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TWENTY-THIRD 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.

1877.

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TWENTY-THIRD 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 Twenty-third Report on the Post Office; being that for the fifteen months ended the 31st March 1877.

Previous Reports have been for the calendar year, but in pursuance of the sanction given by your Lordships to a proposal made in my last report, future reports will relate to the financial year, and the change in this respect explains why the present report, as regards some part of it, embraces an exceptional period.

INLAND SERVICE.

During the year, 221 new offices were established, raising Post Offices. the total number of Post Offices in the United Kingdom to 13,447, of which number 896 are head offices.

The number of Road Letter Boxes was increased from 10,186 in 1875 to 10,724 in 1876.

Thus, the total number of postal receptacles in the United Kingdom is now 24,171 as compared with 16,835 ten years ago, and with little more than 4,500 before the establishment of Penny Postage in 1840.

The postal receptacles in London alone number no less than 1,803.

The structural alterations which have for some time past been in progress in the Old Post Office building, St. Martin's-le-Grand, are now nearly completed, affording a more suitable accommodation of space to the several branches, together with improved ventilation and light. London: Improved office accommodation.

A new building is about to be erected in Queen Victoria Street to accommodate temporarily the Central Savings Bank, New Savings Bank. until permanent provision can be made for that and other Departments, for which there is at present no accommodation in the General Post Office buildings, St. Martin's-le-Grand.

Other new offices.

A commodious Branch Post Office has been opened in Gracechurch Street for the greater convenience of that important district of the city ; and several improved Letter Carriers Sorting Offices have been, or are in course of being provided in the Metropolitan District.

**Provinces:
New and improved offices.**

The new Post Offices at Burton-on-Trent, Cheltenham, Chester, Greenock, Leith, Londonderry, Margate, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Paisley, Wakefield, and Waterford, have been completed and occupied ; and the Post Offices at Brighton, Carmarthen, Chesterfield, and Plymouth have been enlarged and improved.

New Offices at Hull, Oldham, Stockport, Shrewsbury, and Warrington will soon be completed ; and arrangements have been authorized, and are in a more or less forward state, for providing new Offices at Manchester, Blackburn, Burnley, Dudley, Durham, Gravesend, Grimsby, Kilmarnock, Middlesbrough, Oxford, Reading, Rochester, Rotherham, St. Helen's, Stockton, and Walsall.

The Post Offices at Glasgow, Doncaster, and Lowestoft are either in course of enlargement or are about to be enlarged.

Volunteer Fire Brigades.

Volunteer Fire Brigades have been formed in the Circulation Department of the General Post Office, under the direction of the officers of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade attached to the premises, and pneumatic signals have been fixed at short intervals, affording means of immediate communication with the firemen's room from all parts of the building.

Fire Brigades have also been formed, or are about to be formed, at 28 other offices.

Deliveries.

Deliveries have been established for the first time at 481 places ; and the deliveries at 417 other places have been increased in number or otherwise improved.

Night Mail by rail between Gloucester and Hereford.

A Night Mail Service has been established on the railway between Gloucester and Hereford.

New sorting duty between St. Pancras and Derby.

A Sorting duty has been established by Night Mail between St. Pancras and Derby, affording relief in the Midland Night Mail Travelling Post Office in both directions between Derby and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Acceleration of Day Mail between Dublin and Londonderry.

An acceleration of the Day Mail trains between Dublin and Londonderry was obtained upon the renewal of the contract for Mail Service on the Great Northern (Ireland) Railway ; and English letters now reach Derry at 2 p.m. instead of at 3.10 p.m., while the Despatch from Derry is at 12.30 p.m. instead of at 11.5 a.m.

Earlier delivery of English letters in Dublin.

An earlier delivery of the English Night Mail letters has been afforded in the business parts of Dublin, and in the Glasnevin district.

Improved accommodation in Skye and Islay.

By a re-arrangement of the mail cars between Strome Ferry and Portree in connection with the use of the Highland Railway Company's steamer, improved communication has been

given to Skye ; and the delivery at Portree on three days of the week is now effected 12 hours earlier than formerly. An additional mail has also been provided for Islay during the summer by steamer from Tarbert, and the postal arrangements of the island have been improved generally.

The Night Mail from London to Peterhead, Fraserburgh, and other towns on the Buchan section of the Great North of Scotland Railway has been accelerated to the extent of two hours.

Improved service at Peterhead, Fraserburgh, St. Andrew's, Kirkcaldy, &c.

Direct bags from Kirkcaldy and St. Andrew's to London have been established, and the public can now post London letters at those places three hours later than before.

The mails between Cardiff and London and Cardiff and the North have been much improved, by the delivery at Cardiff being effected earlier, and the time allowed for posting at Cardiff being made later than formerly ; and the establishment of a Travelling Post Office on the Carmarthen and Cardigan Railway has greatly improved the postal service of an extensive district in Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire.

Improved Mail Services in South Wales.

Owing to the fall of a tunnel between Folkestone and Dover the traffic on the South Eastern Railway was interrupted, and during a period of about two months the foreign mails, together with the principal mails for Dover, were forwarded by the South Eastern Railway Company from Beckenham over the London, Chatham, and Dover line.

Interruption of service on South Eastern Railway.

Arrangements were concluded during the period in question, and have since come into operation, for the acceleration in both directions of the Limited Night Mail trains between London and Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Acceleration of Scotch Limited Mail.

The Mail train from the North on the London and North-western Railway, formerly due at Euston at 9.40 a.m. has also been brought into London at an earlier hour.

Acceleration of North Mails.

By the establishment of a Night Mail train between Yeoford Junction and Lidford Junction on the Devon and Cornwall Railway, the mail service of Launceston, Okehampton, &c. has been improved.

Improved Mail Service for Launceston, &c.

Many minor improvements have been effected in the mail service in different parts of the Kingdom.

The number of pouches delivered by apparatus from the Travelling Post Offices during 24 hours is now 521, and the number received 478, being 999 in all, as against 978 exchanged per diem in 1875.

Pouches exchanged by apparatus.

The winter of 1876-7, like that of 1875-6, was remarkable for the floods which prevailed in all parts of the kingdom.

At Dunning, near Perth, the Caledonian Railway Bridge was carried away, and for several days the passengers and mails were conveyed between the points of interruption by omnibus.

Between Durston and Bridgewater the Great Western Railway was under water to a considerable depth, and great caution was for a long time necessary in taking the mail trains through the flood.

It was in the rural districts, however, that the chief inconvenience was felt, boats and carts being in many districts brought into use to convey the messengers over the worst parts of their walks.

Loss of a messenger through exposure and fatigue.

I regret to record that a sad fate befel a messenger employed in Northumberland. On a night of intense darkness and storm this man turned off the usual road to avoid crossing a swollen stream, and subsequently losing his way he sank down and died, overcome by exposure and fatigue.

LETTERS, POST CARDS, BOOK PACKETS, AND NEWSPAPERS.*

Returns of letters, &c.

The following table shows the estimated number of letters, post cards, book packets, and newspapers which passed through the Post in 1876, as also the rate of increase on the previous year, together with the proportion of letters to population.

—	No. of Letters in 1876.	Increase per cent. on No. in 1875.	No. of Post Cards in 1876.	Increase per cent. on No. in 1875.	No. of Book Packets and Newspapers in 1876.	Increase per cent. on No. in 1875.	Number of Letters per head.
England and Wales -	856,042,400	1·1	78,412,100	6·9	241,866,100	6·7	85
Ireland - - -	71,792,100	1·7	4,883,500	7·5	24,146,600	5·0	13
Scotland - - -	91,120,700	0·2	9,640,100	4·7	32,778,100	10·9	26
United Kingdom -	1,018,955,200	1·0	92,935,700	6·7	298,790,800	6·8	31

The total estimated number of newspapers was 125,065,800.

Registered letters.

The number of letters registered in the United Kingdom during 1876 was 5,095,116, being in the ratio of about 1 registered letter to 200 ordinary letters. Of these, 867,875 were official remittance letters, &c. Excluding the official remittance letters the ratio of registered letters to ordinary letters would be as 1 to 241. This is the first time for several years that the number of registered letters has been ascertained by actual counting.

Weight of stamp parcels.

The average daily number of remittances from the Head Office to Postmasters of postage and telegraph stamps, post cards, newspaper wrappers, and embossed envelopes, which are forwarded as registered packets, is 700, weighing in the aggregate from 2 to 3 tons, and occasionally exceeding 4 tons, in weight.

Registered letter containing bank notes unfastened.

A registered letter addressed to a bank was observed to be altogether unfastened, and it contained bank notes of the value of 3,000*l*.

Returned letters.

During the 15 months ended the 31st Mar. 1877, the number of letters received in the Returned Letter Office was 5,897,724,

* See also Appendices A. and B.

being an estimated increase per annum upon the numbers of 1875 of 371,890. The number of letters sent to the Returned Letter Office was about 1 in every 216 of the total number of letters. It was found possible either to return to the writers or to reissue nearly nine-tenths of the whole number received.

Upwards of 33,100 letters were posted without addresses, being an estimated increase of 1,000 upon the number of 1875. 832 letters thus posted were found to contain in the aggregate nearly 390% in cash and bank notes, and nearly 5,000% in cheques, &c. Unaddressed letters.

The number of newspapers for places abroad detained for insufficient postage or other cause was 203,335, being at the rate of 162,668 per annum. This compares favourably with the number detained in 1875, which was 166,000. The continued decrease of newspapers detained is probably due in a great measure to a better acquaintance on the part of the public with the rates and regulations prescribed for this class of correspondence. Newspapers for places abroad insufficiently prepaid.

78,575 postage stamps were found loose in the different Post Offices, having no doubt in many cases been insecurely affixed by the senders. Loose postage stamps.

The number of offices for the return to the writers of letters which cannot be delivered has been increased, that work now being carried on not only at the Metropolitan offices of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, but at Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, and Glasgow. The result is that the return of such letters is considerably accelerated. Provincial Returned Letter Offices.

Miscellaneous articles, numbering 14,346, reached the Returned Letter Office, wholly destitute of covers. That so large a number of articles should reach that office is mainly due to the use by the public of flimsy covers quite unsuitable for the purpose. Articles found without covers.

In the Returned Letter Office, London, the number of inquiries dealt with was about 89,000. Number of public inquiries.

In Aberdeen a person was observed to deposit a letter in a disused street hydrant, and on the cover of the box being removed three other letters were found, the senders of which had similarly mistaken the water pillar for a pillar letter box. The letters had been passed into the box through the space formerly occupied by the tap-lever. A well pillar mistaken for a letter-box.

It is to be regretted that while great facilities are given under the Money Order system, and by the registration of letters for the safe remittance of money and valuables through the post, the public will sometimes avail themselves of the most insecure methods of transmission. In a newspaper which reached the Returned Letter Office were found to be enclosed four sovereigns, and in another a gold locket. Nor does this kind of recklessness appear only in connexion with newspapers; for a letter having a very large seal at the back was observed in course of transit, and on the seal, which had become slightly chipped, being examined, gold coins of the value of 1*l.* 10*s.* were discovered to be embedded in the wax. Unsafe methods of sending money, &c.

**Infringement
of Newspaper
regulations.**

The senders of newspapers very often infringe the regulations by sending unauthorised articles of various kinds concealed between the folds. Of such enclosures, the following amongst others were observed: cigars and tobacco, collars, seaweed, ferns and flowers, gloves, handkerchiefs, music, patterns, sermons, stockings, lace, postage stamps, and money.

**Registered let-
ters returned to
country of
origin.**

During the 15 months ended the 31st March last no less than 593 registered letters were returned to the countries of origin in consequence of their containing coin or jewellery contrary to the provisions of the General Postal Union. Of these more than three fourths were from the United States.

**Articles pass-
ing through
the post.**

The Post Office continues to be made the medium for the transmission of small articles of almost endless variety. Among others the following articles were observed: musical instruments and cutlery, artificial teeth and eyes, wigs, flowers, fruit, and vegetables, game and fish, medicine and perfumery, articles of dress, leeches, frogs, snakes, and lizards. Several of these, however, being prohibited articles, were sent to the Returned Letter Office.

**Living animals
passing through
the post.**

A live snake which had escaped from a postal packet was discovered in the Holyhead and Kingstown Marine Post Office, and at the expiration of a fortnight, being still unclaimed, it was sent to the Dublin Zoological Gardens.

A packet containing a live horned-frog reached Liverpool from the United States, and was given up to the addressee who called for it. Another packet, also from America, reached the Dublin Post Office, containing two live lizards, and was similarly given up to the addressee on personal application.

**Groundless
complaints.**

Complaints of the alleged loss of letters are not infrequently made, and much trouble given to the Department in investigating them, when the letters inquired for have not been posted at all. In one case it was stated that a letter containing 95*l.* in bank notes had been lost, but upon the complainant being closely questioned he admitted that his statement was untrue, and that it was invented to stave off for a few days the importunities of a creditor. In another case complaint was made that a letter addressed to a "Naturalist" had failed to reach its destination, but it was afterwards found in a cage on the premises of the addressee where it had been placed by a monkey.

**Letter Carriers
bitten by dogs.**

Whether it is owing to the fact that letter carriers are rendered conspicuous by their uniform, or that their duty takes them into portions of premises not much frequented by other persons, I am unable to determine, but it appears to be the case that letter carriers are peculiarly liable to be attacked by savage dogs. In one large town in the north of England the Postmaster has reported to me that 20 per cent. of his men were bitten by dogs during the past year.

**Ignorance of
the public.**

The want of information on the part of the public in regard to postal matters of the most ordinary kind cannot at times but give rise to wonder. A person in a fair position of life, residing in one of the eastern counties, having obtained a Money Order from his Postmaster payable at a neighbouring town, called again a few

days afterwards and complained that his correspondent could not obtain payment in consequence of some irregularity in the advice. Thereupon a second advice was sent, but a few days later the sender called again, stating that the payee was still unable to obtain payment. The sender added that he was quite sure that he had sent the money, as he had the receipt in his pocket. On being asked to show it, he produced the original order, which should of course have been forwarded to the payee, and without which the money could not be obtained.

Applications on the most various subjects are frequently made to this Department, by persons both at home and abroad, indicating that the functions of the Postmaster-General are by some minds assumed to be of the most universal character. The following are specimens of such applications: Curious applications.

“ Sir,

“ I have just been hearing of 3 men that was drowned about 9 months ago. i hear there was one of the men went under the name of John ———. Could the manager of the office give any particulars about that man,—what he was like, or if there was such a name, or if he had any friend.—He just went amissing about that time. I here enclose a stamp, and address to, &c. ———.”

“ To the Manager of the Dead Office, Post Office, London.”

“ To General Post Office, London.

“ I right these fue lines to you to ask you if you would be so kind as to teel me if there his such a person living in ‘ england.’ She was living at Birmingham last Rtimmias —this his mi sister and brother-in-law—they hant in Birmingham now—let this letter go to every general post office there is.”

“ To the Edetior of the General Post Office, London.

“ Will you please oblige Susannah ——— and Walter ——— with the particulars of an aspecial licence to get married—is it possible for you to forward one to us without either of us coming to you—if you inclose the charge and have it returned would we get one before next Monday week to get married at ———. If you will kindly send by return to the address inclosed the particulars we should feel greatly obliged.”

“ My dear Sir,

United States. 

“ Will you do me the kind favour, as you are the Postmaster and able to know, as I judge of. It is this, give to me the full name and address of any “ Mac——— ” that you know of in England, or in Scotland or Ireland or Wales or in India, or at or in any other country that you may know of, with their full names and correct address, so that I can write to them myself.

"If you have any list, or book, or pamphlet, with the names of parties who have died, and left money or land to their heirs-at-law, or by will legacy left to their heirs, as I want such information, &c.

"To his most honoured Sir, the Postmaster of London,
"England."

"My dear Sir, _____ Massachusetts.

"I have tuke the liberty to address you, wishing to know if I could ask the favour by paying you for the trouble I ask to know.

"I have an old clock in my collection made by Henton Brown, London, in the first part of 1700. I would like to know where he was in business and when he died if it could be ascertained. Please inform me if you could find out by any record in London. I would pay you for all trouble.

"This darling _____ is one of the loveliest places in Massachusetts.

"The Postmaster, London, England."

"Sir, _____ Kent.

"Will you please inform me if there is to be a Baby show this year at Woolwich; if so, where it is to be holden, and what day.

"I have enclosed "_____ stamp."

"A Monsieur le _____ France.

"Directeur de la poste de Londres.

"J'ai cinquante trois ans. Veuillez être assez bon de me faire réponse pour me donner des résultats sur l'existence de Madame _____? Si parfois elle était toujours veuve je vondrais lui faire la proposition de lui demander sa main d'après que j'en aurais des nouvelles. En attendant, Monsieur votre réponse.

"J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c."

"Mr. Postmaster, _____ United States.

"I have always had a great desire to visit your country, but as I probly never shall, I thought I would write.

"I am a young lady attending the High School at _____ a pictorest town bordering on the _____ river. Our country seat is four miles and a half west of _____. My father is a rich gentleman farmer.

"We have four horses 30 or 35 head of cattle, 15 or 20 pigs, and a large henery. We have about 250 acres of land, so of course we have to keep a house full of servants.

"We are quite well off in worldly goods but should be better off if you could inform me about that fortune I expect from a great-uncle, great-aunt or somebody. It is about half a million either on my father's or mother's side. If you would be

"so kind as to write and inform me, I would be a thousand times obliged. If you would assist me in getting it I will reward you handsomely. Their name is ———. They used to be very fond of me when I was a crowing infant in my mother's arms.

"It is a very pretty country out here, wide rolling prairies enterpersed with fine forests. There is a stream of water running through our land, a stream so softly and peacefully wild that it looks as if nature had only just made it and laid down her pencil and smiled.

"The school room is just a little ways from ——— the name of our farm. It is the school-room where I learnt my A.B. abs, but I probably never shall go there to school again.

"It is vacation now and I have come out on to the farm to stay till school commences again. It seems so nice to be where I can have new milk to drink, and nice fresh eggs again. I intend to enjoy myself till school commences again. Father has sold off most all of our horses, but he saved my riding horse, so I intend to have rides and drives without number.

"Well as I have said as much as you will care to read, I will stop. I hope you will excuse all mistakes as I am not a very old young lady—only 13 years old."

A depositor in the Post Office Savings Bank wrote to the department as follows: "Having lost my parents I am desirous of taking a housekeeper's situation where a domestic is kept, —must be a dissenting-family, Baptist preferred. Thinking that such a case might come under your notice, I have therefore taken the liberty of sending to you." Another depositor, apprehensive lest some person might withdraw money from his account, proposed to send his likeness to be used for identifying him, and then made the following curious request: "There are some little articles I would like to get from London, and one of them is some natural leaf tobacco, which I would be glad if you sent an ounce of and charge me for it,—it is only to be bought in the largest Tobacco Stores." In a further letter, the depositor expressed surprise that his request was not complied with, observing that—"the commonest person in America (my country) can speak to General Grant, and there is nothing said wrong about it." In another case, a woman forwarded her will, and requested to be informed whether it was "correct in case of death."

TELEGRAPHS.*

Owing to the depression in trade, the increase in the amount of telegraphic business during the 15 months ended the 31st March 1876 fell considerably short of the increase in previous years. The number of messages dealt with was 26,440,439, being an increase of 960,000 over the number in the

Development
of service.

* See also Appendices G, H, I, and Q.

preceding 15 months. The amount of matter transmitted on behalf of the Press was about equal to the amount transmitted in the preceding 15 months.

Number of offices.

The number of Post Offices open for the transaction of telegraph business on the 31st March 1877 was 3,734, in addition to which there were 1,636 railway stations open for the transaction of public telegraph business.

Acquisition of Orkney and Shetland telegraphs.

On the 12th April 1876 the Post Office acquired by purchase the undertaking of the Orkney and Shetland Islands Telegraph Company, and the charge for the transmission of messages between those Islands and the rest of the United Kingdom was reduced to the uniform rate of 1s. for 20 words. There is of course no prospect of the transaction proving remunerative to the Department. It will however no doubt confer a great benefit upon the inhabitants of the Islands.

Interruptions through snow storms.

Telegraphic communication was seriously interrupted on three separate occasions by heavy snow storms. With a view, as far as possible, to obviate such interruptions in future, and to prevent the recurrence of accidents which have happened in consequence of the fall of wires in crowded thoroughfares, a considerable mileage of overground line has been replaced by underground wires. At the time of the transfer of the telegraphs to the Post Office the total length of underground wire was 1,928 miles. On the 31st March last it had been increased to 8,014 miles.

Distinctive stamps for telegrams.

On the 1st April 1876 distinctive stamps for the prepayment of messages were introduced. Up to that date postage stamps had been used; and in order to ascertain the value of the stamps used in the prepayment of messages, it was necessary to keep elaborate accounts. By the introduction of distinctive stamps, it has been possible to simplify the accounts considerably, and thereby to effect a material saving in expense.

Receipts for messages.

The Department having been frequently asked to give receipts for messages, a form of receipt was brought into use on the 1st February; but, as was anticipated, very little use has been made of it.

Reduction of Engineering Staff.

Having satisfied myself that it was no longer necessary to maintain the Engineering Staff of the Telegraph Service at the strength which was required for some time after the transfer of the Telegraphs to the State, I had taken the question of reduction into consideration, and a scheme for that purpose was nearly matured, when a Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to enquire into the organisation and financial system of the Telegraphic Department.

Parliamentary Committee.

My proposals thus obtained the advantage of parliamentary criticism, and are now being carried out.

The facilities offered to the public were very fully considered by the Committee, and it was suggested, with the view of obviating to some extent the loss now sustained upon press messages, while at the same time not unduly infringing the privileges conferred on that class of business by telegraph

legislation, that each message requiring separate transmission and delivery should be charged for separately. This recommendation has been carried out from the 1st of January 1877; and at the same time, a system of continuous counting hitherto confined to the Press Associations has been extended to the Press generally.

Alteration in method of assessing charge for press messages.

The Committee further recommended that a profit and loss account on the principle of a commercial undertaking should be annually prepared and presented to Parliament. This has accordingly been done for the year to the 31st March 1876 (*see* Parliamentary paper No. 137).

Profit and loss account on commercial principles.

A rigid examination into the establishments at all offices has been made, and considerable reductions have been effected.

Examination of telegraph establishments. Military telegraphists.

With respect to the training of military telegraphists, the area of country to be supervised by officers of the Royal Engineers has been enlarged, and 160 Royal Engineers will be employed within a district comprising the whole of the south of England from the mouth of the Thames to the Lands End.

The arbitration between the North-eastern Railway Company and the Department was the only one which it was found possible to conclude. The Railway Company claimed the sum of 540,292*l.*, with interest thereon at 5 per cent. from 1st February 1870 until payment. Under the award they obtained the sum of 168,696*l.* or less than one-fourth of their claim.

Arbitration with North-eastern Railway Company.

The modifications of the rules applicable to the acceptance of telegrams addressed to places abroad, which were made at the conference held at St. Petersburg in the summer of 1875, came into operation on the 1st January 1876. The chief alteration consisted in the introduction of the system of charging for each word, instead of for a message consisting of not less than twenty words, in messages transmitted between the United Kingdom and all places situated out of Europe. This system had previously been adopted in the case of messages transmitted between this country and North America.

Alteration of rules under St. Petersburg Convention.

Notwithstanding the continued depression of trade, which has led an unusual number of renters to terminate their agreements. New contracts bringing in an additional rental of 707*l.* 17*s.* have been entered into. This result is believed to be due to the fresh efforts which have been made to bring the system under the notice of the public. The net revenue for the financial year to the 31st March last, was 58,942*l.**

Private wires.

MONEY ORDERS.†

On the 31st March 1877 the total number of Money Order Offices in the United Kingdom was 5,498; showing an increase upon the number open on the 31st December 1875 of 238.

Money Order Offices.

In the year ended the 31st March 1877 the number of Inland Orders issued was 17,822,921, the increase on the number for the

Number of Inland Orders.

* See Appendix Q.

† See also Appendix J.

year ended the 31st December 1875 being 1,337,260, or at the rate of about $8\frac{1}{10}$ th per cent.

Aggregate amount of Orders.

The aggregate amount of the Orders was 27,516,698*l.*, and their average value 1*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* Thus the gradual decrease in the average value of Money Orders, which followed the introduction of cheaper rates for orders of small amounts still continues, the average value of orders in 1873, 1874, and 1875 having been 1*l.* 13*s.* 0*d.*, 1*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and 1*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* respectively.

Decrease in average value.

Proportion of Orders to population.

The average number of Money Orders per 100 persons in the three divisions of the United Kingdom was as follows; viz., England and Wales 62·9, Scotland 41·7, Ireland 22·3. These figures show a growing use by the public of the Money Order system, the principal increase, however, being in orders for small amounts.

Number of Colonial Orders.

The number of Money Orders exchanged between this country and the Colonies was 145,838, showing a further decrease in that branch of business of 15,388 orders.

Although the number of Money Orders received from the Colonies has, from the commencement, been much larger than the number sent hence to the Colonies, it is to be remarked that the figures for the year ended the 31st March last, as compared with those for the year to the 31st December 1875, show an increase in the latter and a considerable decrease in the former. The falling off in the remittances from the Colonies is no doubt due to scarcity of employment and diminution of wages, rendering it a matter of greater difficulty for colonists to remit savings to their relatives in this country.

Number of foreign Orders.

The Money Order transactions with foreign countries show an increase as regards remittances in both directions. The remittances from this country show an increase in number of 26,757, and in amount of 64,121*l.*; and the remittances from foreign countries an increase in number of 11,419, and in amount of 5,715*l.*

The total number exchanged in both directions was 211,163, the aggregate value being 612,925*l.*

Loss on Money Order system.

I regret to have to state that the large increase in the number of Inland Money Orders for small amounts, on which the commission is insufficient to cover the cost of the service, has at length resulted in a net loss on the Money Order business as a whole, such loss being for the quarter ended 31st March 1877 at the rate of 10,000*l.* a year, which will no doubt rapidly increase.

Proposed alteration of rates of Commission.

A re-adjustment of the rates of commission becomes therefore necessary, since it is manifestly improper that the business should be carried on at a loss to the State, and the Committee which was appointed by your Lordships to inquire into the Money Order system has prepared a fresh scale in which I entirely concur.

I have, however, not deemed it desirable to attempt to introduce such new scale until it could be accompanied by the

facilities of the cheaper and simpler mode of remittance for small sums provided by the "Postal Notes" scheme which has been suggested by Mr. Chetwynd, the Receiver and Accountant-General of the Post Office, and in the desirability of which the Committee concurred. Proposal to issue Postal Notes.

This scheme, as your Lordships are aware, provides for the issue of Money Orders for the fixed sums of 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., and 1l., payable at any Post Office, or at such Post Office as the remitter may desire, either to order of the payee or to bearer on signature, the charge for the two lower amounts being 1d., and for the two higher 2d.

Such an arrangement will afford to the public a cheaper, simpler, and more expeditious means of remitting small sums, will occasion no loss to the Department, and will, it is hoped, diminish the speculation of stamps, which are now so largely sent in letters in preference to Money Orders. Convenience of Postal Notes.

Some objections have been made to the adoption of Postal Notes on the ground that they would constitute an issue of paper currency without limitation, and would thus interfere with the principles which regulate the currency of the kingdom.

I may, however, point out that as the notes will not be a legal tender they in no way constitute a paper currency.

They will, moreover, be restricted to the above small and fixed amounts, and will be limited in their period of currency to twelve months, a period which could, if desirable, be further curtailed.

Your Lordships will probably be of opinion that these objections are based on a misapprehension of the scope and objects of the scheme.

The Postal Note will in fact be neither more nor less than a Money Order for a fixed sum payable to the order of the holder or person designated therein, and not requiring a letter of advice.

I trust that it may be in my power to introduce such Postal Notes, together with a revised scale of commission on Money Orders, at an early date. (See Parliamentary paper, No. 289).

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.*

Although the progress of the Post Office Savings Banks, as exhibited in appendix K, has not been so marked in 1876 as it had been in previous years, yet in view of the prevailing dulness in trade, the results of the past year must be considered as highly satisfactory. Progress.

During 1876 there were 188 new offices opened for Savings Bank business, 153 in England and Wales, 23 in Scotland, and 12 in Ireland, the total number of such offices at the close of the year being 5,448. New Offices.

* See also Appendix K.

Old Savings Banks.	Seven Trustee Savings Banks, viz., those at Chertsey, Newnham, Chesterfield, Beaumaris, Birstall, Islington and Bridgend, were closed, the total number of old Savings Banks being thus reduced to 466. The sum of 111,476 <i>l.</i> was transferred from these Banks to the Post Office Savings Banks; accounts amounting to 17,681 <i>l.</i> were also transferred by certificate from old Savings Banks, as also about 3,780 <i>l.</i> in cash, raising the total amount transferred to the Post Office Savings Banks during the year to 132,937 <i>l.</i>
Number of Depositors' Accounts.	The number of accounts open at the end of 1876 was 1,702,374 as against 1,777,103 at the close of 1875. The decrease is not however due to accounts being closed in large numbers by the depositors, but to the transfer to "dormant" ledgers of many accounts carrying but small balances and on which no operation had taken place for a considerable period. Had these accounts not been specially treated, the number of depositors' accounts would have shown an increase of 92,648.
Sum at credit of depositors.	The total amount of the balances at the credit of depositors, together with interest accrued at the close of 1876, was 26,996,550 <i>l.</i> , being an increase of 1,809,205 <i>l.</i> on the total of the previous year.
Number of deposits and withdrawals.	The number of deposits made in 1876 was 3,166,136, and the number of withdrawals 1,195,603; the average amount deposited being 2 <i>l.</i> 1 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> and the average amount withdrawn 6 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> As compared with the transactions of 1875, the average of deposits in 1876 has been slightly larger and that of withdrawals slightly smaller.
Proportion of depositors to population.	The proportion of depositors to population, (excluding depositors whose accounts have been carried to the "dormant" ledgers), was 1 to 19 in the United Kingdom; or 1 to about 15 in England and Wales, 1 to about 71 in Scotland, and 1 to about 87 in Ireland.
Amounts of deposits and withdrawals.	The sums deposited during 1876 amounted in the aggregate to 8,982,350 <i>l.</i> and the sums withdrawn to 7,792,477 <i>l.</i>
Interest.	The amount of interest credited to depositors on accounts for the year was 619,331 <i>l.</i> , being 47,747 <i>l.</i> in excess of the sum credited for 1875.
Average balance at credit of depositors.	The average amount standing at the credit of depositors (excluding the depositors whose accounts have been transferred to the "dormant" ledgers) was 15 <i>l.</i> 17 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>½d.</i> Had these accounts been included the average would have been somewhat less, viz., 14 <i>l.</i> 8 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>¼d.</i> , but even this shows an average increase on the balances of the previous year of 0 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>¾d.</i>
Average daily number of deposits.	The average daily number of deposits was 10,347; but on the 31st January, on which day the largest number of deposits was made, there were 25,063.
Percentage of deposits and withdrawals at offices other than those at	Of the total number of deposits and withdrawals in 1876, 26 <i>½</i> per cent. were effected at offices other than those at which the accounts were originally opened. It would at first sight seem that rather less advantage has been taken of the convenience

offered by the Post Office Savings Banks, which admit of deposits and withdrawals being made on the same account at any office, the proportion of that class of transactions in 1875 having been 28 per cent. But the falling off is probably accounted for by the resumption of an arrangement under which, when a depositor's book is full, a new book is issued bearing the designation of the office at which his transactions usually take place.

which the accounts were opened.

In order to aid depositors in keeping their Savings Bank transactions private, on which subject many applications have been received, the privilege which has for some time existed of allowing Savings Bank communications to be called for at any of the District or Branch Offices in London, has been extended to the offices of Letter Receivers in provincial towns, to whose offices depositors may now have their Savings Bank communications addressed.

Savings Bank communications may be called for at Receiving Offices.

During November, December and January last about a million handbills, setting forth in clear and simple language the advantages offered by the Government system of Savings Banks, Life Insurances, and Annuities, were distributed experimentally in several large provincial towns and their rural districts, and during January in various parts of the Metropolis and its suburbs. In view of the depressed state of trade the result was deemed to be satisfactory, and the distribution will be carried on until it has been effected throughout the whole of the United Kingdom.

Distribution of handbills on subject of Savings Banks, &c.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POSTS.

In August 1876 a considerable improvement was effected in the Night Mail Service to France by the earlier despatch of the Mail from London and the acceleration of the Mail train between Calais and Paris. The earlier arrival of the Mail in Paris admits of the delivery in that city of the English correspondence by the first distribution, and the despatch of letters thence to the provinces by the morning mails. In many cases an acceleration of half a day is thus effected in the delivery of the provincial correspondence.

Acceleration of Night Mail from London to Paris.

During the past year applications have been made by several British Colonies, and by more than one foreign country, for admission into the General Postal Union, thus showing that its advantages are being more and more widely recognised.

Fresh accessions to General Postal Union.

Among the recent accessions are the following British Colonies :—

British Colonies recently joined.

Ceylon.	Labuan.	Trinidad.
The Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	British Guiana.
Hong Kong.	Jamaica.	Bermuda.

These Colonies have been introduced on the same conditions as those prescribed for British India and the French Colonies,

Conditions of admission.

admitted in July 1876; that is to say, at a reduced postage of 6*d.* per half ounce for letters, and in most cases a diminished charge also for other descriptions of correspondence. This rate of 6*d.* is necessarily supplemented in the case of letters forwarded by the Brindisi Route to Hong Kong and other places in the East by an extra charge of 2*d.* to defray the expense incurred in providing for the special conveyance of the Indian Mails through France and Italy.

Canada and
Newfoundland,
reduction of
postage rates.

Canada and Newfoundland, although among the first applicants for admission to the Union, have not yet succeeded in obtaining the unanimous consent of the members to their entry. Pending the removal, however, of the obstacles which at present interpose, the rate of postage on letters between the United Kingdom and those Colonies has been reduced to 2½*d.* the half ounce. Post-cards have been introduced at half the letter rate, and the charges on newspapers, books, and patterns, by whatever route transmitted, have been made uniform; so that, as regards their relations with this country, the advantages of the Union have, in effect, been extended to Canada and Newfoundland.

South African
Colonies,
reduction of
postage.

I am happy to be able to state that an important reduction of postage has also been made in the case of letters for the South African Colonies.

New Cape
Contracts.

Upon the termination of the old contract for the Cape of Good Hope Mail Service at the end of June 1876, the Government of the Cape of Good Hope undertook to make its own Packet Service arrangements, and with the concurrence of the Imperial Government, entered into contracts with the Union Steam Ship Company, and the Castle Packet Company, for the conveyance of a regular weekly mail to and from the United Kingdom throughout the year, each Company being bound to provide alternately, week by week, a vessel for the Service. One of the conditions made by the Colonial Government was, that the postage upon letters should be reduced from 1*s.* to 6*d.* per half ounce, and thus, while establishing a more frequent and rapid Mail Service, a greatly reduced postal tariff has been found practicable.

Weekly Mail
Service.

Commence-
ment of new
contracts.

The new Packet Service commenced on the 1st October 1876, and has been carried on with remarkable efficiency.

South American
Mail
Service.

The contracts with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and the Liverpool, Brazil, and River Plate Company, for the conveyance of South American Mails have been brought to a termination, partly with the view of obtaining reduced terms from the Companies, and partly for the purpose of restricting the obligation of the British Post Office to providing for the conveyance of the outward Mails only, leaving the countries on the other side to provide, in like manner, for the conveyance of their Mails to England.

New Contract
on more favourable
terms.

I have been able to conclude a more advantageous contract with the Royal Mail Company on such principles.

The contract with Messrs. Cunard and the Inman Steam Ship Company for the conveyance of Mails to the United States having terminated on the 31st December last, it was determined to enter into no new contracts for this service, but to adopt a system of employing from month to month, the best vessels that could be obtained, and paying to the owners, in lieu of subsidy, a rate per pound for the letters and printed matter actually carried.

United States
Mails.

Payment by
weight.

On these terms a sufficient number of ships was offered to provide three regular Mails in each week from England to New York, besides one in each week direct from Scotland; but, to my disappointment, two of the Companies owning the fleetest ships in the American line declined to tender, and consequently the scheme, at its outset, gave rise to some discontent on the part of the public, who complained that the best ships were not used for postal purposes.

Partial success
of new system.

This difficulty has since been remedied, and there are now three excellent services in each week to New York; viz., from Southampton every Tuesday morning, and from Liverpool every Thursday and Saturday morning, the ships from Liverpool calling at Queenstown for supplementary mails on the following day.

Service as now
constituted.

The Ocean Mail Service has been performed during the past year without the loss of any Mail or any vessel carrying a Mail, and indeed without any serious mishap to a Mail or Mail packet.

Absence of
shipwreck.

In order to give a later despatch for continental correspondence from several large towns in the north of England, a later Day Mail from Accrington, Altrincham, Birmingham, Burnley, Bury, Coventry, Liverpool, Manchester, Stockport, and Wolverhampton, has been established, reaching Euston at 7.10 p.m.; and correspondence received by it is forwarded to the Continent by the Night Mail train leaving Cannon Street at 8.30 p.m.

Facilities for
despatch of
Continental
Correspondence from
North of
England.

STAFF OF OFFICERS.*

The total number of officers employed by the Post Office Department in 1876 was 45,024; being an increase of 380 on the numbers of the previous year. Of that total, 11,654 are employed exclusively on Telegraph work.

Number of
officers.

The number of Postmasters is 13,447; of clerks there are more than 10,000; and of letter carriers, sorters, and messengers, over 21,000.

In London alone, the staff employed is 10,380, and of this number over 5,500 are attached to the chief offices in St. Martin's-le-Grand.

The report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Department, Dr. Waller Lewis, shows that the rate of mortality among the officers in London during the year 1876 was lower than it has

Health of
officers.

* See also Appendix N.

hitherto ever been, with the exception of that of last year; the deaths being in the proportion of a little over five per thousand of the persons employed.

The average age of the officers who died during the year was 30.

To consumption, bronchitis, and other lung affections, the majority of the deaths was due, but there were two fatal cases of typhoid fever and two of scarlet fever, the latter disease being epidemic in London during the year.

Although small-pox was likewise epidemic, no death was registered from that cause, and only 19 slight cases occurred in the Metropolitan force, which numbers as already stated, over 10,000 persons. Dr. Lewis attributes this notable mitigation in the character of the small-pox cases to nothing but the very rigid care which is taken to have every candidate carefully re-vaccinated before he is admitted to the service.

Free Medical
attendance.

The privilege of Free Medical attendance has been extended to 52 additional offices in the United Kingdom, to which offices a Medical Officer has been appointed in each case by the Department.

Superannuated
officers.

On the 31st December last the number of superannuated officers formerly attached to the London Office who were then living was 766, and their average age was 58.

Conduct of
officers.

Throughout the country the conduct of the great majority of the officers has been good.

POST OFFICE ANNUITIES AND LIFE INSURANCES.*

Progress.

The Annuity and Insurance business last year does not call for any special observations. The business generally appears to progress slowly.

INLAND REVENUE LICENSES† AND RECEIPT STAMPS.

Increase in
number of
licenses
issued.

During the year ended the 31st March 1877, the Post Office issued on behalf of the Board of Inland Revenue 1,130,241 licenses, being an increase on the number for the year ended the 31st December 1875, of 90,900. The amount collected was nearly 463,000*l*. Of the total number of licenses issued, 847,609 were dog licenses, showing an increase of more than 92,000 licenses of this class.

The amount of the licenses issued in the quarter ended the 31st March 1876 was 370,078*l*., or more than three-fourths of the amount of the licenses issued in the following year. This is due to the fact that the whole of the licenses issued by the Post Office, except gun and game licenses, are payable at the beginning of the month of January.

* For details, see Appendix I.

† " " " " M.

The sales of receipt stamps by the Post Office for the Inland Receipt stamps. Revenue Department show a considerable increase from year to year. In the year ended the 31st March 1875 the amount was about 106,000*l.*, in the year ended 31st March 1876 about 150,000*l.*, and in the year ended 31st March 1877 about 174,000*l.*

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

I.—*Postage and Money Orders.**

The tables in which the revenue derived from postage and commission on Money Orders and expenditure are set forth (*see* Financial year substituted for calendar year. Appendices O. and P.), show the particulars relating to the quarter ended 31st March 1876 and the year ended 31st March 1877 separately, the object being to substitute the financial year for the calendar year, in accordance with the intention expressed in my last report at page 18, and to establish a basis of comparison with subsequent financial years. It is unnecessary to make any special comments upon the revenue and expenditure of the quarter ended 31st March 1876, as for all practical purposes the comparison will lie between the year ended 31st December 1875 and the year ended 31st March 1877.

The total postal revenue in the last-named year amounted to Gross revenue. 6,017,000*l.*, as compared with 5,815,000*l.* in the year ended 31st December 1875, the increase being 202,000*l.* This increase, however, presents an unduly favourable aspect of the revenue of the year ended 31st March 1877, through a change in the system of preparing the Australian accounts, whereby a temporary delay has arisen in paying the balances of postage due to the Australian Colonies.

The expenditure pertaining to the year ended 31st March Expenditure. 1877 was 4,070,000*l.*, as compared with 3,921,000*l.* in the year ended 31st December 1875, the increase being 149,000*l.* This increase, which is larger than usual, is in part owing to the sum of 60,859*l.* having been paid towards the purchase of the site of the Manchester new Post Office. The cost of the Packet Services, on the other hand, shows a decrease of 56,000*l.*, which is in part attributable to the favourable arrangements made for conveying the American, West Indian, and Pacific Mails.

The chief items of expense were 2,046,000*l.* for salaries, wages, Chief items of expense. pensions, &c.; 780,000*l.* for conveyance by mail packets and private ships; 684,000*l.* for conveyance by railway; 171,000*l.* for conveyance by coaches, carts, and omnibuses; and 206,000*l.* for buildings, repairs, &c.

As compared with the figures for the year ended the 31st December 1875, these items exhibit an increase of 104,000*l.* for salaries; of 17,000*l.* for conveyance by railway; of 9,000*l.* for conveyance by coaches, &c.; and of 63,000*l.* for buildings, &c.;

* For details, see Appendix O. and P.

and a decrease of 56,000*l.* for conveyance by mail packets and private ships.

Net revenue. The net revenue for the year was 1,947,000*l.*, as compared with 1,894,000*l.* in the year to the 31st December 1875 showing an increase of 53,000*l.*

If the several Departments of Government had been charged with postage, both the gross and net revenue from postage would have been increased by 104,000*l.*

II.—TELEGRAPHS.*

Revenue. The gross earnings of the Telegraph Service in the year ended the 31st March 1877 amounted to 1,313,000*l.*, as compared with 1,277,000*l.*, the amount of the gross earnings in the previous financial year, the increase being 36,000*l.*

Work was performed for other Government Departments without payment to the value of 13,845*l.*

Expenditure. The expenditure in the year ended 31st March 1877 amounted to 1,123,000*l.*, as compared with 1,032,000*l.* in the preceding financial year, the increase being 91,000*l.*

The above figures exhibit an apparent increase of expenditure far greater in proportion than the increase of revenue. They must, however, be subjected to considerable modification if the real revenue and working expences of the year are to be clearly shown.

A reduction in the increase of revenue to a considerable amount has taken place in consequence of the introduction of the telegraph stamp, whereby the revenue of the preceding year was abnormally swelled. The expenditure, on the other hand, includes no less than 30,429*l.* for the telegraph share of the cost of the site of the new Post Office at Manchester, together with large sums paid to Railway Companies on account of arrears due for preceding years.

The true financial results of the telegraph business for the year will be exhibited in the profit and loss accounts to be presented shortly to Parliament.

Effect of depression of trade. The generally depressed state of trade during the year affected the Telegraph revenue to a considerably greater extent than the Postal revenue.

III.—POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.†

Gross revenue and expenditure. The number of deposits and the number of withdrawals in the year 1876 were larger than in any previous year, being respectively 3,166,136 and 1,195,603.

Since the establishment of the Post Office Savings Banks 4,882,757 accounts have been opened, and 3,180,383 accounts have been closed, leaving 1,702,374 open at the end of the

* For details, see Appendix Q.

† " " " K.

year 1876. In the year 1876, 167,380 accounts were closed by transferring the balances to Dormant Account, and the open accounts were diminished accordingly. The total amount deposited from the commencement, inclusive of interest credited to depositors, was in round figures 90,999,000*l.*, and the amount withdrawn 64,002,000*l.*, leaving a balance remaining on deposit on the 31st December 1876 of 26,996,000*l.*

The assets belonging to the Post Office Savings Banks ex- Profit.
ceeded their liabilities by no less than 1,104,000*l.*, of which sum about 149,000*l.* accrued in the year 1876.

The average cost of a Post Office Savings Bank transaction,— Average cost per transaction.
i.e., a deposit or a withdrawal,—for the whole period of the existence of the Post Office Savings Banks has been 6 $\frac{1}{10}$ *d.*

I have the honour to be,

My Lords,

Your Lordships' obedient humble Servant,

JOHN MANNERS.

General Post Office,
4th August 1877.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX (A.)

Letters Delivered.

ESTIMATED NUMBER of Chargeable Letters delivered in the United Kingdom in the year immediately preceding the first General Reduction of Postage on the 5th day of December 1839, and in the years subsequent thereto; also (in the first year) the number of Franks.

Year ending 31st December.	Delivered in England and Wales.				Total in England and Wales.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.	Total in Scotland.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.	Total in Ireland.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.	Total in United Kingdom.	Increase per cent. per annum.	Average number to each person.
	By Country Offices.	Increase per annum.	In London District, including Local Letters.	Increase per annum.												
Estimated No. of Letters, 1839 -	-	-	-	-	60,000,000	-	4	8,000,000	-	1	8,000,000	-	1	76,000,000	-	3
Estimated No. of Franks, 1839 -	-	-	-	-	5,172,000	-	8	338,000	-	3	1,035,000	-	3	6,563,000	-	3
Estimated No. of Letters, 1840 -	88,000,000	-	44,000,000	-	132,000,000	120	8	19,000,000	148	7	18,000,000	119	2	169,000,000	122	7
Average of 5 years, 1841-45 -	122,000,000	10	57,000,000	10	179,000,000	10	11	24,000,000	9	9	24,000,000	9	3	227,000,000	10	8
" " 1846-50 -	180,000,000	5	79,000,000	5	259,000,000	5	15	34,000,000	4	12	34,000,000	5	4	327,000,000	5	12
" " 1851-55 -	233,000,000	6	97,000,000	5	330,000,000	6	18	41,000,000	5	14	39,000,000	3	6	410,000,000	5	15
" " 1856-60 -	302,000,000	4	125,000,000	5	427,000,000	4	23	51,000,000	3	16	45,000,000	3	7	523,000,000	4	18
" " 1861-65 -	373,000,000	5	161,000,000	5	534,000,000	5	29	61,000,000	4	20	53,000,000	3	9	646,000,000	5	23
" " 1866-70 -	472,000,000	4	192,000,000	3	664,000,000	4	31	76,000,000	4	24	60,000,000	3	11	800,000,000	4	26
Year 1871 -	501,000,000	4	220,000,000	7	721,000,000	2	32	80,000,000	1	24	66,000,000	3	13	867,000,000	2	27
" 1872 -	510,000,000	1	227,000,000	3	737,000,000	2	32	82,000,000	2	24	66,000,000	-	13	896,000,000	2	28
" 1873 -	519,000,000	1	238,000,000	5	756,000,000	2	32	84,000,000	2	24	67,000,000	1	13	907,000,000	2	29
" 1874 -	533,579,100	6	250,474,000	5	804,053,100	6	33	90,195,300	7	25	*73,254,900	8	14	967,503,300	6	30
" 1875 -	580,081,400	4	266,771,000	6	846,852,400	5	35	90,976,400	5	26	70,563,300	7	15	1,008,392,100	4	31
" 1876 -	594,519,400	2	267,522,800	-	856,042,400	1	35	91,120,700	1	26	71,792,100	1	13	1,018,953,200	1	31

* Through a clerical error this number was overstated by about 3,250,000.

APPENDIX (B.)

RETURNED LETTERS.

LETTERS, POST CARDS, BOOKS, and NEWSPAPERS received in the RETURNED LETTER OFFICES of LONDON, MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, BIRMINGHAM, LEEDS, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, and DUBLIN, respectively, in the Year 1875, and in the 15 months ended the 31st March 1877.

15 Months ended 31st March 1877.																
1875.																
—	Letters received.	Letters re-issued to corrected Ad-dresses.	Letters returned to the Senders.	Letters returned unopened to Foreign Countries.	Letters which could not be either delivered or returned to the senders.	Post Cards received.	Books re-ceived.	Newspapers received.	Letters received.	Letters re-issued corrected Ad-dresses.	Letters returned to the Senders.	Letters returned unopened to Foreign Countries.	Letters which could not be either delivered or returned to the senders.	Post Cards re-ceived.	Books re-ceived.	Newspapers re-ceived.
LONDON	3,578,105	61,815	3,068,151	131,900	296,149	298,626	1,745,390	468,344	4,352,636	67,039	3,746,318	146,914	392,865	363,219	2,002,858	533,587
MANCHESTER	111,490	1,954	103,705	3,652	2,179	12,273	86,752	5,500	248,062	4,537	224,668	5,740	13,090	27,944	150,102	10,464
*LIVERPOOL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	240,712	2,901	205,672	13,444	18,795	23,248	186,190	14,081
*BIRMINGHAM	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	120,856	719	109,063	1,919	9,155	17,016	101,126	4,904
*LEEDS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62,392	830	53,790	794	6,978	7,333	42,017	3,118
EDINBURGH	220,981	6,869	188,317	5,963	19,796	25,828	135,893	20,160	271,569	7,975	227,146	7,187	29,261	34,941	188,188	24,025
GLASGOW	116,867	6,060	102,879	3,994	3,954	16,264	55,432	7,259	169,292	6,205	152,551	4,401	6,135	24,253	95,413	12,469
DUBLIN	318,827	6,709	297,608	16,921	87,589	10,445	157,552	33,128	432,205	6,755	255,908	21,640	147,902	15,994	210,694	44,455
	4,546,290	83,437	3,690,660	162,526	499,667	363,336	2,184,009	533,391	5,897,794	96,891	4,975,114	202,046	623,081	513,949	2,032,838	647,113

* The Liverpool, Birmingham, and Leeds Returned Letter Branches were established in 1876.

APPENDIX (C.)

Official Correspondence.

A STATEMENT showing the WEIGHT of CORRESPONDENCE carried, and the VALUE of POSTAL SERVICE performed, for the following Public Offices in the Year ended the 31st March 1877.

NAMES OF OFFICES.	Great Britain.		Ireland.		Total.	
	Weight.	Amount.	Weight.	Amount.	Weight.	Amount.
	oz.	£	oz.	£	oz.	£
Adjutant General	—	—	108,634	404	108,634	404
Admiralty, Lords Commissioners of	922,423	14,330	—	—	922,423	14,330
Army Medical Department	—	—	40,013	187	40,013	187
Attorney General	7,400	31	—	—	7,400	31
Board of Education	—	—	599,195	1,980	599,195	1,980
Ditto (Scotland)	31,405	131	—	—	31,405	131
Board of Supervision (Scotland)	22,006	92	—	—	22,006	92
Board of Trade	499,479	2,305	—	—	499,479	2,305
Board of Works	—	—	163,027	746	163,027	746
Central Loan Fund	—	—	2,490	12	2,490	12
Chancellor, The Lord	21,422	122	—	—	21,422	122
Charity Commissioners	111,971	496	—	—	111,971	496
Chelsea Hospital	26,559	147	—	—	26,559	147
Chief and Under Secretary, Dublin } Castle	—	—	244,319	1,134	244,319	1,134
Civil Service Commissioners	143,708	689	—	—	143,708	689
Colonial Office	298,906	8,924	—	—	298,906	8,924
Colonial Land and Emigration Com- missioners	2,302	29	—	—	2,302	29
Commander of the Forces	—	—	7,490	35	7,490	35
Commissariat Department	—	—	86,222	396	86,222	396
Constabulary Office	—	—	251,516	1,130	251,516	1,130
Convict Prisons, Directors of	—	—	56,353	264	56,353	264
Council Office	1,105,699	5,117	—	—	1,105,699	5,117
Court of Chancery	35,180	163	—	—	35,180	163
Court of Probate	92,285	424	—	—	92,285	424
Crown Office, House of Lords	9,729	40	—	—	9,729	40
Ditto (Scotland)	64,560	269	—	—	64,560	269
Crown and Hanaper	—	—	2,425	11	2,425	11
Customs	443,732	2,039	21,087	103	467,819	2,042
Exchequer and Audit Department	95,453	563	—	—	95,453	563
Fines and Penalties Office	—	—	109,617	453	109,617	453
Foreign Office	176,803	5,631	—	—	176,803	5,631
Home Office	399,714	2,404	—	—	399,714	2,404
Inland Revenue**	1,888,445	9,123	315,894	1,418	2,204,339	10,541
Ditto (Scotland)	196,057	839	—	—	196,057	839
Inspector of Fisheries	—	—	55,646	258	55,646	258
Inspector General of Prisons	—	—	31,033	145	31,033	145
Insurances and Annuities	831	4	—	—	831	4
Irish Office	45,012	206	—	—	45,012	206
Local Government Board	898,692	3,930	223,366	1,004	1,122,058	4,934
Lord Lieutenant and Private Secretary	—	—	13,021	55	13,021	55
Mercantile Marine Board	91,721	407	—	—	91,721	407
Merchant Seamen, Registrar of	399,414	2,084	—	—	399,414	2,084
National Debt Office	30,871	146	—	—	30,871	146
Ordnance Survey	—	—	21,911	100	21,911	100
Paymaster of Civil Services	—	—	26,390	123	26,390	123
Paymaster General	84,684	474	—	—	84,684	474
Public Record Office	—	—	5,425	25	5,425	25
Quartermaster General	—	—	42,396	191	42,396	191
Queen's Remembrancer (Scotland)	15,150	63	—	—	15,150	63
Register House, Edinburgh	97,751	262	—	—	97,751	262
Registrar General†	508,517	1,538	322,150	1,403	830,667	2,731
Ditto ditto (Scotland)	6,222	26	—	—	6,222	26
Registrar of Friendly Societies	239,056	1,116	4,831	23	243,887	1,139
Ditto ditto (Scotland)	242,424	650	—	—	242,424	650
Registrar of Trade Marks	26,612	132	—	—	26,612	132
Science and Art Department	1,119,670	4,906	—	—	1,119,670	4,906
Solicitor General	8,630	32	—	—	8,630	32
Stationery Office	51,400	246	24,785	116	76,185	362
Tithe Commissioners	62,941	290	—	—	62,941	290
Treasury	440,134	1,980	—	—	440,134	1,980
Valuation Office	—	—	18,377	113	18,377	113
War Office	2,217,746	17,278	120,374	553	2,338,120	17,830
Ditto (Scotland)	26,502	121	—	—	26,502	121
Woods and Forests, Commissioners of	65,703	292	—	—	65,703	292
Works and Buildings, Commissioners of	69,639	343	—	—	69,639	343
TOTALS	13,351,376	91,298	2,916,956	12,861	16,268,332	104,159

* Including about 220,000 oz. charged with Book Postage.

** 120,000
† 289,000
‡ 580,000

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	On 12 months' notice.	85,900 <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> 4 <i>d.</i> per minute, if journeys between London and Kingstown, and Crews 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 DOUGLAS, 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.	800 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	-	-	-	-
PENANCE and SCILLY	-	On 6 months' notice.	400 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTHAMPTON and COWES	-	-	150 <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	28th July 1875	On 12 months' notice.	2,000 <i>l.</i> per annum.	-	20 <i>l.</i> for undue delay or deviation from course.	-	200 <i>l.</i>	-
SHEPPELAND ISLANDS	1st Feb. 1840	On 6 months' notice.	1,900 <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 ULLAPOOL	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.	-	800 <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 Jan. 1870	On 6 months' notice.	6,000 <i>l.</i>	To or from Guernsey in 9 hours, and to or from Jersey in 12 hours.	-	-	2,000 <i>l.</i>	-
Do. (additional services)	-	-	900 <i>l.</i>	-	-	-	-	-

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

APPENDIX (E.)

Colonial and Foreign

Line of Packets.	Contracts.		Payment.
	Com- mencement.	Termination.	
AUSTRALIA: Point de Galle and Melbourne, Singa- pore and Brisbane, San Francisco and Sydney	Contracts with Colonial Governments. No information.		£
BRAZIL, RIVER PLATE, AND CHILI: Bi-Monthly Service from Southampton	1 Jan. 1875 - 1 Sept. 1876 -	On 1st September 1876 - On 6 months' notice -	*16,976
Monthly Service from Liverpool	18 May 1875 -	Ceased on 3rd September 1876 -	*889
Fortnightly service from Liverpool	1 Jan. 1873 -	On 30th June 1878, if 12 months' previous notice has been given.	*8,812
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE	1 July 1868 -	Ceased on 30th June 1876 -	*19,097
EAST INDIES, CHINA, and JAPAN	15 Aug. 1874 -	On 31st January 1880, if 24 months' previous notice has been given.	430,000
EAST COAST OF AFRICA: Aden and Zanzibar	6 Dec. 1873 -	On 5th December 1882 (a) -	10,000
Table Bay and Zanzibar	1 Aug. 1873 -	On 8th February 1881 -	20,000
NORTH AMERICA: United States: Cunard Line	1 Jan. 1869 -	Ceased on 31st December 1876 -	52,500
Inman Line	1 May 1869 -	Ditto -	26,250
North German Lloyd's Line	6 May 1870 -	Ditto -	*7,224
British North America: Queenstown and Halifax	Monthly Contracts from 1st January 1877 -	Monthly Contracts from 1st January 1877 -	*4,393
Intermediate: Halifax, Bermuda, and St. Thomas	Contract with Canadian Government -	Contract with Canadian Government -	16,250 Imperial contri- bution, 8,125
New York and Nassau	1 Jan. 1868 -	At the end of 1877, if 12 months' previous notice has been given.	19,500
PACIFIC	Contract with Bahamas Government - Ceased 30th November 1876 -	Contract with Bahamas Government - Ceased 30th November 1876 -	Imperial contri- bution, 831
WEST INDIES: Bi-monthly Service	1 Jan. 1875 -	On 30th June 1878, if 12 months' previous notice has been given.	*17,263
Non-Contract Service	1 Jan. 1875 -	On 31st December 1879, if 24 months' previous notice has been given.	(b) 86,750
Additional Services: Liverpool and Puerto Cabello, Tam- pico, and Santa Martha.	1 Oct. 1875 -	On 6 months' notice -	*1,772
Belize and Jamaica	1 Oct. 1875 -	On 6 months' notice -	*838
St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat	Contract with Honduras Government -	Contract with Honduras Government -	5,000 Imperial contri- bution, 2,000
Turk's Island and St. Thomas	1 Jan. 1864 -	On 6 months' notice -	490
WEST COAST OF AFRICA	Contract with Turk's Island Government -	Contract with Turk's Island Government -	600 Imperial contri- bution, 300
	No Contract.	-	*8,012

(a) This Contract may terminate on the 31st January 1880 provided that six calendar months' notice be given by the Postmaster General in the event of the existing Contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company coming to an end.

(b) Including a sum of 2,000*l.* paid to the Company for landing mails at Plymouth.

APPENDIX (E.)

Packet Service.

Penalties for Overtime.	Contributions towards the Cost of the Service.	Esti- mated British Share of Sea Postage on Letters, News- papers, &c.	Esti- mated British Loss on the Service.	Rate of Postage per single Letter excluding Transit Rates.
		£	£	
- - - - -	- - - - -	Nil.	Nil.	6d.
One-eighth part of ordinary payment for every 24 hours.	- - - - -	52,500	Nil.	{ Brazil - 9d. River Plate } 1s. Chili - }
Ditto - - -	- - - - -			
50l. for every 24 hours.	- - - - -	17,500	1,500	6d.
- - - - -	India, 107,500l.	111,500	211,000	{ Mediterranean 2½d. India - - 6d. Ceylon - 9d. China, &c. 1s.
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	-
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	-
- - - - -	- - - - -	30,000	60,000	2½d.
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	-
60l. for every 24 hours.	- - - - -	3,000	25,000	{ Canadian Dominion and New- foundland. } 2½d. Bermuda - 6d. Bahamas - 1s.
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	-
One-eighth part of ordinary payment for every 24 hours.	- - - - -	17,500	Nil.	1s. 6d.
50l. for every 12 hours.	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	-
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	-
One-eighth part of ordinary payment for every 24 hours.	- - - - -	82,000	10,000	1s.
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	-
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	-
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	-
- - - - -	- - - - -	7,500	500	

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

APPENDIX (F.)

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.		Total 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.	
1872	41	89	315	222	92	114	80	101	36	42	5	9	5	4	2	2	583
1873	43	89	319	227	93	119	88	98	38	43	5	11	5	4	2	2	594
1874	43	89	302	226	92	118	96	97	43	45	17	17	4	4	2	3	599
1875	27	73	297	232	132	121	86	97	42	54	12	17	4	4	1	3	601
1876	22	69	299	222	137	132	87	102	48	57	11	21	3	3	3	3	610

APPENDIX (G.)

Telegrams.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of MESSAGES forwarded from POSTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES in the UNITED KINGDOM during each of the Fifteen Months ended 31st March 1877 and 31st March 1876; and the increase or decrease in each Month of the former period over the corresponding Month of the latter period.

Month.	Number of Messages.		Increase or Decrease.	
	To 31st March 1876.	To 31st March 1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
January - - -	1,683,592	1,721,282	37,690	—
February - - -	1,383,043	1,451,238	68,195	—
March - - -	1,440,558	1,541,776	101,218	—
April - - -	1,570,510	1,967,356	396,846	—
May - - -	1,999,375	1,630,712	—	368,663
June - - -	1,666,241	1,668,537	2,296	—
July - - -	2,200,193	2,247,655	47,462	—
August - - -	1,764,271	1,830,432	66,161	—
September - - -	1,748,445	2,195,224	446,779	—
October - - -	2,214,004	1,753,386	—	460,618
November - - -	1,623,420	1,681,014	57,594	—
December - - -	1,472,625	1,886,595	413,970	—
January - - -	1,721,282	1,426,374	—	294,908
February - - -	1,451,238	1,472,440	21,202	—
March - - -	1,541,776	1,966,418	424,642	—
Total - - -	25,480,573	26,440,439	2,084,055	1,124,189
		Total increase -	- 959,866	

APPENDIX (G)—*continued.*

TABLE showing the TOTAL NUMBER of MESSAGES forwarded from POSTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES in ENGLAND and WALES, LONDON, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND, in each Year since the transfer of the TELEGRAPHS to the STATE.

Year ended	Number of Messages.				
	England and Wales.	London.	Scotland.	Ireland.	TOTAL.
31st December 1870 -	4,655,627	2,462,039	955,116	533,950	8,606,732
30th December 1871 -	6,300,867	3,353,727	1,305,596	800,328	11,760,518
28th December 1872 -	7,664,463	4,398,262	1,677,203	1,118,092	14,858,020
27th December 1873 -	8,963,818	5,107,175	1,942,610	1,280,731	17,294,334
26th December 1874 -	10,034,685	5,577,724	2,141,030	1,363,195	19,116,634
25th December 1875 -	10,775,279	6,283,537	2,272,465	1,434,996	20,766,277
15 months ended 31st March 1877.	13,485,279	8,188,107	2,905,242	1,861,811	26,440,439

Note.—The figures for the year 1870 represent the number of messages forwarded during the period from the 5th February to the 31st December.

APPENDIX (II.)

Private Wires.

TABLE showing the NET ADDITIONAL RENTALS, Quarter by Quarter, in each Financial Year since the transfer; with the Total Annual Increase, 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.
*Amount at the 31st March 1870	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1870-71	-	101	0 0	525 16 6	527 4 0	432 5 6	1,586 6 0	22,578 16 6	6	20,992	10 6	
1871-72	-	623	0 0	439 6 0	1,357 7 0	1,110 18 0	3,530 11 0	26,109 7 6	6	22,578	16 6	
1872-73	-	1,312	7 0	1,135 17 0	1,645 16 6	2,496 8 0	6,590 8 6	32,699 16 0	0	26,109	7 6	
1873-74	-	2,215	11 0	2,001 14 0	1,718 12 0	2,584 15 0	8,520 12 0	41,220 8 0	0	32,699	16 0	
1874-75	-	2,112	17 0	1,099 1 0	1,154 4 0	2,309 12 0	6,675 14 0	47,896 2 0	0	41,220	8 0	
1875-76	-	825	16 0	805 19 0	1,337 14 0	904 12 0	3,874 1 0	51,770 3 0	0	47,896	2 0	
1876-77	-	965	2 0	999 9 0	1,077 17 0	1,539 10 0	4,581 18 0	56,352 1 0	0	51,770	3 0	

* 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.

† The rentals current at the end of the year differ slightly from the rentals actually received within the year, as shown in Appendix (Q.)

Note.—The statements published in previous Annual Reports include particulars of Lines maintained for other Government Departments, as also for certain Railway and Canal Companies. These particulars are now excluded, leaving only those relating to ordinary Private Wires.

APPENDIX (I.)

TABLE showing the VALUE of WORK PERFORMED by the POST OFFICE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT for other GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, and for which no Payment has been made, from the 5th February 1870 to the 31st March 1877.

Period.	Telegrams.		Wire Rentals.		Salaries.		Work executed.		Total.					
	Inland.	Foreign.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.				
Period to 31st March 1871	-	-	248	3 1	513	9 5	882	1 7	256	15 9	1,897	4 10		
Year ended 31st March 1872	-	-	313	7 3	743	4 7	731	0 4	247	5 0	21	2 11	2,056	0 1
" 1873	-	-	486	10 8	408	13 11	892	1 3	273	5 0	43	1 1	2,108	11 11
" 1874	-	-	626	8 5	752	8 10	1,046	14 9	341	10 5	6	13 11	2,773	16 4
Nine months to 31st December 1874	-	-	714	18 4	91	15 9	2,018	16 10	1,131	0 10	23	18 11	3,980	10 8
Year ended 31st December 1875	-	-	1,703	2 1	1,707	16 9	4,544	5 11	2,495	4 2	2	17 8	10,453	6 7
Quarter ended 31st March 1876	-	-	933	5 0	}	*	1,174	5 10	642	14 8	5	7 8	2,755	13 2
Year ended 31st March 1877	-	-	6,300	17 9			4,977	14 10	2,567	2 8	--	--	13,845	15 3
TOTALS	-	-	11,321	12 7	4,217	9 8	16,267	1 4	7,954	18 6	104	17 2	39,865	18 10

* All Government Departments since 1st April 1875 have paid for the transmission of Foreign telegrams. The increase in the value of Inland telegrams sent for Government Departments is attributable to an increase in the number of such telegrams, and to certain Departments which formerly paid for Inland telegrams having ceased to do so.

APPENDIX (J.)

Money Orders.

Year.	ENGLAND AND WALES.					SCOTLAND.					IRELAND.					UNITED KINGDOM.					
	Number of Money Orders issued to each 100 of population.			Increase per cent.		Number of Money Orders issued to each 100 of population.			Increase per cent.		Number of Money Orders issued to each 100 of population.			Increase per cent.		Number of Money Orders issued to each 100 of population.			Increase per cent.		
	Number.	Amount.	£	per cent.	per cent.	Number.	Amount.	£	per cent.	per cent.	Number.	Amount.	£	per cent.	per cent.	Number.	Amount.	£	per cent.	per cent.	
1839	142,723	240,063		—	—	16,183	25,765		—	—	30,015	47,295		—	—	188,921	313,124		—	—	0·7
1840	463,764	802,827		—	—	51,226	80,980		—	—	53,507	77,167		—	—	837,787	960,376		—	—	2·2
Average of 5 years 1841-45	2,080,977	4,211,865	518	422	12·3	210,063	386,586	308	377	7·8	198,785	339,443	271	340	2·4	2,429,555	4,937,250	313	414	8·9	8·9
1846-50	3,265,990	6,668,684	66	58	19·4	574,187	690,696	78	76	13·3	347,547	835,151	75	73	4·5	4,067,703	7,954,535	69	61	14·7	14·7
1851-55	4,335,045	8,498,175	80	27	23·9	418,066	769,883	13	13	14·5	407,608	883,377	17	17	6·0	5,219,559	9,941,316	26	25	18·9	18·9
"	5,673,207	10,998,412	80	23	29·2	524,067	973,289	25	26	17·3	484,044	863,803	13	23	8·2	6,880,568	12,737,504	28	28	23·8	23·8
1861-65	6,799,296	14,021,757	80	29	32·9	649,417	1,233,624	24	31	20·8	552,414	1,093,170	14	23	9·7	8,001,127	16,398,591	19	20	27·1	27·1
"	8,159,558	16,464,950	80	17	37·3	792,205	1,560,661	22	21	23·2	636,632	1,274,086	15	18	11·7	9,688,583	19,319,707	19	18	31·2	31·2
1866-70	10,575,875	21,538,517	26	13	45·1	983,911	1,769,574	24	14	29·2	803,100	1,446,892	23	14	11·9	12,069,898	21,799,637	26	13	38·3	38·3
1871†	11,991,488	23,575,179	16	10	48·1	1,164,639	2,046,063	18	15	34·3	918,078	1,692,666	14	10	17·1	13,684,189	24,015,747	16	10	43·9	43·9
1872	12,863,004	25,629,750	8	6	55·0	1,273,096	2,210,107	9	24	37·1	982,546	1,760,212	7	104	18·4	15,119,659	25,600,069	8	64	47·1	47·1
1873	13,550,011	28,246,625	84	3	87·3	1,324,415	2,595,790	8	28	38·2	1,024,186	1,781,017	44	1	19·4	16,460,266	28,236,441	8	24	49·0	49·0
1874	14,048,014	28,597,716	84	16	93·6	1,367,754	2,806,519	84	16	39·1	1,074,988	1,790,383	41	15	20·3	18,460,661	28,467,918	84	16	50·3	50·3
3 months ended 31st March 1876	2,715,697	5,799,806		—	—	846,158	539,009		—	—	289,120	552,692		—	—	4,550,935	6,901,506		—	—	—
Year ended 31st March 1877	15,197,704	31,106,365	84	84	62·7	1,466,177	3,468,983	74	4	41·5	1,160,040	1,945,381	74	84	21·8	17,892,921	27,516,608	84	84	53·9	53·9

In 1840 the commission on Money Orders was reduced as follows:—

For any sum not exceeding 2l., from 6d. to 3d.

For any sum above 2l., and not exceeding 5l., from 1s. 6d. to 6d.

* On the 1st of January 1862 the limit of amount of a single order was extended from 5l. to 10l.

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

Former Rates of Commission.			Present Rates of Commission.		
For sums not exceeding 2l.			For sums under 10s.		
For sums not exceeding 2l.	—	—	For sums under 10s.	—	—
above 2l., but not exceeding 5l.	—	0 3	of 10s. and under 1l.	—	0 3
above 5l., but not exceeding 7l.	—	0 6	of 1l.	—	0 3
above 7l., but not exceeding 10l.	—	0 9	of 2l.	—	0 4
		1 0	of 3l.	—	0 5
			of 4l.	—	0 6
			of 5l.	—	0 8
			of 6l.	—	0 9
			of 7l.	—	0 10
			of 8l.	—	0 11
			of 9l.	—	0 12
			of 10l.	—	1 0

APPENDIX (J).—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.
	Number.	Amount. £	Number.	Amount. £	Number.	Amount. £	Number.	Amount. £	Number.	Amount. £	Number.	Amount. £	Number.	Amount. £	Increase per cent. on Amount.
1871 . .	19,789	86,451	123,472	520,550	143,211	600,981	18,769	65,072	28,632	107,911	47,431	172,983	12,253,528	22,573,547	—
1872 . .	20,332	83,923	131,341	550,004	152,173	633,927	28,751	94,138	77,499	277,871	106,250	372,009	14,242,612	25,019,683	11
1873 . .	21,131	86,339	144,676	584,802	165,807	671,131	40,602	133,726	107,200	397,338	147,802	531,054	15,432,945	26,802,264	7
1874 . .	22,331	90,570	141,106	586,661	163,466	676,231	53,830	172,108	103,525	362,892	137,455	535,000	16,221,503	27,507,672	2½
1875 . .	23,783	96,063	137,443	586,903	161,226	652,076	68,226	205,580	104,761	337,209	172,087	583,069	16,819,374	27,688,255	8½
3 months ended 31st Mar. 1877 . .	6,163	23,823	30,656	123,317	36,319	147,140	20,413	56,631	28,691	89,666	49,104	146,297	4,436,358	7,194,943	—
Year ended 31st Mar. 1877 . .	26,067	100,506	119,781	472,156	145,838	572,752	94,983	270,001	116,180	342,924	211,163	612,925	18,179,922	28,702,375	8½
															8½

Note.—Money Order business with the Colonies commenced in 1866, 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.

APPENDIX (J.)—*continued.***Money Orders.****TABLE** showing the Amount (to the nearest Pound) of Money Order Transactions between the United Kingdom and the principal Colonies during the Year ended 31st March 1877.

Colony.	Issues on the United Kingdom.	Issues on Colony.
	£	£
Australia - - -	143,957	30,070
British America - -	93,803	40,622
Cape Colony - - -	31,839	3,435
India - - -	48,176	3,762
New Zealand - -	67,810	10,284
South and West Africa -	27,444	1,601
West Indies - - -	73,819	3,879

TABLE showing the Amount (to the nearest Pound) of Money Order Transactions between the United Kingdom and certain Foreign Countries during the Year ended 31st March 1877.

Country.	Issues on the United Kingdom.	Issues on Foreign Country.
	£	£
Belgium - - -	15,772	13,129
Denmark - - -	4,022	3,429
Egypt - - -	1,845	74
France - - -	38,005	59,940
Germany - - -	53,862	74,658
Italy - - -	7,377	16,274
Netherlands - - -	6,887	5,481
Switzerland - - -	6,483	15,419
United States - - -	159,464	75,605

Post Office Savings Bank.

43

YEAR.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
From 1st Sept. 1861 to 31 Dec. 1862	2,535	639,216	2,114,669	3 6 2	22,180	97,294	498,687	4 10 2	20,591	6 1/2	205,928	27,433	178,465	1,086,221	9 10 3	3 4 3	1,659,032*	35,692	1,694,724	3,187	1,792,555
1863	2,991	842,648	2,651,209	3 2 11	55,204	197,431	1,027,154	5 4 0	26,401	7 1/2	185,934	44,760	319,669	3,377,460	10 11 4	0 15 0	3,323,182*	44,413	3,372,595	3,594	1,876,389
1864	3,081	1,110,762	3,350,000	3 0 3	100,493	309,242	1,834,940	5 18 8	46,556	7 1/2	226,153	74,064	470,838	4,963,123	10 12 1	0 18 4	4,906,683*	5,522	5,001,185	3,669	1,987,663
1865	3,321	1,302,306	3,719,017	2 17 1	182,870	407,412	2,318,610	5 13 10	49,537	6 1/2	239,686	99,160	611,384	6,326,400	10 13 6	0 15 2	6,862,339*	4,327	6,856,666	3,822	2,078,346
Average of 5 yrs.: 1866-70	3,816	1,802,031	5,292,108	2 18 1	253,014	647,620	3,770,581	5 16 5	63,503	4 1/2	295,524	181,170	967,066	11,652,211	12 0 6	0 10 9	11,824,504	50,351	11,862,124	4,388	2,362,942
1871	4,335	2,362,621	6,664,629	2 16 5	376,738	845,279	5,115,467	6 1 0	69,427	5 1/2	370,745	250,406	1,303,492	17,025,004	13 1 2	0 8 2	17,593,815	166,456	17,470,271	4,896	2,707,570
1872	4,607	2,746,243	7,699,916	2 16 1	450,079	933,975	5,836,660	6 4 11	76,404	5 1/2	424,843	285,887	1,442,448	19,318,389	13 7 10	0 8 11	19,559,804	301,070	19,860,874	5,087	2,867,595
1873	4,853	2,917,098	7,955,740	2 14 6	477,881	1,025,533	6,584,181	6 8 5	84,404	5 1/2	433,478	319,281	1,566,645	21,167,749	13 11 11	0 7 11	21,745,442	82,860	21,828,302	5,354	3,002,154
1874	5,068	3,044,692	8,341,256	2 14 10	524,569	1,060,689	6,876,005	6 8 7	99,416	5 1/2	442,501	330,413	1,668,733	23,157,669	13 17 6	0 8 4	24,030,711	(a)	24,016,836	5,543	3,184,871
1875	5,260	3,132,433	8,783,852	2 16 1	571,584	1,112,637	7,325,560	6 11 8	122,325	5 1/2	458,836	330,466	1,777,103	25,187,346	14 8 5	0 9 8	26,127,967	94,518	26,222,485	5,781	3,255,266
1876	5,448	3,166,136	8,962,350	2 16 9	619,331	1,193,603	7,792,477	6 10 4	125,912	6 1/2	437,033	511,762	(b)	26,996,250	16 17 1	0 9 3	28,001,732	106,883	28,111,665	6,912	3,195,761

* These sums do not include the dividends accruing to the Post Office Savings Banks on the 5th January (that is, five days after the close of the account in each year), up to the year 1868 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 per centage 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.

‡ Since 1868, the charge for postage, amounting to about 4d. per transaction, has ceased to be debited against the Savings Bank Department.

§ Certain exceptional expenses incurred in 1875 tended to increase the average cost per transaction.

(a) The amount of outstanding Warrants on 31st December 1874 was 38,217*l.* but the amount in the Postmaster General's hands to meet payment of these Warrants was 21,460*l.* only.

(b) 167,389 accounts having small balances, which had no transactions for a considerable period, were transferred to the Dormant Account in the year 1876, and the number of open accounts was reduced accordingly.

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

RETURN of the BALANCE SHEETS of the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS for the Year 1876, 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 1876 (including interest)	26,996,550	10 3	Value of Securities at the Cost Price, less depreciation of those which are terminable by lapse of time	27,498,562	11 0
Amount of expenses remaining unpaid (partly estimated)	10,453	17 7	Amount of cash in hands of Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt	66,170	5 8
Surplus of Funds to meet Liabilities	*1,104,531	8 0	Total Amount in the hands of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt	-	-
			Amount received for issuing new Deposit Books	1,019	11 4
			Less.—Amount paid to the National Debt Commissioners	883	4 4
			Amount in the hands of Her Majesty's Postmaster General towards meeting payment of them	138,149	7 0
			Less.—Amount required to meet Warrants issued to Depositors but not cashed on 31st December 1876	31,452	14 10
				106,696	12 2
				28,111,565	15 10

Total amount received from Depositors, including interest, to 31st December 1876 £ 90,999,151 6 5
 Total amount repaid to Depositors to 31st December 1876 £ 64,002,600 16 2

Number of Transactions.		Number of Accounts.	
Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Opened.	Closed.
30,274,115	10,431,977	4,882,767	3,180,883
			Remaining Open.
			1,702,374

The total cost of the Post Office Savings Banks from their establishment to the 31st December 1876, including the sum of 10,432,178. 7d. charged as above, was 1,043,004l. 10s. 5d. The total number of transactions, Deposits and Withdrawals, in the period was 40,706,092.
 The average cost of each transaction from the commencement of Post Office Savings Bank business to the end of the year 1876 was 6½d.
 Prior to the passing of the Post Office Savings Banks Act, 1861, it was estimated (see Parliamentary Paper, No. 553, 1861) that the average cost of each transaction would be 7d.
 General Post Office, July 1877.

APPENDIX (K.)—*continued.*

EXTRACT from the Report of the Controller of the Post Office Savings Banks.

* * * *

"I may notice two papers on the subject of Trustee Savings Banks, one read at the Liverpool Congress of the Social Science Association by Mr. T. Banner Newton, the Actuary of the Liverpool Savings Bank, and the other read at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, by Dr. W. Neilson Hancock of Dublin. Mr. Banner Newton evidently considers that the Trustee Banks are on their defence. He admits the usefulness of the Post Office Savings Bank system, and shows that it has caused several of the Trustee Banks to close, but that those remaining open hold a larger aggregate sum than ever. He argues that both systems are needed, and that national thrift would experience a decided check if Trustee Banks were closed. He contends that the security offered to depositors in these Banks is, by the Act of 1863, a Government security, though indirect; and that they afford greater facilities for the immediate withdrawal of money than the Post Office Savings Bank. He points out that the local influence of the Trustees is of great value in promoting Penny and School Banks. As regards the question of the deficit in the funds held by the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt on account of the Trustee Banks, he holds that the loss has arisen through the neglect of Parliament, and suggests that it should be met by a charge on the Consolidated Fund; and he states that the possession of these funds has enabled successive Governments to effect great economy in the management of the public money. Dr. Neilson Hancock, on the other hand, considers the continued maintenance of the Trustee Savings Banks a waste of charitable effort, seeing that the Post Office Savings Bank offers so many more facilities, and he recommends that the State should withdraw from its connexion with them, as their maintenance involves an annual expense of 250,000*l.*, the security they offer is imperfect, and it is bad teaching for the poor to offer them a bounty at the public expense to invest their savings in a less perfect security than the Post Office Savings Bank. Dr. Hancock believes the closing of the Trustee Savings Banks is at present delayed by the large number of paid officers having vested interests in those Institutions, and he furnishes a statement showing that, after making the most liberal allowance for pensions to the present paid officers, the State would effect an immediate saving of 140,000*l.* a year, and an ultimate saving of 280,000*l.* a year, by closing the Trustee Savings Banks altogether.

Papers on old Savings Banks.

Defence of old Savings Banks by Mr. Banner Newton.

Opinion of Dr. Neilson Hancock as to advantages of Post Office Savings Banks over old Savings Banks.

"At the Liverpool Social Science Congress already mentioned, a paper on Penny Banks was read by Mr. Oulton, Chairman of the School-Management Committee of the Liverpool School Board, who, speaking from his experience of the successful exertions of the Board in the matter, strongly advocated 'the introduction of Penny Banks as part of the school curriculum,' urging that 'the Savings Bank' should be an element of education, 'the text-book of Thrift, the visible illustration of the object-lesson of economy.' As regards the adoption of this principle in Liverpool, Mr. Oulton stated that Mr. Banner Newton had associated himself with the School Board in carrying out that object. Among the speakers in the discussions on Mr. Oulton's paper, as well as in that on Mr. Banner Newton's paper previously

Mr. Oulton's paper on Penny Banks as part of the education in public elementary schools.

Principle adopted in Liverpool.

Mr Brabrook
on Penny
Banks.

referred to, was Mr. Brabrook, the Assistant-Registrar of Friendly Societies, who forcibly pointed out the importance of every Penny Bank being closely connected either with the local Savings Bank or with the Post Office Savings Bank, both as respects the investment of its aggregate funds and the transfer of the accounts of individual depositors, when, in each case, a certain fixed sum has been reached. 'It is 'important,' said Mr. Brabrook, 'that there should be no money what-
'ever kept in the hands of the local treasurers, but that the whole
'of the funds should, on some fixed day immediately after receipt, be
'handed over either to some Savings Bank certified under the Act of
'1863, or to the nearest Post Office Savings Bank. I believe,' he con-
tinued, 'that, not only in such institutions as the Liverpool Savings
'Bank, but also in the Post Office Savings Bank Department, the
'managers of these School Banks will find every facility and assistance
'afforded them.' Calling attention to the active part taken by Mr.
Banner Newton in the movement for establishing Penny Banks in
various parts of Liverpool, Mr. Brabrook stated that the amount
collected at 30 of them in one week amounted to no less than 214*l.*,
equivalent, supposing that to be an average week, to more than 11,000*l.*
a year.

Penny Banks
in Liverpool.

Penny Banks
in connexion
with Post Office
Savings Bank.

"During the year 1876, authority was given to 172 Penny Banks,
in various parts of the Kingdom, to invest their funds in the Post Office
Savings Bank, the number being 23 more than that during the previous
year. The increase since the end of last year has been still more re-
markable, no fewer than 117 Penny Banks having been authorised

School Banks.

during the quarter to the 31st March, exceeding by 41 the number
during the corresponding quarter of 1876. Of the 289 Penny Banks thus
authorised in fifteen months, 18 were in Board schools, 20 in Sunday
schools, and 30 in other schools, one being in a Poor Law Union school
under the management of the Master and the Chaplain of the Workhouse.
Farthing deposits are received in this Bank, and, although the depositors
are probably all pauper children, as much as 4*l.* 18*s.* was invested on
behalf of the Penny Bank between April 1876, when the account was
opened, and the 31st of December. The Oxfordshire branch of the

Penny Banks
in Oxfordshire.

Provident Knowledge Society continues to be very successful in its
operations, a large number of Penny Banks having been established
during the year through its influence. All these Penny Banks invest
their funds in the Post Office Savings Bank, and are under the
management of local trustees. A somewhat similar society has recently
been formed in Dublin under the name of the 'Irish Penny Bank
Association,' its object being the establishment of Penny Banks in
Ireland; and it is the desire of the Association to place each Penny
Bank formed under its auspices in connexion with the Post Office Savings
Bank. The managers of nearly all the Penny Banks, the funds of
which are deposited with the Post Office Savings Bank, avail themselves

Penny Banks
in Ireland.

Assistance of
Department to
Penny Banks.

of the assistance rendered by the Department in gratuitously supplying
books for the use of the depositors in such banks. No fewer than
28,000 of these books were supplied during the year 1876, the number
issued during the previous year being 25,500, including 10,000 supplied
to the trustees of the London School Board Penny Banks, to whom no
books were sent in 1876. In some instances, the managers of Penny
Banks have asked to be furnished with Cash Books and Ledgers, a
request which, under existing arrangements, could not be complied
with. The correspondence in connexion with Penny Banks is con-
siderable, and, occasionally, somewhat troublesome. For instance, a
Clergyman, who had undertaken the management of a Penny Bank in

Supply of
Penny Bank
books gratis.

Applications
for Cash Books
and Ledgers.

Correspon-
dence as to
Penny Banks.

which such a rate of interest had been allowed to depositors as to cause a deficiency at the end of each year, applied for advice as to what rate of interest should be given, so as to encourage the depositors, and, at the same time, make the Penny Bank self-supporting; and he also asked for instructions as to the easiest and best method of calculating the amount of interest which should be apportioned to each depositor. In a report issued by a local committee, appointed in 1875, to inquire into the subject of Friendly Societies in the county of Bedford, much stress is laid upon the advantages which the Post Office Savings Banks offer to the working class, and it is urged that the best way to insure a more general use of such advantages by the rural population would be by establishing Penny Banks in connexion with the Post Office Savings Bank, especially in schools.

Penny Banks recommended in report on Friendly Societies in Bedfordshire.

* * * * *

"During last year, 387 Friendly Societies and 1,173 Trade, Provident, and Charitable Societies were authorised to invest their funds. These numbers show an increase on the preceding year of 36 and 86 respectively, which is no doubt chiefly to be attributed to the number of Societies' accounts transferred at the closing of old Savings Banks. For the quarter ended 31st March 1877, the number of Societies authorised to invest were 82 and 481 respectively, being 45 and 12 less than the numbers for the corresponding quarter of 1876, but this diminution is due to the fact that the transfers from the old Savings Banks at Beaumaris and Chesterfield took place in March 1876.

Accounts of Friendly, Trade, Provident, and Charitable Societies.

* * * * *

"During 1876 the accounts opened under the provisions of the County Courts Act, in the names of the Registrars, numbered 177 as against 209 in 1875. In the quarter to 31st March last, 54 such accounts were opened, as against 48 in the first quarter of 1876.

Accounts opened by Registrars of County Courts.

* * * * *

"Frequent applications continue to be made for permission to deposit sums considerably in excess of the limit fixed by Act of Parliament. One applicant stated that he wished to invest 500*l.* or 600*l.*, and, as he could not deposit so large a sum in the Post Office Savings Bank, he asked if the Department would recommend him to any bank 'that cannot break,' and whether the Bank of England 'is safe like the Post Office Savings Bank;' adding 'I am more concerned about the safety of 'the bank than the interest it pays.'

Applications to deposit in excess of statutory limit.

"The number of depositors' books issued during the year 1876, in place of books lost or destroyed, was 1,968; being 325 more than those similarly supplied during the previous year. In the first quarter of this year, however, the number issued was only 6 in excess of those issued in the first quarter of last year, the numbers being respectively 590 and 584. The number of applications respecting missing books, which in 1875 had been 17,767, fell last year to 9,743; the falling off having mainly occurred in the first three months of the year, when there is a great influx of books. This decrease was the satisfactory result of the efforts made to insure greater promptitude in the examination and return of books at that period of the year; and, owing to the same cause, there has been a still greater reduction during the first quarter of this year, the number of applications received having been 3,341 as against 3,804 during the first quarter of last year. This reduction is the more remarkable when the increase in the number of books sent up for examination at this period is considered, the number received for the first quarter of the present year having been 275,394 as against 260,931 during the corresponding period last year. The irregular practice of depositors sending their books in the early part of

Books lost or destroyed.

Decrease in number of applications for missing books. Cause of decrease.

Increase in number of books received.

Depositors' books sent for examination at improper time.

Greatest number of deposit books received in one day.	the year instead of at the proper time has been referred to in former reports, and to give some idea of the pressure of work thus caused it may be mentioned that on one day in January last no fewer than 11,102 books were received, the greatest number on one day in 1876 having been only 8,945. The daily average number of books received last year was 2,404. Among the many 'curiosities' in lost book cases the following may be noticed: One man who applied for a new book
Daily average of books received.	stated that he had lost the original 'through putting it in an old coat 'pocket, and selling the coat without taking out the book again.' It
Curious explanations as to loss of books.	was suggested to him to apply to the person to whom he had sold his coat, and he replied that he had been 'to the rag merchant' but could find no trace of his book. Another depositor accounted for the
Depositor's book mutilated.	destruction of his book by stating that 'his little puppy of a dog got 'hold of it and tore it all to pieces, not leaving so much as the 'number.' In another case a depositor employed in the Coast Guard service in Sussex, writing just while intelligence was so rife as to the severe storms which ushered in the present year, explained that his book had been washed away with the whole of his household effects. The mutilation of a book was accounted for by the depositor as follows: 'In the early part of last year I was taken seriously ill away
Strange case of forgetfulness.	'from home, and having my bank book with me I wrote in the margin 'in red ink what was to be done with the balance in case of a fatal 'result, and as a precaution against its being wrongfully claimed on my 'recovery I cut this out.' The following may be cited as an instance of a depositor's carelessness in money matters. It is still the practice of the Department, under certain circumstances, to remind depositors that their books should be forwarded for annual examination. A depositor thus reminded replied that his book was lost, but added that if there was any balance due to him he would be glad to be furnished with the particulars. The amount due was upwards of 10 <i>l.</i> , but as, when a depositor has lost his book, the rule is to test his own knowledge of the account, this course was followed, and it was evident, after much correspondence, that the depositor was entirely ignorant as to the balance standing to his credit, that he had regarded the account as closed, and that, but for the receipt of the circular from this Department, he would have made no claim.
Unclaimed deposit books. Manner of accumulation.	<p style="text-align: center;">* * * *</p> <p>"At the end of the year 1876 there were 1,650 unclaimed books in the possession of the Department, representing a total amount of 1,333<i>l.</i> 5<i>s.</i> 4<i>d.</i> These stray books have accumulated during more than fifteen years under various circumstances. Many of them have come from Post Office Savings Banks where they had been accidentally, or otherwise irregularly, left by depositors and never afterwards applied for; while others have been forwarded by persons who had picked them up in the streets or elsewhere, or into whose hands they had fallen in other ways more or less peculiar. But for the most part they are books which, having been forwarded from this Department after examination, could not be delivered, owing to the depositors having changed their places of abode, leaving no clue behind them.</p>
Insane depositors.	<p>"Last year there were 136 cases in which depositors were shown to be insane, being an increase over the preceding year of 13; and there had been precisely the same increase in 1875 over 1874. During the last quarter of 1876 there were no less than 48 cases, a remarkable increase as compared with the average of about 29 only in the three previous quarters; and this increase has been in a great degree maintained during the quarter to 31st March last, when the cases numbered 39. The</p>
Great increase of insane cases recently.	

experience of this Department, therefore, seems to justify the apprehension, prevalent in various quarters, that there has lately been a rapid increase of insanity, particularly among the working classes.

"The claims to the moneys of deceased depositors, during the year 1876, numbered 11,891 as against 11,569 in the previous year. The small increase of 322 as compared with that in 1875 over 1874, which was 2,113, being consistent with the diminished death-rate stated to have prevailed throughout the Kingdom, even irrespective of the unwonted mildness of the later months of the year. According to the returns of the Registrar General, the average number of deaths in England and Wales during the first three quarters of the year was exceptionally low, while the death-rate for the whole year was lower than in any year since 1856. Either probates of wills or letters of administration were produced in connexion with 2,559 of the claims, and, from the fact that the personal effects of the deceased depositors were sworn under amounts ranging from 5*l.* to 90,000*l.*, it is evident that the use of the Post Office Savings Bank is not confined to the poorer classes. In the quarter to 31st March last, there were 2,681 deceased cases, of which 647 had probates or letters of administration, showing an actual decrease as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1876, when the respective numbers were 2,705 and 699. Since the passing, in August last, of the Savings Bank (Barrister) Act, 39 and 40 Vict. c. 52. s. 66, by which the barrister-at-law was, to a great extent, relieved of his duties, nearly all the cases, formerly referred to him for authority to pay the legal representatives of deceased depositors, have been decided by myself; an arrangement which is found to save much time.

General increase of insanity.

Deceased depositors.

Small increase, consistent with diminished death-rate throughout the country.

Death-rate according to Registrar General's returns.

Probates of wills and letters of administration.

Number of deceased cases in first quarter of 1876 and 1877.

Alteration of practice under Savings Bank (Barrister) Act.

The following incidents are somewhat peculiar:—A man, describing himself as an auctioneer, to whose sister an acknowledgment relating to the account of some other person had been mis-delivered, wrote, stating that he had no doubt the money had been placed in the Savings Bank by some person for her, and he forwarded a printed fac-simile of the acknowledgment, carefully retaining the original under the erroneous idea that it was evidence of his sister's right to the deposit. The mis-delivery of another acknowledgment resulted in the following curious complication. Among the workmen employed in some alterations at a nobleman's country seat were two bearing exactly the same Christian name and surname, but unconnected and unacquainted with each other, one being a joiner, and the other a mason. The joiner, who was a depositor, having received no acknowledgment of a deposit of 3*l.* obtained a duplicate. The mason, who was not a depositor, became insane and was removed to a lunatic asylum about the same time; and the original acknowledgment, intended for the joiner, having fallen into the hands of the mason's mother, she concluded that the account was his, and made a claim for the money towards defraying the expenses of his maintenance, and was with difficulty undeceived.

Peculiar incidents.

Erroneous claims to deposits.

"The only recent instance worth noticing of information respecting our Savings Bank system being sought in connexion with a Foreign Government, was by a statistician at Vienna engaged in compiling a report on Post Office Savings Banks and Life Insurance for the Austrian Government. I may also mention that the subject received the attention of Lord Lytton on assuming the viceroyalty of India. Considering that the commercial depression, and other unfavourable circumstances, have not been confined to our own country, but have prevailed even in a greater degree on the continent of Europe, it need not have excited surprise that this Department should, during the last year, have had

Foreign and Colonial Governments.

Fewer applications for information than formerly.

Effects of information previously given.

France.

Post Offices used for Savings Bank business.

Extraordinary increase of deposits.

Bordeaux.

Nantes.

Penny and School Banks.

Misuse of School Banks.

Belgium.

Partial adoption of system of British Post Office Savings Banks.

School Banks misused.

Consequent danger.

Influence of School Banks on children's relatives.

Holland.

fewer of such applications than formerly. As, however, notwithstanding all the discouragements of the times, there is other abundant evidence that the Savings Bank movement is still actively going on abroad, it seems as if the necessity for these inquiries had well-nigh ceased, and that our dissemination of such knowledge is being followed by practical fruits. In France, at the close of 1876, under the legislative enactment to which I referred last year, the old-established Savings Banks were making use of 300 Post Offices for the purpose of receiving and repaying deposits; and their business throughout the country has been largely extended. In 1870, the total amount of the deposits in the French Savings Banks had, after 50 years, risen to 28,800,000*l.* After the war, the amount fell to 20,600,000*l.*, but it has since increased, at first slowly, and in the last two years with extraordinary rapidity, having reached 21,400,000*l.* in 1873, and 22,920,000*l.* in 1874, while, at the present time, it is stated to be no less than 32,000,000*l.* In the Savings Banks of Bordeaux and Nantes alone, during the last two years, the depositors increased in number from 35,185 and 13,401 respectively, to 45,921 and 19,234, and the total amount standing to their credit from 521,707*l.* and 173,762*l.* to 658,376*l.* and 231,219*l.* This remarkable increase which appears to have continued even in a greater degree this year, although probably attributable in some measure to the material progress of the French nation, is no doubt mainly due to the extraordinary development, in the last three years, of Penny and School Savings Banks, brought about by the efforts of M. Auguste de Malarce. There are now no less than 4,000 School Savings Banks in France, 2,400 of which have been opened since the beginning of 1876. At the end of last year, 230,000 of the depositors in these banks had already deposited in excess of the total limit allowed, and their accounts had consequently been transferred to the ordinary Savings Banks. From a statement in the *Manuel des Caisses d'Épargne Scholaires en France*, it appears that the school authorities have discovered an objection to the School Banks being made a means of saving by the parents of the children, and have requested the school-masters not to receive a sum in excess of five francs per week from any individual scholar, '*pour éviter que le Penny Bank scolaire ne perde son caractère spécial aux épargnes des écoliers.*' In the National Savings Bank of Belgium, the number of the depositors has rapidly increased since 1870, when its operations were extended to the Post Offices, so as to include some features of our own system, although without any arrangement for cross transactions. The increase, doubtless, is greatly due, as in France, to the development of School Banks. As in France, too, the promoters of these banks have seen fit to discourage the practice adopted by the scholars' parents of supplying their children with money to deposit for their own rather than the children's benefit. This 'abuse,' as it is called, is considered dangerous in bringing large aggregate sums into the hands of the school teachers, who are thereby exposed to temptation, and the apprehensions on this point are said to have arrested, in some measure, the Belgian School Bank movement. It is certainly to be regretted if, in either France or Belgium, there should be any check on the beneficial influence which the School Banks exercise at the homes of the scholars. The fact of the children being depositors is found, in this country, to have an excellent moral effect on their adult relatives, inducing them to open accounts of their own in the regular savings banks. In Holland an Act, similar to that in France, came into force on the 1st May 1876, when 1,255 post offices were placed at the disposal of the 49 private Savings Banks of that country. As regards

Germany, the Postal Receiving Houses in Berlin are now allowed to be used for Savings Bank business. In Italy rapid progress has been made with a complete system of Post Office Savings Banks, under an Act of Parliament passed in 1875. Independently of 353 Savings Banks entirely worked by private societies, there were, in February last, no less than 2,144 Postal Banks, the regulations of which are somewhat closely assimilated to our own, including a system of cross transactions. There is also an association or league, *La Lega del Risparmio*, established by Signor Sella, ex-Minister of Finance, for the encouragement of thrift among the working classes, chiefly by inducing the principal employers of labour to bestow on every person in their service who wishes to become a depositor in the Post Office Bank, a deposit book wherein the sum of one *lira* (franc) has already been entered. In four months after the formation of this society 30,536 persons had taken advantage of this arrangement, 13,693 being men and 16,843 women. In contrast with all this it was somewhat startling to read the other day in the Madrid correspondence of one of the London papers that in Spain 'there are one hundred bull rings and only 'twelve Savings Banks.' It is gratifying, however, to find from the annual official report on the Spanish Savings Banks, which has just been received from Madrid, that there are now evident signs of improvement in a state of things which is easily accounted for by the disturbed condition of the country for so many years past. As regards the Madrid Savings Bank, it is stated that the annual increase in the prosperity of the institution is extremely satisfactory, and that there can be no doubt the more the wounds resulting from the late fratricidal war become healed, commerce, arts, and industry will recover their activity; the Savings Banks, both in the capital and the provinces, having already, in no small degree, participated in the revival."

Post Offices
used for Sa-
vings Bank
business.

Germany.

Savings Bank
business at
Berlin Post
Offices.

Italy.

Complete sys-
tem of Post
Office Savings
Banks.

Association for
encouraging
thrift.

Spain.

Madrid Savings
Bank.

APPENDIX (L.)

Annuities and Life Insurances.

(I.) TABLE showing the BUSINESS done in each YEAR since the commencement on the 17th April 1865.

Year.	ANNUITIES.										LIFE INSURANCES.											
	Immediate.					Deferred.					Contracts granted.	Receipts.	Payments.*	Fees received on Immediate and Deferred Annuity Contracts, the Charges on Monthly Allowances being included in the Premium.	Contracts granted.	Receipts.	Payments.					
	No.	Amount of Annuities.	Amount of Purchase Money.	No.	Amount of Annuities.	No.	Amount of Purchase Money.	No.	Amount of Annuities.	No.								Amount of Insurances.	No.	Amount of Premiums.	No.	Amount of Claims and Surrender.
1865	87	£ 2,100	£ 25,738	32	£ 423	45	£ 949	67	£ 1,342	—	£ —	£ 139	547	£ 40,647	1,076	£ 1,165	—					
1866	196	4,327	48,829	280	3,183	72	1,389	297	2,845	8	94	267	621	47,261	3,782	2,838	1					
1867	208	5,966	65,068	725	8,042	41	704	313	2,392	8	131	328	364	26,989	5,398	3,580	5					
1868	323	6,396	70,775	1,286	14,112	40	668	310	2,505	16	248	345	350	26,781	6,408	4,192	11					
1869	352	6,811	74,401	1,895	19,925	45	1,044	385	2,062	10	380	385	422	32,670	7,814	5,044	10					
†1870	306	6,120	67,738	2,529	26,069	57	1,195	514	3,529	9	346	347	385	31,254	9,274	5,877	30†					
1871	360	7,272	81,839	3,125	32,056	36	710	502	2,840	16	854	392	358	27,695	9,891	6,482	59					
1872	1,019‡	9,870	97,269	3,737	38,464	38	721	480	2,838	16	618	519	757	55,982	11,659	7,420	54					
1873	1,344‡	10,290	105,877	6,257	47,374	35	583	520	3,925	19	1,367	516	396	33,073	13,206	8,279	76					
1874	1,814‡	12,259	115,021	9,492	56,888	53	992	583	4,827	19	1,454	622	278	21,622	13,450	8,615	92					
1875	582	7,923	85,781	11,129	63,641	34	768	661	3,543	10	526	431	370	32,022	14,549	9,500	84					
1876	720	10,013	109,084	11,607	69,240	29	464	639	2,691	52	872	520	270	22,875	14,101	9,288	101					

* Prior to the year 1875 the payments consisted of Purchase Money Returned only, as no Annuities were payable till after the lapse of ten years.

† Claim on Surrender value of Life Insurance Contracts commenced in this year.

‡ Increase during these years arose from the increase of the value of the contracts granted on the lives of Masters and Seamen of Mercantile Marine, through the Board of Trade. The circumstances which led to this increase had nearly ceased in 1876.
General Post Office.
June 1877.

APPENDIX (L.)—continued.

(II.) TABLE showing the Number and Amount of CONTRACTS entered into from the Commencement of Business on 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1876, and the Number and Amount of Contracts in existence on the 31st December 1876.

	CONTRACTS GRANTED.				TOTAL.	
	From 17 April 1865 to 31 December 1876.		From 1 Jan. 1876 to 31 December 1876.			
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Contracts for Annuities entered into from the commencement of business on 17th April 1865 to 31st December 1876, viz. :—						
Immediate Annuities - -	6,651	79,340 7 4	729	10,013 12 0	7,380	89,353 19 4
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - -	172	3,218 1 6	8	96 19 0	180	3,315 0 6
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - - -	324	6,511 8 0	21	367 4 0	345	6,878 12 0
Contracts for Sums payable at Death entered into from the commencement of business on the 17th April 1865 to the 31st December 1876 - - - - -	4,848	376,001 15 1	270	22,875 16 8	5,118	398,877 11 9
Contracts for Annuities in existence on the 31st December 1876, viz. :—						
Immediate Annuities - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	6,319	76,655 13 10
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money not returnable - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	160	2,862 18 6
Deferred Annuities and Monthly Allowances, Money returnable - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	203	3,871 19 0
Contracts for Sums payable at Death, in existence on the 31st December 1876 - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	3,970	315,211 4 7

APPENDIX (M.)

Inland Revenue 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 12l. 10s. each.	Horses and Mules at 10s. 6d. each.	Armorial Bearings.		Guns at 10s. each.	Game.			Game Keepers at 40s. each.	Total Number.	Revenue £ s. d.
			At 40s. each.	At 15s. each.			At 40s. each.	At 31s. each.		Red at 60s.	Green at 40s.	Blue at 40s.			
1869	473,218	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	473,218	115,304 10 0
1870	524,032	74,607	32,020	73,171	10	203,351	6,171	10,219	40,742	—	—	—	—	964,323	460,027 15 6
1871	552,239	70,865	31,837	73,111	10	201,527	5,945	10,203	63,161	—	—	—	—	1,006,038	473,311 15 6
1872	573,728	71,294	32,978	74,413	10	205,914	5,945	11,000	62,239	—	—	—	—	1,037,006	465,439 9 0
1873	615,242	69,286	32,060	74,051	8	203,502	5,786	10,752	70,671	—	—	—	—	1,068,933	463,157 0 0
1874	665,636	68,325	34,094	75,495	8	203,333	5,896	10,943	79,461	4	1	1	—	1,103,207	531,249 14 6
1875	755,408	67,849	34,964	77,531	—	—	5,741	10,968	86,578	10	—	—	2	1,035,341	439,246 8 0
Quarter ended 31 Mar. 1876	680,780	67,652	33,360	73,617	—	—	5,603	10,704	5,296	—	—	—	—	873,933	370,073 15 0
Year ended 31 Mar. 1877	647,900	61,304	33,660	81,107	—	—	5,713	11,279	86,554	14	—	—	1	1,130,241	462,857 15 0

* The duty on Horse Dealers and Horses and Mules was abolished in the year 1874.

APPENDIX (N.)

Staff of Officers.

At the end of 1876 the Staff of Officers was as follows, as compared with the Staff at the end of 1875.

On 31st of Dec. 1875.			On 31st of Dec. 1876.	
		I. Officers in British Isles :—		
		(A.) Staff employed either wholly in postal duties (including Money Order and Savings Bank business,) or partly in postal and partly in telegraph duties, viz.:		
1		Postmaster General - - -	1	
6		Secretary, financial secretary, assistant secretaries, surveyor general for Scotland, and secretary for Ireland.	6	
22		Other superior officers in the Metropolitan offices, viz. : heads of departments, chief clerks, &c.	22	
16		Surveyors - - - - -	16	
13,226		Postmasters - - - - -	13,447	
3,204		Clerks, &c. - - - - -	3,380	
16,393		Letter carriers, sorters, messengers, &c. -	16,327	
83		Mail guards and porters - - -	82	
3		Marine mail officers - - - -	3	
	32,954			33,284
		(B.) Staff engaged exclusively on telegraph duties, viz.:		
21		Chief engineers and other superior officers -	21	
6,762		Clerks, subordinate engineers, &c. -	6,656	
4,822		Messengers, &c. - - - -	4,977	
	11,605			11,654
26		II. Postmasters, clerks, letter carriers, &c. in the colonies, the posts of which are under the direction of the Postmaster General.	26	
	26			26
59		III. Agents in foreign countries for collection of postage, &c.	60	
	59			60
	44,644			45,024

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, Rations 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 Jathmuses of Buz and Panama and in other Foreign Ports, and Salaries of Admiralty Agents and other Officers in charge of Foreign and Colonial Mails.
1867	25,902	1,559	1,421,854	23,684	33,035	236,592	1,715,163	140,069	559,875	22,454	783,845	25,764	1,531,687	3,246,850 (a)
1868	26,262	1,756	1,440,144	25,000	39,014	214,523	1,718,680	139,453	578,927	18,769	777,097	33,698	1,548,044	3,296,724 (b)
1869	26,910	1,971	1,455,251	25,000	40,788	115,123	1,636,163	139,316	583,596	17,553	1,054,798	25,823	1,823,065	3,459,227 (c)
1870	28,078	1,983	1,497,813	47,500	42,561	110,233	1,698,097	138,763	587,296	16,395	998,494	26,290	1,737,768	3,435,865
1871	28,959	2,064	1,550,793	49,300	45,257	136,072	1,781,422	140,822	595,221	19,911	1,047,044 (d)	26,280	1,839,278	3,510,700
1872	30,096	2,241	1,681,975	58,200	46,037	164,308	1,950,520	144,576	618,715	19,774	927,763	23,599	1,734,486	3,684,946
1873	31,085	2,421	1,774,702	66,170	37,272	132,307	2,010,451	147,877	644,179	23,970	944,896	21,306	1,782,328	3,792,679
1874	31,900	2,494	1,874,438	70,000	37,420	168,885	2,150,713	157,068	649,613	23,865	915,580 (e)	18,434	1,764,600	3,915,213
1875	32,145	2,591	1,941,704	86,420	42,465	142,881	2,213,470	162,321	668,857	25,436	835,895 (f)	16,923	1,707,421	3,990,891
Quarter ended 31st Mar. 1876	—	—	406,615	21,656	12,614	44,550	575,435	40,403	169,105	7,209	207,141	4,029	427,887	1,005,323
Year ended 31st Mar. 1877	32,326	2,673	2,045,876	93,191	48,925	208,493 (g)	2,368,475	171,370	684,465	24,241	779,632	19,833	1,876,531	4,070,006

(a) Including £188,121 paid under the Post Office Extension Act, the greater portion of which has been charged to Buildings, &c.

(b) Including £108,298 ditto.

(c) Including £17,544 ditto.

(d) For an explanation of increase see Appendix (P.), Note (f).

(e) For an explanation of decrease see Appendix (P.), Note (f).

(f) This further decrease is attributable to a new and more favourable agreement with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company having commenced at the beginning of the

(g) This further decrease is attributable to a new and more favourable agreement with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company having commenced at the beginning of the

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

Year.	Gross Revenue from Letters, Post Cards, 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.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
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	—	4,563,882	116,764	4,680,646	3,266,724	1,416,922 (a)
1869 -	4,472,746	176,480	—	4,649,226	115,349	4,764,575	3,459,227 (b)	1,305,348
1870 -	4,664,512 (c)	184,093	—	4,848,605	80,870	4,929,475	3,435,865	1,493,610
1871 -	4,697,607 (d)	182,140	20,707 (e)	4,900,454	-	4,900,454	3,610,700 (f)	1,289,754 (d)
1872 -	5,012,616	192,804	3,502 (e)	5,208,922	-	5,208,922	3,684,946	1,523,976
1873 -	5,134,816	208,057	5,167 (e)	5,348,040	-	5,348,040	3,792,679	1,555,361
1874 -	5,531,022	215,462	5,116	5,751,600	-	5,751,600	3,915,213	1,836,387
1875 -	5,590,535 (g)	219,197	5,300	5,815,032	-	5,815,032	3,920,891	1,894,141
Quarter ended 31st March 1876 }	1,280,951	56,640	1,270	1,338,861	-	1,338,861 (h)	1,003,322	335,539
Year ended 31st March 1877 }	5,782,083	229,308	5,731	6,017,072	-	6,017,072	4,070,006	1,947,066
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APPENDIX Q.

Gross and Net Revenue derived from the TELEGRAPH SERVICE since the transfer of the TELEGRAPHS to the Post Office
(29th January 1870).

Year ended 31st March.	Gross Revenue from Messages and from Wires rented by Cable Companies.	News Produce and Special Wire Rentals.	Private Wire Rentals.	Miscel- laneous.	Extra Receipts.	Total Revenue collected. (a)	Payments out		Total Telegraph Revenue. (c)	Working Expenses charged to the Telegraph Vote. (c)	Net Revenue.
							To Cable Companies. (b)	For Postage and Message Money refunded. (i)			
1870 (2 months.)	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ 107,479	£ 5,000	£ 1,719	£ 100,760	£ 62,273	£ 38,487
1871	908,351	31,975	16,763	14,128	—	971,217	253,952	17,331	697,934	394,477	303,457
1872	1,095,375	39,175	32,578	16,029	—	1,183,157	408,965	22,581	751,611	591,776	159,835
1873	1,306,055	43,300	37,817	2,050	11,855	1,401,077	385,684	25,472	989,921	874,946(d)	114,975
1874	1,403,793	52,688	42,063	3,626	25,642	1,527,812	416,475	27,871	1,083,466	967,790(e)	115,676
1875	1,448,823	58,478	50,849	5,212	13,285	1,576,647	410,770(f)	28,798	1,137,079	1,077,347(g)	59,732
1876	1,479,477	58,165	52,894	6,896	26,416	1,523,838	320,868	26,308	1,276,662	1,031,524(h)	245,116
1877	1,474,814	65,041	58,942	8,253	14,549	1,621,599	306,592	1,900	1,313,107	1,123,257(k)	189,850 { (i) (k)

(a) The revenue shown in this Table is the amount actually brought to account in each year.

(b) The payments to Cable Companies represent the sums actually paid in each year.

(c) The working expenses are those shown in the Appropriation Accounts of the Telegraph Vote; and do not include the Telegraph Expenditure incurred by the Office of Works in Ireland during the whole period, nor that incurred by the Office of Works in England since the 1st April 1874.

(d) The expenses of the year ended 31st March 1873 include arrears of pay for 1870 and 1871 amounting to 64,000*l*.

(e) The expenses of the year ended 31st March 1874 include for the first time the cost of extensions amounting to 31,502*l*.

(f) Arrears amounting to 30,006*l*. were paid in this year.

(g) Pensions of redundant officers of Telegraph Companies amounting to 41,695*l*., were for the first time charged to the Telegraph Vote. Of this amount 24,999*l*. was for arrears.

(h) From the 1st April 1875 stationery has been provided for in the Vote for the Stationery Office.

(i) Payments for the delivery of Telegrams beyond one mile were treated as charges on the Telegraph Revenue until 31st January 1876, but since that date they have been charged to the Telegraph Vote.

(k) The expenses of the year ended 31st March 1877, include the sum of 30,429*l*. paid towards the purchase of the site of the Manchester New Post Office, and the sum of 24,917*l*. in respect of payments for the delivery of messages beyond one mile. (See note i.)

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