

## 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 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, 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 make any alteration in the charges made in the individual States for the transmission of letters, cards, parcels, and packets. At the present time there are anomalies in postal rates, to which reference is made hereinafter.

2. **First Post Office in Australia.**—The first Australian office for postal purposes was established in Sydney by Lieutenant-Governor Paterson under a Government order dated the 25th April, 1809, which declared that owing to complaints having been made that numerous frauds had been committed by individuals repairing on board ships on their arrival in port, and personating others, by which they wrongfully obtained possession of letters and parcels, the Lieutenant-Governor had established an office at which all parcels and letters arriving by any vessel, addressed to the inhabitants of the colony, were to be deposited previous to their distribution. The office was in High-street (now known as George-street) at the residence of Mr. Isaac Nicholls, who was empowered "in consideration of the trouble and expense attendant on this duty" to charge on delivery to the addressee the following sums:—For every letter, one shilling; for every parcel not exceeding 20 lbs. weight, two shillings and sixpence; and for all exceeding that weight,

five shillings. A list was to be published in the *Gazette* of the names of persons to whom letters and parcels were directed. Soldiers' letters were charged only one penny. The duties of this office were extended in June, 1810, by Governor Macquarie, who established it as a regular post office, at which all parcels and letters, either colonial or foreign, were to be deposited previous to their distribution. Mr. Nicholls was appointed postmaster, and was authorised to charge on delivery to the addressee eightpence for every English or foreign letter of whatever weight, and for every parcel weighing not more than 20 lbs., one shilling and sixpence, and exceeding that weight, three shillings. The charge on colonial letters was fourpence irrespective of weight, and soldiers' letters, or letters addressed to soldiers' wives, were charged one penny.

**3. Postal Services in Early Days.**—After the establishment of the first post-office in Sydney very little improvement in regard to postal matters took place for a number of years, and it was not until 1825 that an Act was passed by Sir Thomas Brisbane, with the advice of the Council, "to regulate the postage of letters in New South Wales." This enactment provided for the establishment of post offices in Sydney and in other parts of the colony, for the appointment and payment of postmasters, and for the determination of rates for the conveyance of letters in the colony and for the delivery of letters from abroad. A proclamation under this Act was issued, fixing the rates of postage and the salaries and allowances of postmasters, and inviting tenders for the conveyance of mails between Sydney and Parramatta, Windsor and Liverpool; between Liverpool and Campbelltown; from Parramatta to Emu Plains, and thence to Bathurst. It was not, however, until 1828 that the provisions of the Act were put into full force and a system of general post-office communication was established. In that year rates of postage were fixed, depending upon the distance and the difficulty of transmission. The lowest single inland rate was threepence and the highest one shilling, the postage on a letter increasing according to its weight, the minimum fee being charged on letters not exceeding a quarter of an ounce. The fee for newspapers was one penny. Letters from New South Wales to Van Diemen's Land were charged threepence each, while other letters by ship were charged fourpence each single rate, and sixpence for any weight in excess. The Act of 1825 was amended by the Postal Act of 1835, under which the Governor was authorised to establish a General Post Office at Sydney, and to make rules and regulations, and to fix rates for the conveyance of letters and parcels. The charge on a single letter was fixed at fourpence for a distance of fifteen miles, fivepence for twenty miles, sixpence for thirty miles, and so on up to one shilling for 300 miles. For every letter sent by sea from one part of the colony to another the charge was fourpence. Newspapers printed in the colony, if transmitted within seven days from the date of publication, and all newspapers from abroad were conveyed free, while public officers and members of the Executive and Legislative Councils were allowed to frank letters, subject to prescribed regulations. In 1837 a post office was established in Melbourne, and a fortnightly service was established between that city and Sydney. In the same year stamps were introduced in the form of stamped covers or wrappers, which are said to have been the first postage stamps ever used. Post offices were established and a postal service was organised in the other States of the Commonwealth shortly after their settlement, and a tolerably good overland service by horses and mail coaches soon developed between the capitals and the up-country towns, villages, and stations as settlement progressed. In Tasmania the mails were delivered in 1824 by foot post once a fortnight, while in 1835 a mail cart made the journey twice a week from Hobart to Launceston—121 miles—in nineteen hours. In Western Australia the Legislative Council passed an Act establishing a postal department in 1834; a weekly mail between Guildford and York and an overland monthly mail from Perth to King George's Sound were commenced in 1841, and in the following year a regular mail service between all the settled districts of the State was inaugurated. By the year 1838 there were forty post offices in New South Wales, which at that time included the Port Phillip (Victoria) and the Moreton Bay (Queensland) districts, employing altogether

fifty-two persons. The revenue for the year was £8391, and the expenditure £10,357, while a total number of 489,772 letters and 297,245 newspapers were dealt with at the post office in Sydney. In the same year the post office at Port Phillip transmitted 7424 letters and 2795 newspapers, the revenue being £230.

4. **Development of Postal Services.**—The New South Wales Postal Act of 1835, referred to above, was amended in 1838, 1840, and again in 1851, when the postage on town letters, *i.e.*, letters received at any post office for delivery at such post office or at any place within the limits of the township in which such post office was situated, was fixed at one penny; for letters transmitted between separate postal towns the postage was twopence, and for letters received from or to be transmitted by ship to places beyond the limits of the colony the fee was threepence in addition to the inland postage. For parcels the rate was twopence up to four ounces weight, and one halfpenny for every additional ounce. The postage on all letters and packets was to be prepaid, and the Governor of New South Wales was authorised to arrange with the Governor of the newly-established State of Victoria for the mutual exemption from further postage of all letters and packets received in either of the respective States, upon which the established rates of postage in the other said State had been already prepaid. Masters of vessels were obliged, under penalty, to deliver up all mails and postal packets, on demand, to the postmaster at any port, and masters of departing vessels were likewise compelled to take and deliver mails from one port to another, the masters being entitled, in each case, to an allowance of one penny for each letter or packet. It is interesting, at the present time, to notice that the Postal Amendment Act of 1840 contained a clause making it compulsory, under a penalty of from £10 to £50, for the masters of all steamboats or other vessels entering a port “to give timely notice of the near approach thereof, either by the ringing of a bell or by such other signal as may reasonably be expected to be distinctly heard or seen by the postmaster, a sufficient time before the actual arrival of such steamboat or other vessel, to enable him to receive or despatch any mail on board.” Regular mail communication was established between Sydney and Adelaide in 1847, and the rate of postage, on a single letter, was fixed at one shilling and sixpence. In the State of Victoria an Act was passed in 1854 providing for the extension of postal facilities and fixing the rates to be charged for the transmission of letters. The postage on town letters was twopence; on letters for transmission between separate postal towns, sixpence; and on letters for transmission beyond the limits of the State, one shilling. Mails were conveyed along the main roads by mail coaches, built after the style of the old-fashioned English coaches; after the discovery of gold, in 1851, coaches built on the model of the Mexican *estafeta* gradually supplanted the old style. Mails were despatched at night and were delivered with greater rapidity until they were finally sent by railway. The history of the post office in Australia, subsequent to the discovery of gold, has been one of great progress and improvement.

(i.) *Number of Post Offices, Letters and Postcards, and Newspapers, 1841 to 1906.* The number of post offices open in each State and in the Commonwealth at decennial periods since 1841, and at the end of each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive, is given in the subjoined table, which also shews, for the same years, the total number of letters and postcards dealt with, and the number per 100 of the population, as well as the total number of newspapers dealt with, and the number per 100 of the population in each State and in the Commonwealth. The true total number of letters and postcards and of newspapers dealt with is not obtained by merely adding the figures of the several States together, since interstate letters are counted both in the State from which they are despatched and in that in which they are received for delivery. A second total is therefore given, excluding such interstate excess, obtained by subtracting from the first total for all the States half the sum of the number of interstate letters despatched and received in each of the States:—

## DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL SERVICES, 1841 TO 1906.

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland. †	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Commonwealth.	C'wealth (excluding Interstate Excess).
NUMBER OF POST OFFICES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1841 TO 1906.								
1841	56	3	*	...	...	...	143	102
1851	101	44	*	72	...	...	51	288
1861	340	369	23	160	14	...	100	1,006
1871	570	706	81	286	39	...	144	1,826
1881	973	1,158	141	488	52	...	206	3,018
1891	1,384	1,729	307	629	86	...	328	4,463
1901	1,684	1,637	411	713	187	...	376	5,008
1902	1,693	1,645	433	702	197	...	369	5,039
1903	1,708	1,646	441	706	218	...	370	5,089
1904	1,728	1,652	450	711	243	...	371	5,153
1905	1,744	1,655	447	711	261	...	370	5,182
1906	1,769	1,659	468	706	281	...	373	5,256

## NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS DEALT WITH IN EACH STATE AND IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

1841	720,168	56,704	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851	975,318	504,425	*	364,595	...	...	...	...
1861	4,369,463	6,109,929	515,211	1,540,472	193,317	835,873	13,564,265	12,844,800
1871	7,509,500	11,716,166	1,792,844	3,162,774	1,068,957	1,189,994	26,040,035	24,382,300
1881	26,355,600	26,303,347	5,178,547	10,758,605	995,198	2,632,329	72,278,616	67,640,800
1891	64,153,600	82,526,448	15,345,842	17,836,092	3,192,992	5,852,381	168,807,355	157,297,800
1901	82,783,467	82,598,886	23,269,622	21,895,216	17,450,878	11,173,493	238,671,562	220,177,642
1902	90,781,395	96,485,547	23,444,537	20,955,802	18,151,014	9,879,438	259,197,733	241,795,469
1903	92,238,211	98,810,621	24,244,089	22,153,343	15,786,777	9,911,692	263,144,733	244,945,361
1904	98,270,187	102,515,210	25,256,102	25,050,068	18,588,959	10,752,111	280,431,737	259,167,997
1905	111,980,588	110,455,179	27,309,605	29,094,568	22,106,829	12,615,971	313,542,740	289,584,931
1906	127,683,844	116,459,106	31,462,676	29,357,065	24,829,601	14,552,661	344,344,956	317,118,583

## NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS DEALT WITH PER 100 OF THE POPULATION.

1841	617	483	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851	495	652	*	548	...	...	...	...
1861	1,237	1,132	1,651	1,228	1,240	929	1,175	1,113
1871	1,478	1,590	1,489	1,712	1,668	1,175	1,553	1,454
1881	3,445	3,024	2,286	3,885	3,372	2,304	3,164	2,961
1891	5,616	5,460	3,870	5,548	6,414	3,929	5,270	4,907
1901	6,033	6,821	4,813	5,840	9,306	6,436	6,237	5,758
1902	6,519	7,964	4,592	5,715	8,508	5,285	6,675	6,226
1903	6,483	8,174	4,729	6,042	7,168	5,554	6,701	6,237
1904	6,793	8,470	4,832	6,686	7,919	5,991	7,038	6,504
1905	7,572	9,064	5,144	7,764	8,834	7,038	7,737	7,146
1906	8,363	9,453	5,879	7,648	9,486	8,078	8,358	7,698

## NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS DEALT WITH.

1841	1,126,872	120,227	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851	762,307	456,741	*	517,722	...	...	...	...
1861	3,384,245	4,277,179	427,189	1,089,424	137,476	895,656	10,211,469	9,603,000
1871	3,992,100	5,172,970	1,307,805	2,212,620	1,352,608	1,136,338	14,173,941	13,336,200
1881	16,527,900	11,440,732	4,530,263	5,927,332	715,046	2,345,700	41,486,973	38,063,800
1891	42,517,300	22,720,005	11,896,148	8,883,103	1,665,862	5,376,142	93,067,560	85,280,200
1901	52,317,650	26,297,430	12,604,964	9,572,723	7,975,208	7,440,146	116,403,121	102,727,383
1902	47,763,350	27,874,414	13,127,606	6,299,092	9,916,544	6,959,902	111,940,908	98,568,172
1903	37,900,840	31,364,421	13,510,626	6,124,802	8,125,086	7,183,733	104,209,508	92,844,014
1904	40,384,812	32,141,611	14,516,936	6,952,851	8,575,410	7,256,913	109,831,533	93,269,655
1905	44,599,104	29,563,169	16,337,562	7,737,218	10,054,035	9,173,172	117,470,260	97,789,906
1906	47,144,094	29,610,839	17,612,881	8,744,619	9,941,153	10,194,856	123,248,442	103,838,931

## NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS DEALT WITH PER 100 OF THE POPULATION.

1841	965	1,024	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851	386	590	*	778	...	...	...	...
1861	958	792	1,370	868	862	995	885	832
1871	786	702	1,086	1,198	1,407	1,122	845	795
1881	2,140	1,315	2,000	2,140	2,423	2,015	1,816	1,666
1891	3,722	3,985	3,000	2,763	3,346	3,609	2,904	2,661
1901	3,813	2,172	2,538	2,617	4,253	4,285	3,042	2,685
1902	3,430	2,301	2,569	1,718	4,649	3,922	2,882	2,538
1903	2,664	2,594	2,635	1,661	3,580	4,035	2,653	2,364
1904	2,792	2,655	2,772	1,865	3,655	4,036	2,756	2,341
1905	3,016	2,426	3,078	2,045	4,018	5,121	2,899	2,413
1906	3,087	2,400	3,291	2,278	3,797	5,658	2,992	2,520

\* Included in New South Wales. † In 1844. ‡ In 1872. § In 1890. ¶ The figures up to and including the year 1903 are partially estimated.

(ii.) *Number of Parcels and Packets dealt with, 1901 to 1906.* The following table shows the total number of parcels and packets dealt with in each State and in the Commonwealth during each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive:—

NUMBER OF PARCELS AND PACKETS DEALT WITH, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
PARCELS.						
New South Wales	736,496	785,528	834,329	924,920	994,144	1,162,185
Victoria ...	310,674	366,028	429,295	424,924	469,496	510,822
Queensland ...	309,053	303,497	314,312	358,280	389,266	464,370
South Australia ...	77,341	86,086	112,330	132,390	146,064	167,081
Western Australia	35,823	36,368	77,069	87,996	119,705	157,801
Tasmania ...	40,400	47,087	57,947	64,274	69,212	76,537
Commonwealth... C'wth (excluding interstate excess)*	1,509,787 1,369,069	1,624,594 1,468,616	1,825,282 1,651,140	1,992,784 1,790,883	2,187,887 1,958,815	2,538,796 2,283,998
PACKETS.						
New South Wales	14,479,891	16,209,912	15,471,092	18,560,464	22,082,950	24,038,946
Victoria ...	14,235,342	12,179,520	12,545,132	14,388,832	14,964,652	16,266,829
Queensland ...	7,333,094	7,453,165	8,126,787	8,430,488	10,121,206	10,231,159
South Australia ...	1,627,616	1,768,981	2,206,887	1,977,994	2,208,646	2,972,699
Western Australia	4,387,025	5,127,666	3,841,787	3,663,977	4,626,251	4,321,116
Tasmania ...	2,238,632	2,599,446	2,961,620	2,901,154	3,029,205	3,528,373
Commonwealth... C'wth (excluding interstate excess)*	44,301,600 40,161,527	45,338,690 41,012,586	45,153,305 40,221,250	49,922,909 44,359,571	57,032,910 51,174,904	61,359,122 54,633,499

\* In the figures given in this line allowance is made for the fact that in the aggregate obtained by adding together the results for the several States, interstate mail matter is included twice, being counted both in the despatching and in the receiving State. As to the method in which this allowance is computed, see page 600.

5. **Postal Matter Dealt with, 1901 to 1906.**—In the preceding tables is shown only the *total number* of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels and packets dealt with—*i.e.*, despatched and received—by the Postal Department in each State, regardless of the place from which they are despatched or of the place at which they are received for delivery. In the following tables the total numbers of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels, and packets dealt with are divided into (i.) those posted in each State for delivery within the Commonwealth, (ii.) those received in each State from places outside the Commonwealth, and (iii.) those despatched from each State to places outside the Commonwealth.

(i.) *Matter Posted in each State for Delivery within the Commonwealth, 1901 to 1906.* The matter dealt with under this heading is classified in the two following tables, shewing (a) matter posted in each State for delivery within that State, and (b) matter posted in each State for delivery in other States of the Commonwealth, while the third table (c) shows the total matter posted in each State for delivery within the Commonwealth. *i.e.*, it shows the sums of the corresponding figures in tables (a) and (b).

(a) Matter Posted in each State for Delivery within that State, 1901 to 1906. The following table shews the number of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels and packets posted in each State for delivery within that State during each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive:—

NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS, NEWSPAPERS, PARCELS, AND PACKETS POSTED IN EACH STATE FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THAT STATE, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.						
N.S.W. ...	67,925,984	75,852,084	77,314,607	80,231,842	90,671,978	102,789,751
Victoria ...	70,255,396	83,748,327	84,871,415	86,802,756	92,340,704	95,757,186
Queensland	17,390,188	17,614,393	17,791,989	19,231,270	20,795,383	23,590,479
South Aust.	16,910,586	16,659,018	17,722,642	19,688,314	23,334,640	22,577,579
West. Aust.	12,327,468	13,005,204	10,345,152	10,479,402	12,868,528	16,537,261
Tasmania ...	6,247,259	6,099,517	6,384,168	6,460,382	7,374,950	8,431,533
C'wealth ...	191,056,881	212,978,543	214,429,973	222,893,966	247,386,183	269,683,789

NEWSPAPERS.

N.S.W. ...	41,571,970	37,775,680	27,725,960	28,284,096	30,303,360	30,832,896
Victoria ...	14,000,095	14,901,804	18,064,141	17,800,589	12,948,945	12,634,907
Queensland	8,764,496	8,717,366	8,683,904	9,460,181	10,505,320	11,460,017
South Aust.	6,682,943	3,663,861	3,529,580	3,987,094	4,727,698	5,563,811
West. Aust.	2,891,166	4,621,341	2,808,552	2,680,425	3,017,218	4,336,732
Tasmania ...	4,797,476	4,427,758	4,659,597	4,411,549	6,310,208	6,767,566
C'wealth ...	78,708,146	74,107,810	65,471,734	66,623,934	67,812,749	71,595,929

PARCELS.

N.S.W. ...	591,656	631,261	667,041	739,666	788,183	926,638
Victoria ...	206,409	239,016	281,985	262,216	291,271	312,084
Queensland	251,085	242,328	255,160	279,514	302,886	376,045
South Aust.	45,015	49,505	71,975	86,787	96,581	110,478
West. Aust.	...	...	34,523	38,864	68,920	100,632
Tasmania ...	18,535	20,947	29,029	32,926	33,760	37,162
C'wealth ...	1,112,700	1,183,057	1,339,713	1,439,973	1,581,601	1,863,039

PACKETS.

N.S.W. ...	11,461,597	13,129,324	12,245,488	13,770,518	16,767,982	18,270,237
Victoria ...	10,128,622	7,683,184	8,015,331	9,039,944	9,524,237	10,459,968
Queensland	5,222,546	5,431,727	5,620,802	6,352,844	8,005,610	7,780,438
South Aust.	605,189	645,361	937,359	727,230	868,365	911,487
West. Aust.	3,007,408	3,684,376	2,396,291	1,761,005	2,337,346	2,545,787
Tasmania ...	1,401,836	1,559,806	1,789,891	1,912,863	2,107,201	2,412,387
C'wealth ...	31,827,198	32,133,778	31,005,162	33,564,404	39,610,741	42,380,304

(b) Matter Posted in each State for Delivery in other States, 1901 to 1906. The following table shows the number of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels, and packets posted in each State for delivery in a State other than that in which it was posted:—

NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS, NEWSPAPERS, PARCELS, AND PACKETS POSTED IN EACH STATE FOR DELIVERY IN OTHER STATES, 1901 TO 1906:—

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.						
New South Wales	5,671,853	5,129,527	5,029,303	6,236,232	7,458,758	8,896,101
Victoria ...	4,268,461	4,840,160	4,529,610	5,012,658	5,906,712	6,789,347
Queensland ...	2,450,980	2,444,813	2,749,391	2,014,923	2,242,225	2,712,888
South Australia ...	1,864,523	1,761,306	1,856,096	2,130,061	2,343,933	2,829,127
Western Australia	1,680,748	1,655,288	1,851,819	2,607,306	2,918,067	2,680,078
Tasmania ...	2,536,300	1,774,752	1,727,921	2,273,810	2,510,983	2,842,007
Commonwealth	18,472,865	17,575,846	17,743,640	20,274,990	23,380,678	26,749,548

NEWSPAPERS.						
New South Wales	4,226,410	3,472,890	3,648,260	4,646,004	5,558,772	7,249,098
Victoria ...	6,730,697	7,182,888	6,457,244	7,591,956	9,224,864	9,572,498
Queensland ...	868,529	835,997	1,019,072	726,250	850,462	818,634
South Australia ...	757,189	749,816	783,907	935,598	1,149,897	1,106,037
Western Australia	787,952	796,849	797,919	1,135,465	1,277,897	881,921
Tasmania ...	304,254	321,704	324,624	351,882	330,750	365,117
Commonwealth	13,675,031	13,360,144	13,031,026	15,387,155	18,392,642	19,993,305

PARCELS.						
New South Wales	58,928	58,797	64,376	71,398	83,057	97,926
Victoria ...	49,988	62,443	72,975	83,182	93,756	104,827
Queensland ...	12,633	13,400	14,046	17,701	18,096	20,896
South Australia ...	10,617	11,592	11,882	14,056	15,175	16,884
Western Australia	5,393	5,861	8,359	9,237	9,760	10,715
Tasmania ...	2,559	4,170	4,054	4,953	5,684	6,275
Commonwealth	140,118	156,263	175,692	200,527	225,528	257,523

PACKETS.						
New South Wales	1,292,172	1,178,251	1,202,019	2,259,228	2,713,553	3,400,754
Victoria ...	1,700,851	1,714,684	1,596,890	1,865,814	1,786,938	1,893,565
Queensland ...	816,927	822,901	995,663	343,958	353,812	550,092
South Australia ...	198,702	350,734	230,812	233,355	220,239	277,296
Western Australia	461,035	483,240	484,242	473,602	619,091	366,577
Tasmania ...	98,580	99,681	143,739	156,142	161,353	226,581
Commonwealth	4,568,267	4,649,491	4,653,365	5,332,099	5,854,986	6,714,865

## POSTS.

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(c) Matter Posted in each State for Delivery within the Commonwealth, 1901 to 1906. The subjoined table shews the number of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels, and packets posted in each State for delivery within the Commonwealth during each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive, i.e., the figures in the subjoined table shew the sum of the corresponding figures for each State and during each year in the two last preceding tables:—

NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS, NEWSPAPERS, PARCELS, AND PACKETS POSTED IN EACH STATE FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.						
N.S.W. ...	73,597,837	80,981,611	82,343,910	86,468,074	98,130,736	111,685,852
Victoria ...	74,523,857	88,588,487	89,401,025	91,815,414	98,247,416	102,546,533
Queensland	19,841,168	20,059,206	20,541,380	21,246,193	23,037,608	26,303,367
South Aust.	18,775,109	18,420,324	19,578,738	21,818,375	25,678,573	25,406,706
West. Aust.	14,008,216	14,660,492	12,196,471	13,086,708	15,786,595	19,217,339
Tasmania...	8,783,559	7,844,269	8,112,089	8,734,192	9,885,933	11,273,540
C'wealth ...	209,529,746	230,554,389	232,173,613	243,168,956	270,766,861	296,433,337
NEWSPAPERS.						
N.S.W. ...	45,798,380	41,248,570	31,374,220	32,930,100	35,862,132	38,081,994
Victoria ...	20,730,792	22,084,692	24,521,385	25,392,545	22,173,809	22,207,405
Queensland	9,633,025	9,553,363	9,702,976	10,186,431	11,355,782	12,278,651
South Aust.	7,440,132	4,413,677	4,313,487	4,922,692	5,877,595	6,669,848
West Aust.	3,679,118	5,418,190	3,606,471	3,815,890	4,295,115	5,218,653
Tasmania...	5,101,730	4,749,462	4,984,221	4,763,431	6,640,958	7,132,683
C'wealth ...	92,383,177	87,467,954	78,502,760	82,011,089	86,205,391	91,589,234
PARCELS.						
N.S.W. ...	650,584	690,058	731,417	811,064	871,240	1,024,564
Victoria ...	256,397	301,459	354,960	345,398	385,027	416,911
Queensland	263,718	255,728	269,206	297,215	320,982	396,941
South Aust.	55,632	61,097	83,857	100,843	111,756	127,362
West. Aust.	5,393	5,861	42,882	48,101	78,680	111,347
Tasmania...	21,094	25,117	33,083	37,879	39,444	43,437
C'wealth ...	1,252,818	1,339,320	1,515,405	1,640,500	1,807,129	2,120,562
PACKETS.						
N.S.W. ...	12,753,769	14,307,575	13,447,507	16,029,746	19,481,535	21,670,991
Victoria ...	11,829,473	9,397,868	9,612,221	10,905,758	11,311,175	12,353,533
Queensland	6,039,473	6,254,628	6,616,465	6,696,802	8,359,422	8,330,530
South Aust.	803,891	996,095	1,168,171	960,585	1,088,604	1,188,783
West. Aust.	3,468,443	4,167,616	2,880,533	2,234,607	2,956,437	2,912,364
Tasmania...	1,500,416	1,659,487	1,933,630	2,069,005	2,268,554	2,638,968
C'wealth ...	36,395,465	36,783,269	35,658,527	38,896,503	45,465,727	49,095,169

(ii.) *Postal Matter Received in each State from Places Outside the Commonwealth, 1901 to 1906.* The following table shews the number of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels, and packets received for delivery in each State from places outside the Commonwealth:—

NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS, NEWSPAPERS, PARCELS, AND PACKETS RECEIVED IN EACH STATE FROM PLACES OUTSIDE THE COMMONWEALTH, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.						
N.S.W. ...	2,150,357	2,551,893	2,552,105	2,961,837	4,017,563	3,851,371
Victoria ...	1,416,894	1,757,202	1,707,639	2,205,662	2,635,050	2,910,239
Queensland ...	851,905	890,316	893,388	862,284	872,485	983,917
South Aust. ...	348,322	288,522	312,538	435,807	460,628	541,241
West. Aust. ...	586,819	602,167	603,141	1,198,054	1,291,444	1,114,017
Tasmania ...	327,498	252,282	223,085	199,158	411,911	414,059
Commonwealth	5,681,795	6,342,382	6,291,896	7,862,802	9,689,081	9,814,844
NEWSPAPERS.						
N.S.W. ...	1,509,000	1,433,930	1,615,640	1,714,866	2,163,186	2,431,542
Victoria ...	2,150,232	2,534,410	2,262,854	2,435,640	2,760,220	2,607,580
Queensland ...	1,489,572	1,467,079	1,421,911	1,403,062	1,229,985	1,209,828
South Aust. ...	654,799	514,328	453,974	563,455	515,949	488,578
West. Aust. ...	1,036,275	1,054,761	1,055,771	1,021,557	1,176,276	816,763
Tasmania ...	443,382	337,812	305,240	356,207	349,872	418,904
Commonwealth	7,283,260	7,342,320	7,115,390	7,494,787	8,195,488	7,973,195
PARCELS.						
N.S.W. ...	30,415	30,168	30,816	34,011	33,369	38,285
Victoria ...	20,345	23,502	26,702	26,449	26,503	28,847
Queensland ...	9,440	9,990	10,192	14,300	10,387	11,889
South Aust. ...	7,418	8,008	8,080	8,420	8,379	9,693
West. Aust. ...	8,568	9,250	9,971	11,431	10,211	12,397
Tasmania ...	4,438	4,778	4,636	3,922	4,881	5,143
Commonwealth	80,624	85,696	90,397	98,533	93,730	106,254
PACKETS.						
N.S.W. ...	516,017	476,865	532,423	714,054	695,443	*107,403
Victoria ...	1,075,116	1,267,205	1,131,427	1,217,820	1,380,109	1,303,790
Queensland ...	622,182	613,683	553,225	452,614	633,305	443,586
South Aust. ...	327,399	257,164	226,986	281,727	257,974	244,289
West. Aust. ...	191,533	196,893	196,919	431,600	439,525	430,499
Tasmania ...	143,502	369,444	179,987	160,180	129,511	158,651
Commonwealth	2,875,749	3,181,254	2,820,967	3,257,995	3,535,867	2,688,218

\* This figure is determined on a basis different from that adopted in previous years.

(iii.) *Matter Posted in each State for Delivery Outside the Commonwealth, 1901 to 1906.* The following is a similar table and shews the matter posted in each State for delivery outside the Commonwealth :—

NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS, NEWSPAPERS, PARCELS, AND PACKETS POSTED IN EACH STATE FOR DELIVERY OUTSIDE THE COMMONWEALTH, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.						
New South Wales	1,639,610	2,145,760	2,292,600	2,960,424	3,297,050	4,073,309
Victoria ...	1,335,572	1,235,388	1,890,706	2,217,936	2,602,122	3,100,550
Queensland ...	550,491	562,193	549,904	575,005	621,601	670,330
South Australia ...	340,029	341,400	337,461	374,228	520,298	727,188
Western Australia	460,954	492,671	493,981	590,897	674,100	757,367
Tasmania ...	618,390	294,867	459,469	429,000	836,686	1,065,433
Commonwealth ...	4,945,046	5,072,279	6,024,121	7,147,490	8,551,857	10,394,177

NEWSPAPERS.						
New South Wales	801,430	1,438,170	1,494,260	1,735,428	1,857,396	1,912,890
Victoria ...	1,344,365	1,115,640	2,147,958	2,091,810	2,096,196	2,063,868
Queensland ...	353,162	313,286	314,706	304,907	300,874	311,984
South Australia ...	162,422	141,766	147,093	148,431	127,508	167,179
Western Australia	210,988	248,614	247,998	252,788	254,566	207,531
Tasmania ...	182,868	182,022	96,786	115,439	153,438	196,842
Commonwealth ...	3,055,235	3,439,498	4,448,801	4,648,803	4,789,978	4,860,294

PARCELS.						
New South Wales	13,628	21,171	22,405	22,921	25,795	28,033
Victoria ...	11,268	11,668	12,945	15,051	15,571	17,400
Queensland ...	3,969	3,209	4,011	3,404	3,978	3,994
South Australia ...	3,589	3,944	4,007	4,367	4,512	5,080
Western Australia	1,676	2,734	2,110	3,125	3,292	3,833
Tasmania ...	897	1,159	1,410	1,607	1,323	1,566
Commonwealth ...	35,027	43,885	46,888	50,475	54,411	59,906

PACKETS.						
New South Wales	409,231	535,125	568,066	689,424	813,530	1,003,317
Victoria ...	590,051	542,448	642,974	915,210	919,218	837,204
Queensland ...	85,978	76,442	82,009	82,273	80,215	73,941
South Australia ...	56,668	80,136	47,000	50,904	71,983	747,116
Western Australia	86,779	87,841	88,015	194,925	235,066	129,035
Tasmania ...	89,802	49,458	34,993	41,098	50,278	48,743
Commonwealth ...	1,318,509	1,371,450	1,463,057	1,973,834	2,170,290	2,839,356

6. **Postal Facilities, 1906.**—The subjoined statement shews 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 1906. It will be observed that the most sparsely populated States have the greatest number of offices in comparison with their population, but in order to judge the relative extension of postal facilities the area of country to each office must also be taken into account :—

SQUARE MILES OF TERRITORY AND NUMBER OF INHABITANTS TO  
EACH POST AND RECEIVING OFFICE, 1906.

State ... ..	N. S. W.	Vic.	Qld.	S. A.	W. A.	Tas.	C'with.
Number of square miles of territory to each post office in State ... ..	135	38	495	1,267	2,887	67	402
Number of inhabitants to each office ... ..	667	532	395	538	774	459	556
Number of inhabitants per square mile	4.92	14.0	0.80	0.42	0.27	6.87	1.38

7. **Rates of Postage.**—The charges made for the postage of newspapers and parcels, and of interstate and foreign letters, are the same in all the States of the Commonwealth. The rates for the transmission of inland letters, however, are not uniform, the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 having specially provided that the rates and charges levied in any State should continue in force.

(i.) *Letters.* The inland letter postage is at the rate of one penny per half-ounce on town and twopence per half-ounce on country letters throughout the Commonwealth, except in the States of Victoria and South Australia. In Victoria the charge made is one penny per half-ounce, and in South Australia, twopence per half-ounce, on all letters posted for delivery within the State. In Victoria the minimum charge was altered in 1890 from twopence per ounce to one penny per half-ounce, but the diminution in revenue at that time was so great that in 1892 the rate was again raised to twopence per ounce; on the 1st April, 1901, it was once more reduced to one penny per half-ounce under the provisions of an Act passed in December, 1900. In New South Wales the town rate of one penny per half-ounce, which is in force in the metropolitan suburban district, is also in operation within a twelve-mile radius of Newcastle, and a thirteen-mile radius of the majority of the other principal country towns. In Queensland the town rate extends to all places within a radius of eleven miles from the General Post Office at Brisbane, and also includes all letters to be delivered from the same office at which they were posted. In Western Australia the town rate has effect within a radius of thirteen miles from the General Post Office at Perth, and in other towns and suburbs within a radius depending upon their population. 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 charge for postage of interstate letters and of letters to the United Kingdom and to British Possessions is now uniformly twopence per half-ounce throughout the Commonwealth; the rate on letters to foreign countries and to other places is twopence halfpenny for each half-ounce.

(ii.) *Newspapers.* The different rates charged for the carriage of newspapers in the various States, prior to Federation, continued after the control of the Postal Departments had been taken over by the Commonwealth, until the 1st November, 1902, when a uniform rate was imposed by the Post and Telegraph Rates Act 1902. On all newspapers posted for delivery within the Commonwealth (without condition as to the number contained in each addressed wrapper posted) by registered newspaper proprietors,

or by newsvendors, or returned by newsvendor or agent to the publishing office, a charge of one penny per twenty ounces on the aggregate weight is imposed. On all other registered newspapers posted within the Commonwealth for delivery therein the charge is a halfpenny per ten ounces for each newspaper. At the end of the year 1906 there were in all 962 publications registered in the Commonwealth under section 29 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 for transmission by post as newspapers. The charge on postage of registered newspapers for transmission to the United Kingdom and to other parts of the world is one penny up to four ounces, and a halfpenny for every additional two ounces. Newspapers which are not registered are charged at the same rates as parcels or packets.

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

**8. Registered Letters.**—Under section 38 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 provision is made for the registration of any letter, packet, or newspaper upon payment of the prescribed fee, 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 the prescribed fee (see hereunder) in advance at the time of registration in addition to the registration fee.

(i.) *Registration Fees.* The fee payable upon registration of an article is threepence, and the fee payable in order to obtain an acknowledgment of the delivery of the registered article is twopence halfpenny in addition. Registered letters must, as a rule, be handed in at least half-an-hour before the closing of the mails.

(ii.) *Number of Registered Letters Posted, 1906.* The subjoined table shews the number of registered letters posted in each State during the year 1906—except in the State of Queensland, for which returns are not available—classified according to the places to which they were despatched for delivery, viz. :—

REGISTERED LETTERS POSTED DURING 1906.

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 New Zealand.	Posted in each State for Delivery in other Places outside the C'wealth.	Total.
New South Wales...	661,093	141,879	18,001	104,753	925,726
Victoria	876,714	72,434	7,794	43,356	1,000,298
Queensland ...		*	*	*	*
South Australia ...	166,102	26,986	1,128	11,682	205,898
Western Australia	246,183	46,165	1,460	18,497	312,305
Tasmania ...	164,159	12,373	1,020	4,809	182,361
† Commonwealth	2,114,251	299,837	29,403	183,097	2,626,588

\* Returns not available.

† Exclusive of Queensland.

**9. Ocean Mail Services.**—The question of regular steamship communication with Europe was first mooted in Sydney, and a meeting was held there in 1846 to consider the question. A committee was appointed to gather information on the subject, and eventually this body recommended the establishment of a steam service *via* Torres Straits and Singapore. No further step was, however, taken until 1849, when the Admiralty Department in London advertised for tenders for the conveyance of the mails between Singapore and Sydney. The tender of a company called the Indian and Australian Steamship Company was accepted, and a contract was entered into, but the company became involved in financial difficulties, and failed to carry out their undertaking. The

discovery of gold in Victoria, and the consequent increase in the population and commercial importance of Melbourne, induced the Imperial authorities to modify the conditions and to again invite tenders for a service between Singapore and Sydney, *via* King George's Sound, Adelaide, and Melbourne. The tender of the Peninsular and Oriental Company was accepted, and the service was inaugurated in September, 1852, by the arrival at Melbourne of the "Chusan." This service was continued until 1854, when it was stopped in consequence of the Crimean War, but in 1856 a line of steamers was again started, and the service was carried on by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, in conjunction with the Royal Mail Company, for some years.

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

(ii.) *Route via Suez Canal.* The establishment of a mail route *via* America had the effect of stimulating the steamship owners who were engaged in the service *via* Suez, and from that time there was a marked improvement in the steamers, as well as in the punctuality and speed with which the mails were delivered. The Peninsular and Oriental Company have, with very few interruptions, carried mails from the Australian States almost from the inception of the ocean steam service. Towards the end of 1878, the Orient-Pacific Company commenced carrying mails between Australia and the United Kingdom, and has continued to do so ever since. New contracts were entered into with the Peninsular and Oriental and the Orient Pacific Companies for a weekly service, subsidised by the Imperial Government and by all the States of Australia, to commence on the 1st February, 1898, for a period of seven years. The total amount of the subsidy was £170,000 per annum, of which £98,000 was payable by the Imperial Government and £72,000 by the Australian States in proportion to their population. These contracts expired on the 31st January, 1905, and pending negotiations for a new contract the mails were carried at poundage rates. On the 1st February, 1905, the Peninsular and Oriental Company commenced its eighth Australian contract with the British Postmaster-General on behalf of the Imperial Post Office only, and in connection with the India and China mail services, one payment being arranged for the whole service, and the Commonwealth Government not, as hitherto, being a party to the contract. Mails are still carried from Australia by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, but are carried at poundage 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, and the mails are now carried under this contract. The subsidy agreed upon is £120,000 per annum; the contract expired on the 31st January, 1908, but has been extended until 1910, when a new mail contract comes into operation. The contract time is twenty-nine days between Adelaide and Naples, and the agreement contains conditions that only white labour is to be employed, and that steamers used in the service are to be fitted for the

conveyance of refrigerated cargo. The Orient Company have stipulated for liberty to cancel the contract at six months' notice, if any new legislation is imposed which would be detrimental to the Company's interest, unless the Federal Government indemnify them by an increase in subsidy to the extent of the loss imposed. Fremantle has, since the year 1900, been the first and last port of call for the mail steamers to Europe, in lieu of Albany, the original port of call; the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient-Pacific Companies' steamers sail alternately conveying the weekly homeward and outward mails.

(a) *The New 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 is to be carried out by existing vessels belonging to the company and by five new mail ships, to be specially built, of at least 11,000 tons gross registered tonnage and of not less than seventeen knots speed. Two more new vessels are to be added within eighteen months and six years respectively from February, 1910. The vessels are to call at Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, and at least six of them at Hobart during the months of February to May, inclusive. The voyage from Brindisi to Adelaide is to be completed within twenty-six days fourteen hours, and from Adelaide to Brindisi within twenty-seven days two hours, but the latter period may be exceeded by thirty-six hours during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon. The amount of the subsidy is fixed at £170,000 per annum; but, if the earnings of the company be decreased, or the expenses increased, by reason of any Commonwealth shipping legislation passed subsequently to the date of the agreement, to the extent of not less than £5000 a year, the contractors have the right to terminate the agreement unless the subsidy is increased. Insulated space of not less than 2000 tons of forty cubic feet is to be provided in each of the new vessels, and the freights are not to exceed one halfpenny per lb. for butter and sixty shillings per ton for fruit. White labour only is to be employed, and no discrimination is to be made between unionists and non-unionists. If before or during the sixth year of the period of the contract an accelerated service is provided by any competing line of mail ships, the contractors must, if so required by the Postmaster-General, provide a service equal to the competing service, at an increased subsidy, to be determined by agreement or arbitration. The Commonwealth flag must be flown on the mail ships, which the Commonwealth has the right to purchase at a valuation at any time. Within six months of the Postmaster-General establishing a permanent wireless telegraphy station at Rottneest Island, or at any point on the coast between Fremantle and Brisbane, the company must fit the mail ships with wireless telegraphy installations.

(b) *French and German Subsidised Mail Services.* Vessels belonging to the Messageries Maritimes and the Norddeutscher Lloyd, which are 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 carry mails for the Commonwealth Government from Australia to Europe at poundage rates. The Messageries Maritimes service commenced in November, 1882; the total tonnage of vessels belonging to this company in the Australian service at the end of the year 1907 was 30,014 tons, the amount of the annual subsidy granted by the French Government being £120,000. 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."

(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, 1907, and afterwards, at a subsidy of £26,626 per annum, for a period of two years from the 1st August, 1907.

(iv.) *Other Ocean Mail Services.* In addition to the mails *via* the Suez Canal and *via* Vancouver 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:—

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES, COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, 1906.

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
1. <i>To and from Europe, via Suez—</i> (a) Peninsular and Oriental* ... ..	Fortnightly	Adelaide, Fremantle and London, <i>via</i> Marseilles	Subsidised by Imperial Government. Mails from Aust. at poundage rates. Subsidised. Date of agreement, April, 1905. Term extended to Feb., 1910. Amt. of subsidy, £120,000. Subsidy paid by all States on a <i>per capita</i> basis.
(b) Orient Pacific* ... ..	..	Adelaide, Fremantle & London, <i>via</i> Naples	
(c) Messageries Maritimes ... ..	Monthly	New Caledonia and Marseilles, <i>via</i> Fremantle and Adelaide	
(d) Norddeutscher Lloyd ... ..	..	Fremantle, Adelaide & Bremen, <i>via</i> Genoa	
2. <i>To and from Europe, via Vancouver</i> † Canadian Australian Steamship Co.	..	Sydney and Vancouver, B.C., <i>via</i> Brisbane	Subsidised by agreement dated 31st July, 1907, for two years. Amount of subsidy, £26,626. Subsidy paid by all States on a <i>per capita</i> basis.
3. <i>To and from New Zealand—</i> (a) Conjointly by Union S.S. Co. and Huddart Parker Proprietary	Weekly	Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington	Poundage rates.
(b) Do. do. do. ... ..	..	Sydney, Hobart, and Auckland	
(c) Conjointly by Shaw, Savill, and Albion Co. & N.Z. Shipping Co.	Fortnightly	Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, and Wellington	
(d) Other steamers ... ..	Irregularly, when convenient	Sydney, Melbourne, and Wellington	
4. <i>To and from Northern Ports of Qld.—</i> (a) Australian United Steam Navigation Co.	Weekly	Brisbane, Gladstone, Townsville, Cairns, Mourilyan, Geraldton, Pt. Douglas & Cookt'n.	Subsidised by agreement dated 29th Nov., 1906, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £17,000.
(b) Do. do. do. ... ..	Once every three weeks	Brisbane, Normanton & Burketown, <i>via</i> Townsville, Cooktown, and Thursday Island	
(c) Other steamers ... ..	Irregularly, when convenient	Various ... ..	
5. <i>To and from Ports in S. Australia—</i> (i.) NORTHERN TERRITORY— (a) The Eastern and Ausn. and the China Navigation Co.'s	Irregularly	To and from Adelaide, Melb'rne and Sydney, <i>via</i> North Queensland ports extending to China and Japan.	.. ..
(b) Jolly and Co. ... ..	Four times a year	Port Darwin and Victoria R., calling half-yearly at Roper River	
(c) .. ..	do.	Port Darwin & Boroloola	
(d) .. ..	Every eight weeks	.. .. Wyndham	

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
(ii.) To SOUTH COAST PORTS—			
(e) Gulf Steamship Co. ...	Weekly	Pt. Adelaide & Kingscote	Subsidised by agreement dated 29th May, 1906, for one year and five months. Amount of subsidy, (e), £172; (f), £101; (g), £101; (h), £77; (i), £56.
(f) " " " " ...	Twice a wk.	" Edithburgh	
(g) " " " " ...	"	" Stansbury	
(h) " " " " ...	Weekly	" Ardrossan	
(i) " " " " ...	"	" Pt. Vincent	
(j) Adelaide Steamship Co. ...	"	" Pt. Lincoln	Subsidised by agreement dated 2nd March, 1904, for three and three-quarter years. Amount of subsidy, £1495.
(k) Adelaide Steam Tug Co. ...	As required	Landing and embarking mails	Subsidised by agreement dated 17th July, 1906, for one year. Amount of subsidy, £498.
(l) " " " " ...	"	Port Pirie & Hummocks Hill	Subsidised without agreement. Amount of subsidy, £56. Subsidies under 5 (i.) (a), (b), (c), (d), and (ii.) (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l) paid by South Australia.
6. Western Australia—			
(i) INTERSTATE—			
(a) By P. & O. and Orient Lines	Weekly	Fremantle and Adelaide	P. and O. at poundage rates. Orient line subsidised. See above 1 (a) and (b). Poundage rates.
(b) Adelaide Steamship, the Ausn. United S. Navigation, and the Huddart, Parker lines	Conjointly, weekly	Fremantle, Albany, and Adelaide	" "
(c) Messageries Maritimes, Nord-deutscher Lloyd, the German and Ausn., and the White Star lines	Each mthly	Fremantle and Adelaide	" "
(ii.) To & FROM PORTS ON N.W. COAST			
(a) Adelaide Steamship Co. ...	Monthly	Fremantle and Derby	Subsidised by agreement dated 28th February, 1907, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £4000. Subsidy paid by Western Australia. Poundage rates
(b) " " " " ...	Once each sixty days	Fremantle & Wyndham	
(c) West. Aust. & Ocean S. Co.'s ...	Fortnightly	Fremantle and Broome.	
(d) Ausn. United S. Navigation and Adelaide S. Co.'s	Irregularly during the cattle se's'n	Fremantle, Derby, and Wyndham	
(iii.) TO AND FROM PORTS ON S. COAST			
(a) Melbourne Steamship Co.	Weekly	Albany and Esperance	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1906, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £3000. Subsidy paid by Western Australia.
(b) " " " " ...	Fortnightly	Albany & Israelite Bay	
(c) " " " " ...	Quarterly	Albany and Eucla	
7. Tasmania—			
(a) Union S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Proprietary	3 times a week	Melb'rne & Launceston	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st October, 1906, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £13,000. Of this amount £6000 is payable by Tasmania, and £7000 by all States on a per capita basis. Poundage rates.
(b) Do. do.	Twice a wk.	" Burnie	
(c) Do. do.	Weekly	Sydney and Hobart ...	
(d) Union Steamship Co.	Fortnightly	Sydney, Eden, Launceston, and Devenport	
(e) New Zealand mailservices, see above New Zealand, 3 (a) & (b)	Twice a wk.	Sydney, Melb'ne, Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland	
(f) To and from ports in Western districts	Irregular	Various ... ..	
8. To Eastern Ports—			
(a) A. Currie and Co. ...	Once every five weeks	Melbourne, Sourabaya, Samarai, Batavia, and Singapore	Subsidised by Victorian Government for trade purposes at £2000 a year for three years from December, 1907. Mails at poundage rates.
(b) China Navigation, Eastern & Ausn., and Burns, Philp Co.'s	About three times a month	Sydney to Hong Kong, Manila, etc., via North Queensland ports	Poundage rates.
9. South Africa—			
White Star, Lund's, Currie's, and other Companies.	Irregularly	Various ... ..	" "

\* Mails carried also to India via Colombo. † Carries also mails to Canada and the United States. ‡ Calling also irregularly at Sydney or Adelaide.

10. **Amount of Mail Subsidies Paid by Each State, 1901 to 1906.**—The mail subsidies are paid by the Commonwealth Postal Department, but are debited to the several States. The following table shews the total amount paid by each State by way of mail subsidies for each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive:—

MAIL SUBSIDIES.—TOTAL AMOUNTS PAID BY EACH STATE,  
1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	35,888	35,901	36,670	39,802	45,679	57,110
Victoria	22,642	23,137	22,555	22,179	38,770	47,182
Queensland	39,297	38,815	40,876	42,971	41,292	42,145
South Australia	15,252	16,539	13,173	28,412	11,685	17,344
Western Australia*	12,091	13,143	16,727	16,712	16,162	18,643
Tasmania	9,162	9,682	10,096	13,546	17,706	17,039
Commonwealth ...	134,332	169,617	172,497	163,622	171,294	199,463

\* Including tonnage and other dues refunded to the Adelaide Steamship Company in connection with the North-west Coast contract.

The following table shews the amount paid by each State in respect of each mail subsidy during the year 1906:—

MAIL SUBSIDIES.—AMOUNT PAID BY EACH STATE IN RESPECT OF EACH  
SUBSIDY, 1906.

State.	Orient- Pacific.	Van- couver Service.	Victoria- Tas- manian Service.	Northern Ports of Queens- land.	South Coast of South Australia.	Western Australia.		Total..
						N.W. Coast.	South Coast.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
N.S.W. ...	46,241	9,581	1,288	...	...	...	...	57,110
Victoria ...	38,231	7,898	1,053	...	...	...	...	47,182
Queensland...	16,316	3,412	*	22,417	...	...	...	†42,145.
S. Australia...	11,699	2,441	327	...	2,877	...	...	17,344
W. Australia	8,013	1,613	220	...	...	‡5,547	3,250	18,643
Tasmania ...	5,641	1,175	10,223	...	...	...	...	17,039
C'wealth ...	126,141	26,120	†13,111	22,417	2,877	5,547	3,250	†199,463.

\* Not included in returns. † Excluding amount paid by Queensland in respect of Victorian-Tasmanian subsidy. ‡ Including £1213 tonnage and other dues refunded.

11. **Average and Fastest Time of Mails to and from London.**—Marvellous 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; at the present time, though but fifty years have elapsed, there are four lines of modern ocean steamships, which bring the mails in about twenty-nine days to Adelaide, in addition to the monthly service *via* Vancouver, by which mails are sent from Sydney to London in thirty-five days. After leaving Fremantle, where the Western Australian mails are landed, the outward mail steamers *via* the Suez Canal all call at Adelaide.

where the remaining mails are landed and conveyed to their ultimate destination by rail. The subjoined table shews the average and the fastest times occupied in the conveyance of mails from London to Adelaide and *vice versa* during the year 1906:—

AVERAGE AND FASTEST TIME OCCUPIED IN CONVEYANCE OF MAILS  
VIA SUEZ CANAL, BETWEEN LONDON AND ADELAIDE, AND VICE  
VERSA, DURING 1906.

Service.	London to Adelaide.				Adelaide to London.			
	Average Time.		Fastest Time.		Average Time.		Fastest Time.	
	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.
Peninsular and Oriental S.N. Co., <i>via</i> Marseilles and Colombo...	28	10	28	1½	30	4	29	13
Orient-Pacific S. N. Co., <i>via</i> Suez and Naples ... ..	30	5	29	8	31	23	31	13
*Messageries Maritimes, <i>via</i> Mar- seilles ... ..	...	...	...	...	33	7	32	0
*Norddeutscher Lloyd, <i>via</i> Genoa ... ..	...	...	...	...	34	4	31	13

\* No mails were received from London by the Messageries Maritimes or by the Norddeutscher Lloyd services.

The journey by rail from Adelaide, where the mails for the eastern States are landed, to Melbourne takes 17½ hours; from Melbourne to Sydney, 17½ hours; while the through journey from Adelaide to Brisbane takes just over three days. The journey from Melbourne to Hobart occupies about seventeen hours.

The subjoined table shews the average and the fastest times occupied in the conveyance of mails between Sydney and London and *vice-versa* by the mail routes *via* Vancouver and San Francisco respectively during the year 1906:—

AVERAGE AND FASTEST TIMES OCCUPIED IN CONVEYANCE OF MAILS,  
VIA VANCOUVER AND SAN FRANCISCO RESPECTIVELY, BETWEEN  
LONDON AND SYDNEY AND VICE-VERSA, DURING 1906.

Service.	London to Sydney.		Sydney to London.	
	Average Time.	Fastest Time.	Average Time.	Fastest Time.
	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Canadian-Australian Line, <i>via</i> Vancouver	37 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>11</sub>	35	38 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>11</sub>	34
Oceanic Steamship Co., <i>via</i> San Francisco	38	35	36 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	33

12. **Letters, Packets, and Newspapers Transmitted by Different Ocean Mail Routes during the Year 1906.**—The subjoined table shews the number of letters, packets, and newspapers transmitted for interstate delivery and for delivery in countries other than Australia, by the different routes during the year 1906:—

NUMBER OF LETTERS, PACKETS, AND NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED AND  
DESPATCHED BY DIFFERENT OCEAN MAIL ROUTES, 1906.

Classification.	P. and O. Co., <i>via</i> Colombo and Marseilles.	Orient Royal Mail Line, <i>via</i> Suez and Naples.	Can- adian Aus- tralian Steamers <i>via</i> Van- couver.	Oceanic S.S. Co., <i>via</i> San Fran- cisco.	Nord- deut- scher- Lloyd <i>via</i> Genoa.	Messa- geries Mari- times <i>via</i> Mar- seilles.	Total by all Mail Steamers.
RECEIVED.							
INTERSTATE—							
Letters ...	1,490,261	1,855,537	6,084	26,016	39,565	25,717	3,443,130
Packets ...	389,931	344,966	1,257	4,332	7,782	4,241	752,509
Newspapers ...	1,196,304	1,338,408	2,639	13,937	17,952	11,893	2,580,633
OTHER COUNTRIES—							
Letters ...	3,035,477	3,233,182	372,227	394,501	60,717	24,895	7,120,999
*Packets ...	3,007,497	3,131,636	507,841	513,157	28,750	11,228	7,200,109
*Newspapers ...	917,626	974,717	87,272	145,372	5,554	2,118	2,132,659
DESPATCHED.							
INTERSTATE—							
Letters ...	1,424,857	1,802,530	2,620	...	26,002	35,380	3,291,389
Packets ...	262,767	306,884	792	...	2,207	5,699	578,349
Newspapers ...	1,142,004	1,180,666	3,831	...	6,635	14,858	2,347,994
OTHER COUNTRIES—							
Letters ...	2,511,563	2,660,524	173,734	315,464	14,107	13,430	5,688,822
Packets ...	423,796	478,913	34,963	56,808	767	1,258	1,001,505
Newspapers ...	1,015,975	1,042,529	86,090	168,564	2,450	2,967	2,318,575
TOTAL RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED.							
INTERSTATE—							
Letters ...	2,915,118	3,658,067	8,654	26,016	65,567	61,097	6,734,519
Packets ...	652,698	651,850	2,049	4,332	9,989	9,940	1,330,858
Newspapers ...	2,338,308	2,519,074	6,470	13,937	24,587	26,251	4,928,627
OTHER COUNTRIES—							
Letters ...	5,547,040	5,893,706	545,961	709,965	74,824	38,325	12,809,821
Packets ...	3,436,293	3,610,549	542,804	569,965	29,517	12,486	8,201,614
Newspapers ...	1,933,601	2,017,246	173,362	313,936	8,004	5,085	4,451,234

\* In the returns for the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia the number of newspapers received from other countries is included in the number of packets received.

13. **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, which may be issued for payment either within the Commonwealth or abroad, may not be granted for a larger sum than £20, nor a postal note, which is payable only within the Commonwealth, 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 German Empire and German colonies; to Italy; and to the United States of America. Money orders, payable in Japan and China, are sent *via* Hong Kong; orders payable in all other countries are sent through the General Post Office in London, where new orders are issued and forwarded to the addresses of the payees, less threepence for every £5, or part thereof. In order that the full amount of the original order may be forwarded to the payee, this extra commission must be paid by the remitter.

(i.) *Value of Orders Issued and Drawn and of Notes Sold, 1906.*—The following table shows the total value of money orders issued and drawn, and of postal notes sold in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year 1906, together with the total amount of commission on money orders and poundage on postal notes received by the Postal Department:—

VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED AND DRAWN AND OF POSTAL NOTES SOLD, TOGETHER WITH TOTAL AMOUNTS OF COMMISSION AND POUNDAGE RECEIVED IN EACH STATE DURING 1906.

State.	Value of Money Orders Issued.	Value of Money Orders Drawn.	Money Order Commission Received.	Value of Postal Notes Sold.	Poundage Received on Postal Notes.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	2,267,137	2,350,298	19,767	808,759	15,962
Victoria ...	814,564	1,222,551	8,987	690,137	14,842
Queensland ...	613,325	523,378	6,168	198,156	3,801
South Australia ...	269,233	293,300	3,424	136,967	2,913
Western Australia ...	835,072	543,256	7,391	163,358	2,888
Tasmania ...	259,496	200,835	3,022	84,156	1,398
Commonwealth ...	5,058,827	5,033,618	48,759	2,081,533	41,804

The net amount of commission received on money orders after adjustment with other Governments was £49,342.

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

RATES OF COMMISSION, MONEY ORDERS, 1906.

If Payable in—	For sums—							
	Not exceeding £2.	Exceeding £2. but not exceeding £5.	Exceeding £5. but not exceeding £7.	Exceeding £7. but not exceeding £10.	Exceeding £10. but not exceeding £12.	Exceeding £12. but not exceeding £15.	Exceeding £15. but not exceeding £17.	Exceeding £17. but not exceeding £20.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
State of issue ...	0 6	0 6	1 0	1 0	1 6	1 6	2 0	2 0
Other Australian States ...	0 6	0 9	1 6	1 6	2 3	2 3	3 0	3 0
New Zealand and Fiji ...	0 6	1 0	1 6	2 0	2 6	3 0	3 6	4 0
U. Kingdom & other countries...	Sixpence for each pound or fraction of a pound							

Remittances may also be made by telegraph to and from money order offices in the Commonwealth which are also telegraph or telephone offices, and to New Zealand. The charge for a telegraph money order is the cost of the telegram of advice in addition to the ordinary commission. The remitter must also send a telegram to the payee advising the transmission of the money, which telegram must be produced by the payee when applying for payment.

(iii.) *Rates of Poundage on Postal Notes.* The values of the notes issued have been so arranged that any sum of shillings and sixpences up to £1 can be remitted by not more than two of these notes. Broken amounts not exceeding fivepence (but not fractions of a penny) may be added by affixing postage stamps. The poundage or commission charged on notes of different denominations is as follows:—

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

14. *Classification of Money Orders Issued and Paid.*—The following tables shew the number and value of money orders issued in each State and classified according to the country where payable, and also the number and value of money orders paid in each State and classified according to the country of issue during the year 1906:—

MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY WHERE PAYABLE, 1906:—

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	531,966	7,315	30,292	9,581	579,154
Victoria...	193,230	5,114	24,131	7,778	230,253
Queensland ...	142,573	1,344	14,995	5,531	164,443
South Australia ...	63,474	780	8,759	2,715	75,728
Western Australia	170,488	1,330	19,493	1,815	193,126
Tasmania ...	78,200	1,760	5,190	1,261	86,411
Commonwealth	1,179,931	17,643	102,860	28,681	1,329,115
VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,132,871	23,359	68,617	42,290	2,267,137
Victoria...	720,658	16,156	50,825	26,925	814,564
Queensland ...	538,478	4,654	36,125	34,068	613,325
South Australia ...	241,219	2,698	16,893	8,422	269,232
Western Australia	760,194	7,059	58,776	9,043	835,072
Tasmania ...	239,999	7,475	9,320	2,702	259,496
Commonwealth	4,633,419	61,401	240,556	123,450	5,058,826

MONEY ORDERS PAID IN EACH STATE CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE COUNTRY OF ISSUE, 1906.

State in which Paid.	Where Issued.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United Kingdom.	In other Countries.	
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	542,919	37,737	13,926	10,989	605,571
Victoria ...	263,411	25,328	11,625	10,018	310,382
Queensland ...	127,177	3,026	4,809	2,156	137,168
South Australia ...	72,868	1,772	2,886	1,400	78,926
Western Australia	113,764	1,470	3,588	1,096	119,918
Tasmania ...	57,527	4,982	1,704	1,933	66,146
Commonwealth ...	1,177,666	74,315	38,538	27,592	1,318,311
VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,175,378	85,366	40,832	48,722	2,350,298
Victoria ...	982,151	60,526	36,232	43,642	1,122,551
Queensland ...	490,376	8,980	14,059	9,963	523,378
South Australia ...	273,709	5,226	8,229	6,136	293,300
Western Australia	521,723	4,328	11,735	6,470	543,256
Tasmania ...	177,764	12,276	4,645	5,150	200,835
Commonwealth ...	4,621,101	176,702	115,732	120,083	5,033,618

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; orders payable or issued in Japan or China and which are sent through Hongkong, are included in those payable or issued in other countries.

15. **Number and Value of Money Orders Issued.**—The following table shews the total number and face value of money orders issued in each State during each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive :—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE,  
1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
NUMBER.						
New South Wales	482,768	538,796	541,392	559,908	579,310	579,154
Victoria ...	228,931	217,634	215,694	221,578	221,732	230,253
Queensland ...	157,552	137,168	137,048	141,965	148,284	164,443
South Australia ...	99,526	78,041	71,933	73,669	73,999	75,728
Western Australia	192,477	189,514	197,407	198,675	200,501	193,126
Tasmania ...	156,407	121,397	97,187	93,410	88,261	86,411
Commonwealth	1,317,661	1,282,550	1,260,661	1,289,205	1,312,087	1,329,115
VALUE.						
New South Wales	£ 1,637,488	£ 1,761,149	£ 1,772,186	£ 1,834,934	£ 2,076,146	£ 2,267,137
Victoria ...	700,618	706,791	721,017	747,875	759,763	814,564
Queensland ...	539,450	506,990	501,375	525,869	556,183	613,325
South Australia ...	264,330	246,826	251,655	257,034	264,608	269,233
Western Australia	725,584	768,751	839,073	860,810	849,492	835,072
Tasmania ...	325,176	290,113	260,705	270,688	264,768	259,496
Commonwealth	4,192,646	4,280,620	4,346,011	4,497,210	4,770,960	5,058,827

16. **Number and Value of Money Orders Paid.**—The following table shews the total number and face value of money orders paid in each State during each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive :—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS PAID IN EACH STATE,  
1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
NUMBER.						
New South Wales	478,520	545,861	553,283	564,685	583,895	605,571
Victoria ...	299,525	306,510	318,766	319,886	312,244	310,382
Queensland ...	102,628	105,556	115,927	119,444	124,280	137,168
South Australia ...	81,078	82,479	82,930	83,581	81,614	78,926
Western Australia	82,080	85,700	100,155	107,401	118,164	119,918
Tasmania ...	295,278	125,317	73,379	71,178	66,079	66,146
Commonwealth	1,339,109	1,251,423	1,244,440	1,266,175	1,286,276	1,318,111

## NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS PAID IN EACH STATE, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906
VALUE.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,669,730	1,812,063	1,895,295	1,922,787	2,182,629	2,350,298
Victoria ...	1,005,067	1,053,313	1,121,807	1,125,557	1,102,652	1,122,551
Queensland ...	398,429	400,042	431,091	440,409	466,876	523,378
South Australia ...	283,875	295,372	310,058	307,039	303,526	293,300
Western Australia	338,623	372,689	451,774	481,348	513,047	543,256
Tasmania ...	386,586	228,958	191,949	193,192	190,872	200,835
Commonwealth	4,082,310	4,162,437	4,341,974	4,470,332	4,759,602	5,033,618

17. **Classification of Postal Notes Issued and Paid.**—The subjoined table shows the number and value of postal notes issued and paid in each State and in the Commonwealth, classified according to their place of issue :—

## NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES ISSUED AND PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PLACE OF ISSUE, 1906.

State.	Issued and Paid in State of Issue.		Issued in State and Paid in other States.		Issued in other States and Paid in State.		Total Issued and Paid in each State.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
New South Wales	1,920,843	710,053	230,586	98,705	259,804	97,920	2,411,233	906,678
Victoria ...	1,667,509	619,522	179,278	70,615	278,800	121,159	2,125,337	811,296
Queensland ...	369,934	140,889	139,014	51,528	35,350	15,723	544,298	208,140
South Australia ...	317,738	108,084	82,711	29,555	78,229	40,538	478,678	178,177
Western Australia	243,226	112,883	89,783	50,309	15,329	7,441	348,918	170,033
Tasmania ...	171,633	58,373	65,938	25,783	119,913	45,025	357,484	129,181
Commonwealth ...	4,690,883	1,749,804	787,290	326,495	787,325	327,306	6,265,998	2,403,505

The following statement shows the number of postal notes of each denomination paid in the Commonwealth during the year 1906 :—

## NUMBER OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DENOMINATION, 1906.

Denomination.		Number Paid.	Denomination.		Number Paid.	Denomination.		Number Paid.
s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.	
1	0	230,464	3	6	282,015	10	0	708,358
1	6	159,353	4	0	476,145	10	6	134,813
2	0	306,856	4	6	315,329	15	0	340,325
2	6	374,690	5	0	697,617	20	0	716,099
3	0	451,322	7	6	285,322	Total ...		5,478,708

18. **Number and Value of Postal Notes Issued.**—The following table shows the total number and face value of postal notes issued in each State during each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive :—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES ISSUED IN EACH STATE,  
1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
NUMBER.						
New South Wales...	1,400,844	1,409,180	1,571,612	1,756,996	2,028,269	2,151,429
Victoria ...	1,361,311	1,387,039	1,475,853	1,635,435	1,743,227	1,846,787
Queensland ...	307,170	290,063	346,375	398,366	456,479	508,948
South Australia ...	297,444	296,997	320,740	344,831	378,835	400,449
Western Australia...	72,616	122,877	186,263	231,846	285,502	332,989
Tasmania ...	67,204	77,665	121,653	158,037	206,309	237,571
Commonwealth...	3,506,589	3,583,821	4,022,496	4,525,511	5,098,621	5,478,173
VALUE.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales...	508,432	506,159	581,604	655,471	723,168	808,759
Victoria ...	523,210	528,331	558,976	617,386	652,704	690,138
Queensland ...	117,087	110,509	130,651	151,770	171,447	192,417
South Australia ...	100,585	102,112	113,076	121,321	132,329	137,639
Western Australia...	21,002	55,841	90,939	115,416	138,506	162,592
Tasmania ...	20,095	24,851	41,930	56,820	72,352	84,156
Commonwealth...	1,290,411	1,327,853	1,517,176	1,718,184	1,890,506	2,075,701

19. Number and Value of Postal Notes Paid.—The following table shows the total number and face value of postal notes paid in each State during each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive:—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES PAID IN EACH STATE,  
1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
NUMBER.						
New South Wales...	1,399,712	1,423,369	1,566,503	1,733,142	1,958,681	2,180,647
Victoria ...	1,392,559	1,432,734	1,552,775	1,724,486	1,828,523	1,946,109
Queensland ...	288,318	259,455	298,688	331,737	363,272	405,284
South Australia ...	294,907	293,590	322,341	349,039	377,481	395,967
Western Australia...	*66,740	112,934	186,238	*245,514	294,218	259,155
Tasmania ...	62,725	77,445	54,894	212,418	257,002	291,546
Commonwealth...	3,504,961	3,599,527	3,981,444	4,596,336	5,079,177	5,478,708
VALUE.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales...	507,740	514,048	580,774	646,682	724,669	807,973
Victoria ...	532,244	544,979	591,805	655,857	695,575	740,681
Queensland ...	108,746	97,045	113,434	127,332	140,098	156,612
South Australia ...	97,576	102,651	118,003	129,265	141,653	148,622
Western Australia...	*14,115	37,529	90,078	119,763	145,507	120,324
Tasmania ...	19,421	28,179	22,989	80,118	91,419	103,398
Commonwealth...	1,279,842	1,324,431	1,517,083	1,759,017	1,938,921	2,077,610

\* Estimated.

**20. 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, and to recover from the addressee on delivery a specified sum of money fixed by the sender, and to remit the sum to the sender by money order, for which the usual commission is charged. The object of the system is to meet the requirements of persons who wish to pay at the time of receipt for articles sent to them, and also to meet the requirements of traders and others who do not wish their goods to be delivered except on payment. In addition to the ordinary postage, commission on the value of the articles transmitted at the rate of twopence on sums not exceeding ten shillings, and one penny for each additional five shillings or part thereof, must be prepaid by postage stamps affixed to the articles distinct from the postage and marked "commission." The registration fee (threepence) and the proper postage must also be prepaid. If the addressee refuse delivery, the parcel is returned to the sender free of charge. The subjoined statement gives particulars of the number and value of parcels sent through the Value Payable Post in each State during the years 1905 and 1906. The system has been established in Queensland for some years, and was only extended to the whole Commonwealth with the advent of Federal control of the post office:—

VALUE PAYABLE PARCELS POST.—NUMBER POSTED, VALUE COLLECTED AND REVENUE, 1905 AND 1906.

State.	Number of Parcels Posted.		Value Collected.		Revenue, including Postage, Commission on Value, Registration and Money Order Commission.	
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.
	No.	No.	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,839	3,798	2,644	6,025	257	579
Victoria ...	390	731	1,042	1,220	39*	93
Queensland ...	18,095	25,039	23,594	33,507	2,496	3,556
South Australia ...	95	51	104	59	11	9
Western Australia ...	4,494	6,539	7,637	11,198	667	971
Tasmania ...	7	10	14	17	1	1
Commonwealth	24,920	36,168	35,035	52,026	3,471	5,209

\* Exclusive of postage.

**21. Transactions of the Dead Letter Office.**—Under sections 45 to 53 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 the Postmaster-General may cause all unclaimed and undelivered postal articles originally posted within the Commonwealth which have been returned from the place to which they were forwarded to be treated as unclaimed articles and opened. Every unclaimed letter and postal article must be kept for the prescribed period at the office to which it has been transmitted for delivery, and must then be sent to the General Post Office. Letters and packets originally posted elsewhere than in the Commonwealth are returned to the proper authorities in the country in which they were so posted, or, if originally posted in another State, are returned to the General Post Office of that State; but unclaimed or undelivered newspapers may be forthwith sold, destroyed, or used for any public purpose. Opened postal articles not containing anything of value are returned to the writer or sender if his name and address can be ascertained, but may otherwise be destroyed forthwith. As regards opened letters and packets containing valuable or saleable enclosures, a list and memorandum of the contents are kept, and a notice is sent to the person to whom the letter or packet is addressed if he be known, or otherwise to the writer or sender thereof if he be known. Upon application within three months of the date of such notice the letter or packet may be claimed by the addressee or, failing him, by the writer or sender. If unclaimed within three months the letter and contents may be destroyed or sold, and the proceeds paid into the consolidated revenue fund. The following table shews the total number of letters, postcards, and packets dealt with by the Dead Letter Offices in the Common-

wealth during the year 1906, together with the number of inland, interstate, and international letters either returned to writers, delivered, etc., destroyed, or returned as unclaimed:—

TRANSACTIONS OF DEAD LETTER OFFICES IN THE COMMONWEALTH  
DURING THE YEAR 1906.

Particulars.	Inland.	Interstate.	International (including New Zealand).	Total.
<b>LETTERS.</b>				
Returned to writers, delivered, etc.	693,648	67,084	52,199	812,931
Destroyed in accordance with Act	116,749	16,281	12,356	145,386
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ... ..	...	69,799	45,079	114,878
Total ... ..	810,397	153,164	109,634	1,073,195
<b>POSTCARDS.</b>				
Returned to writers, delivered, etc.	23,895	6,907	6,493	37,295
Destroyed in accordance with Act	15,739	3,949	5,830	25,518
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ... ..	...	9,602	8,137	17,739
Total ... ..	39,634	20,458	20,460	80,552
<b>PACKETS.</b>				
Returned to writers, delivered, etc.	589,888	21,397	7,865	619,150
Destroyed in accordance with Act	176,622	81,669	88,807	347,098
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ... ..	...	49,686	108,821	158,507
Total ... ..	766,510	152,752	205,493	1,124,755
Grand Total ... ..	1,616,541	326,374	335,587	2,278,502

22. **Post Offices and Receiving Offices and Employes.**—The following tables shew, as far as returns are available, the numbers of post and receiving offices and the corresponding numbers of permanent employes in each State and in the Commonwealth at the end of each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive:—

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES AND RECEIVING OFFICES,  
31ST DECEMBER, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.										
New South Wales	1,684	524	1,693	523	1,708	520	1,726	513	1,744	522	1,769	519
Victoria	1,637	18	1,645	18	1,646	18	1,652	18	1,655	18	1,659	657
Queensland*	411	823	433	867	441	884	450	921	447	913	465	886
South Australia	713	—	702	—	706	—	711	—	711	—	706	7
West Australia	187	28	197	28	218	25	243	34	261	34	281	57
Tasmania†	376	—	369	6	370	8	371	12	370	9	373	19
Commonwealth	5,008	1,365	5,039	1,414	5,089	1,430	5,153	1,464	5,188	1,462	5,256	2,145

\* For the years 1901, 1902, and 1903 the number of receiving offices is included in post offices in the official returns, and separate figures here given are estimated. † The return for 1901 includes both post offices and receiving offices.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND NUMBER OF MAIL CONTRACTORS.  
31ST DECEMBER, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Employés.	Mail Contractors.										
New South Wales	5,636	984	5,724	973	5,726	996	5,763	1,006	5,890	1,020	5,943	1,037
Victoria	3,962	890	3,955	880	4,017	914	4,011	934	4,086	912	4,896	919
Queensland*	2,616	—	2,627	—	2,686	—	2,641	—	2,640	—	2,610	630
South Australia†	1,945	—	1,974	—	1,973	—	2,046	—	1,727	259	1,734	255
West. Australia...	1,303	140	1,286	136	1,331	140	1,316	150	1,273	154	1,941	152
Tasmania‡	865	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	811	164
Commonwealth	16,327	2,014	15,566	1,959	15,733	2,050	15,807	2,090	15,616	2,354	17,935	3,157

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

23. Miles of Postal Lines (including Railways) and Mail-miles Travelled.—The following table shews the length of route travelled by postal conveyances, and the number of mail-miles travelled in each State and in the Commonwealth for each year from 1901 to 1906 inclusive:—

MILES OF POSTAL LINES (INCLUDING RAILWAY LINES),  
31ST DECEMBER, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	37,219	36,045	36,000	36,262	36,480	40,178
Victoria	12,874	12,898	12,940	13,003	13,369	13,270
Queensland	34,441	35,320	35,621	*34,700	*33,800	32,909
South Australia...	16,482	16,059	16,207	16,075	15,418	15,309
Western Australia	13,147	13,158	13,236	13,431	13,547	*13,647
Tasmania	2,915	2,915	2,915	3,231	3,236	*3,358
Commonwealth...	117,078	116,395	116,919	116,702	115,850	118,671

\* Estimated.

NUMBER OF MAIL-MILES TRAVELLED, EXCLUSIVE OF RAILWAY  
MILEAGE, DURING THE YEARS 1901 TO 1906.

New South Wales	12,117,900	12,042,300	11,986,800	11,990,800	11,989,968	12,112,219
Victoria	4,008,424	4,016,536	4,004,056	4,014,228	3,655,200	3,679,402
Queensland	4,210,839	4,047,615	4,252,083	*4,242,000	*4,231,190	4,221,800
South Australia	*1,902,000	*1,940,000	*1,929,000	*1,905,000	*1,935,000	1,935,182
Western Australia	1,090,050	1,096,200	1,092,525	1,107,850	1,107,989	*1,108,000
Tasmania	1,597,591	1,597,591	1,597,591	1,789,460	1,792,580	*1,860,200
Commonwealth	24,926,804	24,740,242	24,862,055	25,049,338	24,712,637	24,916,803

\* Estimated.

24. Gross Revenue of Postal Department.—The following table shews the gross revenue of the Postal Department in each State for the years 1901 to 1906, 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:—

## GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
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## POSTAL BRANCH.

	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	596,552	610,434	652,761	705,393	743,986	802,353
Victoria ...	437,894	432,311	448,486	470,886	480,979	541,430
Queensland ...	203,128	204,520	191,931	227,715	233,523	255,060
South Australia ...	148,336	157,474	166,400	152,429	161,920	180,827
Western Australia ...	109,335	121,303	122,862	135,053	157,837	153,818
Tasmania ...	72,009	64,834	75,412	84,605	89,569	93,392
Commonwealth ...	1,567,254	1,590,876	1,657,852	1,776,081	1,867,814	2,026,880

## TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

New South Wales ...	191,664	187,802	154,839	151,036	150,830	186,962
Victoria ...	120,385	125,252	106,839	111,287	124,994	133,536
Queensland ...	83,939	85,514	83,266	75,649	88,285	89,772
South Australia ...	106,853	84,612	74,840	81,116	87,157	94,074
Western Australia ...	82,533	81,824	68,137	69,641	71,834	69,678
Tasmania ...	17,064	16,892	17,289	16,487	15,455	16,347
Commonwealth ...	602,438	581,896	505,210	505,216	538,555	590,369

## TELEPHONE BRANCH.

New South Wales ...	81,852	96,278	105,002	116,328	127,514	144,933
Victoria ...	62,019	76,326	86,600	88,633	102,396	108,437
Queensland ...	20,938	24,619	27,312	28,011	31,765	36,927
South Australia ...	20,617	21,925	23,209	26,351	25,815	30,075
Western Australia ...	26,950	29,464	30,324	30,970	33,995	36,239
Tasmania ...	6,339	8,704	8,910	10,155	11,108	11,887
Commonwealth ...	218,715	257,316	281,366	300,448	332,593	368,498

## TOTAL POSTAL REVENUE.

New South Wales ...	870,068	894,514	912,602	972,757	1,022,330	1,134,248
Victoria ...	620,298	633,889	641,925	670,806	703,369	783,403
Queensland ...	308,005	314,653	302,518	331,375	353,573	381,759
South Australia ...	275,806	264,011	264,449	259,896	274,892	304,976
Western Australia ...	218,818	232,591	221,323	235,664	263,666	259,735
Tasmania ...	95,412	90,430	101,611	111,247	116,132	121,626
Commonwealth ...	2,388,407	2,430,088	2,444,428	2,581,745	2,738,962	2,985,747

25. **Expenditure in respect of the Postal Departments.**—The subjoined table shews the total expenditure in respect of the Postal Departments in each State. The figures given include certain items of expenditure, such as rent, repairs and maintenance of buildings, fittings and furniture, sanitation, water supply, and new buildings and additions which are under the control of the Department of Home Affairs:—

EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF POSTAL DEPARTMENTS IN EACH STATE,  
1901 TO 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ... ..	790,783	759,619	884,963	920,390	970,808	966,498
Victoria ... ..	517,609	550,227	582,520	624,841	627,735	668,046
Queensland ... ..	389,332	420,904	425,568	419,144	415,420	438,899
South Australia ... ..	240,846	237,532	240,987	254,698	259,656	281,040
W. Australia ... ..	251,289	257,283	277,021	300,727	302,150	295,500
Tasmania ... ..	97,470	101,431	100,232	106,571	109,389	120,962
Commonwealth ... ..	2,287,329	2,326,996	2,511,291	2,626,371	2,685,158	2,770,745

26. **Analysis of Gross Revenue and Expenditure of Postal Departments.**—The following tables give an analysis of the gross earnings, and shew the distribution of expenditure in each State and in the Commonwealth, during the year 1906:—

ANALYSIS OF GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT IN  
EACH STATE AND IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1906.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vict.	Qld.	S. Aus.	W. Aus.	Tas.	C'with.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Postage ... ..	737,453	503,536	234,594	158,028	135,749	86,318	1,856,278
Telegraphs ... ..	186,962	133,536	89,772	94,074	69,678	16,347	590,369
Telephones ... ..	144,933	108,437	36,927	30,075	36,239	11,887	368,498
Money order commission	19,767	8,987	6,168	3,424	7,391	3,022	48,759
Poundage on postal notes	15,962	14,842	3,800	2,913	2,888	1,398	41,803
Private boxes and bags ...	6,888	14,065	2,473	1,129	1,646	566	12,702
Miscellaneous ... ..	22,283	8,025	14,733	6,144	2,088	67,338	
Total ... ..	1,134,248	773,408	381,759	304,976	259,735	121,626	2,985,747

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT IN  
EACH STATE DURING 1906.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S. Aus.	W. Aus.	Tas.	C'with.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries ... ..	500,872	341,446	173,595	145,548	162,660	47,616	1,371,647
Contingencies ... ..	142,353	109,057	79,168	45,794	47,923	20,488	444,781
Conveyance of mails* ...	258,306	157,668	155,335	71,042	64,259	42,290	748,900
Cable subsidies ... ..	4,222	8,729	7,503	...	...	4,200	24,654
Telegraph works ... ..	14,032	1,476	2,918	494	1,024	144	20,088
Telephone works ... ..	26,055	27,221	16,921	10,894	2,823	2,986	86,270
Rent† ... ..	8,136	1,831	...	704	641	...	11,312
Repairs and maintenance of buildings†	5,878	3,776	...	1,544	1,065	1,700	13,963
Fittings and furniture† ...	1,618	403	...	79	256	126	2,482
Sanitation and water supply†	5,026	3,612	...	576	855	132	10,201
New buildings and additions†	...	8,298	...	4,436	...	...	12,734
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	131	4,089	19	12,673	1,282	18,194
Pensions ... ..	...	4,398	...	...	1,121	...	5,519
Total ... ..	966,498	668,046	438,899	281,040	295,300	120,962	2,770,745

\* Including ocean mail subsidies. † Under control of Department of Home Affairs.

## § 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 telegraphic line was completed in 1857, while in the following year communication was established between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. The first line to be constructed in Queensland was that between Brisbane and Rockhampton, a distance of 396 miles, which was opened in 1864. In Western Australia the first telegraph constructed was from Perth to Fremantle, a distance of twelve miles, which was brought into use in 1869, and in the same year the cable joining Tasmania with the continent of Australia was completed.

**2. Development of Services.**—During the period from 1871 to 1881 great progress was made throughout Australia in the way of telegraphic construction, over 14,000 miles of line, exclusive of railway telegraph lines, being opened for use during the period mentioned, making the total length of the line open at the end of the year 1881, 25,470 miles. In the case of South Australia this increase was to a large extent due to the construction of the transcontinental lines (a) from Adelaide to Port Darwin (a distance of 2230 miles), which was completed on the 22nd August, 1872, at a cost of nearly half a million sterling, and (b) from Port Augusta to Port Lincoln, and thence along the coast of the Great Australian Bight as far as Eucla, on the Western Australian border. In Queensland there was a large increase resulting from the construction of the line to Normanton, on the Gulf of Carpentaria, while in Western Australia the line from Perth to Albany was extended as far as Eucla on the 9th December, 1877, thus establishing telegraphic communication between the six capital towns, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, and Hobart. At the present time the systems of telegraph lines throughout Australia are well developed. The longest through line extends from Thursday Island, in Torres Straits, 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 Australian boundary; from Eucla the line extends along the coast of the Great Australian Bight to Albany, and thence it runs adjacent to the west coast of Western Australia as far as Onslow, *via* Perth, Geraldton, and Carnarvon. From Onslow connection extends to Broome, in Roebuck Bay, from which place communication is made to Singapore by the Eastern Extension Company's cable. From Roebuck Bay the line crosses the Kimberley district in an easterly direction, and then runs north as far as the terminus at Wyndham. Branch lines extend to all important coastal and inland towns. In Queensland a line runs to Burketown, near the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, *via* Normanton; another line extends to Cloncurry and Urandangi, in the extreme west of the State. New South Wales, Victoria, and the south-eastern parts of South Australia are equipped with a considerable network of lines converging from the country districts towards the more important towns, while from Adelaide the transcontinental line, referred to above, runs in a northerly direction to Port Darwin, from which place communication is provided with Europe by submarine cable by way of Batavia, Singapore, and Madras. In Western Australia a line runs from Eucla to the Coolgardie goldfields *via* Balladonia and Dundas, and from Coolgardie communication is provided with Perth, and with Sir Samuel, in the East Murchison district.

**3. Length of Telegraphic Lines and Wire Open, 1901 to 1906.**—The following table shews the length of telegraph lines and of telegraph wire, exclusive of railway telegraphs, available for use in each State at the end of each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive:—

LENGTH OF TELEGRAPH LINE AND WIRE, EXCLUSIVE OF RAILWAY TELEGRAPHS, AVAILABLE FOR USE IN EACH STATE, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
LENGTH OF LINE.						
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
New South Wales ... ..	14,272	14,356	14,395	14,491	14,827	15,417
Victoria ... ..	3,989	4,001	4,006	3,904	3,913	3,981
Queensland ... ..	10,246	10,247	10,180	10,154	10,154	10,198
South Australia ... ..	5,763	5,776	6,039	6,071	6,092	6,101
Western Australia ... ..	6,173	6,112	6,079	6,199	6,389	6,451
Tasmania ... ..	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,539	1,547	1,576
Commonwealth ... ..	41,948	41,992	42,199	42,358	42,922	43,674

LENGTH OF WIRE.						
New South Wales ... ..	46,153	58,907	62,356	67,058	71,086	74,754
Victoria ... ..	9,795	9,894	10,161	10,518	10,583	10,663
Queensland ... ..	20,537	20,695	20,759	20,764	20,786	20,875
South Australia ... ..	13,918	14,021	14,847	15,041	15,353	15,615
Western Australia ... ..	9,105	9,105	9,369	9,414	9,637	9,713
Tasmania ... ..	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,286	2,294	3,029
Commonwealth ... ..	101,708	114,822	119,692	125,081	129,739	134,649

4. **Number of Telegraph Offices, 1901 to 1906.**—The following table shows the number of telegraph offices, exclusive of railway telegraph offices, open for use in each State from 1901 to 1906:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES OPEN, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales ... ..	978	983	987	1,005	1,069	1,122
Victoria ... ..	446	472	472	482	509	565
Queensland ... ..	481	476	481	498	515	536
South Australia ... ..	286	287	290	300	299	304
Western Australia ... ..	167	167	172	183	188	200
Tasmania ... ..	210	204	205	206	207	193
Commonwealth ... ..	2,568	2,589	2,607	2,674	2,787	2,920

5. **Revenue and Expenditure, 1901 to 1906.**—Particulars as to the revenue from the telegraph systems in each State for the years 1901 to 1906 are given on page 626, while particulars as to the expenditure for the year 1906 are also given on the same page.

6. **Number of Telegrams dealt with, 1901 to 1906.**—The subjoined table shows the number of telegrams despatched in each State for delivery in that State, the number of telegrams despatched in each State for delivery in other States of the Commonwealth and received for delivery in each State from other States, and also the total number of telegrams—exclusive of cablegrams—dealt with in each State. The last set of figures represent the sum of the corresponding figures for each State in the first two sets of figures. The true total for the Commonwealth in the last table, however, is not obtained

by merely adding together the figures for the several States, since interstate telegrams are counted both in the State in which they are despatched and in that in which they are received. A second total is therefore shewn, obtained by subtracting from the first total half the sum of the number of interstate telegrams received and despatched :—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED AND RECEIVED IN EACH STATE, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
INLAND (COUNTED ONCE).						
New South Wales	2,220,622	2,306,484	2,215,823	2,192,757	2,293,656	2,645,749
Victoria ...	1,623,985	1,618,128	1,706,497	1,644,522	1,689,145	1,785,046
Queensland ...	*963,259	*902,780	*1,011,193	*1,012,984	*1,126,774	1,290,431
South Australia ...	517,617	523,762	638,803	686,330	687,010	723,577
Western Australia	912,335	878,469	1,072,774	1,003,335	1,064,710	1,123,579
Tasmania ...	237,634	227,215	282,832	277,831	301,632	310,400
Commonwealth	6,475,452	6,456,838	6,927,922	6,817,759	7,162,927	7,878,782

INTERSTATE, RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED.

New South Wales	1,124,233	957,591	1,026,722	1,055,044	1,118,322	1,307,398
Victoria ...	760,781	882,750	1,013,126	1,023,030	1,016,116	1,314,722
Queensland ...	*401,745	*438,246	*476,609	*477,663	*514,501	587,752
South Australia ...	365,599	386,088	475,040	491,134	526,596	590,461
Western Australia	282,996	306,279	480,744	525,258	544,937	533,929
Tasmania† ...	*119,491	*134,459	*157,239	164,159	184,970	198,139
Commonwealth	3,054,895	3,105,413	3,629,480	3,741,288	3,905,442	4,532,401

TOTAL DEALT WITH.

New South Wales	3,344,905	3,264,075	3,242,545	3,247,801	3,411,978	3,953,147
Victoria ...	2,384,766	2,500,878	2,719,623	2,672,552	2,705,261	3,099,768
Queensland ...	*1,365,004	*1,341,026	*1,487,802	*1,490,647	*1,641,275	1,878,183
South Australia ...	883,216	909,850	1,113,843	1,177,464	1,213,606	1,314,038
Western Australia	1,195,331	1,184,748	1,553,518	1,528,593	1,609,647	1,657,508
Tasmania† ...	*357,125	*361,674	*440,071	441,990	486,602	508,539
Commonwealth ...	9,530,347	9,562,251	10,557,402	10,559,047	11,068,369	12,411,183
Cwth. (allowing for interstate excess)	8,002,901	8,009,545	8,742,662	8,688,403	9,115,648	10,144,983

\* Partly estimated.

† Interstate cablegrams.

‡ Including interstate cablegrams.

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

addressed to a registered newspaper or recognised news agency. The subjoined tables shew the scales of charges:—

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ORDINARY TELEGRAMS.

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

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

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR PRESS TELEGRAMS.

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

§ 3. Submarine Cables.

1. **First Cable Communication with the Old World.**—As far back as 1857 the question of connecting Australia with the old world by means of submarine cables was brought forward in South Australia. No steps, however, were taken in the direction of constructing the cable until the year 1869, when various schemes were proposed. About this time the British Australian Telegraph Company was formed for the purpose of laying a cable to Australia without subsidy or guarantee. Communication had already been provided between London and Singapore *via* Bombay and Madras, and also through Java from Batavia to Banjoewangie. The proposal of the above company was to lay cables from Singapore to Batavia and from Banjoewangie to Port Darwin, from which place connection would be made overland with the Queensland telegraph system at Normanston. It, was, however, subsequently decided that the company's line should end at Port Darwin, the South Australian Government undertaking to construct an overland line from Port Augusta to Port Darwin, a distance of 1971 miles. In November, 1871, the submarine cable was completed, and communication was established between Port Darwin and London. On the 22nd August, 1872, the construction of the line from Port

Darwin to Adelaide was accomplished at an expenditure of nearly £500,000. The cable from Port Darwin is now under the control of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company.

2. **The Tasmania-Victoria Cable.**—In the meantime the cable joining Tasmania to the continent of Australia had been laid, and was opened for use in 1869, the total length being 170 miles. The cable starts from Flinders, near Cape Schanck, in Victoria, and ends at Low Head, at the mouth of the River Tamar, in Tasmania. The line is owned by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, and is subsidised by the Tasmanian Government to the extent of £4200 per annum; the receipts are also guaranteed up to £5600 per annum. Both the subsidy and the guarantee expire in the year 1909. Negotiations for the purchase of this cable by the Commonwealth Postal Department have been in progress for some time, but at the end of the year 1907 no settlement had been arrived at.

3. **The Eastern Extension Company's Cables.**—In addition to the Victoria-Tasmania cable and the original cable from Port Darwin referred to above, the Eastern Extension Company have constructed and have control over several other cables connecting with various places in the Commonwealth. (a) In 1879 the original cable *via* Banjoewangie was duplicated, the States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania having agreed to pay the above company a subsidy of £32,400 per annum for a period of twenty years, the amount to be divided between the States on a population basis. (b) In 1881 a cable was constructed connecting Broome, in Roebuck Bay, W.A., with Banjoewangie; from Broome there is direct telegraphic communication with Perth, from which place communication is made with the Eastern States by the interstate line *via* Albany, Eucla, and Port Augusta. (c) In July, 1899, the company offered to lay a cable direct to Great Britain *via* the Cape of Good Hope, and also offered reductions in the rates charged, if the States would agree to certain conditions giving the company the right of direct dealing with the public. The States of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania accepted the terms offered, and New South Wales entered into the agreement in January, 1901. The cable was opened *via* Fremantle and Durban in October, 1901. (d) Another submarine cable from Fremantle to Adelaide forms an alternative line of communication between the eastern States and Western Australia. (e) There is an alternative route, partly belonging to the Eastern Extension Company and connecting the Port Darwin-Singapore cable with London, *via* Hong Kong, Shanghai, Posiott Bay (Pacific Russia), Libau (Russian Baltic), and Newbiggin (England).

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 should pay one-third of the cost; Canada, two-ninths; and the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland the remaining four-ninths. 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 and opened for use on the 3rd November, 1902. There are cable-stations at Norfolk Island, Fiji, and Fanning Island, and a branch cable runs from Norfolk Island to New Zealand. The following table shews particulars of the revenue, expenditure, total loss, and the proportion of the loss payable by the Commonwealth for each financial year since the opening of the cable :—

REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, AND LOSS ON WORKING OF PACIFIC  
CABLE, 1903 TO 1907.

Year ended the 31st March.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Loss.	Commonwealth Proportion of Loss.
	£	£	£	£
1903 ...	...	...	90,518	30,172
1904 ...	80,118	167,869	87,751	29,250
1905 ...	87,446	163,296	75,849	25,283
1906 ...	91,952	164,508	72,556	24,185
1907 ...	113,516	167,439	54,923	18,307

5. **New Zealand Cables.**—A submarine cable joining New Zealand to the Australian Continent was laid in 1876. The line is 1191 miles in length. The Australian shore-end of the cable is at Botany Bay, while the New Zealand terminus is at Wakapuaka, near Nelson, in the Middle Island, from which place another cable, 109 miles in length, is laid to Wanganui, in the North Island. For a period of ten years after its opening the cable was subsidised by the New South Wales and New Zealand Governments, the total contributions amounting to £10,000 a year. The branch from Norfolk Island to New Zealand of the Pacific cable was opened on the 23rd April, 1902. The length of this cable is 597 miles, the New Zealand terminus being at Doubtless Bay in the north of the North Island.

6. **The New Caledonian Cable.**—In April, 1892, a French company, known as the Compagnie Française des Câbles Télégraphiques, entered into an agreement with the French, the New South Wales, and the Queensland Governments to lay down a submarine cable between New Caledonia and Queensland in return for guarantees by the French Government to the extent of £8000, and by the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland to the amount of £2000 each annually for a period of thirty years. The cable was opened for use in October, 1893, the Australian shore-end being at Bundaberg. The Governments of New South Wales and Queensland are entitled to use the cable for the transmission of official messages up to the amount of their guarantees.

7. **Number of Cablegrams Received and Despatched in each State, 1905 and 1906.**—The subjoined table shews the number of cablegrams received and despatched in each State and in the Commonwealth during the years 1905 and 1906. Returns for previous years are not available:—

NUMBER OF CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND NUMBER DESPATCHED IN  
EACH STATE, 1905 AND 1906.

State.	Cablegrams Received.		Cablegrams Despatched.		Total Cablegrams Received & Despatched.	
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	81,548	93,256	82,519	96,478	164,067	189,734
Victoria ...	55,749	67,194	59,279	70,315	115,028	137,509
Queensland ...	6,455	7,443	7,961	9,297	14,416	16,740
South Australia...	17,436	16,610	13,084	15,006	30,520	31,616
Western Australia	10,446	9,258	14,504	12,406	24,950	21,664
Tasmania* ...	4,777	5,241	4,915	5,917	9,692	11,158
Commonwealth	176,411	199,002	182,262	209,419	358,673	408,421

\* Exclusive of interstate cablegrams, which are classed as interstate telegrams (see above).

The following table shows the total number of cablegrams despatched and received in each State during each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive:—

## NUMBER OF CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	Cablegrams Despatched and Received.					
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	104,590	159,031	152,814	144,936	164,067	189,734
Victoria	44,824	86,243	100,715	109,635	115,028	137,509
Queensland ...	9,723	8,260	12,749	12,741	14,416	16,740
South Australia ...	29,431	29,172	21,823	29,373	30,520	31,616
Western Australia	30,268	30,313	34,216	25,873	24,950	21,664
Tasmania*	†6,289	†7,077	†8,276	18,679	9,692	11,158
Commonwealth	225,125	320,396	330,593	341,237	358,673	408,421

\* Exclusive of interstate cablegrams, which are classed as interstate telegrams (see above).

† Partly estimated.

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

## LENGTHS OF CABLE ROUTES.

Via Roebuck Bay.		Via Port Darwin.		Via South Africa.	
	Miles.		Miles.		Miles.
Perth to Roebuck Bay ...	1,485	Adelaide to Port Darwin	2,134	Perth to Mauritius ...	4,417
Roebuck Bay to Banjoewangie ...	970	Port Darwin to Banjoewangie ...	1,150	Mauritius to Durban ...	1,785
Banjoewangie to London	9,841	Banjoewangie to London	9,341	Durban to Cape Town ...	800
				Cape Town to Madeira ...	5,715
				Madeira to Penzance ...	1,341
				Penzance to London ...	290
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>12,296</b>	<b>Total</b> ...	<b>13,125</b>	<b>Total</b> ...	<b>14,319</b>

  

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

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. This remained the standard rate for eleven years, when the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company reduced it in 1886 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, a 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. Owing to various circumstances the cable traffic did not respond to the reductions, and heavy losses were incurred. It was, therefore, decided at a conference held at Melbourne to increase the rates for ordinary messages to four shillings and ninepence per word. The new rates came into force on the 1st January, 1893, concurrently with an agreement under which New Zealand joined the guarantees to the company and to South Australia.

(i.) *Present Rates to Great Britain.* On the acceptance by three of the States of the terms offered by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for the construction of a cable *via* South Africa the rate for ordinary messages was reduced in May, 1900, to four shillings a word. It was further reduced to three shillings and sixpence in January, 1901, and to three shillings in January, 1902, at which amount the standard rate by all routes for cablegrams to Great Britain has since remained. The scale of reductions is governed by a revenue standard and when the latter averages £330,000 per annum a further reduction to two shillings and sixpence will be made.

(ii.) *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. **Cable Subsidies Paid by Each State, 1901 to 1906.**—The agreements between the State Governments and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company expired on the 30th April, 1900. Since the year 1895 the amounts guaranteed—£237,736 to the company and £37,552 to South Australia—have been met by the receipts, and the contracting States have, therefore, not been called upon to contribute.

(a) The following table shews the total amounts paid by each State by way of cable subsidies for each calendar year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive:—

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CABLE SUBSIDIES PAID BY EACH STATE,  
1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	3,494	1,993	12,028	11,613	10,530	4,223
Victoria ...	1,505	...	10,058	10,114	8,430	8,073
Queensland ...	2,519	2,513	11,770	11,984	12,000	8,501
South Australia ...	1,423	...	...	...	...	...
Western Australia	66	22	...	...	...	...
Tasmania ...	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
Commonwealth ...	• 13,207	8,728	38,056	37,911	35,160	24,997

(b) The subjoined statement shews the amounts paid by each State in respect of each cable service during the year 1906:—

AMOUNTS PAID BY THE SEVERAL STATES IN RESPECT OF EACH  
SUBSIDISED CABLE SERVICE, 1906.

State.	Tasmania- Victoria.	New Caledonia.	Pacific.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	...	2,000	2,223	4,223
Victoria ...	...	...	8,073	8,073
Queensland ...	...	2,000	6,501	8,501
South Australia ...	...	...	...	...
Western Australia ...	...	...	...	...
Tasmania ...	4,200	...	...	4,200
Commonwealth ...	4,200	4,000	16,797	24,997

As the agreement in connection with the Tasmanian cable expires in 1909, and as there is a probability of the service being taken over by the Commonwealth Government, the guarantees will, in the course of another year, be reduced to those in connection with the New Caledonia cable and with the Pacific cable.

#### § 4. Telephones.

**1. Development of Telephone Services.**—The Postal Departments of the several States have established telephone services in all the capital towns and in many of the important centres of population throughout the Commonwealth. For the purpose of bringing the use of the instrument more generally into use, the charges have in recent years been considerably reduced, with the result that the number of subscribers has largely increased. Particulars as to the revenue from telephone services in each State for the years 1901 to 1907 are given on page 626 *ante*, while particulars of the expenditure on telephone works in each State for the year 1907 are given in a subsequent table on the same page.

(i.) *Number of Telephone Exchanges, 1901 to 1906.* The following table shews the number of telephone exchanges in each State at the end of each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive:—

NUMBER OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGES. 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales	48	51	57	61	64	76
Victoria ...	20	20	20	22	24	31
Queensland ...	15	15	15	19	19	24
South Australia	12	12	12	11	11	11
Western Australia	12	12	13	13	16	20
Tasmania ...	13	13	16	16	16	16
Commonwealth...	120	123	133	142	150	178

(ii.) *Number of Telephone Connections.* The subjoined table shews the number of telephone connections to the various exchanges in each State at the end of each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive:—

## NUMBER OF TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales ...	9,864	11,079	12,091	13,138	14,224	15,453
Victoria ...	6,049	6,847	7,610	8,429	9,259	10,424
Queensland ...	2,978	3,296	3,749	3,936	4,210	4,405
South Australia ...	1,831	1,983	2,179	2,319	2,503	2,510
Western Australia ...	2,764	2,941	3,332	*3,448	*3,643	3,797
Tasmania ...	*1,091	1,158	1,236	1,329	1,441	1,563
Commonwealth ...	24,577	27,304	30,197	32,599	35,280	38,152

Estimated.

(iii.) *Length of Telephone Wire, 1901 to 1906.* The subjoined table shews the length of telephone wire, exclusive of telegraph and railway telephone wire, available for use in each State at the end of each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive:—

## LENGTH OF TELEPHONE WIRE, EXCLUSIVE OF TELEGRAPH AND RAILWAY TELEPHONE WIRE, 1901 TO 1906.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
New South Wales ...	15,885	17,727	19,479	20,853	22,111	23,403
Victoria ...	17,354	20,894	22,577	25,073	28,638	30,984
Queensland ...	4,360	4,911	5,613	6,309	7,697	9,758
South Australia ...	3,935	4,244	4,572	4,972	5,384	5,566
Western Australia ...	4,944	4,947	5,431	6,016	6,494	6,957
Tasmania ...	1,239	1,199	1,300	1,236	1,371	1,502
Commonwealth ...	47,717	53,922	58,972	64,459	71,695	78,170

**2. Telephone Rates.**—On the 31st January, 1907, a uniform toll rate was established throughout the Commonwealth. Subscribers at the time at which this rate was introduced were allowed the option of continuing their subscriptions under the old flat rates, which differed in the several States, or of coming in on the basis of the new rates. The charges made to all new subscribers, or for transferred or extended services, are on the basis of the new rates. The rate charged under the toll system varies according to the population of the area over which the telephone service extends, and also according to whether the person connected subscribes to an exclusive, a two-party, or a three-party service. The following table gives particulars of the rates under the toll system:—

## TELEPHONE TOLL SYSTEM.—UNIFORM CHARGES FOR ALL STATES.

In Telephone Networks having a Population of—	Radius of Network with Main Exchange as Centre.	Minimum Annual Charge—		
		For an Exclusive Service.	For each Subscriber or Instrument on a Two-party Service.	For each Subscriber or Instrument on a Three-party Service.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From 1 to 10,000 ...	Miles. 5	4 0 0	3 0 0	2 10 0
" 10,001 to 100,000 ...	10	4 10 0	3 7 6	2 15 0
" 100,001 upwards ...	10	5 0 0	3 15 0	3 0 0

For the foregoing charges the Postal Department provides and maintains all necessary exchange equipment, subscribers' lines not exceeding one mile in length radially, one telephone wall-set for each subscriber, and allows 1000 effective calls to be originated by each subscriber in each half-year.

(i.) *Charges for Extra Calls.* For all effective calls beyond 1000 half-yearly the subscriber is charged as follows:—

For calls above 1000 and not exceeding 2000 half-yearly, two calls for one penny.  
For calls above 2000 and not exceeding 3000 half-yearly, three calls for one penny.  
For calls above 3000 calls half-yearly, four calls for one penny.

(ii.) *Charges for Extra Mileage.* When the radial length of any line exceeds one mile the following charges are made:—

	Exclusive Services.	Two-party Services.	Three or More Party Services.
For each half-mile or part thereof	£1 per annum	Ten shillings per annum per subscriber or instrument	Five shillings per annum per subscriber or instrument

3. **Miscellaneous Particulars, 1906.** The following table gives various interesting particulars of the operation of the telephone services in each State for the year 1906:—

PARTICULARS OF OPERATION OF TELEPHONE SERVICES, 1906.

Particulars.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Commonwealth.
Telephone Exchanges ... No.	76	31	24	11	20	16	178
Public Telephone Bureaux No.	463	128	97	49	41	190	968
Extension Lines— Metropolitan ... No.	3,050	1,001	2,098	1,025	986	78	—
Country ... No.	347	—	1,894	41	300	43	—
Total ... No.	3,397	1,001	3,992	1,066	1,286	121	10,863
Private Lines— Metropolitan ... No.	310	208	45	307	30	22	922
Country ... No.	569	209	188	129	20	47	1,162
Total ... No.	879	417	233	436	50	69	2,084
Connections— Central Exchange ... No.	4,663	4,742	*2,043	*1,882	1,562	791	15,481
Suburban Exchanges No.	8,007	4,041	*265	*440	948	28	13,705
Country Exchanges No.	2,783	1,641	*2,097	*188	1,287	744	8,548
Total ... No.	15,453	10,424	4,405	2,510	3,797	1,563	38,152
Telephones in use ... No.	20,373	15,460	5,545	3,524	5,093	1,916	51,911
Rental received ... £	144,933	92,385	27,932	28,584	36,063	9,203	339,100
Length of wire opened during year ... miles	1,292	2,346	2,061	182	463	131	6,475
Total length of wire at end of year ... miles	23,403	80,984	9,758	5,566	6,957	1,502	78,170
Cost of construction during year ... £	26,055	45,458	17,850	10,894	8,521	2,986	111,764
Total cost to end of year ... £	564,979	592,521	170,937	141,118	151,283	44,539	1,665,377

\* Partly estimated.