete years prior to these reductions. In making this comparison, however, it must be borne in mind that the later period was one of much greater commercial prosperity than the earlier period.

Expenditure.

The expenditure last year was 3,685,000*l.*, as compared with Expenditure. 3,611,000*l.* in 1871; showing an increase of 74,000*l.*

The chief items of expense were 1,682,000*l.* for salaries, wages, Chief items. pensions, &c.; 928,000*l.* for conveyance by Mail Packets and private ships; 619,000*l.* for conveyance by railways; 145,000*l.* for conveyance by coaches, carts, and omnibuses; and 164,000*l.* for buildings, taxes, fuel, and light.

These items as compared with those in 1871 (adjusted in each instance so as to show the expenses really appertaining to each year) exhibit an increase of 131,000*l.* in salaries, &c.; of 23,000*l.* for conveyance by railways; and of 28,000 for buildings, &c.

Net Revenue.

The net revenue last year was 1,524,000*l.*; namely, 1,505,000*l.* Net revenue. from postage and 19,000*l.* from money orders; being an increase on the net revenue from postage in 1871 of 260,500*l.*, and a decrease on that from money orders of 9,500*l.*; or a balance of increase amounting to 251,000*l.*

The joint net revenue of 1871 having been less than that of 1870 by 225,000*l.*, this deficiency is now made good, together with a surplus of 26,000*l.*

To treat the Post Office, however, simply as a mercantile establishment, and to assess its earnings accordingly, there must be added a sum, say about 480,000*l.* for those portions of the service (relating chiefly to the Mail Packets) which are undertaken partly for other than postal reasons, and with a knowledge that they will entail a loss; also a sum, estimated at about 97,000*l.*, for the postage of other Departments of Government than the Post Office; and, lastly, about 48,000*l.* for excess of expenditure during the year in Post Office buildings; the latter sum being arrived at by comparing such expenditure with the interest on the estimated total amount similarly expended in previous years.

Thus adjusted, the net revenue of last year may be taken at nearly 2,150,000*l.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

Gas stokers' strike.

Intimation having been received on the afternoon of the 3rd December last, from the Gas Company supplying the Chief Office, that a supply could not be guaranteed for more than a few hours, in consequence of the stokers having struck work, steps were immediately taken for lighting the Sorting Offices in this building, as also in the Branch Offices in the Eastern Central District, with candles (entailing an order for a ton weight); arrangements being likewise made to provide lanthorns and torches for the Mail Cart Drivers, and oil lamps for lighting the Post Office Yard.

Such provision had to be continued during the next three days; and in the evening the Sorting Offices presented the novel appearance of being lighted up with 2,000 candles.

The total expense during the four days of the strike was upwards of 58*l.*, but on the other hand there was a saving in the consumption of about 160,000 feet of gas, leaving a balance of loss of about 27*l.*

Alteration of an Irish post.

As an illustration of the variety of interests which the Post Office is called upon to consider, it may be mentioned that when the question of affording a daily post to a small place in Ireland, which up to that time had had only a tri-weekly post, was under consideration, a gentleman called upon the Postmaster to urge that things might be left as they were; stating, as the reason of his application, that he had heard that in order to give the additional accommodation it would be necessary to alter the hours of running the Mail Car; an alteration which would not, he said, suit himself and some other gentlemen who were in the habit of using the Mail Car when going to fish on a lake near the Mail Car route!

Strange applications.

As might be expected, the Post Office receives many letters of enquiry on matters with which it can have no possible concern; and a curious collection might be made of the letters thus arriving in the course of any year. One of the strangest that have lately reached the Department was from a French gentleman who, having, as he said, no relations or friends in London, wrote to ascertain whether the English law permitted a foreigner to marry a young lady, who was of age, against her father's will!

Greenwich time.

Previously to last July, it had been the rule of the service for local time to be observed for certain purposes at country Post Offices; but, so far as England, Wales, and Scotland are concerned, this rule was then abolished; so that Greenwich time alone is now kept at all the Post Offices in Great Britain.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords,

Your obedient humble Servant,

W. MONSELL

General Post Office,
2 July 1873.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX (A).

Returned Letters.

LETTERS, POST CARDS, BOOKS, and NEWSPAPERS received in the RETURNED LETTER OFFICES of LONDON, EDINBURGH and DUBLIN, respectively, in the Years 1871 and 1872.

1871.										1872.						
—	Letters received.	Letters re-issued to the Ad-dressees.	Letters returned to the Senders.	Letters returned unopened to Foreign Countries.	Letters which could not be either delivered to the Senders.	Post Cards re-ceived.	Books re-ceived.	Newspapers re-ceived.	Letters received.	Letters re-issued to the Ad-dressees.	Letters returned to the Senders.	Letters returned unopened to Foreign Countries.	Letters which could not be either delivered to the Senders.	Post Cards received.	Books re-ceived.	Newspapers received.
LONDON	3,023,797	79,946	3,633,337	143,146	148,566	250,414	1,567,519	1,023,134	3,304,556	83,233	2,393,756	147,908	176,684	243,371	1,392,500	846,393
EDINBURGH	271,463	14,098	233,821	7,793	16,751	30,903	134,336	18,419	303,335	13,365	280,127	8,947	21,546	37,549	160,447	24,149
DUBLIN	306,764	13,602	171,599	16,718	104,835	11,013	113,632	10,315	287,544	10,970	292,333	15,071	69,371	15,090	134,437	22,210
	3,601,969	106,946	3,068,297	167,662	270,152	292,290	1,815,507	1,056,968	3,904,135	107,568	3,359,215	171,896	267,551	296,710	2,187,134	891,762

APPENDIX (B.)

Official Correspondence.

AN ESTIMATE of the WEIGHT of CORRESPONDENCE carried, and the VALUE of POSTAL SERVICE performed for the following Public Offices in the Year 1872.

NAMES OF OFFICES.	Great Britain.		Ireland.		Total.	
	Weight.	Amount.	Weight.	Amount.	Weight.	Amount.
Adjutant General	—	—	60,000	275	60,000	275
Admiralty, Lords Commissioners of	378,809	15,170	—	—	378,809	15,170
Army Medical Department	—	—	23,600	110	23,600	110
Board of Trade	341,250	2,500	—	—	341,250	2,500
Census Commissioners	23,900	130	—	—	23,900	130
Central Loan Fund	—	—	1,450	6	1,450	6
Chancellor, The Lord	18,400	85	—	—	18,400	85
Charity Commissioners	35,950	170	—	—	35,950	170
Chelsea Hospital	20,900	120	—	—	20,900	120
Chief Secretary, Dublin Castle	—	—	270,000	1,230	270,000	1,230
Civil Service Commissioners	137,580	665	—	—	137,580	665
Colonial Office	328,450	8,985	—	—	328,450	8,985
Colonial Land and Emigration Com- missioners	12,300	215	—	—	12,300	215
Commander of the Forces	—	—	15,000	70	15,000	70
Commissariat Department	—	—	93,300	415	93,300	415
Constabulary Office	—	—	150,000	690	150,000	690
Convict Prisons, Directors of	—	—	58,000	270	58,000	270
Council Office	646,000	3,175	—	—	646,000	3,175
Court of Chancery	10,000	50	—	—	10,000	50
Court of Probate	67,800	305	—	—	67,800	305
Crown Office, House of Lords	5,000	20	—	—	5,000	20
Ditto (Scotland)	57,050	250	—	—	57,050	250
Customs	398,290	2,080	15,700	70	408,990	2,150
Dublin Record Office	—	—	2,000	8	2,000	8
Education Board	—	—	221,400	935	221,400	935
Exchequer and Audit Department	32,545	320	—	—	32,545	320
Fines and Penalties Office	—	—	72,000	320	72,000	320
Foreign Office	162,570	6,455	—	—	162,570	6,455
General Valuation Office	—	—	25,200	115	25,200	115
Home Office	426,650	2,445	—	—	426,650	2,445
Inland Revenue*	1,996,682	8,510	232,700	1,050	2,229,382	9,560
Inspector of Fisheries	—	—	35,000	160	35,000	160
Inspector General of Prisons	—	—	12,000	50	12,000	50
Irish Office	64,100	300	—	—	64,100	300
Lord Lieutenant and Private Secretary	—	—	7,000	30	7,000	30
Merchant Seamen, Registrar of	328,300	1,830	—	—	328,300	1,830
Ordnance Survey	—	—	30,000	135	30,000	135
Paymaster of Civil Services	—	—	80,000	360	80,000	360
Paymaster General	78,865	545	—	—	78,865	545
Local Government Board	604,275	2,985	160,000	710	764,275	3,695
Post Office, England and Wales	12,373,340	86,480	—	—	12,373,340	86,480
Ditto Scotland	314,304	1,368	—	—	314,304	1,368
Ditto Ireland	—	—	335,000	2,610	335,000	2,610
Quartermaster General	—	—	18,400	85	18,400	85
Queen's Remembrancer (Scotland)	33,465	80	—	—	33,465	80
Registrar General†	1,114,800	1,815	686,000	1,590	1,800,800	3,405
Ditto ditto (Scotland)	127,230	305	—	—	127,230	305
Register House (Edinburgh)	35,841	130	—	—	35,841	130
Registrar of Friendly Societies	42,740	200	—	—	42,740	200
Science and Art Department	780,365	3,665	—	—	780,365	3,665
Stationery Office	24,975	145	12,600	55	37,575	200
Board of Supervision (Scotland)	17,000	70	—	—	17,000	70
Tithe Commissioners	66,380	300	—	—	66,380	300
Treasury	356,400	1,680	—	—	356,400	1,680
War Office‡	2,541,500	20,690	68,000	290	2,609,500	20,980
Woods and Forests, Commissioners of	53,974	240	—	—	53,974	240
Works and Buildings, Commissioners of	78,820	520	107,400	495	186,220	1,015
TOTALS	24,131,090	174,975	2,791,750	12,134	26,922,840	187,109

* Including about 165,120 oz. charged with Book Postage.

† " 930,420 " "

‡ " 1,058,350 " "

Notes.—The Charge for Postage of Official Correspondence has not been provided for in the Estimates since the 31st March 1868. The Estimate of Official Postage up to that date was framed on the principle of charging Inward Letters at the unpaid rate. The present Estimate is framed on the principle of charging Inland and Colonial Letters, inwards and outwards, at the prepaid rate.

Home Packet Service.

Line of Communication.	Contract.		Payment.	Contract Time.	Penalties for Overtime.	Premium for Under Time.	Penalty for General Non-performance.	Remarks.
	Com- mencement.	Termination.						
HOLYHEAD and KINGSTOWN	1st Oct. 1860	After 5 years from 1st Oct. 1860, if Postmaster General be dissatisfied with performance of Contract; otherwise, on 12 months' notice after 30th September 1873.	8s. 900 <i>l.</i> per annum.	Not defined, being included in General Contract for Conveyance of Mails between London and Kingstown.	1 <i>l.</i> 1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per minute, if journeys between London and Kingstown, and Crew and Kingstown exceed 11 hours and 74 hours respectively from appointed time of departure.*	-	-	The Annual Payment is liable to be reduced in amount when the receipts arising from Passenger traffic, or (if the Contractors are hereafter empowered to carry Cattle and Goods) from the traffic generally, reach a certain sum.
LIVERPOOL and DUBLIN, ISLE OF MAN.	-	-	850 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	-	-	-	This Contract expired long since, but the service is continued upon the same terms. The Company's vessels run more frequently than required under the old Contract, and carry Mails on every voyage.
LIVERPOOL and RAMSEY, ISLE OF MAN.	-	-	100 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	-	-	-	-
PORTSMOUTH and RYDE	1st Aug. 1865	On 6 months notice.	900 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	-	-	-	-
PENZANCE and SCILLY	-	-	300 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	-	-	-	-
GREENOCK and BELFAST	16th July 1849	On 6 months notice.	Performed free of expense.	-	-	-	100 <i>l.</i>	-
ORKNEY ISLANDS	1st April 1868	On 31st March 1876.	1,300 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	20 <i>l.</i> for undue delay or deviation from course.	-	200 <i>l.</i>	-
SHEPHERD ISLANDS	1st Feb. 1840	On 6 months notice.	1,200 <i>l.</i> per annum.	60 hours	-	-	500 <i>l.</i>	Contract of 1840 terminated in 1855, but was renewed. Steamers may touch at intermediate ports of Wick and Kirkwall, but sailing vessels must go direct.
STORNOWAY and ULLAPPOOL	3rd Aug. 1871	After 10 years on 6 months notice.	1,300 <i>l.</i>	-	20 <i>l.</i> for undue delay or deviation from course.	-	150 <i>l.</i>	When a sailing vessel is employed a deduction of 2 <i>l.</i> a trip may be made if the Postmaster General thinks proper.
CHANNEL ISLANDS	1st Oct. 1855 1st Jan. 1870	On 6 months notice.	4,000 <i>l.</i> per annum. 2,000 <i>l.</i>	To or from Guernsey, 9 hours, and to or from Jersey in 12 hours.	-	-	2,000 <i>l.</i>	-

* These penalties are at present suspended, owing to the state of the harbour at Holyhead

APPENDIX (D.)

Colonial and Foreign

Line of Packets.	Contracts.		Payment.
	Com- mencement.	Termination.	
AUSTRALIA: Point de Galle and Sydney - -	13 Feb. 1866 -	On 31st December 1873 - -	(a) £ 120,000
BRAZIL, RIVER PLATE, AND CHILI: Monthly Service from Southampton -	1 Jan. 1864 -	On 31st December 1874 - -	(b) 33,500
Monthly Service from Liverpool -	1 June 1870 -	On 6 months' notice - -	* 5,359
Bi-monthly service from Liverpool -	29 July 1870 -	Terminated 31st December 1873	* 10,317
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - - -	1 July 1868 -	On 30th June 1876, if 12 months' previous notice has been given.	* 25,462
EAST INDIES, CHINA, and JAPAN - -	1 April 1868 -	On 31st January 1880, if 24 months' previous notice has been given.	(c) 450,000
NORTH AMERICA: United States:			
Cunard Line - - - -	1 Jan. 1869 -	On 12 calendar months' notice, but not before 31st December 1876.	70,000
Inman Line - - - -	1 May 1869 -	Ditto - -	35,000
North German Lloyd's Line	6 May 1870 -	On 12 calendar months' notice -	* 6,927
British North America: Queenstown and Halifax - -	Contract with	Canadian Government - -	16,250 Imperial contri- bution, 8,125
Intermediate: Halifax, Bermuda, and St. Thomas	1 Jan. 1868 -	At the end of 1877, if 12 months' previous notice has been given.	19,500
New York and Nassau - -	Contract with	Bahamas Government - -	6,000 Imperial contri- bution, 2,708
Belize and Jamaica - - -	Contract with	Honduras Government - -	5,000 Imperial contri- bution, 2,000
PACIFIC - - - -	1 April 1865 -	Terminated 31st December 1873	(d) 18,250
WEST INDIES: Bi-monthly Service - - -	1 Jan. 1864 -	On 31st December 1874 - -	(e) 172,914
Additional Services: Liverpool and Puerto Cabello, Tam- pico, and Santa Martha.	20 Oct. 1869 -	On 6 months' notice - -	* 1,912
St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat -	1 Jan. 1864 -	On 6 months' notice - -	490
St. Thomas and Porto Rico - -	1 Jan. 1871 -	On 31st December 1874 - -	1,000
Turk's Island and St. Thomas -	Contract with	Turk's Island Government - -	600 Imperial contri- bution, 300
WEST COAST OF AFRICA - - -	26 Sept. 1866 -	Terminated 26th Sept. 1872 -	20,000

(a) The actual payment for the Australian service is 120,000*l.*—an abatement of 500*l.* being made on account of the discontinuance of the Admiralty Survey, and a further abatement of 500*l.* on account of the withdrawal of Naval Agents.

(b) Subject to a deduction of 400*l.* on account of the withdrawal of Naval Agents.

(c) An abatement of 1,000*l.* is allowed by the Company on account of the withdrawal of Naval Agents.

(d) The sum of 500*l.* is deducted from this payment in consideration of the Admiralty Survey being discontinued, and a further sum of 250*l.* on account of no accommodation being required for a mail officer.

General Post Office, London, May 1873.

APPENDIX (D.)

Packet Service.

Penalties for Overtime.	Premiums for Undertime.	Contributions towards the Cost of the Service.	British Share of Sea Postage on Letters, Newspapers, &c. (Estimated.)†	British Loss on the Service (Estimated.)†	Rate of Postage per single Letter, excluding Transit Rates.	Estimated Number of Letters‡ carried by the Packets in both Directions in 1871.†
200 <i>l.</i> for every 24 hours.	On outward voyage, 50 <i>l.</i> for every 24 hours.	Australia and New Zealand, 64,500 <i>l.</i>	£ 30,000	£ 71,000	6 <i>d.</i>	No. 1,908,600
50 <i>l.</i> for every 12 hours.	5 <i>l.</i> for every 12 hours.	- - - - -	47,000	6,000	1 <i>s.</i>	No account taken.
One-eighth part of ordinary payment for every 24 hours.	- - -	- - - - -	20,000	1,600	1 <i>s.</i>	333,000
Ditto	- - -	- - - - -	140,500	145,000	{ Mediterranean 6 <i>d.</i> India & Ceylon 9 <i>d.</i> China, &c. 1 <i>s.</i>	2,914,000
50 <i>l.</i> for every 24 hours.	25 <i>l.</i> per day	{ India, 120,000 <i>l.</i> Australia and New Zealand, 28,480 <i>l.</i>	44,000	68,000	3 <i>d.</i>	8,582,000
50 <i>l.</i> per day	- - -	{ One half of the cost of conveyance across the Atlantic by Cunard and Inman Packets of the Mails for Bahamas and Honduras is repaid by the Governments of these Colonies. The amount thus to be recovered for the year 1872 is about 700 <i>l.</i>	6,000	30,300	{ Canadian Dominion and Prince Edward Island. } 3 <i>d.</i> Newfoundland and Bermuda. } 6 <i>d.</i> Nassau and Belize. } 1 <i>s.</i>	No account taken.
30 <i>l.</i> for every 12 hours.	- - -	- - - - -	15,500	7,700	1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	"
50 <i>l.</i> for every 12 hours.	25 <i>l.</i> for every 12 hours.	- - - - -	75,000	111,000	1 <i>s.</i>	"
50 <i>l.</i> for every 12 hours.	- - -	- - - - -	6,500	16,450	6 <i>d.</i>	"
One-eighth part of ordinary payment for every 24 hours.	- - -	- - - - -				
- - -	- - -	- - - - -				
- - -	- - -	- - - - -				
- - -	- - -	- - - - -				
- - -	- - -	- - - - -				

* The payments in these cases depend upon the amount of correspondence conveyed by the packets.

† The figures in these columns are for 1871; the accounts for the year 1872 not being made up in time to admit of the figures for 1872 being given.

‡ International and Transit Letters only.

(c) An additional sum of 2,000*l.* is paid to the Company for landing the mails at Plymouth. Deductions amounting to 1,354*l.* are made on account of the withdrawal of Naval Agents and sorting officers.

GEORGE CHETWYND,
Receiver and Accountant General.

APPENDIX (E.)

NUMBER of MAILS daily between London and other Post Towns in England and Wales.

Year.	Towns having One Mail only.		Towns having Two Mails.		Towns having Three Mails.		Towns having Four Mails.		Towns having Five Mails.		Towns having Six Mails.		Towns having Seven Mails.		Towns having Eight Mails.		Towns having Nine Mails.		Number of Post Towns in England and Wales.
	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	From London.	To London.	
1871	41	93	331	231	84	108	78	92	31	38	4	10	4	3	1	—	1	—	575
1872	41	89	315	222	99	114	80	101	36	42	5	9	5	4	2	2	—	—	583

APPENDIX (F.)

A.—Telegraphic Messages.

TABLE showing, to the nearest Thousand, the Number of Messages (exclusive of Press and News Messages) forwarded from Postal Telegraph Stations in the United Kingdom during each Month of 1871 and 1872.

Month.	Number of Messages, 1871.	Number of Messages, 1872.	Increase.
January - - -	772,000	1,055,000	283,000
February - - -	751,000	1,014,000	263,000
March - - -	929,000	1,096,000	167,000
April - - -	831,000	1,221,000	390,000
May - - -	970,000	1,233,000	263,000
June - - -	1,003,000	1,195,000	192,000
July - - -	1,115,000	1,385,000	270,000
August - - -	1,153,000	1,466,000	313,000
September - - -	1,055,000	1,393,000	338,000
October - - -	1,176,000	1,371,000	195,000
November - - -	1,027,000	1,324,000	297,000
December - - -	978,000	1,105,000	127,000
Total - - -	11,760,000	14,858,000	3,098,000

Note.—During the year 1871 the number of words transmitted in Press messages, sent without prepayment, reached a total of 21,701,968 words, and during the year 1872 a total of 23,024,770 words; showing an increase of 1,322,802 words during the year.

APPENDIX (F.)—*continued*.

B.—Private Wires.

TABLE showing the NET ADDITIONAL RENTALS, Quarter by Quarter, in each of the Three Years since the transfer; with the Total Increase in each Financial Year, and the NET AGGREGATE RENTALS at the same date (31st March) in each of those Years.

Financial Year.	Net additional Rentals obtained within				Total increase within the Financial Year.	Aggregate Rentals current at the end of the Financial Year.
	Quarter ended 30th June.	Quarter ended 30th September.	Quarter ended 31st December.	Quarter ended 31st March.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
* Amount at the 31st March 1870	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	*26,425 16 6
1870-71	- 101 0 0	- 545 16 6	- 527 4 0	- 432 5 6	- 1,606 6 0	28,032 2 6
1871-72	- 623 0 0	- 439 6 0	- 1,402 7 0	- 1,110 18 0	- 3,575 11 0	31,607 13 6
1872-73	- 1,390 7 0	- 1,220 12 0	- 1,729 16 6	- 2,488 0 10	- 6,828 16 4	38,436 9 10

* The figures given in the last column, as the Total Rentals current at the 31st March 1870, are the aggregate Rentals of the Private Wire Systems of the late "Universal Private" and other Telegraph Companies, which were acquired by the Post Office at the transfer; and they include also some Rentals which accrued between that date (29th January) and the 31st March 1870.

APPENDIX (F.)—continued.

B.—PRIVATE WIRES.

STATEMENT showing the PROGRESSIVE INCREASE in the NUMBER of PRIVATE WIRE CONTRACTS, MILES of WIRE, and INSTRUMENTS in use on Lines of Private Wire, from the 31st March 1870.

Financial Year.	Net Increase.												Total Increase for the Year.			Total Number at End of Financial Year.		
	Quarter ended 30th June.			Quarter ended 30th September.			Quarter ended 31st December.			Quarter ended 31st March.			Total Increase for the Year.			Total Number at End of Financial Year.		
	Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments.	Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments.	Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments.	Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments.	Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments.	Contracts.	Miles.	Instruments.
At the 31st March 1870	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	775	3,971	1,901
1870-71	6	2	5	16	52	37	11	19	41	16	8	42	49	81	125	824	4,052	2,026
1871-72	22	29	41	13	44	23	18	133	43	37	87	66	90	293	173	914	4,345	2,199
1872-73	41	95	84	27	105	56	38	178	88	72	471	290	178	849	518	1,092	5,194	2,717

INLAND ORDERS.

In 1940 the commission on Money Orders was reduced as follows:—
For any sum not exceeding 2/., from 6d. to 8d. For any sum above 2/., and not exceeding 5/., from 1s. 6d. to 8d.

+ In May 1871 the commission on Inland Money Orders was reduced as follows:—

Former Rates of Commission.		Present Rates of Commission.	
	$\frac{s}{d}$		$\frac{s}{d}$
For sums not exceeding 2 <i>l</i> .	- 0 3	For sums under 10 <i>l</i> .	- 0 1
" above 2 <i>l</i> , but not exceeding 5 <i>l</i> .	- 0 6	" of 10 <i>l</i> . and under 11	- 0 2
" above 5 <i>l</i> , but not exceeding 7 <i>l</i> .	- 0 9	" of 11. " 21.	- 0 3
" above 7 <i>l</i> ., but not exceeding 10 <i>l</i> .	- 1 0	" of 21. " 31.	- 0 4
		" of 31. " 41.	- 0 5
		" of 41. " 51.	- 0 6
		" of 51. " 61.	- 0 7
		" of 61. " 71.	- 0 8
		" of 71. " 81.	- 0 9
		" of 81. " 91.	- 0 10
		" of 91. " 101.	- 0 11
		" of 101.	- 1 0

APPENDIX (C.)—continued.

Money Orders.

Year.	COLONIAL ORDERS.						FOREIGN ORDERS.						GRAND TOTAL.				
	Orders issued in the United Kingdom.		Orders issued in the Colonies.		Total of Colonial Orders.		Orders issued in the United Kingdom.		Orders issued in Foreign Countries.		Total of Foreign Orders.		Total of Inland, Colonial, and Foreign Orders.		Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			
1871	-	*19,739	£ 90,431	123,472	520,550	£ 143,211	£ 600,961	-	-	18,769	£ 63,073	28,663	107,911	£ 47,431	172,983	-	-
1872	-	20,832	83,923	131,341	550,004	152,173	633,927	6†	5†	23,751	94,138	77,469	277,871	103,250	372,009	194	115

* In the Eighteenth Report (1877) the number and amount of Orders issued on the Colonies was mis-stated.

Note.—Money Order business with the Colonies commenced in 1856, and with Foreign Countries in 1869, but as 1871 was the first year in which the Foreign were separated from the Colonial Orders, the number and amount of these in previous years cannot be given in this Table.

Post Office Savings Bank.

Year.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Number of Post Office Savings Banks.	Number of Deposits.	Amount of Deposits.	Average Amount of each Deposit.	Interest credited to Depositors.	Number of Withdrawals.	Amount of Withdrawals.	Average Amount of each Withdrawal.	Charges of Management.	Average Cost of each Transaction, viz., of each Deposit or Withdrawal.	Number of Accounts opened.	Number of Accounts closed.	Number of Accounts remaining open at close of the Year.	Amount, inclusive of Interest, standing to credit of all open Accounts at close of the Year.	Average Amount standing to credit of each open Account at close of the Year.	Percentage of Cost of Management to total funds in possession of the Post Office Savings Bank.	Total Sum standing to credit of Post Office Savings Banks on Balance in hands of Postmaster General, after allowing for Charges of Management, at close of the Year.	Balance in hands of Postmaster General, after allowing for Charges of Management, at close of the Year.	Total Balance in hand, applicable to payment of Depositors, at close of the Year.	Number at close of the Year of Old Savings Banks and Post Office Banks combined.	Number at close of the Year of the Depositors in Old Savings Banks combined.
From 16 Sept. 1861 to 31 Dec. 1862	2,535	639,216	2,114,669	3 6 2	22,189	97,294	439,637	4 10 2	20,591	6 10	206,928	27,433	178,495	1,696,221	2 9 10	2 9 10	1,659,032*	35,692	1,694,724	3,127	1,732,555
1863	2,991	842,845	2,651,200	3 2 11	55,204	197,451	1,097,154	5 4 0	25,401	7 5 10	185,034	44,760	319,669	3,277,490	2 10 11	2 10 11	3,232,132*	44,413	3,272,693*	3,594	1,576,389
1864	3,061	1,110,763	3,350,000	3 0 3	100,493	309,242	1,834,949	5 18 8	45,856	7 1 10	226,153	74,964	470,838	4,968,123	2 10 13	2 10 13	4,996,663*	5,522	5,001,185*	3,659	1,967,663
1865	3,321	1,302,309	3,719,017	2 17 1	132,870	407,412	2,318,610	5 13 10	49,527	6 5 10	239,086	99,160	611,384	6,526,400	2 10 13	2 10 13	6,565,339*	4,327	6,536,656*	3,822	2,078,346
Average of five years: 1866-70	3,615	1,902,031	5,282,108	2 18 1	253,014	647,620	3,770,531	5 16 5	62,903	7 5 10	295,524	131,170	967,066	11,632,214	2 12 6	2 12 6	11,824,504*	50,351	11,863,124*	4,368	2,352,942
1871	4,335	2,362,621	6,664,629	2 16 5	370,738	845,279	5,115,407	6 1 0	69,427	7 5 10	370,745	250,406	1,303,462	17,025,004	2 13 1	2 13 1	17,203,815	166,456	17,470,271	4,985	2,707,570
1872	4,607	2,745,245	7,669,916	2 16 1	430,079	883,975	5,836,660	6 4 11	78,404	7 5 10	424,543	295,837	1,442,446	19,318,339	2 13 7	2 13 7	19,593,804	301,070	19,890,874	5,067	2,867,595

* These sums do not include the dividends accruing to the Post Office Savings Banks on the 1st January (that is, five days after the close of the account in each year), up to the year 1866 inclusive, but after that year the Securities belonging to the Banks have been valued by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and the amount, including dividends due but not paid at the end of the year, has been inserted in the above return.

† The falling off in the cost per transaction and in the percentage of cost of management in 1863 and the increase in these items in 1864 are attributable to one and the same cause, viz., to the payment during 1864 of various charges properly belonging to 1863.

‡ The reduction in the cost per transaction and percentage of cost of management since 1863, is partly owing to a discontinuance, in 1863, of any charge for postage; a charge amounting to about three farthings per transaction.

APPENDIX (H.)—continued.
POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.
BALANCE SHEET.

RETURN of the BALANCE SHEETS of the Post Office Savings Banks for the Year 1872, showing the Balance due to Depositors, the Amount of Expenses remaining Unpaid, the Value of Securities at the Cost Price, less Depreciation of those which are Terminable by Lapse of Time, Amount of Cash in Hand and Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year, and the Surplus or Deficiency of Funds to meet Liabilities.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance due to Depositors on the 31st December 1872 (including interest)	19,879,977 3 10	Value of Securities at the Cost Price, less depreciation of those which are terminable by lapse of time	18,497,323 19 0
Amount of expenses remaining unpaid (partly estimated)	30,000 0 0	Amount of cash in hands of Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt	327,240 13 9
Surplus of Funds to meet Liabilities	531,637 15 0	Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the year	733,201 11 0
		Total Amount in the hands of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt	-
		Cash in the hands of Her Majesty's Postmaster-General	347,240 0 11
		Less, Amount required to meet the Payment of Warrants issued, but not cashed on 31st December 1872	27,076 1 10
	£ 19,879,977 3 10		£ 19,879,977 3 10

Total amount received from Depositors, including interest, to 31st December 1872 £ 54,742,625 16 10
 Total amount repaid to Depositors to 31st December 1872 £ 35,424,386 9 0

Number of Transactions.		Number of Accounts.	
Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Opened.	Closed.
12,013,156	6,062,755	3,190,909	1,066,461
			Remaining Open.
			1,442,443

The total cost of the Post Office Savings Banks from their establishment to the 31st December 1872, including the sum of 30,000*l.* charged as above, was 614,108*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*
 The total number of transactions, i.e., Deposits and Withdrawals, in the period was 24,041,391.
 The average cost of each transaction was 6*s.* 13*d.*
 Prior to the passing of the Post Office Savings Banks Act, 1861, it was estimated (see Parliamentary Paper, No. 223, 1861) that the average cost of each transaction would be 7*d.*
 General Post Office, 4th June 1873.
 G20. C. M. G. W. R. D.
 Receiver and Accountant General.

APPENDIX (H.)—continued.

RETURN of the BALANCE SHEETS of the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS for the Year 1872; showing the Balance due to Depositors, the Amount of Expenses remaining unpaid, the Value of Securities at the Cost Price, less Depreciation of those which are Terminable by Lapse of Time, Amount of Cash in Hand, and Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year, and the Surplus or Deficiency of Funds to meet Liabilities. (So far as relates to the National Debt Office.)

Securities standing in the Names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt on account of the Post Office Savings Banks Fund.	Value of such Securities at the Cost Price, less Depreciation of those which are Terminable by Lapse of Time.	Dividends accrued but not received at the end of the Year.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Consolidated 3½. per Cents - - -	1,748,951 14 6	1,606,733 3 0
Reduced 3½. per Cents - - -	936,691 5 3	858,642 6 0
New 3½. per Cents - - -	2,326,774 9 3	2,118,330 5 0
New 2½. per Cents - - -	1,000,000 0 0	765,000 0 0
Exchequer Bills - - -	187,000 0 0	186,649 10 0
Turkish Guaranteed 4½. per Cent. Bonds	110,900 0 0	111,074 15 0
Church Temporalities, Ireland, Bonds	2,500,000 0 0	2,500,000 0 0
Annuities for Terms of years expiring at various periods of the year 1885 - }	(a) 987,790 8 3 } per annum }	9,810,696 0 0
Red Sea and India Telegraph Annuities, expiring 4th August 1908 - }	(b) 3,100 0 0 } per annum }	58,870 0 0
Annuities, of an amount sufficient to repay sums advanced to Pensions Commutation Board, per Act 34 & 35 Vict. c. 36. - }	(c) 70,847 15 0 } per annum }	482,657 0 0
	£ 18,497,352 19 0	785,901 11 0
Add Value of Securities - -	- -	18,497,352 19 0
Cash Balance in Bank of England -	- -	337,249 13 9
	£	19,559,804 3 9

NOTE.—The value on 31st December 1872 of the several Terminable Annuities (a, b, and c) in Column 1. will be found by adding the sums in Columns 2 and 3 together.

National Debt Office,
30th May 1873.

C. REPPINGTON,
Assistant Comptroller.

APPENDIX (I.)

Annuities and Life Insurances.

ACCOUNTS of all MONIES RECEIVED and of the DISPOSAL thereof, and of all CONTRACTS for the Grant of DEFERRED LIFE ANNUITIES and for PAYMENTS on DEATH, made during the Year ended 31st December 1872.

NATIONAL DEBT OFFICE.

I.

AN ACCOUNT of all MONIES received by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and of the Disposal thereof, on account of Contracts for the Grant of Deferred Life Annuities, made between the 1st January and the 31st December 1872, under the Provisions of the Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 46. s. 2. On Account of Deferred Life Annuities.

	Sums received.		Sums paid.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance due 31st December 1871	1,125 15 6		785 8 11
To purchase of Deferred Life Annuities, viz. —			3,350 0 0
Granted through the medium of the Commissioners			2,070 8 11
for the Reduction of the National Debt	1,080 4 11		3 15 6
Granted through the medium of the Postmaster-General	2,538 5 3		
Dividends on Stock and other Securities	4,818 10 2		896 17 4
	1,042 2 0		
	£3,986 7 8		£3,986 7 8

For the purchase of 829. 11s. 10d. Reduced 3l. per Cents
For the purchase of 3,594. 9s. 3d. New 3l. per Cents
By Premiums on Deferred Annuity Contracts, Money Returnable,
repaid to Contractors
Paid to Postmaster General for Management
By Balance uninvested on 31st December 1872, viz. —
In the hands of the Postmaster General
In the Bank of England

Also, AN ACCOUNT showing the Amount of Receipts during the Year on Contracts; the Number and Amount of Payments made on account of Contracts during the Year; the Amount of Expenses during the Year; the Number and Amount of New Contracts entered into; the Total Number and Amount of all Current Contracts at the End of the Year; the whole Amount of Capital, distinguishing the manner in which Invested, how much in Cash, how much in Securities, specifying their Nature; the Average Rate of Interest received upon each Class of Investments, and the Table of Mortality and the Rate of Interest used in calculating the Premiums.

Amount of Receipts during the Year on Contracts.	Number and Amount of Payments made on account of Contracts during the Year.	Amount of Expenses during the Year.	Total Number and Amount of all Current Contracts at the End of the Year.	Capital and Average Rate of Interest upon each Class of Security.			
				Uninvested Balance.	New 3l. per Cents.	Average Rate of Interest.	Reduced 3l. per Cents.
£ s. d.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Average Rate of Interest.	Reduced 3l. per Cents.	Average Rate of Interest.
4,818 10 2	48	996 14 0	390	£ s. d. 896 17 4	£ s. d. 35,536 4 10	£ s. d. 3 5 10	£ s. d. 1,374 1 7
							£ s. d. 3 5 3

The law of mortality which has been observed in the construction of the Deferred Annuity Tables is set forth in the Observations Nos. 13 and 20 of the Report made on the 25th March 1829 to the Lords of the Treasury by the Actuary of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and printed by Order of the House of Commons on 31st March 1830, in Parliamentary Paper 122. The rate of interest fixed by law for annuities granted under the Savings Banks Acts is 3l. per cent.; for other Deferred Annuities granted by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt under the Act 10 Geo. 4. c. 34 the rate depends upon the price of the public funds on the day the annuity is purchased.

An Account of all Moneys received by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and the Disposal thereof, on account of Contracts for the Grant of Payments on Death, made between the 1st January and 31st December 1872, under the Provisions of the Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 46. a. 2.

On Account of Payments on Death.

—	Sums received.	—	Sums paid.
To Balance due 31st December 1871	£ s. d. 645 13 2		£ s. d. 789 11 9
For Insurances granted through the medium of the Postmaster General	7,490 15 6		4,877 9 7
Dividends on Stock and other Securities	837 11 6		2,190 15 10
			360 3 5
			£ s. d. 736 18 11
			0 7 8
			736 6 7
	£3,904 0 2		£23,904 0 2

Also, An Account showing the Amount of Receipts during the Year on Contracts; the Number and Amount of Payments on account of Contracts during the Year; the Amount of Expenses during the Year: the Number and Amount of New Contracts entered into: the Total Number and Amount of all Current Contracts at the End of the Year; the whole Amount of Capital, distinguishing the manner in which Invested, how much in Cash, how much in Securities, specifying their Nature; the Average Rate of Interest received upon each Class of Investments; and the Table of Mortality and the Rate of Interest used in calculating the Premiums.

Amount of Receipts during the Year on Contracts.	Number and Amount of Payments made on account of Contracts during the Year.		Amount of Expenses during the Year.	Number and Amount of New Contracts entered into.		Total Number and Amount of all Current Contracts at the End of the Year.		Capital and Average Rate of Interest upon each Class of Security.				
	No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Uninvested Balance.	New 3½. per Centa.	Average Rate of Interest.	Reduced 3½. per Centa.	Average Rate of Interest.
£ s. d. 7,480 15 6	54	£ s. d. 2,184 19 4	S ^{ve} Return from the Postmaster General accompanying this account.	777	£ s. d. 55,983 9 6	3,347	£ s. d. 265,789 14 8	£ s. d. 736 6 7	£ s. d. 30,098 13 2	£ s. d. 3 5 7	£ s. d. 1,163 9 8	£ s. d. 2 2 2 3 5 1

The law of mortality which has been observed in the construction of the Tables for the insurance of lives of both sexes is that known as the "English Life Table," No. 3, "for Males," published under the authority of the Registrar General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England, the rate of interest being taken at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, as fixed by the Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 43, s. 5.

**RIVERS WILSON,
Comptroller General.**

National Debt Office, 29 March 1873.

APPENDIX (I.)—continued.

POST OFFICE.

(A.)

AN ACCOUNT showing the Amount received by Her Majesty's Postmaster General for the Purchase of DEFERRED ANNUITIES and MONTHLY ALLOWANCES, under Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 43., from the 1st January to the 31st December 1872, and the Disposal of the same.

Receipts.	Amount.	Payments.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance on 31st December 1871 brought forward - -	366 11 5	Cash paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances - -	2,781 1 7
Cash received for the purchase of Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, viz. :—		Balance in the hands of Her Majesty's Postmaster General on the 31st December 1872 -	423 15 1
Money not returnable -1,024 5 6			
Money returnable - -1,813 19 9			
	2,838 5 3		
	£3,204 16 8		£3,204 16 8

(B.)

AN ACCOUNT showing the Amount received by Her Majesty's Postmaster General on account of CONTRACTS for the Payment of SUMS at DEATH, under Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 43., from the 1st January to the 31st December 1872, and the Disposal of the same.

Receipts.	Amount.	Payments.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance on 31st December 1871 brought forward - -	429 9 3	Cash paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for Investment on account of Contracts for payment of Sums at Death -	7,114 5 10
Cash received on account of Contracts for payment of Sums at Death - - -	7,420 15 6	Balance in the hands of Her Majesty's Postmaster General on 31st December 1872 -	735 18 11
	£7,850 4 9		£7,850 4 9

(C.)

AN ACCOUNT showing the Amount received by Her Majesty's Postmaster General for the Purchase of IMMEDIATE ANNUITIES, under Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 43., from the 1st January to the 31st December 1872, and the Disposal of the same.

Receipts.	Amount.	Payments.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance on 31st December 1871 brought forward - -	3,001 1 4	Cash paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for the purchase of Immediate Annuities -	82,543 3 3
Cash received for the purchase of Immediate Annuities -	97,269 7 10	Balance in the hands of Her Majesty's Postmaster General on the 31st December 1872 -	17,817 5 11
	£100,360 9 2		£100,360 9 2

General Post Office,
March 1873.

GEO. CHETWYND,
Receiver and Accountant General.

GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES AND INSURANCES GRANTED UNDER THE ACT 27 & 28 VICT. C. 43.

AN ACCOUNT showing the Number and Amount of Sums received and paid, and the Number and Amount of Contracts granted by Her Majesty's Postmaster General, under authority of the Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 43., from the Commencement of Business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1872, together with the Number and Amount of Contracts in existence on the 31st December 1872, and the Amount paid for Charges of Management.

(I.) An Account showing the Number and Amount of Sums received and paid on Account of Government Annuity and Insurance Contracts from the Commencement of Business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1872.

	Receipts.				Payments.			
	From 17 April 1865 to 31 December 1871.		From 1 January to 31 December 1872.		From 17 April 1865 to 31 December 1871.		From 1 January to 31 December 1872.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
To Balance on the 31 December 1871	-	£ s. d.	-	£ s. d.	-	£ s. d.	-	£ s. d.
To Cash received for the purchase of Annuities, viz.:-								
For Immediate Annuities	1,393	431,331 18 10	1,018	97,269 7 10	-	5,527 12 0	-	-
For Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable	591	7,642 19 2	150	1,024 5 6	2,911	528,661 6 8	-	-
For Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable	1,797	9,875 7 2	330	1,813 19 9	741	8,667 4 8	-	-
To Cash received for Fees on Annuity Contracts (the Charges for Monthly Allowances being included in the Premium)	-	2,207 3 7	-	510 18 0	2,127	11,089 6 11	-	-
To Cash received from the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for payment of Annuities, viz.:-					-	2,718 1 7	-	-
Gross -	106,361 11 2	40,025 1 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Less Income Tax	446 5 4	153 17 4	-	-	-	-	-	-
To Cash received on account of Contracts for the payment of Sums at Death	43,703	20,181 4	2,116,659	7,420 15 6	55,352	36,901 19 8	-	-
To Cash received from the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, for the payment of Amounts due under Contracts for Sums payable at Death	-	4,499 11 6	-	2,524 16 9	-	7,024 8 3	-	-
TOTALS	-	£ 590,713 10 3	-	155,952 19 3	-	741,138 17 6	-	-
					By Cash paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for investment on account of Sums received for the purchase of Annuities -			
					By Annuities paid -			
					By Premiums on Deferred Annuity Contracts, Money returnable, repaid to Contractors -			
					By Fees withdrawn for Charges of Management -			
					By Cash paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for investment on account of premiums received on Contracts for Sums payable at Death -			
					By Cash paid under Contracts for Sums payable at Death -			
					By Balance remaining in the hands of the Postmaster General on 31 December 1872, viz.:-			
					On account of Annuity Contracts, including Fees -			
					On account of Contracts for the payment of Sums at Death -			
					Balance on 31st December 1871 -			
					TOTALS			
					£ 590,713 10 3			
					20,330 11 4			
					155,952 19 3			
					741,138 17 6			

APPENDIX (I).—continued.

(II.) AN ACCOUNT showing the Number and Amount of CONTRACTS entered into by Her Majesty's Postmaster General from the Commencement of Business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1872, and the Number and Amount of Contracts in existence on the 31st December 1872.

	CONTRACTS GRANTED.				TOTAL.	
	From 17 April 1865 to 31 December 1871.		From 1 January to 31 December 1872.			
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Contracts for Annuities granted from the commencement of business on 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1872, viz.:—						
Immediate Annuities - -	1,892	38,992 17 2	1,019	9,870 18 0	2,911	48,863 15 2
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - -	117	2,174 15 6	16	342 6 0	133	2,517 1 6
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - -	219	4,488 2 0	22	379 8 0	241	4,867 10 0
Contracts for Sums payable at Death granted from the commencement of business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1872 - - - -	3,047	233,301 15 3	757	55,982 9 5	3,804	289,284 4 8
Contracts for Annuities in existence on the 31st December 1872, viz.:—						
Immediate Annuities - -	-	- - - -	-	- - - -	2,764	45,810 10 2
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - -	-	- - - -	-	- - - -	117	2,194 19 6
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - -	-	- - - -	-	- - - -	158	3,086 2 0
Contracts for Sums payable at Death, in existence on the 31st December 1872 - -	-	- - - -	-	- - - -	3,347	255,789 14 8

(III.) AN ACCOUNT showing the Amount paid for CHARGES of MANAGEMENT from the Commencement of Business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1872.

	From 17 April 1865 to 31 December 1871.	From 1 January to 31 December 1872.	TOTAL.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries and Allowances - - - -	2,227 2 7	834 6 8	3,061 9 3
Stationery - - - -	1,435 17 4	38 16 0	1,474 13 4
Stamps on Policies - - - -	138 2 6	40 12 6	178 15 0
Fees to Medical Officers - - - -	445 0 6	193 18 0	638 12 6
Incidental Disbursements, including Travelling Charges - - - -	241 14 1	0 2 0	241 16 1
Works executed and Furniture supplied - - - -	250 5 10	- - - -	250 5 10
TOTAL AMOUNT paid for charges of management, including furniture, books, stationery, and preliminary expenses - - - -	4,738 2 10	1,107 9 2	5,845 12 0
Fees received on the grant of certain Annuities - - - -	2,207 3 7	510 18 0	2,718 1 7

General Post Office,
March 1873.

GEO. CHETWYND,
Receiver and Accountant General.

APPENDIX (J.)

Licenses.

NUMBER and DESCRIPTION of LICENSES issued by the Post Office since 1869, with the Revenue from the same.

Year.	Dogs at 5s. each.	Male Servants at 15s. each.	Carriages.		Horse Dealers at 2l. 10s. each.	Horses and Mules at 10s. 6d. each.	Armorial Bearings.		Guns at 10s. each.	Total Number.	Revenue. £ s. d.
			At 42s. each.	At 15s. each.			At 42s. each.	At 21s. each.			
1869	473,318	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	473,318	118,504 10 0
1870	534,032	74,607	32,020	73,171	10	203,351	6,171	10,319	40,742	984,333	460,027 16 6
1871	552,329	70,865	31,867	73,111	10	201,527	5,945	10,303	62,161	1,008,088	473,311 15 6
1872	573,728	71,294	32,978	74,412	10	203,914	5,943	11,090	62,239	1,037,608	485,439 9 0

APPENDIX (K.)

Staff of Officers.

At the end of 1872 the Staff of Officers (omitting those engaged exclusively on telegraph duties) was as follows, as compared with the Staff at the end of 1871.

On 31st of Dec. 1871.			On 31st of Dec. 1872.	
		I. Officers in British Isles :—		
	1	Postmaster General - - -	1	
	7	Secretary, second secretary, assistant secretary, assistant under secretaries, and secretaries for Scotland and Ireland.	7	
	21	Other superior officers in the Metropolitan offices, viz. : heads of departments, chief clerks, &c.	21	
	17	Surveyors - - - - -	17	
	11,928	Postmasters - - - - -	12,241	
	2,499	Clerks, &c. - - - - -	2,742	
	*14,696	Letter carriers, sorters, messengers, &c. -	15,409	
	100	Mail guards and porters - - - - -	94	
	6	Marine mail officers - - - - -	6	
29,275				30,538
	24	II. Postmasters, clerks, letter carriers, &c. in the colonies, the posts of which are under the direction of the Postmaster General.	29	
24				29
	45	III. Agents in foreign countries for collection of postage, &c.	50	
45				50
29,344				30,617

* In the Eighteenth Annual Report the counter-men, now classed with the clerks, &c., were included in the number of letter carriers.

The STAFF of OFFICERS engaged exclusively on telegraph duties at the end of 1872 was as follows :—

On 31st of Dec. 1872.	
19	Chief engineers and other superior officers.
5,915	Clerks, subordinate engineers, &c.
3,657	Messengers, &c.
9,591	

Force and Expenditure in relation to Postage and Money Orders in the last Ten Years.

Year.	FORCE.		EXPENDITURE.													
	Effective.	Non-Effective.	Cost of Collection and Delivery, of Management, and of Money Order Business.					Cost of Conveyance of Mails.								
			Staff Officers, Postmasters, Clerks, Sorters, Stampers, Messengers, Guards, Letter Carriers (exclusive of Telegraph and Savings Bank Officers).	Pensioners.	Salaries, Wages, Pensions, Travelling Allowances, Foundation on Sale of Stamps, Commission on Money Order Business, Cost of Uniform Clothing, of Medical Attendance, of Substitutes during Holidays or Sickness, and Amount of Official Postage, Law Charges, and incidental Expenses.	Manufacture of Postage Stamps, Post Cards, and Stamped Newspaper Wrappers.	Stationery.	Buildings and Repairs, Rents, Rates, Taxes, Fuel, and Light.	Total Cost of Collection, Delivery, and Management, and of Money Order Business.	Conveyance by Coaches, Carts, . and Omnibuses.	Conveyance by Railways.	Mail Bags and Boxes, Tolls, and Ferryage, Apparatus for Exchange of Bags conveyed by Railway, and Miscellaneous Expenses.	Conveyance of Mails by Packets under Contract, and by private Ships.	Conveyance of Mails over Isthmuses of Suez and Panama and in other Foreign Ports, and Salaries of Admiralty Agents and other Officers in charge of Foreign and Colonial Mails.	Total Cost of Conveyance.	Total Cost of Post Office Service.
1863	25,402	1,017	1,254,005	18,465	32,182	81,548	1,380,680	149,233	538,512	20,189	837,655	29,542	1,575,231	2,902,051	2	2
1864	25,637	1,131	1,322,045	19,750	32,561	89,750	1,414,986	145,089	565,862	21,807	900,610	29,953	1,683,311	3,078,287	2	2
1865	25,082	1,274	1,295,153	22,064	32,396	75,331	1,424,944	140,517	538,320	22,220	796,399	28,786	1,516,142	2,941,086	2	2
1866	25,594	1,423	1,368,157	23,294	34,989	182,627	1,609,007	139,898	566,085	21,336	817,467	27,898	1,592,674	3,201,681 (a)	2	2
1867	25,902	1,559	1,421,854	23,684	33,033	238,592	1,715,163	140,069	559,575	22,434	783,545	25,764	1,631,687	3,246,850 (b)	2	2
1868	26,262	1,756	1,440,144	25,000	39,014	214,522	1,718,680	139,553	578,927	18,769	777,097	33,696	1,548,044	3,386,724 (c)	2	2
1869	26,010	1,871	1,455,251	25,000	40,788	115,123	1,636,162	139,316	583,596	17,533	1,056,798	25,822	1,823,065	3,489,227 (d)	2	2
1870	23,078	1,963	1,497,313	47,500	42,561	110,223	1,608,097	138,763	587,296	16,295	968,494	26,290	1,737,768	3,435,865	2	2
1871	23,869	2,064	1,550,783	46,300	46,257	136,072	1,731,422	140,822	595,221	19,911	1,047,044 (e)	26,280	1,829,278	3,610,700	2	2
1872	30,006	2,241	1,681,975	53,200	46,037	164,308 (f)	1,950,520	144,576	618,715	19,774	927,762	23,599	1,734,426	3,634,946	2	2

(a) Including £73,267 paid under the Post Office Extension Act, the greater portion of which has been charged to Buildings, &c.

(b) Including £188,131 ditto.

(c) Including £105,202 ditto.

(d) Including £17,544 ditto.

(e) For an explanation of this increase see Appendix (M.), Note (f).

(f) Of this amount, £116,403 is for Buildings, alterations, and repairs.

APPENDIX (M.) Gross and Net Revenue from Postage and Money Orders in the last Ten Years.

Year.	Gross Revenue from Letters, Newspapers, and Books.	Money Order Commission.	Unclaimed Money Orders.	Gross Revenue collected by the Post Office.	Produce of the Impressed Stamp on Newspapers collected by Inland Revenue Office.	Total Postal Revenue.	Total Cost of Post Office Service.	Net Revenue.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1863	3,730,073	144,238	—	3,874,309	125,156	3,999,455	2,982,051	1,057,404
1864	3,957,047	151,979	—	4,109,026	122,832	4,231,558	3,078,297	1,153,261
1865	4,142,086	157,113	—	4,299,199	124,409	4,423,608	2,941,086	1,482,522
1866	4,311,457	166,450	—	4,477,887	131,780	4,599,667	3,201,681	1,397,986
1867	4,376,044	172,085	—	4,548,129	120,085	4,668,214	3,246,850	1,421,364
1868	4,391,270 (a)	175,612	—	4,566,882	116,764	4,683,646	3,266,724	1,416,922 (a)
1869	4,472,746	176,460	—	4,649,228	115,349	4,764,575	3,459,227 (b)	1,305,348
1870	4,664,512 (c)	184,093	—	4,848,605	190,370	4,928,475	3,485,965	1,468,610
1871	4,687,607 (d)	182,140	20,707 (e)	4,900,454	—	4,900,454	3,610,700 (f)	1,289,754 (d)
1872	5,012,616	192,504	3,502 (e)	5,208,922	—	5,208,922	3,684,946	1,523,976
Average Net Revenue of first Five Years								
		Ditto	second ditto	—	—	—	—	£1,293,507
				—	—	—	—	£1,405,922

(a) The Public Departments ceased to be charged with postage early in the year 1868. The amount so charged in 1867 was upwards of 230,000*l*.

(b) The large increase in the cost of the Post Office Service in 1869 was owing to an increased cost of the Packet Service; as shown in Appendix (C.)

(c) The Impressed Stamp on Newspapers was abolished in September 1870; and since that date the whole Postage on Newspapers has been collected by the Post Office.

(d) The revenue of 1871 was to a certain extent affected by the assimilation of Letter rates of Postage with those of Trade Patterns, and the reduction of Postage on letters exceeding half an ounce in weight; both of which took place on 31st October in that year.

(e) Before 1871 the money accruing from unclaimed Money Orders had, for many years, been used in aiding Officers of the Department to insure their lives; but in that year the Lords of the Treasury gave directions for the discontinuance of the practice (except in regard to then existing recipients of the aid) and for the payment of this money into the Exchequer. In obedience to this order, the accumulated capital together with the interest thereon (amounting to 20,707*l*), was paid into the Exchequer. The actual amount of unclaimed Money Orders for 1871 was £25,380.

(f) Part of the increase in 1871 was owing to a balance due for the Packet Service in 1870 having, at the end of that year, remained unpaid.

APPENDIX (N.)

GROSS REVENUE, COST of MANAGEMENT, and NET REVENUE of the
POST OFFICE of the UNITED KINGDOM, since the Year 1837.*

Year.	Gross Revenue. (a)	Cost of Management.	Net Revenue.	Postage charged on Government Departments.
	£	£	£	£
1838 (b) - -	2,346,278	686,768	1,659,510	45,156
1839 (c) - -	2,390,763	756,999	1,633,764	44,277
1840 (d) - -	1,359,466	858,677	500,789	90,761
Average of Five } Years, 1841-45 }	1,658,214	1,001,405	656,809	112,468
„ 1846-50	2,143,717	1,304,772	838,944	110,798
„ 1851-55	2,569,836	1,441,334	1,128,502	157,003
„ 1856-60	3,135,587	1,785,911	1,349,676	145,566
„ 1861-65	3,891,568	2,074,188	1,817,380	184,912
„ 1866-70	4,618,146 (f)	2,419,926	2,198,220	92,877 (e)
1871 - -	4,900,454 (g)	2,559,797	2,340,657	—
1872 - -	5,208,922	2,754,764	2,454,158	—

* In this Table the Revenue does not include the produce of the Impressed Stamp on Newspapers, and the Expenditure does not include either the cost of the Packet Service or that of Stationery. The Finance Accounts relating to the Post Office from 1838 to 1869 inclusive having been constructed in this manner, the same arrangement (so far as this table is concerned, except that, with a view to greater accuracy the liabilities of the year have been substituted for the disbursements) has been continued subsequently, with a view to facilitate comparison. The correct revenue of the Post Office for the year 1872 will be found at page 17 of this Report.

(a) Namely, the Gross Receipts after deducting the Returns for "Refused Letters," &c.

(b) 1838 was the last complete year before the general reduction of postage.

(c) On 5th December 1839 the maximum Inland Postage for a single letter was reduced to 4d.

(d) On 10th January 1840 the postage on all inland letters weighing not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. was reduced to a uniform charge of one penny.

(e) Postage ceased to be charged on the correspondence of Government Departments early in the year 1868. The amount of Government Postage (excluding the Post Office itself) for the last complete year in which it was charged (1867) was about 197,000l.

(f) Prior to 1st October 1870 newspapers bearing the impressed stamp of the Inland Revenue Department passed through the Post free. The impressed stamp, however, was abolished on that date, the rate of postage being at the same time reduced from a penny on any newspaper not weighing more than 4 oz. to a halfpenny on each newspaper irrespective of weight. On the same date, the Book rate was reduced to a halfpenny for every 2 oz.; circulars (not wholly printed) were admitted to the privileges of the Book Post; and Post Cards at one halfpenny each were issued.

(g) In October 1871 the distinctive rate of postage on patterns and samples was abolished; the letter rate on all letters and packets weighing more than half an ounce being at the same time reduced to the following scale:

For a letter not above 1 oz.	-	-	-	1d.
„ above 1 oz. but not above 2 oz.	-	-	-	1½d.
„ „ 2 oz.	„	4 oz.	-	2d.
„ „ 4 oz.	„	6 oz.	-	2½d.
„ „ 6 oz.	„	8 oz.	-	3d.
„ „ 8 oz.	„	10 oz.	-	3½d.
„ „ 10 oz.	„	12 oz.	-	4d.
„ „ 12 oz. one penny for each ounce.				

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