

## SECTION XVIII.

## POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

## § 1. Posts.

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

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

2. **Development of Postal Services.**—In 1841 the number of post offices open in Australia was 102, situated mainly in New South Wales and Tasmania. Ten years later 101 post offices were open in New South Wales, 44 in Victoria, 72 in South Australia, and 51 in Tasmania. From the year 1851 onwards a remarkable increase in the number of post offices in Australia took place, until, in 1891, the number open totalled 4,463, of which 1,384 were situated in New South Wales, 1,729 in Victoria, 307 in Queensland, 629 in South Australia, 86 in Western Australia, and 328 in Tasmania. The number continued to increase until the end of the financial year 1916, when there were 6,082 post offices open in the Commonwealth. In the following year the number closed exceeded the number opened by 102, while in 1917–18 the number further decreased by 107. For the last year available 1918–19, the net result was a reduction of 7, as compared with the previous year the offices in operation being distributed among the States as follows:—New South Wales 2,037, Victoria 1,715, Queensland 640, South Australia 666, Western Australia 402, Tasmania 406, a total for the Commonwealth of 5,866. In addition there were 2,468 Receiving Offices in the Commonwealth.

3. State, Interstate, and Oversea Postages for whole Commonwealth.—In the following table the matter dealt with from 1913 to 1918-19 is divided into (i) matter posted in the Commonwealth for delivery within the Commonwealth, (ii) matter received from places outside the Commonwealth, (iii) matter despatched to places outside the Commonwealth, and (iv) total postal matter dealt with by the Commonwealth Postal Department. Although mail matter posted in the Commonwealth for delivery therein is necessarily handled at least twice, only the numbers despatched are included in the table following, which consequently gives the number of distinct articles handled. The large increase in oversea mail matter despatched and received in 1916-17 and 1917-18 is mainly attributable to postages in connexion with the Australian troops abroad. Evidence of this is furnished by the decreases recorded in 1918-19, when the majority of the troops had returned to Australia.

STATE, INTERSTATE, AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH, 1913 TO 1918-19.

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

POSTED WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH FOR DELIVERY THEREIN.

1913 ..	449,928	93,664	115,662	24,078	62,731	13,059	3,976	828	3,750	781
1914 ..	467,114	94,957	122,534	24,909	59,989	12,195	4,163	846	3,855	784
1915-16	461,167	93,505	123,928	26,141	51,498	10,442	4,366	885	4,165	844
1916-17	478,287	98,104	124,939	25,627	45,926	9,420	4,337	890	4,399	902
1917-18	483,048	97,876	116,899	23,686	42,455	8,602	4,421	896	4,677	948
1918-19	485,452	96,502	121,416	24,136	39,039	7,760	4,875	960	4,741	942

OVERSEA RECEIVED.

1913 ..	37,986	7,908	13,043	2,715	4,424	921	213	44	462	96
1914 ..	30,952	6,292	11,068	2,250	2,316	471	191	39	390	79
1915-16	32,292	6,547	8,603	1,744	2,115	429	220	45	470	95
1916-17	59,301	12,163	10,209	2,094	3,007	617	245	50	468	96
1917-18	48,961	9,920	7,152	1,449	2,099	425	278	56	537	109
1918-19	38,953	7,744	7,194	1,430	2,582	513	369	73	510	101

OVERSEA DESPATCHED.

1913 ..	30,569	6,364	10,658	2,219	4,131	860	108	22	350	73
1914 ..	26,724	5,433	7,517	1,523	2,227	453	86	17	301	61
1915-16	33,668	6,326	10,011	2,030	2,955	599	466	94	334	68
1916-17	47,464	9,736	12,095	2,481	3,226	682	1,173	241	365	75
1917-18	44,942	9,106	10,896	2,208	2,826	573	1,179	239	357	72
1918-19	29,550	5,874	7,360	1,463	1,907	379	759	151	281	56

TOTAL POSTAL MATTER DEALT WITH BY THE COMMONWEALTH POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

1913 ..	518,483	107,936	139,363	29,012	71,286	14,840	4,297	894	4,562	950
1914 ..	524,790	106,682	141,119	28,687	64,532	13,119	4,440	902	4,546	924
1915-16	527,127	106,878	147,542	29,915	56,568	11,470	5,052	1,024	4,969	1,007
1916-17	585,052	120,003	147,243	30,202	52,159	10,699	5,755	1,181	5,232	1,073
1917-18	576,951	116,902	134,947	27,343	47,380	9,600	5,878	1,191	5,571	1,129
1918-19	553,960	110,120	135,970	27,029	43,528	8,652	6,003	1,193	5,532	1,099

4. **State, Interstate, and Oversea Postages for each State.**—The following table shews separately for each State the postal matter dealt with in 1918-19 under the classification adopted in the preceding paragraph with the exception of Registered Articles, which are dealt with separately in paragraph 7. The returns given for South Australia in this and all succeeding tables include those for the Northern Territory. Similarly, the returns for the Federal Territory are included in those for New South Wales.

**STATE, INTERSTATE, AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR EACH STATE, 1918-19.**

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

**POSTED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN COMMONWEALTH.**

New South Wales	193,983	100,381	54,009	27,948	19,466	10,073	2,511	1,299
Victoria ..	145,970	102,023	28,842	20,158	8,600	6,011	836	584
Queensland ..	59,236	85,300	19,613	28,242	5,304	7,638	906	1,305
South Australia	42,038	93,315	7,679	17,047	3,336	7,405	304	674
Western Australia	24,992	79,732	5,220	16,655	1,330	4,243	230	734
Tasmania ..	19,233	92,081	6,053	28,979	1,003	4,801	88	422
Commonwealth	485,452	96,502	121,416	24,136	39,039	7,760	4,875	969

**OVERSEA RECEIVED.**

New South Wales	14,505	7,506	2,691	1,393	1,350	699	90	47
Victoria ..	12,657	8,846	1,225	856	334	233	151	106
Queensland ..	3,727	5,367	1,157	1,667	272	392	59	85
South Australia	3,752	8,328	826	1,833	151	334	34	76
Western Australia	3,101	9,894	977	3,117	374	1,193	26	83
Tasmania ..	1,216	5,820	318	1,522	101	486	9	44
Commonwealth	38,958	7,744	7,194	1,430	2,582	513	369	73

**OVERSEA DESPATCHED.**

New South Wales	12,930	6,691	3,076	1,592	905	468	242	125
Victoria ..	9,762	6,823	2,900	2,027	808	564	279	195
Queensland ..	2,372	3,415	620	907	72	104	88	126
South Australia	2,115	4,695	341	757	71	156	84	187
Western Australia	1,548	4,938	264	844	21	68	41	131
Tasmania ..	823	3,942	149	715	30	144	25	122
Commonwealth	29,550	5,874	7,360	1,463	1,907	379	759	151

5. **Postal Facilities.**—The subjoined statement shews the number of post and receiving offices, the area in square miles and the number of inhabitants to each post office (including receiving offices) in each State and in the Commonwealth at the end of the year 1918-19. In order to judge clearly the relative postal facilities provided in each State, the area of country to each office, as well as the number of inhabitants per office, should be taken into account.

**SQUARE MILES OF TERRITORY AND NUMBER OF INHABITANTS TO EACH POST AND RECEIVING OFFICE ON 30th JUNE, 1919.**

State.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	C'wth.
Number of post and receiving offices	2,599	2,569	1,283	791	603	489	8,334
Number of square miles of territory to each office in State .. .. .	119	34	523	1,142	1,618	54	357
Number of inhabitants to each office	744	557	541	570	520	427	604
Number of inhabitants per 100 square miles .. .. .	623	1,628	104	50	32	797	169

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

6. Rates of Postage.—Prior to the operation of the Postal Rates Act of 1910, the charges made for the postage of newspapers and parcels, and of interstate and foreign letters, were the same in all the States of the Commonwealth. The rates for the transmission of letters within the borders of a State, however, were not uniform, the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 having specially provided that the rates and charges levied in any State should continue in force. The last-mentioned provision, however, was repealed by the Postal Rates Act of 1910, which came into force by proclamation on 1st May, 1911, and uniform rates are now applicable throughout the Commonwealth. An amendment of the Act in 1918 imposed as from the 28th October of that year  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. war postage in addition to the ordinary rate and this has since been collected, but a further amending bill now before Parliament provides for the repeal of the " War Postage Section " and for increases in the rate of postage on letters, newspapers and other postal matter. Should the early passage of the bill permit the new schedules will be included in the appendix to this number of the Year Book.

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

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

Postal Articles.	Rates of Postage (Exclusive of War Postage).
LETTERS .. .. .	1d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce
LETTER-CARDS .. .. .	{ Single, 1d. each Reply, 1d. each half
POST-CARDS .. .. .	{ Single, 1d. each Reply, 1d. each half
PRINTED PAPERS.—As prescribed .. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 2 ounces or part of 2 ounces
BOOKS.—Printed outside Australia .. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 ounces or part of 4 ounces
BOOKS.—Printed in Australia .. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 8 ounces or part of 8 ounces
CATALOGUES.—Set up and printed in Australia, for each catalogue .. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 ounces
MAGAZINES.—Printed in Australia, for each magazine .. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 8 ounces or part of 8 ounces
MAGAZINES.—Printed outside Australia, for each magazine .. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 ounces or part of 4 ounces
HANSARD.—Reports of Parliamentary Debates.. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 12 ounces or part of 12 ounces
COMMERCIAL PAPERS, PATTERNS, SAMPLES, AND MERCHANDISE.—As prescribed .. .. .	1d. per 2 ounces or part of 2 ounces
NEWSPAPERS (in bulk), posted by registered newspaper proprietors, or by newsvendors, or returned by an agent or newsvendor to the publishing office .. .. .	1d. per 20 ounces on the aggregate weight of newspapers
NEWSPAPERS.—Printed outside Australia .. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 ounces or part of 4 ounces
ALL OTHER NEWSPAPERS .. .. .	For each newspaper, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 10 ounces or part of 10 ounces

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

## WAR POSTAGE.

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

The sum transferred to the Treasury by the Postal Department on account of War Postage for the period between 28th October, 1918, and 30th June, 1919, was £466,029.

Whilst the bookkeeping sections of the Constitution Act were in force, each State had necessarily to use its own postage stamps, and stamps sold in one State were only allowed to be used on letters posted in that State. The necessity for this arrangement disappeared with the change in the keeping of the Commonwealth accounts, and since the 14th October, 1910, it has been permissible to affix stamps of any State to letters, irrespective of the State in which such letters are posted. Stamps of a uniform design are now used throughout the Commonwealth.

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

prior to the War were held by Germany, but are now under British control, is uniformly one penny per half-ounce. The rate on letters to foreign countries (with the exception of New Hebrides, Banks and Torres Islands, where the rate is a penny per half-ounce) is twopence halfpenny for each half-ounce. In addition to the above rates, one half-penny (war postage) must be affixed to each article.

(ii) *Newspapers.* The different rates charged for the carriage of newspapers in the various States, prior to Federation, continued after the control of the Postal Departments had been taken over by the Commonwealth, until the 1st November, 1902, when a uniform rate was imposed by the Post and Telegraph Rates Act 1902. At present the rate on all newspapers posted for delivery in the Commonwealth or for transmission to Papua (without condition as to the number contained in each addressed wrapper posted) by registered newspaper proprietors, or by newsvendors, or returned by newsvendor or agent to the publishing office, is one penny, plus one halfpenny (war postage), per twenty ounces on the aggregate weight. The rate to New Zealand, the islands annexed thereto, and Fiji is one penny, plus one halfpenny (war postage), per sixteen ounces on the aggregate weight, which must not exceed 20 lbs. On all other registered newspapers posted within the Commonwealth for delivery therein or for transmission to New Zealand and the islands annexed thereto, Fiji, and Papua, the charge is a halfpenny per ten ounces for each newspaper. In addition each newspaper must bear one halfpenny (war postage). At the end of the year 1919 there were in all 1,482 publications registered in the Commonwealth under section 29 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 for transmission by post as newspapers. The rates on registered newspapers for transmission to the United Kingdom are, by the ordinary route, for each newspaper not exceeding eight ounces one penny, exceeding eight ounces but not exceeding ten ounces twopence halfpenny, every additional two ounces one halfpenny. By the all-sea route the rate for each newspaper exceeding eight ounces is one penny per sixteen ounces. To other parts of the world the rate is one penny up to four ounces and one halfpenny for every additional two ounces. An additional one halfpenny (war postage) is charged on each newspaper exceeding two ounces. The limit of weight allowed is 5 lbs. Newspapers which are not registered are charged at the same rates as other printed papers.

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

(iv) *Packets.* The following articles are classed as packets and are accepted for oversea destinations at the rates given. A table of charges for delivery within the Commonwealth is to be found on page 721 :—Commercial Papers: For New Zealand (including islands annexed thereto) and Fiji, penny per two ounces (a); for all other places, two ounces threepence, each additional two ounces up to ten ounces halfpenny, each two ounces thereafter penny. Printed Papers: For New Zealand, Fiji, New Hebrides, and Solomon Islands, two ounces penny (a), each additional two ounces halfpenny; for all other places, two ounces penny. Patterns and Samples: For New Zealand (including islands annexed thereto) and Fiji, penny per two ounces (a) (up to 1 lb.); for United Kingdom, penny per two ounces (up to 5 lbs.); for all other places, penny per two ounces (up to twelve ounces). Merchandise: For New Zealand (including islands annexed thereto) and Fiji, penny per two ounces (a) (up to 1 lb.); to all other places parcels rates are charged. Books: For New Zealand (including islands annexed thereto), Fiji, New Hebrides, and Solomon Islands, penny per four ounces; for all other places, penny per two ounces. Catalogues: Rates applicable Commonwealth only. Magazines: For New Zealand (including islands annexed thereto), Fiji, New Hebrides, and Solomon Islands, penny per eight ounces, each additional four ounces halfpenny; for all other places, penny per two ounces. Packets for transmission within the Commonwealth must not as a rule exceed 2 feet in length, 1 foot in breadth or depth; or, if in a roll, 2 ft. 6 in. in length, while the maximum weights allowed are—commercial and printed papers, 5 lbs.; patterns, samples, and merchandise, 1 lb.

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

7. **Registered Letters, Packets, etc.**—Under section 38 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901, provision is made for the registration of any letter, packet, or newspaper upon payment of a fee of threepence, and any person who sends a registered article by post may obtain an acknowledgment of its due receipt by the person to whom it is addressed by paying an additional fee of twopence halfpenny in advance at the time of registration.

*Number of Registered Articles.* The subjoined table shews the number of registered articles posted in each State, classified according to the places to which they were despatched, for delivery, also the number of registered articles received in each State from beyond the Commonwealth during the year 1918-19 :—

**REGISTERED ARTICLES POSTED IN EACH STATE AND RECEIVED FROM BEYOND COMMONWEALTH, 1918-19.**

State.	Posted in each State for Delivery within that State.		Posted in each State for Delivery in other States.		Posted in each State for Delivery in Places outside the C'wealth.		Total Posted.		Received in each State from Places outside the C'wealth.	
	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number ('000 omitted).	Per 1,000 of Population.
New South Wales .. .. .	1,623	840	185	95	129	67	1,937	1,002	214	111
Victoria .. .. .	1,117	781	185	129	73	51	1,375	961	153	107
Queensland .. .. .	530	763	91	131	37	52	658	946	53	77
South Australia .. .. .	326	723	56	124	15	33	397	880	31	67
Western Australia .. .. .	369	1,179	33	107	23	74	425	1,360	48	153
Tasmania .. .. .	201	962	25	119	4	19	230	1,100	11	52
Commonwealth .. .. .	4,166	828	575	114	281	56	5,022	998	510	101

8. **Ocean Mail Services.**—Regular steamship communication between Australia and Europe was established in 1852 by a service run by the Peninsular and Oriental Company between Singapore and Sydney, *via* King George's Sound, Adelaide, and Melbourne. This service was inaugurated in September, 1852, by the arrival at Melbourne of the *Chusan*, and was continued until 1854, when it was stopped in consequence of the Crimean War; in 1856 a line of steamers was again started, and the service was carried on by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, in conjunction with the Royal Mail Company, for some years.

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

renewed. From that date mails were carried at Postal Union rates until the 12th April, 1907, when the service was discontinued. At present mails to and from Europe are carried by the Union Steamship Company, which receives a subsidy from the New Zealand Government, with a four-weekly service; and by the Oceanic Company, with a service twice in every nine weeks. Postal Union rates are charged in respect of Australian mails conveyed by the Union Company, and poundage rates in the case of the Oceanic Company.

(ii) *Route via Suez Canal.* The establishment of a mail route *via* America had the effect of stimulating the steamship owners who were engaged in the service *via* Suez, and from that time there was a marked improvement in the steamers, as well as in the punctuality and speed with which the mails were delivered. Almost since the inception of ocean steam services, the Peninsular and Oriental Company, and, at a little later date, the Orient-Pacific Company, have carried mails to and from Australia. Postal matter was carried by contract until 1905, when the contract between the Peninsular and Oriental Company and the Commonwealth Government ceased, although that between the company and the Imperial Post Office is still in force. Until discontinued, owing to the war, mails were carried from Australia by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, but at Postal Union rates and not under contract with the Commonwealth. On the 25th April, 1905, the Orient-Pacific Company concluded a new contract with the Commonwealth Government for a fortnightly service between England and Australia. The subsidy was at the rate of £124,880 per annum. This contract has now been replaced by the present mail contract referred to in the next sub-section hereof. Fremantle has, since the year 1900, been the first and last port of call for European mail steamers, in lieu of Albany, the original port of call. The Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Steam Navigation Companies' steamers, before the outbreak of war in 1914, sailed alternately every week, both from London and Australia, conveying the outward and homeward mails. As before stated, the Peninsular and Oriental service was entirely suspended as a result of the war, while a very limited service was carried on for a greater part of the time by the Orient line *via* the Cape route. The situation has improved since the termination of the War, although the regular running of the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient line steamers has not yet been resumed. At present every opportunity is being availed of to improve the service by despatching mails by all vessels suitable for the purpose.

(a) *Present Mail Contract.* On the 1st January, 1906, tenders were invited by the Commonwealth Postmaster-General for a fortnightly mail service between Adelaide and Brindisi, to alternate with a similar service to be provided by the Imperial Government, and a contract was entered into with Sir James Laing and Company Limited, providing for a service at an annual subsidy of £125,000. This contract, however, fell through, and new tenders were accordingly called for. On the 15th November, 1907, an agreement was entered into with the Orient Steam Navigation Company Limited providing for a fortnightly service for a period of ten years, commencing in February, 1910. The mail service was to be carried out by existing vessels belonging to the company and by five new mail ships, which had been specially built, and which were each over 12,000 tons gross registered tonnage and of not less than seventeen knots speed. An additional new vessel was to be added within eighteen months, and another within six years, from February, 1910, and the first of these—the *Orama*—entered into running during November, 1911. War conditions have, however, delayed the addition of the later vessel to the mail fleet. The vessels were to call at Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, and, during the months of February to May inclusive, at least six of them at Hobart. The voyage from Taranto to Adelaide was to be completed within twenty-six days, fourteen hours, and from Adelaide to Taranto within twenty-seven days, two hours, but the latter period might be exceeded by thirty-six hours during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon. The amount of the subsidy was fixed at £170,000 per annum; but, if the earnings of the company were decreased, or the expenses increased by reason of any Commonwealth shipping legislation passed subsequently to the date of the agreement, to the extent of not less than £5,000 a year, the contractors had the right to terminate the agreement unless the subsidy were increased. Insulated space of not less than 2,000 tons of forty cubic feet per ton was to be provided in each of the new vessels, and the freights were not to exceed one halfpenny per lb. for butter and sixty shillings per ton for fruit. These rates obtained until the beginning of the War when the control of



space passed to the Imperial Government. White labour only was to be employed, and no discrimination was to be made between unionists and non-unionists. If before or during the sixth year of the period of the contract an accelerated service were provided by any competing line of mail ships, the contractors had, if so required by the Postmaster-General, to provide a service equal to the competing service, at an increased subsidy, to be determined by agreement or arbitration. With the expiration of the period in 1916, this clause in the agreement lapsed. The Commonwealth flag had to be flown on the mail ships, which the Commonwealth had the right to purchase at a valuation at any time. Within six months of the Postmaster-General establishing a permanent wireless telegraphy station at Rottne Island, or at any point on the coast between Fremantle and Brisbane, the company was required to fit the mail ships with wireless telegraphy installations. The new service was inaugurated on the 11th February, 1910, but was interrupted by the War and has since been carried out as far as possible with the reduced number of steamers available. The present contract will expire on 17th September, 1921, the Company having given the necessary 24 months' notice of intention to terminate as provided by the agreement.

(b) *French and German Subsidised Mail Services.* Vessels belonging to the Messageries Maritimes and the Norddeutscher Lloyd, which were under contract respectively with the French and German Governments to convey mails monthly between Marseilles and New Caledonia and between Bremen and Sydney, *via* Genoa, also carried mails for the Commonwealth Government from Australia to Europe at Postal Union rates. The Messageries Maritimes service commenced in November, 1882; the amount of the annual subsidy granted by the French Government being £120,000. The vessels have, however, for the time being, been withdrawn from the Australian service. The first contract for the establishment and maintenance of a mail steamship line between Germany and Australia was made between the Imperial German Government and the Norddeutscher Lloyd in 1885, and the service was inaugurated in July, 1886, with the steamer *Salier*. The service afforded by German vessels was, of course, discontinued on the outbreak of hostilities in Europe in 1914.

(iii) *Route via Vancouver and Canadian-Pacific Railway.* During the year 1893 a direct monthly service was started between Sydney and Vancouver, in British Columbia, *via* Wellington in New Zealand, and thence to Liverpool *via* the Canadian-Pacific Railway, the New South Wales Government paying an annual subsidy of £10,000 for the maintenance of this service for a period of three years. In 1896 the agreement was renewed for a further period of three years, and in 1899 was again renewed for four years, subject to the same terms and conditions, except that the route was *via* Brisbane instead of Wellington. The contract was further extended, at an increased subsidy, from time to time until the 31st July, 1911, at a subsidy of £26,626 per annum, when it finally terminated, and Commonwealth mails for Canada are now forwarded from Sydney, *via* New Zealand, at poundage rates.

(iv) *Other Ocean Mail Services.* In addition to the mails *via* the Suez Canal, a number of other services, both regular and irregular, are maintained between the Commonwealth and various parts of the world, and also between the principal ports in the various States and a number of small ports in the less settled parts of the Commonwealth which are inaccessible by rail. The following statement gives a summary, in so far as returns are available, of all mail services maintained between the Commonwealth and other countries and between ports in the Commonwealth. The amounts of subsidies specified are the amounts payable per annum unless otherwise stated.

#### SUMMARY OF COMMONWEALTH MAIL SERVICES, 1920.

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
1. <i>To and from Europe, via Suez—</i> (a) Orient Steam Navigation Co.	Irregular intervals	Adelaide, Fremantle and London, <i>via</i> Suez	Subsidised. Date of agreement, 15th Nov., 1907. Term, from Feb., 1910. Expires 17th Sep., 1921. Amt. of subsidy, £170,000
(b) Peninsular and Oriental S.N. Co. Ltd.	"	" " "	Poundage rates

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES—*continued.*

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
2. <i>To and from Europe, via Vancouver (A)</i> — Union Steamship Co. . .	Every four weeks	Sydney and Vancouver, B.C., via Auckland, Fiji, Honolulu	Poundage rates
3. <i>To and from Europe, via San Francisco</i> — (a) Union Steamship Company	„	Sydney, Wellington, and San Francisco	Subsidised by New Zealand Govt. Mails from Aust. at Postal Union rates
(b) Oceanic Steamship Co. . .	Twice in nine weeks	Sydney, Pago Pago (Samoa), Honolulu, and San Francisco	Poundage rates
4. <i>To and from New Zealand</i> — (a) Conjointly by Union S.S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Ltd.	Weekly	Sydney and Wellington, Sydney and Auckland	„ „
(b) Other steamers . . . .	Irregularly, when convenient	Sydney, Wellington, Auckland, Lyttelton, and other Ports	„ „
5. <i>To and from Ports in New South Wales</i> — (i) NORTHERN PORTS— (a) North Coast S.N. Co.	Weekly Twice weekly	Sydney, Macleay River Coff's Harbour, Clarence River, Byron Bay and Richmond River	„ „ „ „
(b) „ „ „ . . . .	Fortnightly	South Solitary Island . .	„ „
(c) Langley Bros. „ . .	Weekly	Sydney and Coff's Harbour	„ „
(d) Cain's Co-operative S.S. Co.	Twice a month	Sydney and Port Macquarie	„ „
(ii) SOUTH COAST PORTS— Hawarra and S. Coast S.N. Co.	Fortnightly	Sydney, Montague Island	„ „
6. <i>To and from Northern Ports of Queensland</i> — (a) Australasian United Steam Navigation Co. Limited	Weekly	Gladstone, Mackay, Bowen, Townsville, Lucinda, Mourilyan, Cairns, Port Douglas, and Cooktown	Subsidised by agreement dated 5th Dec., 1919, for one year. Amount of subsidy, £20,000, exclusive of Port and Light dues
(b) Other steamers . . . .	Irregularly	Various . . . .	Poundage rates
7. <i>To and from Ports in South Australia</i> — (a) Coast Steamship Co. Ltd.	Weekly	Port Adelaide and Kingscote	Subsidised to 31st December, 1922. Amount of subsidy, (a) £900; (b) £400; (c) £500; (d) £400
(b) „ „ . . . .	Twice a week	Port Adelaide and Edithburgh	
(c) „ „ . . . .	„	Port Adelaide and Stansbury	
(d) „ „ . . . .	„	Port Adelaide and Port Vincent	
(e) Adelaide Steamship Co. . .	Weekly	Port Adelaide and Port Lincoln	Subsidised for three years from 1st January, 1920. Amount of subsidy, £3,000
(f) Adelaide Steam Tug Co. . .	As required	Port Pirie and Hummocks Hill	Subsidised without agreement. Amount of subsidy, £120.

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

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES—*continued.*

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

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES—*continued.*

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

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

9. Amount of Mail Subsidies Paid.—The following table shews the amounts of subsidies paid by the Commonwealth Postal Department for ocean and coastal mail services during the year ended 30th June, 1919 :—

MAIL SUBSIDIES.—OCEAN AND POSTAL SUBSIDIES DURING YEAR 1918-19.

Service.	Orient S. N. Co.	Queens- land Ports.	South Australian Ports.	Western Australian Ports.	Tas- manian Ports.
	£	£	£	£	£
Annual subsidy .. ..	..	23,950	5,170	7,000	(a)13,915

(a) Including £315 paid by Tasmania.

During the year 1918-19 the amount paid by the Commonwealth for conveyance of mails at poundage rates by non-contract vessels was £77,877 ; by road services, £476,556 ; and by railway services, £251,953. The total expenditure in 1918-19 on the carriage of mails, as disclosed by the Profit and Loss Account, amounted to £858,744. The payment shewn for railway services represents the annual "rate" of expenditure and is subject to adjustment.

10. Average and Fastest Time of Mails to and from London.—Great progress has been made in regard to the means of postal communication with the United Kingdom and the continents of Europe and America. In 1857 there was an unsatisfactory ocean mail service, which nominally brought monthly mails, with news nearly sixty days old ; before the outbreak of the war there were three lines of modern ocean steamships, which brought the mails from the United Kingdom in about twenty-nine days to Adelaide, in addition to services by way of New Zealand, *via* San Francisco and Vancouver. Upon the arrival of oversea mail vessels at Fremantle letters for Australia and New Zealand are now landed for despatch by rail to the eastern States. By landing at Fremantle instead of as formerly at Adelaide, a saving of approximately sixty-seven hours is effected. In consequence of the war in Europe, steamers belonging to the Orient S. N. Co. were diverted from the Suez Canal to the Cape route, but the steamers of both companies have since reverted to the Suez Canal route. A regular service equal to that of pre-war days is not yet available, although a fairly frequent service is maintained by the Orient line and a limited service by the P. & O. Company. Other vessels suitable for the carriage of mails are also employed.

In previous issues of the Year Book a table appeared giving the average and fastest times occupied in the conveyance of mails between England and Australia, but owing to the disorganisation of the service reliable information is not for the present available.

At present a mail leaving Perth by train for the eastern States, say, at 10 p.m. on Monday, arrives at Adelaide at 7.50 p.m. on Thursday, at Melbourne at 1.3 p.m. on Friday, at Sydney at 10.45 a.m. on Saturday, and at Brisbane at 6.40 p.m. on Sunday. The time over all between Perth and Brisbane is 138 hours 40 minutes, of which the stops at changing stations take 14 hours 56 minutes. The journey from Melbourne to Hobart occupies about 26 hours *via* Launceston, and about 32 hours direct.

The average time occupied in the conveyance of mails from London to Sydney *via* Vancouver is a little over 37 days, and from Sydney to London by the same route nearly 35. A table shewing the average and fastest times of this service was given in earlier

issues (see Year Book No. 5, p. 766), but the discontinuance of the contract with the company operating between Australia and Vancouver renders the table no longer of value.

11. **Money Orders and Postal Notes.**—The issue of money orders and postal notes in the Commonwealth is regulated by sections 74 to 79 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901. A money order may be issued for payment of sums up to £20 within the Commonwealth and not exceeding £40 (in some cases £30, £20, or £10) in places abroad. A postal note, which is payable only within the Commonwealth and in Papua, cannot be issued for a larger sum than twenty shillings. Money orders are sent direct from the Commonwealth to the United Kingdom, and to most of the British colonies and possessions, to the British Solomon Islands Protectorate and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate, to Italy, to Norway, and to the United States of America. Money orders, payable in Japan and China, are sent *via* Hong Kong; orders payable in other countries, with a few exceptions, are sent through the General Post Office in London, where new orders are issued and forwarded to the addresses of the payees, less twopence for each £1 or fraction of £1, with a minimum charge of fourpence. To secure the full amount of the original order being forwarded to the payee, this extra commission must be paid by the sender.

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

**RATES OF COMMISSION, MONEY ORDERS.**

If Payable in—	For sums—							
	Not exceeding £2.	Exceeding £2, but not exceeding £5.	Exceeding £5, but not exceeding £7.	Exceeding £7, but not exceeding £10.	Exceeding £10, but not exceeding £12.	Exceeding £12, but not exceeding £15.	Exceeding £15, but not exceeding £17.	Exceeding £17, but not exceeding £20.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Commonwealth of Australia	0 6	0 6	1 0	1 0	1 6	1 6	2 0	2 0
New Zealand and Fiji ..	0 6	1 0	1 6	2 0	2 6	3 0	3 6	4 0
Papua .. .. .	0 9	0 9	1 6	1 6	2 3	2 3	3 0	3 0
United States of America, including Hawaii or Sandwich Islands and Philippine Islands	(a) For sums not exceeding £1, 9d. for every 2s. or fraction of 2s., with a maximum rate of 6s. 8d. (b) For sums exceeding £1, for each pound, 6s. 8d.; and for any odd amount less than £1, 9d. for every 2s. or fraction thereof, with a maximum rate of 6s. 8d. per pound							
United Kingdom, other British Possessions, and other Foreign Countries..	Sixpence for any amount up to £2 and 3d. for each additional £1 or fraction thereof							

Remittances may also be made by telegraph to and from money order offices in the Commonwealth which are also telegraph or telephone offices, and to New Zealand. The charge for a telegraph money order is the cost of the telegram of advice in addition to the ordinary commission. Where payment is to be made within the Commonwealth the remitter must also send a telegram advising the transmission of the money, which telegram must be produced by the payee when applying for payment. In the case of New Zealand a second telegram is not required, but an additional charge of sixpence is made by the Department to cover the cost of notifying the payee.

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

**POUNDAGE RATES, POSTAL NOTES.**

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

(iii) *Value of Orders Issued and Paid and of Notes Sold.* The following table shews the total value of money orders issued and paid, and of postal notes sold in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year 1918-19, together with the total amount of commission on money orders and poundage on postal notes received by the Postal Department. The results throughout shew an improvement as compared with the corresponding figures for 1917-18, although it should be stated that the inclusion of certain sums collected on money orders "paid" in 1918-19 is partly responsible for the increase in the case of money order commission received.

**VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED AND PAID AND OF POSTAL NOTES SOLD, AND TOTAL AMOUNTS OF COMMISSION AND POUNDAGE RECEIVED IN EACH STATE DURING 1918-19.**

State.	Value of Money Orders Issued.	Value of Money Orders Paid.	Net Money Order Commission Received.	Value of Postal Notes Sold.	Poundage Received on Postal Notes.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	4,844,721	5,012,064	29,302	1,400,457	27,583
Victoria ..	2,712,512	2,702,292	12,734	912,938	18,029
Queensland ..	1,768,112	1,523,570	11,843	412,495	8,058
South Australia ..	747,517	699,324	4,746	224,908	4,544
Western Australia ..	1,157,788	1,008,891	7,185	213,783	4,081
Tasmania ..	465,889	423,690	2,845	112,844	2,297
Commonwealth ..	11,696,539	11,369,831	68,655	3,277,425	64,592

**12. Number and Value of Money Orders and Postal Notes Issued and Paid.**—The following table shews the total number and value of money orders and postal notes issued and paid in the Commonwealth from 1913 to 1918-19. The payment of military allotments by money order was chiefly responsible for the increase in business recorded in 1915-16. Payment of military allotments by this method was discontinued in 1916-17.

NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES ISSUED AND PAID, 1913 TO 1918-19.

Year.	Money Orders.				Postal Notes.			
	Issued.		Paid.		Issued.		Paid.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).
1913 ..	2,091	8,750	1,814	8,133	9,425	3,551	9,341	3,527
1914 ..	2,062	8,858	1,823	8,326	9,881	3,680	8,893	3,671
1915-16 ..	(a)3,007	12,336	2,904	11,815	9,536	3,292	9,517	3,316
1916-17 ..	2,293	10,285	2,105	9,757	9,663	3,273	9,549	3,265
1917-18 ..	2,196	10,901	2,138	10,510	9,842	3,252	9,814	3,221
1918-19 ..	2,300	11,697	2,214	11,370	9,830	3,277	9,775	3,244

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

13. Classification of Money Orders Issued and Paid.—The following table shews the number and value of money orders issued in each State during the year 1918-19, classified according to the country where payable :—

MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY WHERE PAYABLE, 1918-19.

State in which Issued.	Where Payable.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United K'dom.	In Other Countries.	

NUMBER.

New South Wales ..	911,468	13,879	57,374	14,012	996,733
Victoria ..	411,996	7,200	32,420	9,548	461,164
Queensland ..	329,841	2,571	22,773	7,461	362,646
South Australia ..	145,773	1,211	11,532	3,295	161,811
Western Australia ..	198,562	1,090	14,371	3,604	217,627
Tasmania ..	93,865	1,678	3,416	1,241	100,200
Commonwealth ..	2,091,505	27,629	141,886	39,161	2,300,181

VALUE.

New South Wales ..	£ 4,566,398	£ 46,481	£ 164,470	£ 67,372	£ 4,844,721
Victoria ..	2,566,643	25,160	81,454	39,255	2,712,512
Queensland ..	1,632,756	8,661	68,795	57,900	1,768,112
South Australia ..	696,525	4,893	31,885	14,214	747,517
Western Australia ..	1,095,610	3,913	38,515	19,750	1,157,788
Tasmania ..	447,791	6,897	8,203	2,998	465,889
Commonwealth ..	11,005,723	96,005	393,322	201,489	11,696,539



The following table shews the number and value of money orders paid in each State during the year 1918-19, classified according to the country where issued :—

**MONEY ORDERS PAID IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF ISSUE, 1918-19.**

State in which Paid.	Where Issued.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United K'dom.	In Other Countries.	
<b>NUMBER.</b>					
New South Wales ..	950,060	27,401	14,351	10,915	1,002,727
Victoria ..	445,407	17,031	8,419	5,686	476,543
Queensland ..	303,477	2,193	4 101	2,049	311,820
South Australia ..	140,272	1,305	2,379	1,045	145,001
Western Australia ..	182,745	1,761	3,788	1,208	189,502
Tasmania ..	83,394	3,198	921	1,087	88,600
Commonwealth ..	2,105,355	52,889	33,959	21,990	2,214,193

<b>VALUE.</b>					
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	4,803,239	100,684	60,545	47,596	5,012,064
Victoria ..	2,597,350	50,459	33,906	20,577	2,702,292
Queensland ..	1,490,636	8,110	16,798	8,026	1,523,570
South Australia ..	680,723	5,464	8,548	4,589	699,324
Western Australia ..	984,424	3,890	15,357	5,220	1,008,891
Tasmania ..	407,262	10,126	3,465	2,837	423,690
Commonwealth ..	10,963,634	178,733	138,619	88,845	11,369,831

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

**14. Classification of Postal Notes Paid.**—The subjoined table shews the number and value of postal notes paid during the year 1918-19 in each State and in the Commonwealth, classified according to the State in which they were issued.

Particulars regarding the total number and value of postal notes issued and paid in each of the last six years are given in paragraph 12 hereof.

**NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO STATE OF ISSUE, 1918-19.**

Particulars.	Postal Notes Paid in—						
	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
<b>NUMBER.</b>							
Issued in same State ..	3,018,172	2,100,515	925,628	502,948	497,652	276,743	7,321,658
Issued in other States ..	316,459	330,390	79,986	59,798	23,862	1,643,290	2,453,785
Total ..	3,334,631	2,430,905	1,005,614	562,746	521,514	1,920,033	9,775,443

NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO STATE OF ISSUE, 1918-19—continued.

Particulars.	Postal Notes Paid in—						
	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
VALUE.							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Issued in same State ..	1,110,501	698,606	326,316	158,205	187,107	87,850	2,568,585
Issued in other States ..	117,422	120,167	28,868	23,682	9,026	376,289	675,454
Total ..	1,227,923	818,773	355,184	181,887	196,133	464,139	3,244,039

15. **The Value Payable Post.**—This is a system under which the Postal Department undertakes to deliver registered articles sent by parcel post within the Commonwealth, or between Papua and the Commonwealth, to recover from the addressee on delivery a specified sum of money fixed by the sender, and to remit the sum to the sender by money order, for which the usual commission is charged. The object of the system is to meet the requirements of persons who wish to pay at the time of receipt for articles sent to them, and also to meet the requirements of traders and others who do not wish their goods to be delivered except on payment. In addition to the ordinary postage, commission on the value of the articles transmitted at the rate of twopence on sums not exceeding ten shillings, and one penny for each additional five shillings or part thereof, must be prepaid by postage stamps affixed to the articles, distinct from the postage, and marked "commission." The registration fee (threepence) and the proper postage must also be prepaid. If the addressee refuse delivery, the parcel is returned to the sender free of charge. Any article that can be sent by parcel post may be transmitted as a value-payable parcel. Letters may also be sent as value-payable parcels, if prepaid at the letter rate of postage and handed to the parcels clerk, in the same manner as in the case of parcels. The subjoined statement gives particulars of the number and value of parcels sent through the Value Payable Post in each State during the years 1913 to 1918-19. From these figures it will be seen that the business in Queensland is in excess of the combined transactions of all the other States, chiefly owing to the fact that the system has been established in that State for some years, but was only extended to the whole Commonwealth with the advent of Federal control of the post office. The system has also found favor for a number of years in Western Australia and continues to make marked progress in New South Wales, but the amount of business transacted in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania remains negligible.

VALUE PAYABLE PARCELS POST.—NUMBER POSTED, VALUE COLLECTED, AND REVENUE, 1913 TO 1918-19.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
NUMBER OF PARCELS POSTED.							
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1913 .. ..	12,175	1,691	39,434	255	22,335	8	75,898
1914 .. ..	12,987	1,698	37,657	251	22,759	26	75,378
1915-16 .. ..	13,979	1,395	45,467	206	22,108	35	83,190
1916-17 .. ..	16,794	1,530	53,585	318	22,427	28	94,682
1917-18 .. ..	21,962	1,204	63,523	473	23,421	37	110,620
1918-19 .. ..	28,544	1,579	68,601	588	24,211	22	123,545

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND NUMBER OF MAIL CONTRACTORS,  
AT 30th JUNE, 1914 TO 1919.**

State.	1914.		1915.		1916.		1917.		1918.		1919.	
	Employees.	Mail Contractors. (a)	Employees.	Mail Contractors. (b)	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.
Central Office ..	85	..	92	..	83	..	91	..	92	..	84	..
New South Wales ..	11,174	2,376	11,343	2,512	12,193	1,899	11,821	1,915	11,684	1,972	11,732	1,964
Victoria ..	8,114	1,123	8,451	1,132	8,567	1,152	8,320	1,137	8,249	1,105	8,499	1,112
Queensland ..	4,380	812	4,555	813	4,441	808	4,375	801	4,477	794	4,289	787
South Australia ..	2,368	382	2,549	307	2,683	348	2,755	352	2,737	368	2,768	350
Western Australia ..	2,378	355	2,336	351	2,584	284	2,451	279	2,462	271	2,258	264
Tasmania ..	1,102	294	1,148	281	1,204	224	1,214	221	1,212	250	1,173	227
Commonwealth	29,601	5,342	30,474	5,396	31,755	4,713	31,027	4,705	30,913	4,760	30,803	4,704

(a) Numbers at 31st December, 1913.

(b) Numbers at 31st December, 1914.

19. **Gross Revenue of Postal Department.**—The following table shows the gross revenue of the Postal Department for the years ended 30th June, 1913 to 1919 inclusive, under three heads, viz., the Postal, the Telegraph, and the Telephone branches. In the Postal branch is included the revenue derived from money-order commissions, poundage on postal notes, private boxes and bags, and miscellaneous sources. The following figures and also those for expenditure are supplied by the Treasury and represent the actual collections and payments for the periods mentioned :—

**GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1912-13 TO 1918-19.**

Year ended 30th June—	Postal Branch.	Telegraph Branch.	Telephone Branch.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1913 .. ..	2,553,995	811,592	860,726	4,226,313
1914 .. ..	2,680,944	834,316	996,047	4,511,307
1915 .. ..	2,616,887	878,238	1,099,417	4,594,542
1916 .. ..	2,938,837	893,904	1,220,855	5,053,596
1917 .. ..	2,997,714	950,842	1,549,961	5,498,517
1918 .. ..	2,998,724	1,032,317	1,731,149	5,762,190
1919 .. ..	3,130,806	1,098,530	1,876,822	6,106,158

The following table gives an analysis of the actual collections of the Postal Department in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year ended 30th June, 1919 :—

**ANALYSIS OF GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1918-19.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Postage .. ..	1,076,646	784,050	388,635	228,841	150,987	97,365	2,726,524
Telegraphs ..	405,992	216,097	170,056	179,190	92,802	34,393	1,098,530
Telephones ..	763,005	518,514	268,357	168,577	106,174	52,195	1,876,822
Money order commission ..							
Poundage on postal notes ..	57,126	30,312	20,652	9,391	11,266	5,210	133,957
Private boxes and bags ..							
Miscellaneous ..	13,736	6,600	7,441	4,107	2,359	1,428	35,671
	78,833	67,531	30,337	18,259	29,976	9,718	234,654
Total .. ..	2,395,338	1,623,104	885,478	608,365	393,564	200,309	6,106,158

20. **Expenditure in respect of the Postal Department.**—The subjoined table represents the actual payments made as shown by records kept for Treasury purposes in respect of the Postal Department in the Commonwealth for each of the years ended 30th June, 1914 to 1919 inclusive. The figures given include certain items of expenditure, such as rent, repairs and maintenance of buildings, fittings and furniture, sanitation, water supply, new buildings and additions and interest on transferred properties.

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT,  
1913-14 TO 1918-19.**

Year .. .. .	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
Expenditure .. .. .	£ 6,597,123	6,315,744	6,366,491	5,879,768	5,677,783	5,826,488

The following table shews, as far as possible, the distribution of expenditure on various items in each State during the year ended 30th June, 1919. The table is not to be regarded as a statement of the working expenses of the Department, since items relating to new works, interest, etc., are included therein.

**DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1918-19.**

Particulars.	Central Office.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries and contingencies—								
Salaries .. .. .	20,350	1,123,968	708,736	355,140	241,690	235,637	86,488	2,772,009
Conveyance of mails ..		380,082	162,933	157,975	60,541	47,528	39,872	848,931
Contingencies .. .. .	2,821	544,962	343,859	209,519	133,229	105,022	52,550	1,391,962
Cables .. .. .	3,756							3,756
Ocean mails .. .. .								
Miscellaneous .. .. .	53	8,510	7,946	2,152	1,676	1,790	576	22,703
Pensions and retiring allowances .. .. .		24,854	33,242	1,730		4,933		64,759
Rent, repairs, maintenance .. .. .	42	27,877	16,681	7,727	3,261	4,270	1,113	60,971
Supervision of works ..		484	358	174	113	78	52	1,259
Proportion of Audit Office expenses .. .. .		1,109	821	399	259	180	120	2,888
Unforeseen expenditure ..		59	6	7	18	8	4	102
New works—								
Telegraph and telephone .. .. .		159,727	59,110	37,441	33,876	18,416	3,324	311,894
New buildings, etc. ..		17,958	22,009	512	511	21,329	33	62,352
Interest on transferred properties .. .. .		80,992	44,373	33,033	28,504	16,882	7,443	211,227
Purchase of sites .. .. .								(a) 1,630
Other .. .. .								(a) 70,045
Total .. .. .	27,022	2,370,582	1,400,074	805,809	503,678	456,073	191,575	5,826,488

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

21. **Balance Sheet of the Postmaster-General's Department.**—The first complete balance sheet and profit and loss account of the Postmaster-General's Department was presented in November, 1913, for the year ending 30th June, 1913. As will be seen from the figures of the General Profit and Loss Account hereunder, the year 1918-19, after providing for depreciation, pension and retiring allowances, closed with a surplus of £1,114,680. From this amount £590,035, interest on capital, was deducted, leaving a profit of £524,645, which exceeds that of 1917-18 by £137,263.

Tables shewing the results of the working of the Department for the years 1914-15 to 1918-19 are appended :—

**GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,  
1914-15 TO 1918-19.**

Items.	1914-15.	1915-16.(a)	1916-17.(a)	1917-18.(a)	1918-19.(a)
	£	£	£	£	£
Total earnings .. ..	4,620,061	5,049,569	5,515,769	5,773,954	6,158,571
Total working expenses ..	4,761,714	4,841,667	5,134,533	4,809,571	5,043,891
Surplus (+) or Deficit (-)	(-)141,653	(+)207,902	(+)381,236	(+)964,383	(+)1,114,680
Interest on capital .. ..	488,069	523,892	558,382	577,001	590,035
Total surplus (+) or deficit (-) .. ..	(-)629,722	(-)315,990	(-)177,146	(+)387,382	(+)524,645

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

Although the revenue received in 1914-15 exceeded by £96,693 the amount received in 1913-14, the deficit on the year's working was greater than that of 1913-14 by no less than £128,266. A marked improvement was effected in 1915-16, the deficit for the twelve months being £315,990, a reduction of £313,732 as compared with the previous year. A still more satisfactory result was obtained in 1916-17 when the year's operations closed with a loss of only £177,146. All past achievements were eclipsed in 1917-18, when for the first time in the history of the Department a profit amounting to £387,382 resulted, while the statement of accounts for the following and last year 1918-19 shows the amount of profit earned to have increased to £524,645. The reasons furnished by the Department for the excess of expenditure over revenue in the years 1913-14 to 1916-17 were increases in wages and salaries, higher rates for the conveyance of inland mails, and increased prices for stores, etc., while in 1914-15 the prevailing drought and the effect of the war upon earnings were also contributing factors.

The following tables shew the yearly results of the working of the various branches, and the Department as a whole, and in each State from 1912-13 to 1918-19 :—

**PROFIT OR LOSS OF THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT,  
1912-13 TO 1918-19.**

Year ended 30th June—	Postal.		Telegraph.		Telephone.		All Branches.	
	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1913 .. ..	..	23,132	164,108	..	221,757	..	a407,102	..
1914 .. ..	..	24,155	151,446	..	296,424	..	b501,457	..
1915 .. ..	81,296	..	114,555	..	390,704	..	c629,722	..
1916 .. ..	..	42,131	86,426	..	271,695	..	315,990	..
1917 .. ..	168,896	..	25,484	..	..	17,234	177,146	..
1918 .. ..	..	237,421	..	28,116	..	121,845	..	387,382
1919 .. ..	..	239,337	..	63,133	..	222,175	..	524,645

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

In the period of seven years covered by the foregoing table it will be observed that the operations of the Postal branch closed with a profit in each of the years 1913, 1914, 1916, 1918, and 1919, the Telephone branch in 1917, 1918, and 1919, and the Telegraph branch in 1918 and 1919.

PROFIT OR LOSS OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT IN THE VARIOUS STATES,  
1915-16 TO 1918-19.

State.	1915-16.		1916-17.		1917-18.		1918-19.	
	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	170,800	..	102,434	..	140,354	..	155,159	..
Victoria ..	..	59,412	..	86,330	..	177,805	..	254,013
Queensland ..	68,594	..	33,037	..	68,929	..	60,103	..
South Australia ..	..	34,446	..	31,969	..	104,868	..	132,772
Western Australia ..	154,874	..	146,909	..	102,409	..	81,460	..
Tasmania ..	15,580	..	13,065	..	2,165	..	..	4,058
Commonwealth	409,848	93,858	295,445	118,299	104,574	491,956	81,460	606,105

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

## § 2. Telegraphs.

1. First Lines Constructed.—The electric telegraph was first introduced into Australia for use by the public in the year 1854, when a line from Melbourne to Williamstown was opened. The first line in South Australia, from Adelaide to Port Adelaide, was opened in 1856, while the first line in New South Wales was brought into operation in 1858, when the line from Sydney to Liverpool, 22 miles in length, was opened. In Tasmania the first telegraph line was completed in 1857, while in the following year communication was established between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. The first lines to be constructed in Queensland were those between Brisbane and Warwick, and Brisbane and Lytton, distances of 169 and 12 miles respectively. These lines were working in 1861. In Western Australia the first telegraph constructed was from Perth to Fremantle, a distance of 12 miles, which was brought into use in 1869, and in the same year the cable joining Tasmania with the continent of Australia was completed.

2. Development of Services.—During the period from 1871 to 1881 great progress was made throughout Australia in the way of telegraphic construction, over 14,000 miles of line, exclusive of railway telegraph lines, being opened for use, making the total length of the line open at the end of the year 1881, 25,470 miles. At the present time the systems of telegraph lines throughout Australia are well developed. The longest line extends from Thursday Island, in Torres Strait, by submarine cable to Paterson, on the mainland of Cape York Peninsula; from Paterson the line runs in a southerly direction as far as Brisbane, where it joins the main interstate line to Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide; from Adelaide it runs to Port Augusta, then on to Port Lincoln, on Eyre's Peninsula, and thence to Eucla, on the Western Australia boundary; from Eucla the line extends along the coast of the Great Australian Bight to Albany, and thence it runs adjacent to the west coast of Western Australia as far as Onslow, *via* Perth, Geraldton, and Carnarvon. From Onslow connection extends to Broome, in Roebuck Bay. From Roebuck Bay the line crosses the Kimberley district in an easterly direction, and then runs north as far as the terminus at Wyndham. In Queensland a line runs to Burketown, near the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, *via* Normanton; another line extends to Cloncurry and Urundangi, in the extreme west of the State. Branch lines extend to all important coastal and inland towns, while considerable networks of lines converge from the country districts towards the centres of population. From Adelaide the transcontinental line runs in a northerly direction to Darwin, from which place communication is provided with Europe by submarine cable by way of Batavia, Singapore, and Madras. In Western Australia a line runs from Eucla to the Coolgardie goldfields *via* Balladonia and Dundas, and from Coolgardie communication is provided with Perth, and with Mount Sir Samuel in the East Murchison district.

3. **Number of Telegraph Offices and Length of Lines and Wire Open.**—The following table shews the number of telegraph offices and the length of telegraph lines and of telegraph wire available for use in the Commonwealth from 1915 to 1919 inclusive. It will be noticed that 141,152 miles of wire are available for telegraph purposes, of which 78,004 miles are also used for telephone purposes.

**NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES AND LENGTH OF LINE AVAILABLE  
AT 30th JUNE, 1915 TO 1919.**

Particulars.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Number of offices .. .. .	5,812	6,119	6,189	6,196	6,219
Length of wire (miles)—					
Telegraph purposes only .. .. .	71,680	62,224	62,804	62,981	63,148
Telegraph and telephone purposes .. .. .	60,061	71,267	73,663	74,682	78,004
Length of line (miles)—					
Conductors in Morse cable .. .. .	2,883	2,959	3,232	3,254	3,189
Conductors in submarine cable .. .. .	1,080	1,196	1,680	1,708	1,705
Pole routes .. .. .	57,424	58,889	59,706	59,849	60,275

The following table gives corresponding particulars for each State for the year 1918-19 :—

**NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES, LENGTH OF LINE AND WIRE, IN  
EACH STATE, AT 30th JUNE, 1919.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Number of offices .. .. .	2,252	1,671	815	535	509	437	6,219
Length of wire (miles)—							
Telegraph purposes only .. .. .	21,514	6,256	14,776	11,561	8,905	136	63,148
Telegraph and telephone purposes .. .. .	29,474	16,532	13,046	6,879	6,898	5,175	78,004
Length of line (miles)—							
Conductors in Morse cable .. .. .	697	2,108	349	..	21	14	3,189
Conductors in submarine cable .. .. .	1,086	437	66	67	..	49	1,705
Pole routes .. .. .	23,524	7,253	11,846	6,672	8,327	2,653	60,275

4. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—Particulars as to the revenue from the telegraph systems for the years 1913 to 1919 are given on page 738.

5. **Number of Telegrams Despatched.**—The following table shews the total number of telegrams despatched to destinations within the Commonwealth in each of the years 1913 to 1918-19 inclusive :—

**NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED, 1913 TO 1919.**

Year ..	1913.	1914.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
Number (a)	13,555,252	13,918,135	13,939,424	14,088,606	14,633,859	15,436,534

(a) Including interstate cablegrams.

The following table shews the number of telegrams despatched in each State in 1918-19 for delivery in that State, and the number despatched in each State for delivery in other States, and also the total number of telegrams—exclusive of cablegrams for places outside the Commonwealth—despatched in each State:—

**NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED IN EACH STATE, 1918-19.**

State, etc.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
Inland ..	4,261,229	2,538,632	2,031,111	922,876	1,314,552	371,897	11,440,297
Interstate (a) ..	1,201,039	1,132,989	605,635	469,150	391,305	196,119	3,996,237
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>5,462,268</b>	<b>3,671,621</b>	<b>2,636,746</b>	<b>1,392,026</b>	<b>1,705,857</b>	<b>568,016</b>	<b>15,436,534</b>

(a) Including interstate cablegrams.

6. Rates for Transmission of Telegrams.—The present rates for the transmission of telegrams within the Commonwealth were fixed by section 7 of the Post and Telegraph Rates Act 1902, and came into force on the 1st November, 1902. Under this Act charges are made for telegrams according to whether they are "ordinary" or "press" telegrams. "Press" telegrams are defined to mean those the text of which consists of political, commercial, etc., information, and of news intended for publication in a newspaper. The telegram must be sent by an authorised correspondent, and must be addressed to a registered newspaper or recognised news agency. The subjoined tables shew the scales of charges at present in force, but a bill is now before Parliament to give effect to increased rates, particulars of which will be given in the appendix to this number of the Year Book should the early passage of the measure permit:—

**SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ORDINARY TELEGRAMS.**

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

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

**SCALE OF CHARGES FOR PRESS TELEGRAMS.**

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

(a) Within the Commonwealth.



7. **Letter-telegrams.**—Commencing in February, 1914, the Postal Department instituted a system of letter-telegrams between all telegraph offices which are open between 7 p.m. and midnight. The letter-telegrams are forwarded during the night by telegraph to the office of destination and are delivered as ordinary letters by the first letter delivery, or are despatched by mail to the address in the ordinary way. The object of the Department in introducing the system was to profitably utilize the unoccupied time of the staff, but it was found that ordinary business and revenue suffered through the extensive use of the system by the business community, consequently the concession has been limited to messages of a social, domestic or private nature. The rates charged throughout the Commonwealth are one shilling for the first 40 words, and one halfpenny for each additional word, double these rates being charged on Sundays. At the end of 1919 the service applied to 102 offices throughout the Commonwealth.

8. **Wireless Telegraphy.**—Previous to September, 1915, the Postmaster-General was, under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1905, given the exclusive privilege of establishing and using stations and appliances for receiving and transmitting messages by wireless telegraphy within Australia, and an amendment of the Act in 1919 extended the Commonwealth's control to wireless telephony also. Licences for experimental work were granted by the Postmaster-General under the authority of the Act, but were withdrawn on the outbreak of war. Upon the cessation of hostilities the system of issuing these licences was revived. Licences are now issued (a) in respect of wireless telegraphy installations on ships registered in Australia; (b) in respect of experimental work carried out by amateur investigators into radio-phenomena generally. In September, 1915, the administration of the Act was transferred to the Minister for the Navy, by whom the Act is still administered.

In preparing the initial scheme for the construction of wireless stations in the Commonwealth, it was evident, viewing the insular position of Australia, that, for an effective system of radio-telegraphic communication to be given, not only must the service offered be continuous, but the distances separating the stations must to a great extent be governed by the normal working range of the vessels with which communication would have to be established. With this object in view the Commonwealth Government has constructed and erected 21 stations at or near the following localities:—Port Moresby, Thursday Island, Cooktown, Townsville, Rockhampton, Brisbane, Sydney, Flinders Island, Melbourne, Hobart, King Island, Mount Gambier, Adelaide, Esperance, Perth, Geraldton, Broome, Roebourne, Wyndham, Darwin, and Samarai. Low-power stations are in course of erection at Norfolk Island and Misima (Louisiade Archipelago). In the Pacific the Commonwealth controls stations at Woodlark Island, Rabaul, Madang, Nauru, Kieta, Bita Paka, Morobe, Eitape, Manus, and Kaewieng; all these, with the exception of Woodlark Island, being on former German territory now administered by Australia. The stations at Sydney, Perth, and Townsville are of a medium-power type. All the other stations are of low power, and constitute the internal scheme of inter and ship-to-shore communication. The ordinary ship-to-shore communication rates are, for vessels registered by the Commonwealth or New Zealand, 5d. per word, allocated as follows: 3d. for land station and 2d. for ship station charge. For vessels registered by other administrations 10d. per word, allocated as follows: 6d. for land station and 4d. for the ship station charge. In all cases the inland forwarding charge of 1d. per word must be added. Between the Commonwealth and Port Moresby the rate is 2d. per word, and between the mainland and Flinders Island or King Island 1d. per word, plus ordinary land-line charges.

In December, 1909, a conference of representatives of the Commonwealth, New Zealand, the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, Fiji, the Admiralty, and the Pacific Cable Board was convened at Melbourne to report upon the establishment of wireless telegraphy in the Pacific. The chief recommendations of this Conference were:—(a) That high-power stations be established at Sydney, Doubtless Bay (New Zealand), Suva (Fiji), and Ocean Island, and (b) that medium-power stations be established at Tulagi (Solomon Islands) and Vila (New Hebrides). The total cost of construction involved by these recommendations was £42,000, while the total annual cost was estimated at £13,820 for a continuous service, and £9,970 for a restricted service. It was proposed

to apportion the cost between Great Britain, New Zealand, Fiji, and Australia. These recommendations were adopted by the Commonwealth Government, but the British Government would not agree to the erection of high-power stations at Suva and Ocean Island. Up to the present no further concerted action has taken place, but radiotelegraphic stations have been erected at Suva, Ocean Island, Tulagi, and Vila under the control of the High Commissioner of the Pacific, while the New Zealand Government has erected high-power stations at Awanui (Auckland), Awarua (Bluff), and Apia (Samoa), and low-power stations at Auckland, Chatham Islands, Raratonga (Cook Islands), and Wellington.

### § 3. Submarine Cables.

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

2. **The Tasmania-Victoria Cables.**—A submarine cable joining Tasmania to the continent of Australia was opened for use in 1869, the total length being 170 miles. The line was owned by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, and was subsidised by the Tasmanian Government until the year 1909. On the 28th February, 1908, the Postmaster-General entered into an agreement with Messrs. Siemens Brothers and Company Ltd., of London, for the manufacture and laying of two submarine cables between Tasmania and Victoria. The new cables were taken over on the 24th March, 1909, and opened to the public on the 1st May, 1909, the day following the expiration of the agreement with the Eastern Extension Company. Their aggregate length is approximately 350 nautical miles of main cable, and 20 nautical miles each of intermediate and shore-end cable, making a total of 390 nautical miles. The contract price was £52,447.

3. **The Eastern Extension Company's Cables.**—In addition to the first Victoria-Tasmania cable and the original cable from Darwin (see Year Book No. 6, p. 770), the Eastern Extension Company has constructed several other cables connecting with various places in the Commonwealth. (a) In 1879 the original cable *via* Banjoewangie was duplicated, the States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania having agreed to pay the above company a subsidy of £32,400 per annum for a period of twenty years, the amount to be divided between the States on a population basis. (b) In 1881 a cable was constructed connecting Broome, in Roebuck Bay, W.A., with Banjoewangie, and remained in operation until 1914, in which year it was taken up. (c) In July, 1899, the company offered to lay a cable direct to Great Britain *via* the Cape of Good Hope, and also offered reductions in the rates charged, if the States would agree to certain conditions giving the company the right of direct dealing with the public. The States of South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania accepted the terms offered, and New South Wales entered into the agreement in January, 1901. The cable was opened *via* Fremantle and Durban in October, 1901. (d) Another submarine cable from Fremantle to Adelaide forms an alternative line of communication between the eastern States and Western Australia. (e) There is an alternative route, partly belonging to the Eastern Extension Company and connecting the Port Darwin-Singapore cable with London, *via* Hong Kong, Shanghai, Possiet Bay (Pacific Russia), Libau (Russian Baltic), and Newbiggin (England). (f) In 1909 a cable was laid from Java to Cocos

Island, thus affording another route from Australia to South Africa, whilst in April, 1911, a radio-telegraphic station was opened at Cocos Island, thus strengthening the line of communication between Australia and the East.

4. **The Pacific Cable.**—In July, 1898, a conference of representatives of Great Britain, Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and New Zealand was held for the purpose of considering a project for a cable to be laid across the Pacific Ocean, touching only British territory on its way from Australia to Canada, thus providing an "All Red" route, as it is termed, for a cable system between England and Australia. In the following year it was agreed at a meeting held by representatives of the countries interested that the cable should be laid and that Great Britain and Canada should each pay five-eighteenths of the cost, and the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and the Dominion of New Zealand should each pay one-ninth. The construction and management of the cable were placed under the control of a Board composed of seven members—two each from Great Britain, Canada, and Australia, and one from New Zealand—called the Pacific Cable Board. The Australian shore-end of the cable was landed at Southport, Queensland, in March, 1902, and the cable was completed on the 31st October, 1902, and opened for traffic on the 7th December of the same year. There are cable stations at Norfolk Island, Fiji, and Fanning Island, and a branch cable runs from Norfolk Island to New Zealand. In 1910 the Board leased a wire from Bamfield, British Columbia, to Montreal, thus extending the Pacific cable system from Queensland to Montreal. The traffic is then carried across the Atlantic to the United Kingdom by the cables of the Anglo-American and Commercial Companies, or if desired the Marconi wireless system between Canada and the United Kingdom may be availed of for either homeward or outward messages at a reduction of 2d. on the through cable rate of 3s. per word. The operations of the Pacific cable for the year ended 31st March, 1919, resulted in a profit of £27,126, after providing working expenses, interest on loan and renewal fund contributions. A sum of £50,000 was also transferred to a suspense account, with a view to the improvement of the provident fund. In 1919 the total contributions to the renewal fund were £232,000, an amount greater by £95,000 than the sum set aside for the same purpose in 1918. In any comparison that may be made of the results for the years 1918 and 1919, the increase in the contributions to the renewal fund in 1919 and the amount transferred to suspense account should be borne in mind. It is recognised that the expenditure on renewals, etc., must continue to be much greater than before the war. After deducting the annual sinking fund instalment of £17,545 from the profit of £27,126, there remained a surplus of £9,581, whereof the Commonwealth's share was £3,193. In accordance with the Pacific Cable Act 1901 the surplus was applied in the reduction of the balance of the original loan of £2,000,000. The following table shews particulars of the revenue, expenditure, total profit or loss, and the proportion of the loss payable by the Commonwealth for the financial years 1911–15, and the proportion of profit credited to the Commonwealth for the years 1916–19.

**REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, AND PROFIT OR LOSS ON WORKING OF PACIFIC CABLE, 1911 TO 1919.**

Year ended the 31st March—	Revenue.	Expenditure (including Annuities and Renewal Fund).	Profit or Loss.	Commonwealth Proportion of Loss or Profit.
	£	£	£	£
1911 ..	138,678	186,888	Loss 48,210	Loss 16,071
1912 ..	159,150	199,649	" 40,499	" 13,500
1913 ..	167,901	200,171	" 32,270	" 10,757
1914 ..	197,848	217,798	" 19,950	" 6,650
1915 ..	225,045	232,961	" 7,916	" 2,638
1916 ..	310,516	292,592	Profit 17,924	Profit 5,975
1917 ..	336,774	332,543	" 4,231	" 1,410
1918 ..	411,061	385,668	" 25,393	" 8,464
1919 ..	564,097	554,516	" 9,581	" 3,193

5. **New Zealand Cables.**—A submarine cable joining New Zealand to the Australian Continent was laid in 1876. The line is 1,191 miles in length. The Australian shore-end of the cable is at Botany Bay, while the New Zealand terminus is at Wakapuaka, near Nelson, in the Middle Island, from which place another cable, 109 miles in length, is laid to Wanganui, in the North Island. For a period of ten years after its opening the cable was subsidised by the New South Wales and New Zealand Governments, the total contributions amounting to £10,000 a year. The branch from Norfolk Island to New Zealand of the Pacific cable was opened on the 23rd April, 1902. The length of this cable is 597 miles, the New Zealand terminus being at Doubtless Bay in the north of the North Island. During 1911 a scheme to lay a second cable between New Zealand and Australia (Auckland to Sydney) was adopted by the various Governments concerned, and the laying of the new cable was completed on the 24th December, 1912, the cable being opened for traffic on the 31st December, 1912.

6. **The New Caledonian Cable.**—In April, 1892, a French company, known as the Compagnie Française des Câbles Télégraphiques, entered into an agreement with the French, the New South Wales, and the Queensland Governments to lay down a submarine cable between New Caledonia and Queensland in return for guarantees by the French Government to the extent of £8,000, and by the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland to the amount of £2,000 each annually for a period of 30 years. The cable was opened for use in October, 1893, the Australian shore-end being at Burnett Heads, near Bundaberg. The guarantees of the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland have now been transferred to the Commonwealth Government.

7. **Number of Cablegrams Received and Despatched.**—The subjoined table shews the number of cablegrams received and despatched in the Commonwealth from 1916–17 to 1918–19 :—

**CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED, COMMONWEALTH,  
1916–17 TO 1918–19.**

Particulars	Cablegrams Received.			Cablegrams Despatched.			Total Cablegrams Received and Despatched.		
	1916–17.	1917–18.	1918–19.	1916–17.	1917–18.	1918–19.	1916–17.	1917–18.	1918–19.
Number ..	533,055	522,746	516,942	392,381	407,293	394,285	925,436	930,039	911,227

The following table shews the total number of cablegrams received and despatched in each State during the year 1918–19 :—

**NUMBER OF CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED IN EACH STATE,  
1918–19.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.(a)	C'wealth.
Number received ..	274,180	158,111	29,405	25,832	21,181	8,233	516,942
Number despatched	196,521	132,613	21,710	18,333	18,301	6,807	394,285
Total ..	470,701	290,724	51,115	44,165	39,482	15,040	911,227

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

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

## LENGTHS OF CABLE ROUTES.

<i>Via Darwin.</i>			<i>Via South Africa.</i>		
		Miles.			Miles.
Adelaide to Darwin	.. .. .	2,134	Perth to Mauritius	.. .. .	4,417
Darwin to Banjoewangie	.. .. .	1,150	Mauritius to Durban	.. .. .	1,786
Banjoewangie to London	.. .. .	9,841	Durban to Cape Town	.. .. .	800
			Cape Town to Madeira	.. .. .	5,715
			Madeira to Penzance	.. .. .	1,341
			Penzance to London	.. .. .	260
Total	.. .. .	13,125	Total	.. .. .	14,319

  

<i>Via Vancouver.</i>			<i>Via Russia.</i>		
		Miles.			Miles.
Southport (Queensland) to Norfolk Island	.. .. .	963	Sydney to Darwin	.. .. .	2,992
Norfolk Island to Suva (Fiji)	.. .. .	1,129	Darwin to Hong Kong	.. .. .	4,237
Suva to Fanning Island	.. .. .	2,351	Hong Kong to Possiet Bay	.. .. .	2,647
Fanning Island to Bamfield (Canada)	.. .. .	3,980	Possiet Bay to Libau	.. .. .	6,399
Across Canada	.. .. .	3,450	Libau to Newbiggin (England)	.. .. .	1,657
Canada to Ireland	.. .. .	2,450			
Total	.. .. .	14,323	Total	.. .. .	17,932

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

(i) *Present Rates to United Kingdom.* On the acceptance by three of the States of the terms offered by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for the construction of a cable *via* South Africa, the rate for ordinary messages was reduced in May, 1900, to four shillings a word. It was further reduced to three shillings and sixpence in January, 1901, and to three shillings in January, 1902, and this rate has since applied to all cable systems connected with Great Britain with the exception of a partly wireless service which has been introduced by the Pacific Cable Board, and for which the “through” rate has been fixed at two shillings and tenpence per word. Under this arrangement cablegrams passing between Australia and the United Kingdom are transmitted by the Pacific cable between Australia and Canada and by the Marconi Wireless system across the Atlantic. The scale for future reductions was to be based on a revenue standard and provided that the rate should be reduced to two shillings and sixpence per word, when the revenue averaged £330,000 per annum. In consequence of the abnormal

conditions created by the war, which involved a large increase in expenditure, this provision has been abrogated, but its restoration is anticipated with a return to normal conditions. In September, 1912, the "through" charge for press cables was reduced from ninepence to sevenpence-halfpenny per word.

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

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

The system was extended subsequently to messages between the Commonwealth and the Union of South Africa, India, Ceylon, Burma, Canada, Portugal, and Newfoundland. A further benefit was conferred on users, as week-end cables to the countries enumerated were transmitted by telegraph throughout without extra charge. The pressure on the cables during the war rendered the suspension of the week-end service necessary on numerous occasions, and that the position has not been relieved since the termination of hostilities is evidenced by the figures for 1918-19, when the restrictions imposed were responsible for a decrease of 1,800,546 words as compared with 1917-18, or approximately 80 per cent. of the total for that year.

The rates to the countries named, including the United Kingdom, are given hereunder:—

#### RATES FOR WEEK-END CABLE LETTERS.

Country.	Rate per Word.	Minimum Charge per Telegram.
United Kingdom .. .. .	9d.	15/-
Union of South Africa .. .. .	7d. (plus ¾d. for those lodged in Tasmania)	11/8
India, Ceylon, and Burma .. .. .	7½d.	12/6
Canada (ordinary rate 2s. 4d.) .. .. .	7d.	11/8
Other parts of Canada .. .. .	Sd. to 10d.	12/11 to 16/8
Newfoundland .. .. .	8½d.	13/9
Portugal .. .. .	9d.	15/-

Week-end cable letters may also be sent to the United Kingdom or Canada for transmission by registered post to other countries at an extra charge of 5d. per message.

(iv) *Rates to New Zealand.* As a result of the completion of the New Zealand branch of the Pacific cable in 1902, the rates charged for cablegrams between Australia and New Zealand, except to and from Tasmania, were uniformly reduced to fourpence-halfpenny per word. Between New Zealand and Tasmania the charge was fixed at fivepence-halfpenny a word, but it has since been reduced to fourpence-halfpenny. The charge for ordinary cablegrams from New Zealand to Great Britain was reduced from the 1st June, 1902, from five shillings and twopence to three shillings and fourpence a word, and has since been further reduced to three shillings a word.

10. *Subsidised Press Cable Service.*—In October, 1909, a Select Committee of the Commonwealth Senate was appointed to report upon the circumstances of the supply, conditions of sale, and distribution, which affect the Press Cable Service within and from outside the Commonwealth. A majority report of this Committee was issued in December, 1909, and recommended (a) the completion of an "All Red" cable route *via* Canada, (b) the conditional subsidisation of a press cable association, (c) the utilisation of the High Commissioner's office for the dissemination in Australia of Empire news, and (d) the amendment of the Copyright Act in regard to cables.

In accordance with the recommendations of this Committee the Commonwealth granted a total subsidy of £6,000, extending over a period of three years, to the Independent Press Cable Service, on the conditions that at least 6,000 cable words were supplied each week, to be sent *via* Pacific, and that any newspaper proprietary in the Commonwealth was permitted to become a subscriber at rates approved by the Government. This terminated on the 1st July, 1912, and a new arrangement was entered into under which the Commonwealth agreed to grant a subsidy of £2,000 per annum, provided that not less than 26,000 words were sent each month. A later agreement was drawn up to extend for a period of three years from 1st October, 1916, with an annual grant of £1,500, but within a year the service lapsed, the last payment being made by the Government in August, 1917.

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

The following table shews the total amounts paid by way of cable subsidies for the years 1913-14 to 1918-19 :—

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF CABLE SUBSIDIES PAID, 1913-14 TO 1918-19.**

Year	..	..	..	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
Amount	..	..	£	10,650	6,638	4,860	3,929	3,851	3,756

As the agreement in connexion with the Tasmanian cable expired in 1909, and as new cables were laid by the Commonwealth Government, the guarantees were, in the course of the year 1910, reduced to those in connexion with the New Caledonia and Pacific cables. The amount of cable subsidies paid by the Commonwealth in 1918-19 was in respect of the New Caledonian cable guarantee.

## § 4. Telephones.

1. *Development of Telephone Services.*—The Postal Department has established telephone services in all the capital towns and in many of the important centres of population throughout the Commonwealth. Particulars as to the revenue from telephone services for the years 1913-19 are given on page 738 *ante*.

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

**TELEPHONES.—RENTAL CHARGES, 30th JUNE, 1920.**

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

(a) Ground rent and call charge to be increased by 25 per cent. as from 1st October, 1920.

It is provided that for each effective call originating from a subscriber's instrument the charge shall be one penny, subject to the increase indicated in note (a) above.

3. **Particulars of Telephone Services.**—On 30th June, 1919, there were in the Commonwealth 157,314 telephone lines connected to 2,256 exchanges, as compared with 147,422 lines connected to 2,178 exchanges a year previously. The following tables shew the mileage of lines, etc., for telephone purposes, shewing trunk lines separately, on 30th June, 1918 and 1919:—

**MILEAGE OF LINES, ETC., FOR TELEPHONE PURPOSES (EXCLUSIVE OF TRUNK LINES), 30th JUNE, 1918 AND 1919.**

Particulars.	1918.	1919.
Conduits .. .. duct miles	2,433	2,456
Conductors in aerial cables .. .. loop mileage	38,747	38,543
Conductors in underground cables .. .. „	200,277	204,885
Conductors in cables for junction circuits .. .. „	25,117	24,835
Open conductors .. .. single wire mileage	177,185	179,941

**MILEAGE OF WIRES, TELEPHONE TRUNK LINES, 1918 AND 1919.**

Particulars.	1918.	1919.
	Miles.	Miles.
Telephone trunk lines only .. ..	25,343	25,076
Telegraph and telephone purposes .. ..	74,682	78,004



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

PARTICULARS OF TELEPHONE SERVICE, 1917, 1918, AND 1919.

Particulars.	Year (30th June.)	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total C'wealth.
No. of Exchanges ..	1917	765	622	256	189	111	101	2,044
	1918	825	662	270	196	111	114	2,178
	1919	853	634	285	203	112	119	2,256
No. of lines connected ..	1917	57,553	38,025	18,562	10,742	8,470	4,300	137,652
	1918	62,123	40,754	19,923	11,598	8,574	4,450	147,422
	1919	65,734	44,035	21,146	12,619	9,026	4,754	157,314
No. of instruments connected	1917	72,884	51,820	22,616	14,521	10,760	5,136	177,737
	1918	78,886	55,839	24,421	15,780	10,995	5,454	191,375
	1919	84,118	60,376	26,152	17,189	11,599	5,838	205,272
No. of subscribers' instruments	1917	70,058	49,358	21,474	13,916	10,135	5,000	169,941
	1918	75,793	53,320	23,216	15,125	10,338	5,272	183,064
	1919	80,996	57,811	24,910	16,514	11,008	5,659	196,898
No. of public telephones ..	1917	1,421	1,278	748	402	328	106	4,283
	1918	1,521	1,321	793	421	329	74	4,459
	1919	1,558	1,363	822	437	337	75	4,597
No. of other local instruments	1917	1,405	1,184	394	203	297	30	3,513
	1918	1,572	1,198	412	234	328	108	3,852
	1919	1,564	1,197	420	238	254	104	3,777
Instruments per 100 of population	1917	3.9	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.5	2.6	3.6
	1918	4.2	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.5	2.7	3.9
	1919	4.4	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.6	2.8	4.1
Earnings ..		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	1917	648,850	447,120	231,180	137,579	94,219	44,159	1,603,107
	1918	715,566	479,684	257,226	152,496	99,905	47,692	1,752,569
1919	777,859	526,411	275,616	171,843	108,010	54,144	1,913,883	
Working expenses ..	1917	538,832	317,026	166,525	84,436	101,020	38,987	1,246,826
	1918	536,741	330,587	168,238	99,987	98,648	40,853	1,275,054
	1919	573,304	335,977	177,605	96,548	95,203	40,796	1,324,638
Percentage of working expenses to earnings		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
	1917	83.04	70.90	72.03	61.37	107.22	88.29	77.78
	1918	75.01	68.92	65.40	65.57	98.74	85.66	72.75
1919	74.35	63.82	64.51	56.18	88.15	75.35	69.21	

The subjoined table gives the number of subscribers' lines and the daily calling rate at Central, Suburban, and Country telephone exchanges in the several States for the year 1918-19. A comparison of the daily calling rates for each class of exchange shews New South Wales to have registered the greatest number per line at Central exchanges, South Australia at Suburban exchanges, and Queensland at Country exchanges. Taking the figures for the Commonwealth, it will be observed that the average number of calls per line at Central exchanges was almost double the number registered at Suburban exchanges, while the average for Suburban exchanges was slightly less than double the number shewn for Country exchanges.

NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS' LINES AND DAILY CALLING RATE AT TELEPHONE EXCHANGES, 1918-1919.

State.	Central Exchanges.		Suburban Exchanges.		Country Exchanges.		Total.	
	Subscribers' Lines.	Average Outward Calls Daily per line.	Subscribers' Lines.	Average Outward Calls Daily per line.	Subscribers' Lines.	Average Outward Calls Daily per line.	Subscribers' Lines.	Average Outward Calls Daily per line.
New South Wales	9,477	9.9	27,383	3.9	24,209	1.9	61,069	4.0
Victoria ..	10,545	7.8	17,675	3.6	12,990	1.6	41,210	4.0
Queensland ..	5,452	7.9	2,610	3.5	11,910	2.9	19,972	4.3
South Australia	5,389	5.5	3,236	5.3	3,610	1.4	12,235	4.2
Western Australia	3,140	6.1	1,876	4.8	3,227	2.1	8,243	4.2
Tasmania ..	1,879	5.3	216	2.7	2,659	1.8	4,754	3.2
Commonwealth	35,882	7.7	52,996	3.9	58,605	2.0	147,483	4.1

In the following table the number of Telephone Trunk Line Calls recorded, the amount of revenue received, and the average revenue per call are shewn for each of the States for the years 1916-17 to 1918-19 :—

## TRUNK LINE CALLS AND REVENUE FOR THE YEARS 1916-17 TO 1918-19.

Particulars.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Common- wealth.
Total Calls for Year—	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1916-17 ..	3,605,878	2,191,689	1,589,033	620,743	342,836	421,984	8,772,163
1917-18 ..	4,007,208	2,445,245	1,696,096	719,930	351,400	454,294	9,674,173
1918-19 ..	4,484,816	2,797,346	1,861,431	883,517	418,984	557,002	11,003,096
Total Revenue for Year—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916-17 ..	100,836	79,200	66,699	26,000	13,337	13,023	299,104
1917-18 ..	133,453	88,416	78,535	31,374	14,827	14,618	361,223
1918-19 ..	155,345	100,335	87,273	39,694	17,873	18,567	419,087
Average Revenue per Call—	Pence.	Pence.	Pence.	Pence.	Pence.	Pence.	Pence.
1916-17 ..	6.71	8.67	10.07	10.06	9.34	7.41	8.18
1917-18 ..	7.99	8.68	11.11	10.46	10.13	7.72	8.96
1918-19 ..	8.31	8.61	11.25	10.78	10.24	8.00	9.14