

SECTION XVIII.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

§ 1. Posts.

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

In previous issues of the Year Book will be found a brief description of the postal services in the earlier period of Australian history. (See Year Book No. 5, page 754.)

2. **Development of Postal Services.**—In 1841 the number of post offices open in Australia was 102, situated mainly in New South Wales and Tasmania. At the end of ten years 101 post offices were open in New South Wales, 44 in Victoria, 72 in South Australia, and 51 in Tasmania. From the year 1851 onwards a remarkable increase in the number of post offices in Australia took place, until, in 1891, the number open on the mainland and Tasmania totalled 4463, of which 1384 were situated in New South Wales, 1729 in Victoria, 307 in Queensland, 629 in South Australia, 86 in Western Australia, and 328 in Tasmania.

On the 31st December, 1913, the postal business had increased to such an extent that 5853 post offices were open for business, of which number 2025 were situated in New South Wales, 1749 in Victoria, 614 in Queensland, 672 in South Australia, 398 in Western Australia, and 395 in Tasmania.

3. State, Interstate and Oversea Postages for whole Commonwealth.—In the following table the matter dealt with is divided into (i.) matter posted in the Commonwealth for delivery within the Commonwealth, (ii.) matter received from places outside the Commonwealth, (iii.) matter despatched to places outside the Commonwealth, and (iv.) total postal matter dealt with by the Commonwealth Postal Department in 1901 and from 1909 to 1913, but excluding interstate excess.

**STATE, INTERSTATE, AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR WHOLE COMMONWEALTH,
1901 and 1909-13.**

Year.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers.	Packets.	Parcels.
POSTED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH (,000 OMITTED).				
1901	210,205	92,383	36,395	1,253
1909	347,594	107,516	76,348	2,741
1910	363,893	118,674	76,991	2,956
1911	416,353	122,020	70,975	3,205
1912	431,996	122,373	60,439	3,583
1913	449,928	115,662	62,731	3,976
OVERSEA RECEIVED (,000 OMITTED).				
1901	5,682	7,233	2,876	81
1909	14,092*	9,145	3,620	106
1910	15,729	10,042	3,852	119
1911	19,445	11,691	4,568	142
1912	24,266	13,565	5,275	196
1913	37,986	13,043	4,424	213
OVERSEA DESPATCHED (,000 OMITTED).				
1901	4,945	3,055	1,319	35
1909	11,279	5,712	2,406	70
1910	13,039	6,003	3,076	79
1911	17,265	7,926	3,120	83
1912	24,146	9,364	3,357	89
1913	30,569	10,658	4,131	108
TOTAL POSTAL MATTER DEALT WITH BY THE COMMONWEALTH POSTAL DEPARTMENT 1901 AND 1909-13, BUT EXCLUDING INTERSTATE EXCESS (,000 OMITTED).				
1901	220,853	102,727	40,161	1,369
1909	372,496	119,931	81,909	2,898
1910	392,351	132,415	83,599	3,155
1911	453,975	139,603	79,017	3,419
1912	479,677	138,170	70,609	3,764
1913	520,518	136,195	69,771	4,286

* The increase is partly due to the fact that in New South Wales the method of counting was different in previous years.

4. **State, Interstate, and Oversea Postages for each State.**—The following table shows separately for each State the postage matter dealt with in 1913 under the same classification adopted in the preceding paragraph :—

STATE, INTERSTATE, AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR EACH STATE, 1913.

State.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers.	Packets.	Parcels.
POSTED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN COMMONWEALTH (,000 OMITTED).				
New South Wales ...	161,309	46,579	29,936	2,053
Victoria ...	150,186	29,529	14,821	722
Queensland ...	50,995	20,268	8,053	749
South Australia ...	38,888	6,987	4,463	222
Western Australia ...	28,930	5,063	3,813	183
Tasmania ...	19,620	7,236	1,645	47
Commonwealth...	449,928	115,662	62,731	3,976

OVERSEA RECEIVED (,000 OMITTED).

New South Wales ...	15,136	5,798	2,413	64
Victoria ...	14,006	3,327	810	52
Queensland ...	3,029	1,196	184	50
South Australia ...	2,434	824	159	17
Western Australia ...	2,543	1,454	581	24
Tasmania ...	838	444	277	6
Commonwealth...	37,986	13,043	4,424	213

OVERSEA DESPATCHED (,000 OMITTED).

New South Wales ...	14,721	6,054	2,498	56
Victoria ...	7,587	3,332	1,150	23
Queensland ...	2,234	460	187	10
South Australia ...	1,961	233	153	7
Western Australia ...	2,494	354	73	9
Tasmania ...	1,572	225	70	3
Commonwealth...	30,569	10,658	4,131	108

5. **Postal Facilities.**—The subjoined statement shows the number of post and receiving offices, the area in square miles and the number of inhabitants to each post office (including receiving offices) in each State and in the Commonwealth at the end of the year 1913. 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. The returns given for South Australia in this and all succeeding tables include those for the Northern Territory. Similarly, the returns for the Federal Territory are included in those for New South Wales.

SQUARE MILES OF TERRITORY AND NUMBER OF INHABITANTS TO EACH POST AND RECEIVING OFFICE, 1913.

State.	* N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	† S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wth.
Number of post and receiving offices...	2,596	2,632	1,386	796	544	455	8,409
Number of square miles of territory to each post office in State ...	120	33	484	1,135	1,794	58	349
Number of inhabitants to each office...	697	529	490	549	577	431	564
Number of inhabitants per 100 sq. miles	583	1,585	97	48	32	747	161

* Including Federal Territory.

† Including Northern Territory.

6. **Rates of Postage.**—Prior to the operation of the Postal Rates Act of 1910, the charges made for the postage of newspapers and parcels, and of interstate and foreign letters, were the same in all the States of the Commonwealth. The rates for the transmission of inland letters, however, were not uniform, the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 having specially provided that the rates and charges levied in any State should continue in force. The last-mentioned provision, however, was repealed by the Postal Rates Act of 1910, which came into force by proclamation on 1st May, 1911.

The following rates on letters, newspapers, and certain other postal articles posted in the Commonwealth for delivery therein came into force on the 1st May, 1911, the date of proclamation of the operation of the Postal Rates Act of 1910 :—

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

Postal Articles.	Rates of Postage.
LETTERS	1d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
LETTER-CARDS	{ Single, 1d. each. Reply, 1d. each half.
POST CARDS	{ Single, 1d. each. Reply, 1d. each half.
PRINTED PAPERS AS PRESCRIBED	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 2 ounces or part of 2 ounces.
BOOKS PRINTED OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 ounces or part of 4 ounces.
BOOKS PRINTED IN AUSTRALIA	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 8 ounces or part of 8 ounces.
MAGAZINES.—That is to say—	
(a) magazines, reviews, serials, and other similar publications printed and published in Australia in numbers at intervals not exceeding three months	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 8 ounces or part of 8 ounces.
(b) magazines, reviews, serials, and other similar publications (including newspapers) printed and published outside Australia in numbers at intervals not exceeding three months	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 ounces or part of 4 ounces.
HANSARD.—That is, reports of Parliamentary Debates printed and published by the authority of the Commonwealth or of a State	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 12 ounces or part of 12 ounces.
COMMERCIAL PAPERS, PATTERNS, SAMPLES, AND MERCHANDISE AS PRESCRIBED	1d. per 2 ounces or part of 2 ounces.
NEWSPAPERS (without condition as to the number contained in each addressed wrapper) posted by registered newspaper proprietors, or by newsvendors, or returned by an agent or newsvendor to the publishing office	1d. per 20 ounces on the aggregate weight of newspapers so posted by any one person at any one time.
ALL OTHER NEWSPAPERS	For each newspaper, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 10 ounces or part of 10 ounces.

Whilst the bookkeeping sections of the Constitution Act (see Section XIX., § 1, hereinafter) were in force, each State had necessarily to use its own postage stamps, and stamps sold in one State were only allowed to be used on letters posted in that State. The necessity for this arrangement disappeared with the change in the keeping of the Commonwealth accounts, and since the 14th October, 1910, stamps of any State can be affixed to letters, irrespective of the State in which they are posted. Stamps of a uniform design are now used throughout the Commonwealth.

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

(ii.) *Newspapers.* The different rates charged for the carriage of newspapers in the various States, prior to Federation, continued after the control of the Postal Departments had been taken over by the Commonwealth, until the 1st November, 1902, when a uniform rate was imposed by the Post and Telegraph Rates Act 1902. At present the rates on all newspapers posted for delivery in the Commonwealth (without condition as to the number contained in each addressed wrapper posted) by registered newspaper proprietors, or by newsvendors, or returned by newsvendor or agent to the publishing office, is one penny per twenty ounces on the aggregate weight. On all other registered newspapers posted within the Commonwealth for delivery therein, the charge is a halfpenny per ten ounces for each newspaper. At the end of the year 1914 there were in all 1947 publications registered in the Commonwealth under section 29 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 for transmission by post as newspapers. The charge on postage of registered newspapers for transmission to the United Kingdom is one penny for each newspaper not exceeding eight ounces in weight by the ordinary route, and one penny for each newspaper not exceeding sixteen ounces in weight by the All-Sea route. To other parts of the world the rate is one penny up to four ounces, and a halfpenny for every additional two ounces. Newspapers which are not registered are charged at the same rates as other printed papers.

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

(iv.) *Packets.* The ordinary rate for the conveyance of packets is one penny for each two ounces. Packets must not as a rule exceed 2 ft. in length, 1 ft. in breadth or depth; or, if in a roll, 2 ft. 6 in. in length. Special rates are allowed for the conveyance of commercial papers, patterns, samples, etc.

7. Registered Letters.—Under section 38 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 provision is made for the registration of any letter, packet, or newspaper upon payment of 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 Articles Posted.* The subjoined table shews the number of registered articles posted in each State during the year 1913, classified according to the places to which they were despatched for delivery:—

NUMBER OF REGISTERED ARTICLES POSTED DURING 1913.

(,000 OMITTED.)

State.	Posted in each State for Delivery within that State.	Posted in each State for Delivery in other States.	Posted in each State for Delivery in Places outside the C'wealth.	Total.
New South Wales	1,263	168	127	1,558
Victoria	854	125	100	1,079
Queensland	499	71	41	611
South Australia	219	38	29	286
Western Australia	319	31	45	395
Tasmania	137	26	8	171
Commonwealth	3,291	459	350	4,100

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

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

November, 1906, and has not since been renewed. From that date mails were carried at Postal Union rates until the 12th April, 1907, when the service was discontinued. At present mails to and from Europe *via* San Francisco are carried by the Union Steamship Company, which receives a subsidy from the New Zealand Government, and by the Oceanic Company. Each of these companies carries Australian mails at poundage rates, with a four-weekly service.

(ii.) *Route via Suez Canal.* The establishment of a mail route *via* America had the effect of stimulating the steamship owners who were engaged in the service *via* Suez, and from that time there was a marked improvement in the steamers, as well as in the punctuality and speed with which the mails were delivered. The Peninsular and Oriental Company, and, at a little later date, the Orient-Pacific Company, have carried mails to and from Australia almost since the inception of ocean steam services. Postal matter was carried by contract until 1905, when the contract between the Peninsular and Oriental Company and the Commonwealth Government ceased, although that between the company and the Imperial Post Office is still in force. Mails are still carried from Australia by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, but are carried at Postal Union rates and not under contract with the Commonwealth. On the 25th April, 1905, the Orient-Pacific Company concluded a new contract with the Commonwealth Government for a fortnightly service between England and Australia. The subsidy was at the rate of £124,880 per annum. This contract has now been replaced by the new mail contract referred to in the next sub-section hereof. Fremantle has, since the year 1900, been the first and last port of call for European mail steamers, in lieu of Albany, the original port of call. The Peninsular and Oriental and Orient-Pacific Companies' steamers sail alternately every week, both from London and Australia, conveying the outward and homeward mails. This service has to some extent been disorganised since the outbreak of war in August, 1914.

(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 was to be carried out by existing vessels belonging to the company and by five new mail ships, which have been specially built, and which are each over 12,000 tons gross registered tonnage and of not less than seventeen knots speed. An additional new vessel was to be added within eighteen months, and another within six years, from February, 1910, and the first of these—the *Orama*—entered into running during November, 1911. The vessels are to call at Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, and at least six of them at Hobart during the months of February to May inclusive. The voyage from Taranto to Adelaide is to be completed within twenty-six days fourteen hours, and from Adelaide to Taranto within twenty-seven days two hours, but the latter period may be exceeded by thirty-six hours during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon. The amount of the subsidy is fixed at £170,000 per annum; but, if the earnings of the company be decreased, or the expenses increased, by reason of any Commonwealth shipping legislation passed subsequently to the date of the agreement, to the extent of not less than £5000 a year, the contractors have the right to terminate the agreement unless the subsidy is increased. Insulated space of not less than 2000 tons of forty cubic feet is to be provided in each of the new vessels, and the freights are not to exceed one halfpenny per lb. for butter and sixty shillings per ton for fruit. White labour only is to be employed, and no discrimination is to be made between unionists and non-unionists. If before or during the sixth year of the period of the contract an accelerated service is provided by any competing line of mail ships, the contractors must, if so required by the Postmaster-General, provide a service equal to the

competing service, at an increased subsidy, to be determined by agreement or arbitration. 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. The new service was inaugurated on the 11th February, 1910.

(b) *French and German Subsidised Mail Services.* Vessels belonging to the Messageries Maritimes and the Norddeutscher Lloyd, which 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 Postal Union rates. The Messageries Maritimes service commenced in November, 1882; the amount of the annual subsidy granted by the French Government is £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*. The service afforded by German vessels was, however, interrupted by the outbreak of hostilities in Europe in August last.

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

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

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES, COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, AT BEGINNING OF YEAR 1915.

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> Brindisi and Marseilles	Subsidised by Imperial Govt. Mails from Aust. at Postal Union rates.
(b) Orient-Pacific*	"	Adelaide, Fremantle & London, <i>via</i> Taranto	Subsidised. Date of agreement, 15th Nov., 1907. Term, from Feb., 1910. Amt. of subsidy £170,000.
(c) Messageries Maritimes ...	Every four weeks	New Caledonia and Marseilles, <i>via</i> Fremantle and Adelaide	Subsidised by French Govt. Mails from Aust. at Postal Union rates.

* Mails carried also to India *via* Colombo.

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES.—(Continued.)

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
2. <i>To and from Europe, via Vancouver</i> — Union Steamship Co. ...	Every four weeks	Sydney and Vancouver, B.C., via Auckland, Fiji, Honolulu, and once every eight weeks to Fanning Island	Poundage rates.
3. <i>To and from Europe, via San Francisco</i> — (a) Union Steamship Company ...	"	Sydney, Wellington and San Francisco	Subsidised by New Zealand Govt. Mails from Aust. at Poundage rates
(b) Oceanic Steamship Co. ...	"	Sydney, Apia, Honolulu, and San Francisco	Poundage rates.
4. <i>To and from New Zealand</i> — (a) Conjointly by Union S.S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Ltd.	Weekly	Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington	Poundage rates.
(b) Conjointly by Shaw, Savill and Albion Co. & N.Z. Shipping Co.	Fortnightly	Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, and Wellington	" "
(c) Conjointly by Union S.S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Ltd.	Bi-weekly	Sydney and Wellington	" "
(d) Other Steamers ...	Irregularly, when convenient	Sydney, Wellington, Auckland, and Lyttleton	" "
5. <i>To and from ports in N.S. Wales</i> — (i.) NORTHERN PORTS— (a) North Coast S.N. Co. ...	Weekly	Sydney, Manning River, Macleay, Nambucca, Bellinger Rivers.	" "
(b) Cain's Co-Operative S.S. Co....	Twice weekly	Coffs Harbour, Clarence River, Byron Bay, and Richmond River	" "
(ii.) SOUTH COAST PORTS— Illawarra and S. Coast S.N. Co....	Six times a month	Sydney & Port Macquarie	" "
	Twice weekly	Sydney, Eden, Bega and Tathra	" "
6. <i>To and from Northern Ports of Qld.</i> — (a) Australian Steamships Limited	Weekly	Gladstone, Mackay, Bowen, Townsville, Cairns, Cardwell, Mourilyan, Innisfail, Pt. Douglas & Cooktown	Subsidised by agreement dated 29th Nov., 1914, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £17,950.
(b) Australian United Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.	Once every three weeks	Brisbane, Normanton & Burketown, via Townsville, Cooktown, and Thursday Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 16th Jan., 1915, for five years. Amount of subsidy, £6500. Subsidies under 6 (a) and (b) paid by Queensland.
(c) Other steamers ...	Irregularly	Various...	Poundage rates.
7. <i>To and from Ports in S. Australia</i> — (a) Coast Steamship Co. ...	Weekly	Pt. Adelaide & Kingscote	Subsidised to 31st December, 1916. Amount of subsidy, (a) £650; (b) £250; (c) £350; (d) £300.
(b) " " ...	Twice a wk.	" Edithburgh	
(c) " " ...	"	" Stansbury	
(d) " " ...	Weekly	" Pt. Vincent	
(e) Adelaide Steamship Co. ...	"	" Pt. Lincoln	Subsidised for three years from 1st January, 1914. Amount of subsidy, £2100.
(f) Adelaide Steam Tug Co. ...	As required	Port Pirie & Hummocks Hill	Subsidised without agreement. Amount of subsidy, £36. Subsidies under 7 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), paid by South Australia.
8. <i>Western Australia</i> — (i) INTERSTATE— (a) By P. & O. and Orient Lines	Weekly	Fremantle and Adelaide	P. and O. at Postal Union rates. Orient line subsidised. See above 1 (a) and (b).
(b) Adelaide Steamship, the Australian United S. Navigation, Huddart Parker, Howard Smith, Melb. S.S. Co., and McIlwraith, McEacharn lines	Conjointly, six times monthly	Fremantle, Albany, and Adelaide	Poundage rates.

† Carries also mails to Canada and the United States.

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES.—(Continued.)

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
<i>Western Australia—continued—</i>			
(c) Messageries Maritimes ...	Every four weeks	Fremantle and Adelaide	Postal Union rates.
(d) White Star line ...	Monthly	Albany and Adelaide	Poundage rates.
(ii.) To & FROM PORTS ON N.W. COAST			
(a) State Steamship Service ...	..	Fremantle and Derby	Subsidised by agreement dated 28th February, 1913, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £5500. Subsidy paid by Western Australia. Poundage rates.
(b)	Once each sixty days	Fremantle & Darwin	
(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-ship's'n	Fremantle, Derby, and Wyndham	
(iii.) TO AND FROM PORTS ON S. COAST			
(a) State Steamship Service ...	Weekly	Albany and Esperance	Subsidised by agreement dated 26th August, 1913, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £3250.
(b)	Fortnightly	Albany & Israelite Bay	
(c)	Quarterly	Albany and Eucla	
9. Tasmania—			
(a) Union S.S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Proprietary	Three times a week	Melb'rne & Launceston	Subsidised by agreement dated 27th October, 1913, for five years. Amount of subsidy, £15,000, provided new steamer similar to t.s. <i>Loongana</i> is run on Launceston-Melbourne service £13,000 only to be paid prior to running of new steamer.
(b) Do. do. do. ...	Twice a wk.	.. Burnie	
(c) Do. do. do. ...	Weekly	Sydney, Hobart, and Wellington	Poundage rates.
(d) Union Steamship Co. ...	Fortnightly	Sydney, Eden, Launceston, and Devonport	
(e) New Zealand mail services, see previous page ...	Twice a wk.	Sydney, Melb'ne, Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland	" "
(f) To and from ports in Western districts	Weekly	Hobart and Strahan	" "
(g) Ellerker and Co. ...	..	Melbourne, Burnie, etc.	" "
(h) Huon Channel and Peninsula Steamship Co. Ltd.	Twice a wk.	Hobart and Tasman Peninsula Ports	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1913, for three years. Amount of subsidy £255 per annum.
(i) Holyman and Sons Ltd. ...	..	Hobart & Maria Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1913, for three years. Amount of subsidy £25 per annum
(j)	Thrice weekly	Launceston and Furneaux group of Islands	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1914, for two years. Amount of subsidy £550 per annum, paid equally by the Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments.
(k) Stephenson & Gunn ...	..	Launceston and King Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1914, for two years. Amount of subsidy £300 per annum.
10. To and from Northern Territory—			
(a) The Eastern and Ausn., and the China Navigation Co. ...	Irregularly	To and from Adelaide, Melb'rne, and Sydney, via North Queensland ports, extending to China and Japan	Poundage rates.
(b) Burns, Philp and Co. ...	Monthly		
(c) Royal Dutch Packet S.N. Co. ...	Every two months	Melbourne to Darwin, via North Queensland ports en route to Java	Poundage rates
(d) State Steamship Service of Western Australia	Every two months	Fremantle and Darwin	Subsidised by Western Australian Government.

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES.—(Continued.)

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
11. To Eastern Ports—			
(a) Burns, Philp & Co.	Monthly	Sydney, Sourabaya, Samarang, Batavia, and Singapore	Subsidised by N.S.W. Govt. Mails at poundage rates.
(b) China Navigation, Eastern & Ausn., and Burns, Philp Co.'s	About three times a month	Sydney, to Hong Kong, Manila, etc., via North Queensland ports	Poundage rates.
(c) Nippon Yusen Kaisha	Monthly	Sydney to Manila, China, and Japan, via N. Queensland ports	Postal Union rates.
(d) Royal Dutch Packet S. N. Co.	Monthly	Melbourne to Java, via Sydney and Queensland ports	Poundage rates.
(e) Various other steamers	About monthly	Sydney or Newcastle and ports in Borneo, Java, Sumatra, and Malay Peninsula	" "
(f) W.A.S.N. Co. & Ocean S.S. Co.	Fortnightly	W.A. Ports, Java, and Singapore	" "
12. South Africa—			
White Star, P. & O. Branch Service, and other Companies	Irregularly	Various	" "
13. North America—			
(a) Various steamers	"	Sydney or Newcastle to San Francisco	Poundage rates.
(b) Various steamers	"	Sydney to Guaymas (Mexico)	" "
(c) Union S.S. Co.	13 voyages yearly	Syd., Wellington, Tahiti and San Francisco	" "
(d) " "	Every four weeks	Sydney, Auckland, Fiji and Vancouver	" "
14. South America—			
Various steamers	About weekly	Sydney or Newcastle via N. Zealand to ports in Chile, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, and Argentine	Poundage rates.
15. Pacific Islands—			
(a) Burns, Philp and Co.	Monthly	Sydney to Lord Howe & Norfolk Islands, N. Hebrides	Subsidised by Commonwealth at £19,850 per annum.
(b) " "	Every two months	Sydney to Gilbert and Marshall Islands	
(c) " "	Every six weeks	Papua	
(d) " "	"	Solomon Islands	
(e) Royal Dutch Packet S. N. Co.	Monthly	Melbourne to Papua via Sydney and Queensland ports	Poundage rates.
16. Noumea—			
(a) Messageries Maritimes	Fortnightly	Sydney and Noumea and to Vila (New Hebrides) once a month	Postal Union rates.
(b) Other steamers	About fortnightly	Sydney and Noumea	Poundage rates.
17. Fiji—			
(a) Union S.S. Co.	Monthly	Sydney and Suva	" "
(b) " "	"	Sydney, Auckland, Suva, Tonga, and Samoa	" "
18. Fiji and Noumea—			
Burns, Philp and Co.	"	Sydney and Suva	" "
19. Ocean and Pleasant Islands—			
Various steamships	"	Sydney, Ocean and Pleasant Islands	" "

9. **Amount of Mail Subsidies Paid.**—The following table shews the amounts of subsidies for ocean and coastal mail services as existing at the beginning of the year 1915, which are paid by the Commonwealth Postal Department :—

MAIL SUBSIDIES.—OCEAN AND COASTAL SUBSIDIES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR 1915.

Service...	Orient Pacific.	Queensl'd Ports.	South Australian Ports.	Western Australian Ports.	Tasmanian Ports.
Annual Subsidy	£ 170,000	£ 24,450	£ 3,686	£ 8,750	£ 13,855

During the year 1913 the amount paid by the Commonwealth for conveyance of mails at poundage rates by non-contract vessels was £33,537; by road services, £388,523; and by railway services, £356,109.

10. **Average and Fastest Time of Mails to and from London.**—Great progress has been made in regard to the means of postal communication with the United Kingdom and the continents of Europe and America. In 1857 there was an unsatisfactory ocean mail service, which nominally brought monthly mails, with news nearly sixty days old; 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 services by way of New Zealand, *via* San Francisco and Vancouver. 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 1913 :—

AVERAGE AND FASTEST TIME OCCUPIED IN CONVEYANCE OF MAILS VIA SUEZ CANAL BETWEEN LONDON AND ADELAIDE, AND VICE VERSA, DURING 1913.

Service.	London to Adelaide.				Adelaide to London.			
	Average Time.		Fastest Time.		Average Time.		Fastest Time.	
	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.
Orient Pacific S. N. Co., <i>via</i> Naples	28	13	28	11	29	16	28	4
Peninsular and Oriental S.N. Co., <i>via</i> Brindisi	28	14	28	9	29	9	28	20

The journey by rail from Adelaide, where the mails for the eastern States are landed, to Melbourne takes 17½ hours; from Adelaide to Sydney, 42 hours, including a stop of about seven hours at Melbourne; while the through journey from Adelaide to Brisbane takes just over three days. The journey from Melbourne to Hobart occupies about 29 hours, *via* Launceston, and about 32 hours direct.

The average time occupied in the conveyance of mails from London to Sydney *via* Vancouver is a little over 37 days, and from Sydney to London by the same route nearly 35. A table shewing the average and fastest times of this service was given in previous issues (see Year Book No. 5, p. 766), but the discontinuance of the contract with the company operating between Australia and Vancouver renders the table no longer desirable.

11. **Money Orders and Postal Notes.**—The issue of money orders and postal notes in the Commonwealth is regulated by sections 74 to 79 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901. A money order, 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. Money order conventions with the following countries are under consideration:—France, Japan, Philippine Islands, Hungary, British Solomon Islands Protectorate, and Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorates.

(i.) *Value of Orders Issued and Paid and of Notes Sold.*—The following table shews the total value of money orders issued and paid, and of postal notes sold in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year 1913, 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 PAID AND OF POSTAL NOTES SOLD, TOGETHER WITH THE TOTAL AMOUNTS OF COMMISSION AND POUNDAGE RECEIVED IN EACH STATE DURING 1913.

State.	Value of Money Orders Issued.	Value of Money Orders Paid.	Net Money Order Commission Received.	Value of Postal Notes Sold.	Poundage Received on Postal Notes
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	3,765,207	3,582,659	26,864	1,438,884	27,383
Victoria ...	1,673,878	1,922,665	11,084	1,058,018	20,721
Queensland ...	1,223,204	984,711	10,606	379,933	7,406
South Australia ...	543,872	481,047	4,528	242,329	4,861
Western Australia ...	1,180,558	862,659	8,914	298,650	5,313
Tasmania ...	363,328	299,508	2,881	132,967	2,571
Commonwealth ...	8,750,047	8,133,249	64,877	3,550,781	68,255

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

RATES OF COMMISSION, MONEY ORDERS.

If Payable in—	For sums—							
	Not exceeding £2.	Exceeding £2, but not exceeding £5.	Exceeding £5, but not exceeding £7.	Exceeding £7, but not exceeding £10.	Exceeding £10, but not exceeding £12.	Exceeding £12, but not exceeding £15.	Exceeding £15, but not exceeding £17.	Exceeding £17, but not exceeding £20.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
The Commonwealth...	0 6	0 6	1 0	1 0	1 6	1 6	2 0	2 0
New Zealand and Fiji ...	0 6	1 0	1 6	2 0	2 6	3 0	3 6	4 0
Papua ...	0 9	0 9	1 6	1 6	2 3	2 3	3 0	3 0
U. Kingdom & other countries	Sixpence for any amount up to £2 and 3d. for each additional £1 or fraction thereof.							

Remittances may also be made by telegraph to and from money order offices in the Commonwealth which are also telegraph or telephone offices, and to New Zealand.

The charge for a telegraph money order is the cost of the telegram of advice in addition to the ordinary commission. 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 Pounding on Postal Notes.* The values of the notes issued have been so arranged that any sum of shillings and sixpences up to £1 can be remitted by not more than two of these notes. 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:—

POUNDAGE RATES, POSTAL NOTES.

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

12. **Number and Value of Money Orders and Postal Notes Issued and Paid.**—The following table shows the total number and face value of money orders and postal notes issued and paid in the Commonwealth during 1901 and from 1909 to 1913:—

**NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES ISSUED AND PAID
1901 and 1909-13.**

Year.	Money Orders.				Postal Notes.			
	Issued.		Paid.		Issued.		Paid.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).
1901 ...	1,318	4,193	1,339	4,081	3,515	1,292	3,522	1,293
1909 ...	1,460	6,093	1,425	6,041	6,872	2,598	6,867	2,595
1910 ...	1,500	6,368	1,424	6,254	7,447	2,796	7,446	2,796
1911 ...	1,583	6,584	1,448	6,455	8,042	3,017	8,042	3,017
1912 ...	1,822	7,417	1,557	6,886	8,608	3,259	8,533	3,235
1913 ...	2,091	8,750	1,814	8,133	9,425	3,551	9,341	3,527

13. **Classification of Money Orders Issued and Paid.**—The following table shows the number and value of money orders issued in each State during the year 1913 and classified according to the country where payable:—

**MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY
WHERE PAYABLE, 1913.**

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	703,462	13,786	151,065	15,677	883,990
Victoria ...	280,891	6,962	78,955	10,153	376,961
Queensland ...	255,719	2,292	50,477	8,339	316,827
South Australia ...	105,093	1,365	33,563	6,107	146,128
Western Australia	213,429	1,347	48,372	6,414	269,562
Tasmania ...	84,584	2,191	9,003	1,428	97,206
Commonwealth	1,643,178	27,943	371,435	48,118	2,090,674

MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE, Etc.—(Continued).

State in which Issued.	Where Payable.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United Kingdom.	In Other Countries.	
VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	3,321,167	42,547	338,660	62,832	3,765,206
Victoria ...	1,470,688	19,916	149,978	33,296	1,673,878
Queensland	1,051,971	8,166	117,351	45,716	1,223,204
South Australia ...	450,102	4,639	66,305	22,826	543,872
Western Australia	1,001,443	5,380	115,756	57,979	1,180,558
Tasmania ...	331,255	8,284	20,552	3,237	363,328
Commonwealth	7,626,626	88,932	808,602	225,886	8,750,046

The following table shows the number and value of money orders paid in each State during the year 1913, and classified according to the country where issued:—

MONEY ORDERS PAID IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE COUNTRY OF ISSUE, 1913.

State in which paid.	Where Issued.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United K'dom.	In Other Countries.	
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	713,594	34,495	24,178	13,717	785,984
Victoria ...	360,537	23,211	16,980	8,260	408,988
Queensland	229,524	2,450	8,132	3,062	243,168
South Australia ...	103,431	1,647	4,755	1,496	111,329
Western Australia	175,240	1,644	7,308	1,468	185,660
Tasmania ...	68,839	5,486	2,281	2,080	78,686
Commonwealth	1,651,165	68,933	63,634	30,083	1,813,815

VALUE.

	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	3,353,541	91,986	79,281	57,851	3,582,659
Victoria ...	1,781,176	56,485	55,576	29,428	1,922,665
Queensland	935,870	8,340	28,304	12,197	984,711
South Australia ...	454,886	5,476	15,231	5,454	481,047
Western Australia	823,697	4,957	27,076	6,929	862,659
Tasmania ...	276,449	12,110	6,197	4,752	299,508
Commonwealth	7,625,619	179,354	211,665	116,611	8,133,249

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

14. **Classification of Postal Notes Paid.**—The subjoined table shews the number and value of postal notes paid during the year 1913 in each State and in the Commonwealth, classified according to the State in which they were issued.

Particulars regarding the total number and value of postal notes issued and paid during previous years since the inauguration of the Commonwealth have already been given in paragraph 12 hereof.

NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO STATE OF ISSUE, 1913.

State in which Paid.	Postal Notes Issued in—						
	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
NUMBER.							
New South Wales	2,980,921	118,344	139,930	41,091	23,905	24,430	3,328,621
Victoria ...	206,562	2,272,001	40,527	65,048	44,158	60,617	2,688,913
Queensland ...	51,641	10,204	790,505	2,334	1,419	1,060	857,163
South Australia ...	39,821	26,059	2,386	501,583	13,449	1,490	584,788
Western Australia	7,626	12,899	1,144	5,866	543,020	940	571,495
Tasmania ...	478,044	456,834	35,838	62,463	10,515	266,502	1,310,196
Commonwealth	3,764,615	2,896,341	1,010,330	678,385	636,466	355,039	9,341,176
VALUE.							
New South Wales	£ 1,132,916	£ 50,698	£ 54,532	£ 15,467	£ 11,512	£ 8,448	£ 1,273,573
Victoria ...	88,860	849,014	15,214	26,332	23,606	23,954	1,026,930
Queensland ...	22,291	4,469	294,611	957	766	476	323,570
South Australia ...	19,373	11,405	1,041	176,224	7,724	637	216,404
Western Australia	3,432	6,013	502	2,704	249,640	391	262,682
Tasmania ...	144,973	142,810	14,099	21,313	4,945	95,975	424,115
Commonwealth	1,411,845	1,064,409	379,999	242,997	298,193	129,881	3,527,324

15. **The Value Payable Post.**—This is a system under which the Postal Department undertakes to deliver registered articles sent by parcel post within the Commonwealth, or between Papua and the Commonwealth, and to recover from the addressee on delivery a specified sum of money fixed by the sender, and to remit the sum to the sender by money order, for which the usual commission is charged. The object of the system is to meet the requirements of persons who wish to pay at the time of receipt for articles sent to them, and also to meet the requirements of traders and others who do not wish their goods to be delivered except on payment. In addition to the ordinary postage, commission on the value of the articles transmitted at the rate of twopence on sums not exceeding ten shillings, and one penny for each additional five shillings or part thereof, must be prepaid by postage stamps affixed to the articles, distinct from the postage, and marked "commission." The registration fee (threepence) and the proper postage must also be prepaid. If the addressee refuse delivery, the parcel is returned to the sender

free of charge. Any article that can be sent by parcel post may be transmitted as a value-payable parcel. Letters may also be sent as value-payable parcels, if prepaid at the letter rate of postage and handed to the parcels clerk in the same manner as in the case of parcels. The subjoined statement gives particulars of the number and value of parcels sent through the Value Payable Post in each State during the years 1909 to 1913. From these figures it will be seen that the business in Queensland is greatly in excess of the combined transactions of all the other States, owing to the fact that the system has been established in that State for some years, but was only extended to the whole Commonwealth with the advent of Federal control of the post office. Western Australia is the only other State to make use of this system to any extent, the business transacted by that State and Queensland amounting to 84 per cent. of the total for the Commonwealth.

**VALUE PAYABLE PARCELS POST.—NUMBER POSTED, VALUE COLLECTED,
AND REVENUE, 1909 to 1913.**

	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
NUMBER OF PARCELS POSTED.							
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1909	7,585	1,051	31,765	149	19,250	42	59,842
1910	7,901	894	34,917	214	21,940	110	65,976
1911	9,198	1,142	37,803	195	21,391	66	69,795
1912	10,210	1,072	44,973	395	21,821	41	78,512
1913	12,175	1,691	39,434	255	22,335	8	75,898
VALUE COLLECTED.							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1909	10,926	1,697	39,351	234	30,712	93	83,013
1910	14,736	1,656	43,478	288	34,697	344	95,199
1911	15,314	2,312	52,628	413	35,659	165	106,491
1912	13,053	2,160	53,061	827	37,307	92	106,500
1913	14,881	2,857	53,461	435	35,945	20	107,599
REVENUE, INCLUDING POSTAGE, COMMISSION ON VALUE, REGISTRATION AND MONEY ORDER COMMISSION.							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1909	937	164	4,112	22	2,603	6	7,844
1910	1,201	162	4,634	19	3,178	18	9,212
1911	1,087	225	5,241	28	2,943	9	9,533
1912	1,147 ^a	143	5,418	54	3,027	6	9,795
1913	1,343	261	5,113	30	3,124	1	9,872

16. **Agricultural Produce Parcels Post.**—On the 1st July, 1914, the Postal Department, acting in conjunction with the Railway Department, inaugurated a system under which parcels of agricultural produce, fish, cut flowers, etc., might be transmitted at cheap rates from places in the country to persons living within six miles of the General Post Office, Melbourne. The service was introduced into the State of Victoria only, and is regarded as an experiment. Up to the present, however, the financial results have not been of an encouraging nature.

17. **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 shows the total number of letters, postcards, and packets dealt with by the Dead Letter Offices in the Commonwealth during the year 1913, 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, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
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LETTERS (,000 OMITTED).

Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	466	417	182	97	137	60	1,359
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	134	90	19	23	16	7	289
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	137	76	45	32	42	16	348
Total ...	737	583	246	152	195	83	1,996

POSTCARDS (,000 OMITTED).

Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	8	7	4	7	16	3	45
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	19	10	2	2	2	1	36
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	7	4	2	3	3	1	20
Total ...	34	21	8	12	21	5	101

PACKETS (,000 OMITTED).

Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	525	175	169	38	105	22	1,034
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	50	561	22	44	6	...	683
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	5	23	49	26	36	10	149
Total ...	580	759	240	108	147	32	1,866
Grand Total (letters, postcards, & packets)	1,351	1,363	494	272	363	120	3,963

18. **Post Offices and Receiving Offices and Employees.**—The following tables shew, as far as returns are available, the numbers of post and receiving offices and the corresponding numbers of employees in each State and in the Commonwealth at the end of the year 1901, and from 1909 to 1913 inclusive :—

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES AND RECEIVING OFFICES, 1901 and 1909-13.

State.	1901.		1909.		1910.		1911.		1912.		1913.	
	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.										
New South Wales ...	1,684	524	1,884	513	1,911	526	1,948	542	2,000	559	2,025	571
Victoria ...	1,637	18	1,642	728	1,655	765	1,720	824	1,730	844	1,749	883
Queensland* ...	411	823	522	856	558	822	576	786	593	770	614	772
South Australia ...	699	...	631	92	648	90	662	84	668	95	672	124
Western Australia ...	187	...	331	82	343	87	372	107	390	130	398	146
Tasmania† ...	376	...	377	40	391	38	386	47	391	55	395	60
Commonwealth ...	4,994	1,393	5,387	2,311	5,506	2,328	5,664	2,390	5,772	2,453	5,853	2,556

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

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND NUMBER OF MAIL CONTRACTORS, 1901 and 1909-13.

State.	1901.		1909.		1910.		1911.		1912.		1913.	
	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.	Employees.	Mail Contractors.
New South Wales ...	5,636	984	7,469	1,553	8,622	1,602	10,844	1,733	12,614	1,798	10,823	2,376
Victoria ...	3,962	890	6,285	804	7,043	848	8,533	866	7,845	1,060	8,437	1,123
Queensland* ...	2,616	—	3,146	589	3,247	720	4,455	747	3,942	768	4,134	812
South Australia† ...	1,945	—	1,896	259	1,905	268	2,298	361	2,173	364	2,364	382
Western Australia ...	1,303	140	1,736	234	1,894	233	2,621	251	2,246	251	2,444	355
Tasmania† ...	865	—	874	186	969	189	1,178	260	1,094	217	1,141	294
Commonwealth ...	16,327	2,014	21,406	3,625	23,680	3,860	29,929	4,218	29,914	4,458	29,343	5,342

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

19. **Postal Routes.**—The following table shews the length of postal routes and the number of miles travelled by mail conveyances during the year 1913 :—

POSTAL ROUTES, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
MILES OF ROUTE.							
Railway ...	3,948	3,607	4,788	2,290	3,298	689	18,620
Water ...	2,820	63	2,267	7,579	3,397	914	17,040
Other ...	43,900	11,959	28,325	8,966	16,394	2,229	111,773
Total... ..	50,668	15,629	35,380	18,835	23,089	3,832	147,433

POSTAL ROUTES, 1913—Continued.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
MILES TRAVELLED BY MAIL CONVEYANCES (,000 omitted.)							
Railway ...	5,609	4,411	3,931	1,809	1,916	848	18,524
Water ...	1,737	23	180	292	317	212	2,761
Other ...	9,878	4,027	4,151	1,626	999	922	21,603
Total ...	17,224	8,461	8,262	3,727	3,232	1,982	42,888

20. **Gross Revenue of Postal Department.**—The following table shews the gross revenue of the Postal Department for the years ended 30th June, 1901 and 1909 to 1914 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. It was the practice, prior to the year 1912-13, to use the figures supplied by the Treasury relating to revenue and expenditure, but as the Postal Department have, since that date, furnished a balance sheet of the working of the department, prepared on a commercial basis, the latter figures have accordingly been adopted herein.

GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1901 and 1909-13.

Year ended 30th June.	Postal Branch.	Telegraph Branch.	Telephone Branch.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1901* ...	516,181	224,484†	†	740,665
1909 ...	2,325,326	642,548	441,551.	3,409,425
1910 ...	2,541,080	681,038	509,623	3,731,741
1911 ...	2,646,730	740,428	518,857	3,906,015
1912 ...	2,382,967	781,101	752,531	3,916,599
1913 ...	2,564,270	816,450	862,572	4,243,292
1914 ...	2,691,812	836,668	994,888	4,523,368

* Period from 1st March to 30th June, 1901. † Including telephone revenue. ‡ Included in telegraph revenue.

The following table gives an analysis of the gross earnings of the Postal Department in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year ended 30th June, 1914:—

ANALYSIS OF GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1913-14.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'with.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Postage ...	952,375	696,830	329,207	194,200	153,015	92,898	2,418,528
Telegraphs ...	238,399	167,756	137,336	126,237	82,741	24,199	836,665
Telephones ...	389,018	281,274	135,942	85,776	71,133	31,745	994,888
Money order commission	26,691	11,890	10,198	4,656	8,407	2,723	64,565
Poundage on postal notes	28,721	21,331	7,758	4,978	5,161	2,618	70,597
Private boxes and bags	10,413	5,126	5,947	3,068	2,240	1,128	27,942
Miscellaneous ...	48,088	12,620	18,067	15,128	8,920	7,360	110,183
Total ...	1,753,705	1,196,827	644,485	434,063	331,617	162,671	4,523,368

21. **Expenditure in respect of the Postal Departments.**—The subjoined table shews the total expenditure in respect of the Postal Department in the Commonwealth for each of the years ended 30th June, 1903 and 1909 to 1914 inclusive. The figures given include certain items of expenditure, such as rent, repairs and maintenance of buildings, fittings and furniture, sanitation, water supply, new buildings and additions which are under the control of the Department of Home Affairs, and interest on transferred properties.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1902-3 and 1909-14.

Year.	1902-3.	1908-9.	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.
Expenditure	£ 2,568,846	3,611,678	3,786,756	4,343,231	5,344,421	6,435,039	6,599,104

The following table shews the distribution of expenditure on various items in each State during the year ended 30th June, 1914. The table is not to be regarded as a statement of the working expenses of the Department, since items relating to new works, interest, etc., are included therein.

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENTS, 1913-14.

Particulars.	Central Office.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'with
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries and Contingencies—								
Salaries	17,090	975,150	603,710	300,169	204,605	225,665	78,802	2,405,191
Conveyance of mails ... ..	...	326,064	154,356	182,248	80,040	78,401	45,450	866,559
Contingencies	5,416	445,876	317,820	240,716	96,841	139,384	51,463	1,297,516
Cables	14,757	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,757
Ocean mails	170,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	170,000
Miscellaneous	2,815	5,471	7,339	1,561	2,539	1,518	582	21,845
Pensions & retiring allowances ... ..	...	20,931	20,703	2,229	...	4,306	...	48,169
Rent, repairs, maintenance	863	41,935	18,397	12,126	5,656	10,125	1,498	90,600
Supervision of works ... ..	...	3,947	301	1,658	1,348	2,052	327	9,633
Proport'n of Audit Office exps. ... ..	...	1,257	967	453	304	220	139	3,340
Unforeseen expenditure	46	116	133	73	20	42	9	439
New Works—								
Telegraph and telephone	310	517,964	346,930	137,918	59,082	143,010	20,332	1,226,116
New buildings, etc. ... ..	...	65,603	51,199	10,933	16,296	18,352	2,815	165,198
Interest on transferred properties ... ..	...	81,764	46,776	32,327	29,366	19,975	7,522	217,730
Purchase of sites*	48,523	...	...	...	...	...	...	48,523
Other	13,488	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,488
Total	273,308	2,486,078	1,568,631	922,431	496,097	643,050	209,509	6,599,104

* Particulars of apportionment to each State not yet available.

22. **Balance Sheet of the Postmaster-General's Department.**—The first complete balance sheet and profit and loss account of the Postmaster-General's Department was presented in November, 1913, for the year ending 30th June, 1913. The balance sheet for the year 1913-14 has now become available, and discloses the fact that the working of the Postmaster-General's Department for that year resulted in a deficit of £53,547, to which must be added £147,909 for interest on capital, pensions and retiring allowances, making a total deficit of £501,456.

Tables shewing the results of the working of the Department for the year 1913-14, as compared with 1912-13, are appended :—

**GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT (POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT),
1912-13 and 1913-14.**

Items.	1912-13.	1913-14.
Total earnings	£ 4,243,292	£ 4,523,368
Total working expenses	4,263,373	4,576,915
Deficit	20,081	53,547
Interest on capital	376,409	435,223
Pensions and retiring allowances	10,612	12,686
	387,021	447,909
Total deficit	407,102	501,456

**PROFIT OR LOSS OF THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE DEPARTMENTS,
1912-13 and 1913-14.**

Branch.	1912-13.		1913-14.	
	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.
Postal	£ ...	£ 23,132	£ ...	£ 24,155
Telegraph	164,108	...	151,446	...
Telephone	221,757	...	296,424	...
Wireless Telegraph	11,599	...	35,656	...
Pensions and retiring allowances and interest on general assets... ..	32,770	...	42,086	...
	430,234	23,132	525,612	24,155

**PROFIT OR LOSS OF THE DEPARTMENT IN THE VARIOUS STATES,
1912-13 and 1913-14.**

State.	1912-13.		1913-14.	
	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.
New South Wales	£ 190,332	£ ...	£ 228,949	£ ...
Victoria ... ..	...	8,426	...	13,683
Queensland	100,480	...	110,221	...
South Australia ... ..	...	4,687	...	327
Western Australia	104,132	...	148,244	...
Tasmania	25,271	...	28,053	...
	420,215	13,113	515,467	14,010

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

§ 2. Telegraphs.

1. **First Lines Constructed.**—The electric telegraph was first introduced into Australia for use by the public in the year 1854, when a line from Melbourne to Williamstown was opened. The first line in South Australia, from Adelaide to Port Adelaide, was opened in 1856, while the first line in New South Wales was brought into operation in 1858, when the line from Sydney to Liverpool, twenty-two miles in length, was opened. In Tasmania the first telegraphic line was completed in 1857, while in the following year communication was established between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. The first 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. At the present time the systems of telegraph lines throughout Australia are well developed. The longest line extends from Thursday Island, in Torres Strait, by submarine cable to Paterson, on the mainland of Cape York Peninsula; from Paterson the line runs in a southerly direction as far as Brisbane, where it joins the main interstate line to Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide; from Adelaide it runs to Port Augusta, then on to Port Lincoln, on Eyre's Peninsula, and thence to Eucla, on the Western Australia boundary; from Eucla the line extends along the coast of the Great Australian Bight to Albany, and thence it runs adjacent to the west coast of Western Australia as far as Onslow, *via* Perth, Geraldton, and Carnarvon. From Onslow connection extends to Broome, in Roebuck Bay, from 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. In Queensland a line runs to Burketown, near the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, *via* Normanton; another line extends to Cloncurry and Urundangi, in the extreme west of the State. Branch lines extend to all important coastal and inland towns, while considerable networks of lines converge from the country districts towards the centres of population. From Adelaide the transcontinental line runs in a northerly direction to Darwin, from which place communication is provided with Europe by submarine cable by way of Batavia, Singapore, and Madras. In Western Australia a line runs from Eucla to the Coolgardie goldfields *via* Balladonia and Dundas, and from Coolgardie communication is provided with Perth and with Sir Samuel, in the East Murchison district.

3. **Number of Telegraph Offices and Length of Lines and Wire Open.**—The following table shews the number of telegraph offices and the length of telegraphic lines and of telegraph wire, exclusive of railway telegraphs, available for use in the Commonwealth from 1909 to 1913 inclusive:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES, LENGTH OF LINE AND WIRE, AVAILABLE FOR USE, 1908-13.

Particulars.		1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
No. of Offices	... No.	3,445	3,597	3,883	4,041	4,180	4,624
Length of Line	... miles	43,455	43,849	44,100	44,013*	47,923	46,218†
„ Wire	... „	90,646	92,909	96,825	97,053‡	101,218	108,931

* Prior to 1911 the railway pole mileage over which the Department's wire runs was included in Tasmania. † Prior to 1911 the mileage of wire erected for railways was included in New South Wales. ‡ Prior to 1913 mileage of telephone lines was included in New South Wales.

The following table gives corresponding particulars for each State for the year 1913. The figures are exclusive of railway telegraphs:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES, LENGTH OF LINE AND WIRE IN EACH STATE, 1913.

Particulars.		N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'with.
No. of Offices	No.	1,602	1,187	701	444	401	289	4,624
Length of Line	miles	16,076	4,256	10,745	5,780	7,677	1,684	46,218
„	Wire	37,762	14,063	25,310	14,584	13,472	3,740	108,931

4. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—Particulars as to the revenue from the telegraph systems for the years 1901 and 1909-14 are given on page 675, while particulars as to the expenditure on telegraph works for the year 1913-14 are given on page 676.

5. **Number of Telegrams Despatched.**—The following table shows the total number of telegrams despatched in the Commonwealth in 1901 and in each of the years 1909 to 1913 inclusive:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED (,000 OMITTED), 1901 and 1909-13.

Year	...	...	...	...	1901.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Number*	...	...	...	...	8,003	11,345	12,238	12,821	13,343	13,556

* Including interstate cablegrams.

The following table shows the number of telegrams despatched in each State in 1913 for delivery in that State, and the number despatched in each State for delivery in other States, and also the total number of telegrams—exclusive of cablegrams—despatched in each State:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED IN EACH STATE, 1913 (,000 OMITTED).

State, etc.	...	...	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Inland (counted once)	...	...	3,765	1,970	1,825	903	1,428	328	10,219
Interstate*	...	...	1,021	903	514	397	339	163	3,337
Total	...	...	4,786	2,873	2,339	1,300	1,767	491	13,556

* Including interstate cablegrams.

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

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ORDINARY TELEGRAMS, 1914.

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.	
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 of telegrams sent on "urgent" forms.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR PRESS TELEGRAMS, 1914.

Particulars.	Within any State.		Interstate.		Relating to Parliamentary, Executive, Departmental, and other Commonwealth Proceedings as may be prescribed.
	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Not exceeding 25 words	0	6	1	0	...
From 26 to 50 words	0	9	1	6	...
From 51 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 26 to 100 words ... ..	...	...	...	...	1 6
Every additional 50 words ... ..	...	...	...	...	0 6

7. **Letter-telegrams.**—Commencing in February, 1914, the Postal Department instituted a system of letter-telegrams, between all telegraph offices which are open between 7 p.m. and midnight. The letter-telegrams are forwarded during the night by telegraph to the office of destination and are delivered as ordinary letters by the first letter delivery, or are despatched by mail to the address in the ordinary way. The rates charged throughout the Commonwealth are one shilling for the first 40 words, and one half-penny for each additional word, double these rates being charged on Sundays. At present the service extends to 59 offices in the Commonwealth.

8. **Wireless Telegraphy.**—Under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1905 the Postmaster-General is given the exclusive privilege of establishing and using stations and appliances for receiving and transmitting messages by wireless telegraphy within Australia. While he is empowered to grant licenses to establish and use stations and appliances for wireless telegraphy, the only licenses issued have been for experimental work. At the commencement of the war, however, all experimental licenses were cancelled and all private installations were ordered to be forthwith dismantled. The Act does not apply to ships belonging to the King's Navy. Viewing the insular position of Australia, it was evident that, for an effective system of radio-telegraphic communication to be given, not only must the service offered be continuous, but the distances separating the stations must to a great extent be governed by the normal working range of the vessels with which communication would have to be established. With this object in view, the Commonwealth Government have constructed and erected nineteen stations at or near the following localities:—Port Moresby, Thursday Island, Cooktown, Townsville, Rockhampton, Brisbane, Sydney, Flinders Island, Melbourne, Hobart, Mount Gambier, Adelaide, Esperance, Perth, Geraldton, Broome, Roeburne, Wyndham, and Darwin. To these must be added the station installed at Macquarie Island (used chiefly for meteorological purposes). In the Pacific, the Commonwealth controls stations at Woodlark Island, Rabaul, Wilhelmshaven, Nauru, and Bougainville; all these, with the exception of Woodlark Island, being on former German territory now occupied by Australia. The rates for messages forwarded between the foregoing stations in the Pacific and the Commonwealth are 3d. per word, plus the ordinary land

line charges of the Commonwealth. To complete the external scheme of radio-telegraphic communication, and so form the Australian unit of the Imperial scheme, high-power stations were essential. The stations at Sydney, Perth, and Woodlark Island are of this nature, the first-named being capable of communication with New Zealand and the radio-telegraphic stations in the Pacific, and the Perth station with Cocos Island. A fourth high-power station will, in the near future, be erected at Darwin, and will operate with Singapore and the islands of the Pacific.

All the other stations are of a lower power, and constitute the internal scheme of inter and ship-to-shore communication. The working range by day—and under unfavourable conditions—of the low-power stations is 500 miles; that of the high-power stations being 1250 miles, though the proposed installation at Darwin will have a day range of over 2000 miles. Under more favourable conditions, however, messages can be transmitted over much greater distances, extending in the case of low-power stations to over 1500 miles.

The ordinary ship-to-shore communication rates for ships registered by the Commonwealth or New Zealand are 5d. per word, allocated as follows:—3d. for land station and 2d. for ship station charge, while for vessels registered by other administrations the rates are 10d. per word, allocated as follows:—6d. for land station, and 4d. for the ship station charge. In all cases must be added the inland forwarding charge of 1d. per word. Between Port Moresby and Thursday Island the rate is 2d. per word (plus the inland forwarding rate), which rate is also charged between the mainland and Flinders Island or Macquarie Island, no forwarding charge being made at these two stations.

In December, 1909, a conference of representatives of the Commonwealth, New Zealand, the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, Fiji, the Admiralty, and the Pacific Cable Board was convened at Melbourne to report upon the establishment of wireless telegraphy in the Pacific. The chief recommendations of this Conference were:—(a) That high-power stations be established at Sydney, Doubtless Bay (New Zealand), Suva (Fiji), and Ocean Island, and (b) that medium-power stations be established at Tulagi (Solomon Islands), and Vila (New Hebrides). The total cost of construction of the scheme covered by these recommendations was £42,000, while the total annual cost was estimated at £13,820 for a continuous service, and £9970 for a restricted service. It was proposed to apportion the cost between Great Britain, New Zealand, Fiji, and Australia. These recommendations were adopted by the Commonwealth Government, but the British Government would not agree to the erection of high-power stations at Suva and Ocean Island. Up to the present no further concerted action has taken place, but radio-telegraphic stations have been erected at Suva, Vila, and Tulagi, under the control of the High Commissioner of the Pacific, while the New Zealand Government has erected high-power stations at Awanui (Auckland), and Awarua (Bluff), and low power stations at Auckland, Chatham Island and Wellington, and is also considering the erection of stations at Gisborne, New Plymouth, and Christchurch.

On the termination of the war, the Postal Department will proceed with an inland radio-telegraph scheme, under which isolated homesteads may be linked up with the ordinary land service.

§ 3. Submarine Cables.

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

2. **The Tasmania - Victoria Cables.**—A submarine cable joining Tasmania to the continent of Australia was opened for use in 1869, the total length being 170 miles. The line was owned by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, and was subsidised by the Tasmanian Government until the year 1909. On the 28th February, 1908, the Postmaster-General entered into an agreement with Messrs. Siemens Brothers and Company Ltd., of London, for the manufacture and laying of two submarine cables between Tasmania and Victoria. The new cables were taken over on the

24th March, 1909, and opened to the public on the 1st May, 1909, the day following the expiration of the agreement with the Eastern Extension Company. Their aggregate length is approximately 350 nautical miles of main cable, and 20 nautical miles each of intermediate and shore-end cable, making a total of 390 nautical miles. The contract price was £52,447.

3. The Eastern Extension Company's Cables.—In addition to the first Victoria-Tasmania cable and the original cable from Darwin (see Year Book No. 6, p. 770), the Eastern Extension Company has constructed several other cables connecting with various places in the Commonwealth. (a) In 1879 the original cable *via* Banjoewangie was duplicated, the States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania having agreed to pay the above company a subsidy of £32,400 per annum for a period of twenty years, the amount to be divided between the States on a population basis. (b) In 1881 a cable was constructed connecting Broome, in Roebuck Bay, W.A., with Banjoewangie; 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, Possiet Bay (Pacific Russia), Libau (Russian Baltic), and Newbiggin (England). (f) In 1909 a cable was laid from Java to Cocos Island, thus affording another route from Australia to South Africa, whilst in April, 1911, a radio-telegraphic station was opened at Cocos Island, thus strengthening the line of communication between Australia and the East.

4. The Pacific Cable.—In July, 1898, a conference of representatives of Great Britain, Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and New Zealand was held for the purpose of considering a project for a cable to be laid across the Pacific Ocean, touching only British territory on its way from Australia to Canada, thus providing an "All Red" route, as it is termed, for a cable system between England and Australia. In the following year it was agreed at a meeting held by representatives of the countries interested that the cable should be laid and that Great Britain and Canada should each pay five-eighteenths of the cost, and the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and the Dominion of New Zealand should each pay one-ninth. The construction and management of the cable were placed under the control of a Board composed of seven members—two each from Great Britain, Canada, and Australia, and one from New Zealand—called the Pacific Cable Board. The Australian shore-end of the cable was landed at Southport, Queensland, in March, 1902, and the cable was completed on the 31st October, 1902, and opened for traffic on the 7th December of the same year. There are cable-stations at Norfolk Island, Fiji, and Fanning Island, and a branch cable runs from Norfolk Island to New Zealand. In 1910 the Board leased a wire from Bamfield, British Columbia, to Montreal, thus extending the Pacific cable system from Queensland to Montreal. The traffic is then carried across the Atlantic to the United Kingdom by the cables of the Anglo-American and Commercial Companies. The following table shows 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 1914.**

Year ended the 31st March.	Revenue.	Expenditure (in- cluding Annuities and Renewal Fund).	Loss.	Commonwealth Proportion of Loss.
	£	£	£	£
1903	...	...	90,518	30,514
1904	80,118	167,869	87,751	29,250
1905	87,446	163,296	75,850	25,283
1906	91,952	164,508	72,556	24,185
1907	113,516	167,439	53,923	18,307
1908	110,160	172,523	62,363	20,787
1909	113,093	173,981	60,888	20,295
1910	111,724	171,312	59,588	19,862
1911	138,678	186,888	48,210	16,071
1912	159,150	199,649	40,499	13,500
1913	167,901	200,171	32,270	10,757
1914	197,848	217,798	19,950	6,650

* To 30th June in each year.

5. **New Zealand Cables.**—A submarine cable joining New Zealand to the Australian Continent was laid in 1876. The line is 1191 miles in length. The Australian shore-end of the cable is at Botany Bay, while the New Zealand terminus is at Wakapuaka, near Nelson, in the Middle Island, from which place another cable, 109 miles in length, is laid to Wanganui, in the North Island. For a period of ten years after its opening the cable was subsidised by the New South Wales and New Zealand Governments, the total contributions amounting to £10,000 a year. The branch from Norfolk Island to New Zealand of the Pacific cable was opened on the 23rd April, 1902. The length of this cable is 597 miles, the New Zealand terminus being at Doubtless Bay in the north of the North Island. During 1911 a scheme to lay a second cable between New Zealand and Australia (Auckland to Sydney) was adopted by the various Governments concerned, and the laying of the new cable was completed on the 24th December, 1912, the cable being opened for traffic on the 31st December, 1912.

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

7. **Number of Cablegrams Received and Despatched.**—The subjoined table shows the number of cablegrams received and despatched in the Commonwealth from 1911 to 1913:—

CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED, COMMONWEALTH, 1911-13.

Particulars.	Cablegrams Received.			Cablegrams Despatched.			Total Cablegrams Received and Despatched.		
	1911.	1912.	1913.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Number...	256,912	288,678	301,621	271,540	297,806	309,140	528,452	586,484	610,761

The following table shows the total number of cablegrams received and despatched in each State during the year 1913. The figures given are exclusive of interstate cablegrams, which are classed as interstate telegrams (see § 2 hereof):—

NUMBER OF CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED IN EACH STATE, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.*	C'wealth.
Number received ...	154,004	92,456	13,116	19,943	16,142	5,960	301,621
„ despatched ...	149,318	98,320	16,508	18,551	19,805	6,638	309,140
Total ...	303,322	190,776	29,624	38,494	35,947	12,598	610,761

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

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

LENGTHS OF CABLE ROUTES.

<i>Via Roebuck Bay.</i>		<i>Via Darwin.</i>		<i>Via South Africa.</i>	
	Miles.		Miles.		Miles.
Perth to Roebuck Bay ...	1,485	Adelaide to Darwin ...	2,134	Perth to Mauritius ...	4,417
Roebuck Bay to Banjoewangie ...	970	Darwin to Banjoewangie ...	1,150	Mauritius to Durban ...	1,786
Banjoewangie to London ...	9,841	Banjoewangie to London ...	9,841	Durban to Cape Town ...	800
				Cape Town to Madeira ...	5,715
				Madeira to Penzance ...	1,341
				Penzance to London ...	260
Total ...	12,296	Total ...	13,125	Total ...	14,319

<i>Via Vancouver.</i>		<i>Via Russia.</i>	
	Miles.		Miles.
Southport (Queensland) to Norfolk Island ...	963	Sydney to Darwin ...	2,993
Norfolk Island to Suva (Fiji) ...	1,129	Darwin to Hong Kong ...	4,237
Suva to Fanning Island ...	2,351	Hong Kong to Possiet Bay ...	2,647
Fanning Island to Bamfield (Canada) ...	3,980	Possiet Bay to Libau ...	6,399
Across Canada ...	3,450	Libau to Newbiggin (England) ...	1,657
Canada to Ireland ...	2,450		
Total ...	14,323	Total ...	17,932

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

the rates for ordinary messages were increased to four shillings and ninepence per word, and at the same time New Zealand joined the guarantees to the company and to South Australia.

(i.) *Present Rates to Great Britain.* On the acceptance by three of the States of the terms offered by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for the construction of a cable *via* South Africa the rate for ordinary messages was reduced in May, 1900, to four shillings a word. It was further reduced to three shillings and sixpence in January, 1901, and to three shillings in January, 1902, at which amount the standard rate by all routes for cablegrams to Great Britain has since remained. The scale of reductions is governed by a revenue standard, and when the latter averages £930,000 per annum a further reduction to two shillings and sixpence will be made. In September, 1912, the "through" charge for press cables was reduced from ninepence to sevenpence-halfpenny per word.

(ii.) *Deferred Cablegrams.* With a view to affording additional cable facilities and to keeping the Pacific cable fully occupied during the whole twenty-four hours, proposals were made by the Postmaster-General's Department for the adoption of a system of deferred cablegrams. A meeting of representatives of the Administrations and companies concerned was held in London in November, 1910, and the new rates came into force on the 1st January, 1912. Under this system a reduction of 50% in the charges is made, providing the message is written in plain language, and conveys no other meaning than that which appears on the face of it. Messages can only be transmitted after non-urgent private cablegrams and press cablegrams. Those which have not reached their destination within a period of twenty-four hours from the time of handing in are transmitted in turn with cablegrams charged full rate. They may be sent *via* the Pacific or Eastern routes to all countries to which the ordinary rate exceeds tenpence per word. The arrangement at present extends to some sixty countries, and has become very popular. The number of deferred ordinary words transmitted to and received from all countries with which the system is in operation, in 1913, was 764,870, the resulting Commonwealth revenue being £8011. A comparison with the previous year's results discloses an increase in the number of words of 342,197, and in the revenue of £3608. This service, together with that of the week-end cable letters, has to some extent affected the ordinary cable business. On the 15th December, 1911, a system of deferred press cablegrams between Vancouver and Australia was instituted. The rate charged is one penny three-farthings per word, and the conditions of despatch are the same as those for private deferred cablegrams. Since the commencement of the war, it has been found necessary on several occasions owing partly to the interruption to the Pacific cable from September to November, 1914, and partly to the pressure of other cable matter, to temporarily suspend the operation of the deferred cablegram service, as well as that of the week-end cable messages.

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

The system has since been extended to apply to messages between the Commonwealth and the Union of South Africa, India, Ceylon, Canada (to places to which the ordinary rate is 2s. 4d. per word) and Portugal. A further benefit has lately been conferred on users, and week-end cables to the countries enumerated may now be transmitted by telegraph throughout without extra charge. The rates to these countries and to the United Kingdom are shewn hereunder :—

RATES FOR WEEK-END CABLE LETTERS.

Country.	Rate per Word.	Minimum Charge per Telegram.
United Kingdom ...	9d.	15/-
Union of South Africa ...	7d. (plus ½d. for those lodged in Tasmania)	11/8
India, Ceylon, and Burma ...	7½d.	12/6
Canada ...	7d.	11/8
Portugal... ..	9d.	15/-

Week-end cable letters may also be sent to the United Kingdom or Canada for transmission by registered post to other countries at an extra charge of 5d. per message. As in the case of deferred cablegrams, the pressure on the cables during the war has, on several occasions, necessitated the temporary suspension of this service.

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

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

In accordance with the recommendations of this Committee the Commonwealth granted a total subsidy of £6000, extending over a period of three years, to the Independent Press Cable Service, on the conditions that at least 6000 cable words were supplied each week, to be sent *via* Pacific, and that any newspaper proprietary in the Commonwealth was permitted to become a subscriber at rates approved by the Government. This terminated on the 1st July, 1912, and a new arrangement was entered into under which the Commonwealth agrees to grant a subsidy of £2000 per annum, providing that not less than 26,000 words are sent each month. This agreement is to remain in force till the 30th July, 1916.

11. Cable Subsidies paid by each State.—The agreement 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.

(i.) *Total Subsidies Paid.* The following table shews the total amounts paid by way of cable subsidies for the years 1907-8 to 1913-14:—

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CABLE SUBSIDIES PAID, 1907-14.

Year.	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.
Amount ... £	28,937	28,495	23,862	20,093	17,522	14,779	10,650

(ii.) *Subsidies Paid by each State.* The total amount of cable subsidies paid prior to the year 1908-9 included the subsidy paid in respect of the Tasmania-Victoria cable service.

As the agreement in connection with the Tasmanian cable expired in 1909, and as new cables have been laid by the Commonwealth Government (see page 681 *ante*), the guarantees were, in the course of the year 1910, reduced to those in connection with the New Caledonia and Pacific cables. The amount of cable subsidies paid by the Commonwealth in 1913-14 was £4000 in respect of the New Caledonian cable guarantee, and £6650 in respect of the loss on the Pacific cable.

§ 4. Telephones.

1. **Development of Telephone Services.**—The Postal Department has established telephone services in all the capital towns and in many of the important centres of population throughout the Commonwealth. Particulars as to the revenue from telephone services in each State for the years 1901 and 1909-14 are given on page 675 *ante*, while particulars of the expenditure on telephone works in each State for the year 1913-14 are given in a table on page 676.

(i.) *Number of Telephone Exchanges, etc., in Commonwealth.* The following table shews the number of telephone exchanges, and the number of telephone connections in the Commonwealth at the end of the year 1901 and from 1909 to 1913 inclusive:—

NUMBER OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGES AND CONNECTIONS, 1901 and 1909-13.

Particulars.	1901.	1909.	*1910.	*1911.	*1912.	*1913.
Telephone Exchanges ... No.	119	328	678	927	1,032	1,181
„ Connections ... „	24,583	63,264	74,190	85,458	95,965	107,553

* Including all places at which two or more subscribers are connected and which are now classified as "telephone exchanges." Prior to 1910 the classification in the several States was not uniform.

(ii.) *Number of Telephone Exchanges, etc., in each State.* The following table gives corresponding particulars for each State at the end of 1913:—

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES AND CONNECTIONS IN EACH STATE, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wth.
Tel. Exchanges* No.	451	295	189	106	70	70	1,181
„ Connections „	43,135	30,640	14,096	8,174	7,965	3,543	107,553

* See note to previous table.

2. **Telephone Rates.**—The charges mentioned in the table hereunder are payable for the different classes of telephone services specified therein:—

TELEPHONES.—RENTAL CHARGES, 1913-14.

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 Line	For each Subscriber or Instrument on a Three or more party Service.
	Miles.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From 1 to 10,000 ...	5	3 0 0	2 10 0	2 0 0
„ 10,001 to 100,000 ...	10	3 10 0	2 15 0	2 5 0
„ 100,001 upwards ...	10	4 0 0	3 0 0	2 10 0

It is provided that for all effective calls originated the subscriber will be charged the following rates:—(a) For calls not exceeding 2000 half-yearly, two calls for one penny; and (b) for calls above 2000 half-yearly, three calls for one penny.

Another regulation permits persons occupying offices in the same building, or occupying the same private residence, to subscribe jointly under one exchange number (in addition to rental as for one person at the respective rates prescribed) on payment of £1 per annum for each additional subscriber. This fee covers the insertion of the additional subscriber's name in the telephone list. If additional instruments are required the subscribers must pay the rates prescribed for party lines.

3. **Miscellaneous Particulars.**—The following table gives various interesting particulars of the operation of the telephone services in each State for the year 1913:—

PARTICULARS OF OPERATION OF TELEPHONE SERVICES, 1913.

Particulars.		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wth.
Telephone Exchanges*	No.	451	295	189	106	70	70	1,181
Public Telephones†	No.	916	793	474	416	219	265	3,083
Extension Lines—								
Metropolitan	No.	6,616	6,179	1,241	476	309	70	14,891
Country	No.	1,215	1,370	2,148	125	143	102	5,103
Total	No.	7,831	7,549	3,389	601	452	172	19,994
Private Lines—								
Metropolitan	No.	550	324	99	304	117	38	1,432
Country	No.	540	224	178	111	68	50	1,171
Total	No.	1,090	548	277	415	185	88	2,603
Connections—								
Subscribers' Lines	No.	43,023	30,092	13,488	7,966	7,562	3,455	105,586
Other Local Lines	No.	112	548	608	208	403	88	1,967
Total	No.	43,135	30,640	14,096	8,174	7,965	3,543	107,553
Telephone instruments connected—								
Subscribers' instruments	No.	52,068	37,641	15,636	10,879	9,568	4,180	129,972
Other Local instruments	No.	112	1,096	784	235	457	43	2,727
Total	No.	52,180	38,737	16,420	11,114	10,025	4,223	132,699
Total Revenue‡	£	389,018	281,274	135,942	85,776	71,133	31,745	994,888
Total cost to end of year‡	£	1,741,094	1,663,514	501,788	345,521	411,656	108,111	4,771,684

* See note to first table on previous page. † Comprises slot machines within telephone networks. The information furnished under this heading for 1909 (see Year Book No. 4, page 793) included public telephone stations, i.e., trunk line offices. The latter have since been omitted, as it is thought that they do not rightly come under the heading of "public telephones." ‡ For the year ended 30th June, 1914.

In 1913 the mileage of telephone cables (aerial and underground) was 1981½, the length of telephone conduits in duct miles 1277.46, whilst the mileage of telephone tunnels was 12.3. The total mileage of telephone trunk lines for the Commonwealth for the same period was 52,052, of which number 13,220 were composed of single wire circuits, 16,855 of metallic circuits, and 21,977 of superimposed circuits.