

SECTION XVIII.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

§ 1. Posts.

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

2. **First Post Office in Australia.**—The first Australian office for postal purposes was established in Sydney by Lieutenant-Governor Paterson under a Government order dated the 25th April, 1809, and the site selected was in High-street (now known as George-street) at the residence of Mr. Isaac Nicholls, who was empowered "in consideration of the trouble and expense attendant on this duty" to charge on delivery to the addressee the following sums:—For every letter, one shilling; for every parcel not exceeding 20 lbs. weight, two shillings and sixpence; and for all exceeding that weight, five shillings. Soldiers' letters were charged only one penny. The duties of this office were extended in June, 1810, by Governor Macquarie, who established it as a regular post office, at which all parcels and letters, either colonial or foreign, were to be deposited previous to their distribution.

3. **Postal Services in Early Days.**—After the establishment of this office in Sydney very little improvement in regard to postal matters took place for a number of years, and it was not until 1825 that an Act was passed by Sir Thomas Brisbane, with the advice of the Council, "to regulate the postage of letters in New South Wales." A proclamation under this Act was issued, fixing the rates of postage and the salaries and allowances of postmasters, and inviting tenders for the conveyance of mails between Sydney and Parramatta, Windsor and Liverpool; between Liverpool and Campbelltown; from Parramatta to Emu Plains, and thence to Bathurst. It was not, however, until 1828 that the provisions of the Act were put into full force and a system of general post-office communication was established. In that year rates of postage were fixed, depending

upon the distance and the difficulty of transmission. The lowest single inland rate was threepence and the highest one shilling, the postage on a letter increasing according to its weight, the minimum fee being charged on letters not exceeding a quarter of an ounce. The fee for newspapers was one penny. Letters from New South Wales to Van Diemen's Land were charged threepence each, while other letters by ship were charged fourpence each single rate, and sixpence for any weight in excess. The Act of 1825 was amended by the Postal Act of 1835, under which the Governor was authorised to establish a General Post Office at Sydney, and to make rules and regulations, and to fix rates for the conveyance of letters and parcels. In 1837 a post office was established in Melbourne, and a fortnightly service was established between that city and Sydney. In the same year stamps were introduced in the form of stamped covers or wrappers, which are said to have been the first postage stamps ever used. Post offices were established and a postal service was organised in the other States of the Commonwealth shortly after their settlement, and a tolerably good overland service by horses and mail coaches soon developed between the capitals and the up-country towns, villages, and stations as settlement progressed. In Tasmania the mails were delivered in 1824 by foot post once a fortnight, while in 1835 a mail cart made the journey twice a week from Hobart to Launceston—121 miles—in nineteen hours. In Western Australia the Legislative Council passed an Act establishing a postal department in 1834; a weekly mail between Guildford and York and an overland monthly mail from Perth to King George's Sound were commenced in 1841, and in the following year a regular mail service between all the settled districts of the State was inaugurated.

4. Development of Postal Services.—The New South Wales Postal Act of 1835, referred to above, was amended in 1838, 1840, and again in 1851, when the postage on town letters, *i.e.*, letters received at any post office for delivery at such post office or at any place within the limits of the township in which such post office was situated, was fixed at one penny; for letters transmitted between separate postal towns the postage was twopence, and for letters received from or to be transmitted by ship to places beyond the limits of the colony the fee was threepence in addition to the inland postage. For parcels the rate was twopence up to four ounces weight, and one halfpenny for every additional ounce. Regular mail communication was established between Sydney and Adelaide in 1847, and the rate of postage, on a single letter, was fixed at one shilling and sixpence. In the State of Victoria an Act was passed in 1854 providing for the extension of postal facilities and fixing the rates to be charged for the transmission of letters. The postage on town letters was twopence; on letters for transmission between separate postal towns, sixpence; and on letters for transmission beyond the limits of the State, one shilling. Mails were conveyed along the main roads by mail coaches, built after the style of the old-fashioned English coaches; after the discovery of gold, in 1851, coaches built on the model of the Mexican *estafeta* gradually supplanted the old style. Mails were despatched at night and were delivered with greater rapidity until they were finally sent by railway. The history of the post office in Australia, subsequent to the discovery of gold, has been one of great progress and improvement.

(i.) *Number of Post Offices, Letters and Postcards, and Newspapers, 1841 to 1907.* The number of post offices open in each State and in the Commonwealth at decennial periods since 1841, and at the end of each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive, is given in the subjoined table, which also shews, for the same years, the total number (in thousands) of letters and postcards dealt with, and the number per 100 of the population, as well as the total number (in thousands) of newspapers dealt with, and the number per 100 of the population in each State and in the Commonwealth. The true total number of letters and postcards and of newspapers dealt with is not obtained by merely adding the figures of the several States together, since interstate letters are counted both in the State from which they are despatched and in that in which they are received for delivery. A second total is therefore given, excluding such interstate excess, obtained by subtracting from the first total for all the States half the sum of the number of interstate letters despatched and received in each of the States:—

DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL SERVICES, 1841 to 1907.

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Commonwealth.	C'wealth (excl'ding Interstate Excess).
NUMBER OF POST OFFICES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1841 TO 1907.								
1841 ...	56	3	*	...	...	143	102	...
1851 ...	101	44	*	72	...	51	268	...
1861 ...	340	369	23	160	14	100	1,006	...
1871 ...	570	706	81	286	39	144	1,826	...
1881 ...	973	1,158	141	488	52	206	3,018	...
1891 ...	1,384	1,729	307	629	86	328	4,463	...
1901 ...	1,684	1,637	411	713	187	376	5,008	...
1902 ...	1,693	1,645	433	702	197	369	5,039	...
1903 ...	1,708	1,646	441	706	218	370	5,089	...
1904 ...	1,726	1,652	450	711	243	371	5,153	...
1905 ...	1,744	1,655	447	711	251	370	5,188	...
1906 ...	1,769	1,659	468	706	281	373	5,256	...
1907 ...	1,809	1,656	480	704	298	375	5,322	...

NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS DEALT WITH. (,000 OMITTED.)

1841 ...	720	56	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851 ...	975	504	*	364	...	...	...	...
1861 ...	4,370	6,110	515	1,540	193	836	13,564	12,844
1871 ...	7,510	11,716	1,793	3,163	1,669	1,189	26,040	24,382
1881 ...	26,356	26,308	5,178	10,759	995	2,682	72,278	67,640
1891 ...	64,154	\$62,527	15,346	17,836	3,193	5,852	168,908	157,297
1901 ...	82,783	82,599	23,270	21,395	17,451	11,173	238,671	220,177
1902 ...	90,781	96,486	23,444	20,956	18,151	9,379	259,197	241,795
1903 ...	92,238	98,811	24,244	22,153	15,787	9,911	263,144	244,945
1904 ...	98,270	102,515	25,256	25,050	18,588	10,752	290,431	259,167
1905 ...	111,961	110,455	27,310	29,095	22,106	12,615	313,542	289,584
1906 ...	127,684	116,459	31,463	29,357	24,829	14,552	344,344	317,118
1907 ...	137,229	122,508	36,006	28,364	24,653	14,911	363,671	332,301

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

1841 ...	617	483	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851 ...	495	652	*	548	...	...	...	...
1861 ...	1,237	1,132	1,651	1,228	1,240	929	1,175	1,113
1871 ...	1,478	1,590	1,489	1,712	12,668	1,175	1,553	1,454
1881 ...	3,445	3,024	2,286	3,885	3,372	2,304	3,164	2,961
1891 ...	5,616	\$5,460	3,870	5,548	6,414	3,929	5,270	4,907
1901 ...	6,033	6,821	4,613	5,840	9,306	6,436	6,237	5,758
1902 ...	6,519	7,964	4,592	5,715	8,508	5,285	6,675	6,226
1903 ...	6,483	8,174	4,729	6,042	7,168	5,554	6,701	6,237
1904 ...	6,793	8,470	4,832	6,686	7,919	5,991	7,038	6,504
1905 ...	7,572	9,064	5,144	7,764	8,834	7,038	7,737	7,146
1906 ...	8,363	9,453	5,879	7,648	9,486	8,078	8,358	7,698
1907 ...	8,848	9,904	6,638	7,329	9,329	8,433	8,746	7,991

NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS DEALT WITH. (,000 OMITTED.)

1841 ...	1,126	120	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851 ...	762	456	*	517	...	...	...	...
1861 ...	3,384	4,277	427	1,089	138	896	10,211	9,603
1871 ...	3,992	5,173	1,307	2,213	1,352	1,136	14,173	13,336
1881 ...	16,528	11,441	4,530	5,927	715	2,345	41,486	38,063
1891 ...	42,517	\$22,729	11,896	8,883	1,666	5,376	93,067	85,280
1901 ...	52,318	26,297	12,805	9,573	7,975	7,440	116,408	102,727
1902 ...	47,763	27,874	13,128	6,299	9,916	6,960	111,940	98,568
1903 ...	37,901	31,364	13,511	6,125	8,125	7,183	104,209	92,844
1904 ...	40,385	32,142	14,517	6,953	8,578	7,256	109,831	93,269
1905 ...	44,599	29,563	16,338	7,737	10,054	9,179	117,470	97,789
1906 ...	47,144	29,611	17,613	8,744	9,941	10,195	123,248	103,838
1907 ...	48,341	30,960	19,214	7,713	9,419	10,707	126,354	106,187

NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS DEALT WITH PER 100 OF THE POPULATION.

1841 ...	965	1,024	*	...	...	...	...	...
1851 ...	386	590	*	778	...	...	...	...
1861 ...	958	792	1,370	868	882	995	885	832
1871 ...	786	702	1,086	1,198	11,407	1,122	845	795
1881 ...	2,160	1,315	2,000	2,140	2,423	2,015	1,816	1,666
1891 ...	3,722	\$1,985	3,000	2,763	3,346	3,609	2,904	2,661
1901 ...	3,813	2,172	2,538	2,617	4,253	4,285	3,042	2,655
1902 ...	3,430	2,301	2,569	1,718	4,649	3,922	2,882	2,538
1903 ...	2,664	2,594	2,635	1,661	3,580	4,035	2,653	2,364
1904 ...	2,792	2,655	2,772	1,865	3,655	4,036	2,756	2,341
1905 ...	3,016	2,426	3,078	2,045	4,018	5,121	2,899	2,413
1906 ...	3,087	2,403	3,291	2,278	3,797	5,658	2,992	2,520
1907 ...	3,117	2,503	3,543	1,993	3,564	6,056	3,038	2,553

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

(ii.) *Number of Parcels and Packets dealt with, 1901 to 1907.* The following table shews the total number of parcels and packets dealt with in each State and in the Commonwealth during each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive:—

NUMBER OF PARCELS AND PACKETS DEALT WITH, 1901 to 1907.

State,	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
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PARCELS (.000 OMITTED).

New South Wales	736	786	834	925	994	1,162	1,375
Victoria	311	366	429	425	469	511	556
Queensland	309	303	314	358	389	464	505
South Australia	77	86	113	132	146	167	161
Western Australia	36	36	77	88	120	158	173
Tasmania	40	47	58	64	69	76	73
Commonwealth	1,509	1,624	1,825	1,992	2,187	2,538	2,843
C'wealth (exc. interstate excess)*	1,369	1,468	1,650	1,790	1,958	2,283	2,554

PACKETS (.000 OMITTED).

New South Wales	14,480	16,210	15,471	18,560	22,083	24,039	35,817
Victoria	14,235	12,179	12,545	14,389	14,965	16,267	16,883
Queensland	7,333	7,453	8,127	8,430	10,121	10,231	11,806
South Australia†	1,628	1,769	2,207	1,978	2,208	2,973	6,700
Western Australia	4,387	5,128	3,842	3,664	4,626	4,321	4,459
Tasmania	2,238	2,599	2,961	2,901	3,029	3,528	3,804
Commonwealth	44,301	45,338	45,153	49,922	57,032	61,359	79,469
C'wealth (exc. interstate excess)*	40,161	41,012	40,221	44,359	51,174	54,633	71,714

* In the figures given in this line allowance is made for the fact that in the aggregate obtained by adding together the results of the several States, interstate mail matter is included twice, being counted both in the despatching and in the receiving State. As to the method in which this allowance is computed, see page 753. † Figures for years 1901 to 1906 are exclusive of packets posted at the General Post Office in Adelaide.

5. *Postal Matter Dealt with, 1901 to 1907.*—In the preceding tables is shewn only the *total number* of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels and packets dealt with—*i.e.*, despatched and received—by the Postal Department in each State, regardless of the place from which they are despatched or of the place at which they are received for delivery. In the following tables the total numbers of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels, and packets dealt with are divided into (i.) those posted in each State for delivery within the Commonwealth, (ii.) those received in each State from places outside the Commonwealth, and (iii.) those despatched from each State to places outside the Commonwealth.

(i.) *Matter Posted in each State for Delivery within the Commonwealth, 1901 to 1907.* The matter dealt with under this heading is classified in the two following tables, shewing (a) matter posted in each State for delivery within that State, and (b) matter posted in each State for delivery in other States of the Commonwealth, while the third table (c) shews the total matter posted in each State for delivery within the Commonwealth, *i.e.*, it shews the sums of the corresponding figures in tables (a) and (b).

(a) *Matter Posted in each State for Delivery within that State, 1901 to 1907.* The following table shows the number of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels, and packets posted in each State for delivery within that State during each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive :—

NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS, NEWSPAPERS, PARCELS, AND PACKETS POSTED IN EACH STATE FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THAT STATE, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS (,000 OMITTED).							
New South Wales	67,926	75,652	77,315	80,232	90,672	102,790	108,449
Victoria ...	70,255	83,748	84,871	86,803	92,341	95,757	98,997
Queensland ...	17,890	17,614	17,792	19,231	20,795	23,590	26,521
South Australia	16,911	16,659	17,722	19,688	23,335	22,578	20,611
West. Australia	12,327	13,005	10,345	10,479	12,868	16,537	17,181
Tasmania ...	6,247	6,100	6,384	6,460	7,375	8,431	8,736
Commonwealth	191,056	212,978	214,429	222,893	247,386	269,683	280,495
NEWSPAPERS (,000 OMITTED).							
New South Wales	41,572	37,776	27,726	28,284	30,303	30,833	30,840
Victoria ...	14,000	14,902	18,064	17,801	12,949	12,635	12,897
Queensland ...	8,764	8,717	8,684	9,460	10,505	11,460	11,988
South Australia	6,688	3,664	3,530	3,987	4,728	5,564	4,086
West. Australia	2,891	4,621	2,808	2,680	3,017	4,337	4,702
Tasmania ...	4,798	4,428	4,660	4,411	6,310	6,767	7,206
Commonwealth	78,708	74,108	65,472	66,623	67,812	71,596	71,719
PARCELS (,000 OMITTED).							
New South Wales	592	631	667	740	788	927	1,102
Victoria... ..	206	239	282	262	291	312	336
Queensland ...	251	242	255	279	302	376	400
South Australia	45	50	72	87	97	110	98
West. Australia	...	...	34	39	69	101	111
Tasmania ...	19	21	29	32	34	37	34
Commonwealth	1,113	1,183	1,339	1,439	1,581	1,863	2,081
PACKETS (,000 OMITTED).							
New South Wales	11,462	13,129	12,246	13,770	16,768	18,270	*27,369
Victoria ...	10,129	7,683	8,015	9,040	9,524	10,460	10,983
Queensland ...	5,222	5,432	5,621	6,353	8,006	7,780	8,834
South Australia†	605	645	937	727	868	912	5,516
West. Australia	3,007	3,684	2,396	1,761	2,337	2,546	2,739
Tasmania ...	1,402	1,560	1,790	1,913	2,107	2,412	2,664
Commonwealth	31,827	32,133	31,005	33,564	39,610	42,380	58,105

* This figure is determined on a basis different from that adopted in previous years. † Figures for 1901 to 1906 are exclusive of packets posted at G.P.O., Adelaide.

(b) *Matter Posted in each State for Delivery in other States, 1901 to 1907.* The following table shows the number of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels, and packets posted in each State for delivery in a State other than that in which it was posted:—

**NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS, NEWSPAPERS, PARCELS, AND PACKETS
POSTED IN EACH STATE FOR DELIVERY IN OTHER STATES, 1901 to 1907.**

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
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LETTERS AND POSTCARDS (,000 OMITTED).

New South Wales	5,672	5,129	5,029	6,236	7,459	8,896	8,686
Victoria ...	4,268	4,840	4,530	5,013	5,907	6,789	8,422
Queensland ...	2,451	2,445	2,749	2,015	2,242	2,713	3,199
South Australia	1,864	1,761	1,856	2,130	2,344	2,829	2,914
West. Australia	1,681	1,655	1,851	2,607	2,918	2,680	2,518
Tasmania ...	2,536	1,745	1,728	2,274	2,511	2,842	2,834
Commonwealth	18,472	17,575	17,743	20,275	23,381	26,749	28,573

NEWSPAPERS (,000 OMITTED).

New South Wales	4,226	3,473	3,648	4,646	5,559	7,249	7,578
Victoria ...	6,731	7,183	6,457	7,592	9,225	9,572	9,616
Queensland ...	869	836	1,019	726	850	819	1,095
South Australia	757	750	784	936	1,150	1,106	1,174
West. Australia	788	797	798	1,135	1,278	882	532
Tasmania ...	304	322	325	352	331	365	509
Commonwealth	13,675	13,361	13,031	15,387	18,393	19,993	20,504

PARCELS (,000 OMITTED).

New South Wales	59	59	64	71	83	98	101
Victoria ...	50	62	73	83	94	105	119
Queensland ...	13	13	14	18	18	21	25
South Australia	11	12	12	14	15	17	18
West. Australia	5	6	8	9	10	11	12
Tasmania ...	2	4	4	5	6	6	6
Commonwealth	140	156	175	200	226	258	281

PACKETS (,000 OMITTED).

New South Wales	1,292	1,178	1,202	2,259	2,713	3,400	3,255
Victoria ...	1,701	1,715	1,597	1,866	1,787	1,893	2,100
Queensland ...	817	823	996	344	354	550	629
South Australia	199	351	231	233	220	277	246
West. Australia	461	483	484	474	619	367	247
Tasmania ...	98	100	144	156	161	227	202
Commonwealth	4,568	4,650	4,654	5,332	5,854	6,714	6,679

(c) *Matter Posted in each State for Delivery within the Commonwealth, 1901 to 1907.* The subjoined table shews the number of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels, and packets posted in each State for delivery within the Commonwealth during each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive, *i.e.*, the figures in the subjoined table show the sum of the corresponding figures for each State and during each year in the two last preceding tables:—

NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS. NEWSPAPERS, PARCELS, AND PACKETS POSTED IN EACH STATE FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS (,000 OMITTED).							
N.S.W. ...	73,598	80,982	82,344	86,468	98,131	111,686	117,135
Victoria ...	74,523	88,589	89,401	91,815	98,247	102,546	107,420
Queensland ...	19,841	20,059	20,541	21,246	23,038	26,303	29,720
South Aust. ...	18,775	18,420	19,579	21,818	25,678	25,407	23,525
West. Aust. ...	14,008	14,660	12,196	13,087	15,787	19,217	19,699
Tasmania ...	8,784	7,844	8,112	8,734	9,885	11,274	11,570
C'wealth ...	209,529	230,554	232,173	243,168	270,766	296,433	309,069
NEWSPAPERS (,000 OMITTED).							
N.S.W. ...	45,798	41,249	31,374	32,930	35,862	38,082	38,418
Victoria ...	20,731	22,085	24,521	25,393	22,174	22,207	22,513
Queensland ...	9,633	9,553	9,703	10,186	11,356	12,279	13,083
South Aust. ...	7,440	4,413	4,314	4,923	5,878	6,670	5,259
West. Aust. ...	3,679	5,418	3,606	3,816	4,295	5,219	5,234
Tasmania ...	5,102	4,749	4,984	4,763	6,641	7,133	7,716
C'wealth ...	92,383	87,467	78,502	82,011	86,206	91,590	92,223
PARCELS (,000 OMITTED).							
N.S.W. ...	651	690	731	811	871	1,024	1,203
Victoria ...	256	301	355	345	385	417	455
Queensland ...	264	256	269	297	321	397	426
South Aust. ...	56	61	84	101	112	127	116
West. Aust. ...	5	6	43	48	79	111	123
Tasmania ...	21	25	33	38	39	44	40
C'wealth ...	1,253	1,339	1,515	1,640	1,807	2,120	2,363
PACKETS (,000 OMITTED).							
N.S.W. ...	12,754	14,307	13,448	16,030	19,482	21,671	*30,624
Victoria ...	11,829	9,398	9,612	10,906	11,311	12,354	13,083
Queensland ...	6,039	6,255	6,616	6,697	8,359	8,330	9,463
South Aust. †	804	996	1,168	960	1,089	1,189	5,763
West. Aust. ...	3,468	4,168	2,880	2,234	2,956	2,912	2,985
Tasmania ...	1,501	1,659	1,934	2,069	2,269	2,639	2,866
C'wealth ...	36,395	36,783	35,658	38,896	45,466	49,095	64,784

† Figures for 1901 to 1906 are exclusive of packets posted at G.P.O., Adelaide. * This figure is determined on a basis different from that adopted in previous years.

(ii.) *Postal Matter Received in each State from Places Outside the Commonwealth, 1901 to 1907.* The following table shews the number of letters and postcards, newspapers, parcels, and packets received for delivery in each State from places outside the Commonwealth:—

NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS, NEWSPAPERS, PARCELS, AND PACKETS RECEIVED IN EACH STATE FROM PLACES OUTSIDE THE COMMONWEALTH, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS (,000 OMITTED).							
N.S.W. ...	2,150	2,552	2,552	2,962	4,018	3,851	*2,820
Victoria ...	1,417	1,757	1,708	2,206	2,635	2,910	3,423
Queensland ...	852	890	893	862	872	984	1,095
South Aust. ...	348	289	313	436	461	541	762
West. Aust. ...	587	602	603	1,198	1,291	1,114	1,025
Tasmania ...	328	252	223	199	412	414	416
C'wealth ...	5,682	6,342	6,292	7,863	9,689	9,814	9,541
NEWSPAPERS (,000 OMITTED).							
N.S.W. ...	1,509	1,434	1,616	1,715	2,163	2,431	2,088
Victoria ...	2,150	2,534	2,263	2,436	2,760	2,608	3,314
Queensland ...	1,490	1,467	1,422	1,403	1,230	1,210	1,237
South Aust. ...	655	514	454	563	516	488	1,013
West. Aust. ...	1,036	1,055	1,056	1,022	1,176	817	733
Tasmania ...	443	338	305	356	350	419	368
C'wealth ...	7,283	7,342	7,116	7,495	8,195	7,973	8,753
PARCELS (,000 OMITTED).							
N.S.W. ...	30	30	31	34	33	38	51
Victoria ...	20	24	27	27	27	29	30
Queensland ...	10	10	10	14	10	12	13
South Aust. ...	7	8	8	8	9	10	10
West. Aust. ...	9	9	10	11	10	12	11
Tasmania ...	4	5	4	4	5	5	4
C'wealth ...	80	86	90	98	94	106	119
PACKETS (,000 OMITTED).							
N.S.W. ...	516	477	532	714	695	*107	*1,094
Victoria ...	1,075	1,267	1,131	1,218	1,380	1,304	1,104
Queensland ...	622	614	553	453	633	444	580
South Aust. ...	327	257	227	282	258	244	12
West. Aust. ...	192	197	197	431	440	430	503
Tasmania ...	143	369	180	160	130	159	205
C'wealth ...	2,875	3,181	2,820	3,258	3,536	2,688	3,498

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

(iii.) *Matter Posted in each State for Delivery Outside the Commonwealth, 1901 to 1907.* The following is a similar table and shews the matter posted in each State for delivery outside the Commonwealth :—

**NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS, NEWSPAPERS, PARCELS, AND PACKETS
POSTED IN EACH STATE FOR DELIVERY OUTSIDE THE COMMONWEALTH,
1901 to 1907.**

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS (,000 OMITTED).							
N.S.W. ...	1,640	2,146	2,293	2,960	3,297	4,073	4,380
Victoria ...	1,336	1,235	1,891	2,218	2,602	3,101	3,111
Queensland ...	550	562	550	575	622	670	760
S. Australia ...	340	341	337	374	520	727	807
W. Australia...	461	493	494	591	674	757	816
Tasmania ...	618	205	459	429	837	1,066	1,020
C'wealth ...	4,945	5,072	6,024	7,147	8,552	10,394	10,894

NEWSPAPERS (,000 OMITTED).							
N.S.W. ...	802	1,438	1,494	1,735	1,857	1,913	2,257
Victoria ...	1,344	1,116	2,148	2,092	2,096	2,064	2,352
Queensland ...	353	313	315	305	301	312	354
S. Australia ...	162	142	147	148	128	167	195
W. Australia...	211	249	248	253	255	207	196
Tasmania ...	183	182	97	116	153	197	194
C'wealth ...	3,055	3,440	4,449	4,649	4,790	4,860	5,548

PARCELS (,000 OMITTED).							
N.S.W. ...	14	21	22	23	26	28	30
Victoria ...	11	12	13	15	15	17	18
Queensland ...	4	3	4	3	4	4	4
S. Australia ...	4	4	4	4	4	5	6
W. Australia...	1	3	2	3	3	4	4
Queensland ...	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
C'wealth ...	35	44	47	50	54	60	64

PACKETS (,000 OMITTED).							
N.S.W. ...	409	535	568	690	814	1,003	1,179
Victoria ...	590	542	643	915	919	837	880
Queensland ...	86	76	82	82	80	74	84
S. Australia*	57	80	47	51	72	77	103
W. Australia...	87	88	88	195	235	129	65
Tasmania ...	90	50	35	41	50	49	45
C'wealth ...	1,319	1,371	1,463	1,974	2,170	2,169	2,356

* Figures for years 1901 to 1906 are exclusive of packets posted at G.P.O., Adelaide.

6. **Postal Facilities, 1907.**—The subjoined statement shews the area in square miles and the number of inhabitants to each post office (including receiving offices) in each State and in the Commonwealth at the end of the year 1907. It will be observed that the most sparsely populated States have the greatest number of offices in comparison with their population, but in order to judge the relative extension of postal facilities the area of country to each office must also be taken into account :—

**SQUARE MILES OF TERRITORY AND NUMBER OF INHABITANTS TO EACH
POST AND RECEIVING OFFICE, 1907.**

State	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas	Cwlth.
Number of post and receiving offices...	2,319	2,326	1,389	716	365	406	7,521
Number of square miles of territory to each post office in State	134	38	483	1,262	2,673	64	395
Number of inhabitants to each office ...	676	536	390	548	716	453	558
Number of inhabitants per square mile	5.05	14.20	0.81	0.43	0.27	7.02	1.41

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

(i.) *Letters.* The inland letter postage is at the rate of one penny per half-ounce on town and twopence per half-ounce on country letters throughout the Commonwealth, except in the States of Victoria and South Australia. In Victoria the charge made is one penny per half-ounce, and in South Australia twopence per half-ounce, on all letters posted for delivery within the State. In Victoria the minimum charge was altered in 1890 from twopence per ounce to one penny per half-ounce, but the diminution in revenue at that time was so great that in 1892 the rate was again raised to twopence per ounce; on the 1st April, 1901, it was once more reduced to one penny per half-ounce under the provisions of an Act passed in December, 1900. In New South Wales the town rate of one penny per half-ounce, which is in force in the metropolitan suburban district, is also in operation within a twelve-mile radius of Newcastle, and a thirteen-mile radius of the majority of the other principal country towns. In Queensland the town rate extends to all places within a radius of eleven miles from the General Post Office at Brisbane, and also includes all letters to be delivered from the same office at which they were posted. In Western Australia the town rate has effect within a radius of thirteen miles from the General Post Office at Perth, and in other towns and suburbs within a radius depending upon their population. The postage to the United Kingdom was reduced in January, 1891, from sixpence per half-ounce *via* the Red Sea, and fourpence *via* the Cape of Good Hope, to the uniform rate of twopence halfpenny. In 1891 the States were represented at the Congress of the Universal Postal Union held in Vienna, and on the 4th July a convention was signed on their behalf, by which they joined the Union from the 1st October of that year. On that date the rate of postage to all British possessions and to foreign countries included in the Union was reduced to twopence halfpenny. The charge for postage of interstate letters and of letters to the United Kingdom and to British possessions is now uniformly twopence per half-ounce throughout the Commonwealth; the rate on letters to foreign countries and to other places is twopence halfpenny for each half-ounce.

(ii.) *Newspapers.* The different rates charged for the carriage of newspapers in the various States, prior to Federation, continued after the control of the Postal Departments had been taken over by the Commonwealth, until the 1st November, 1902, when a uniform rate was imposed by the Post and Telegraph Rates Act 1902. On all news-

papers posted for delivery within the Commonwealth (without condition as to the number contained in each addressed wrapper posted) by registered newspaper proprietors, or by newsvendors, or returned by newsvendor or agent to the publishing office, a charge of one penny per twenty ounces on the aggregate weight is imposed. On all other registered newspapers posted within the Commonwealth for delivery therein the charge is a halfpenny per ten ounces for each newspaper. At the end of the year 1907 there were in all 1088 publications registered in the Commonwealth under section 29 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 for transmission by post as newspapers, being an increase of 126 on the corresponding number for the previous year. The charge on postage of registered newspapers for transmission to the United Kingdom and to other parts of the world is one penny up to four ounces, and a halfpenny for every additional two ounces. Newspapers which are not registered are charged at the same rates as parcels or packets.

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

(iv.) *Packets.* The regulations for the conveyance of packets vary in the several States. The ordinary rate 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.

8. **Registered Letters.**—Under section 38 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 provision is made for the registration of any letter, packet, or newspaper upon payment of the prescribed fee, and any person who sends a registered article by post may obtain an acknowledgment of its due receipt by the person to whom it is addressed by paying the prescribed fee (see hereunder) in advance at the time of registration in addition to the registration fee.

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

(ii.) *Number of Registered Letters Posted, 1907.* The subjoined table shews the number of registered letters posted in each State during the year 1907—except in the State of Queensland, for which returns are not available—classified according to the places to which they were despatched for delivery, viz.:—

REGISTERED LETTERS POSTED DURING 1907.

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 other Places outside the C'wealth.	Total.
New South Wales ...	691,369	54,090	48,442	793,901
Victoria ...	789,844	92,316	49,182	931,342
Queensland*	...	...	...	...
South Australia ...	192,749	26,123	11,975	230,847
Western Australia ...	246,000	46,500	19,200	311,700
Tasmania ...	158,850	14,518	4,672	178,040
† Commonwealth ...	2,078,812	233,547	133,471	2,445,830

* Returns not available.

† Exclusive of Queensland.

9. Ocean Mail Services.—The question of regular steamship communication with Europe was first mooted in Sydney, and a meeting was held there in 1846 to consider the question. A committee was appointed to gather information on the subject, and eventually this body recommended the establishment of a steam service *via* Torres Straits and Singapore. No further step was, however, taken until 1849, when the Admiralty Department in London advertised for tenders for the conveyance of the mails between Singapore and Sydney. The tender of a company called the Indian and Australian Steamship Company was accepted, and a contract was entered into, but the company became involved in financial difficulties, and failed to carry out their undertaking. The discovery of gold in Victoria, and the consequent increase in the population and commercial importance of Melbourne, induced the Imperial authorities to modify the conditions and to again invite tenders for a service between Singapore and Sydney, *via* King George's Sound, Adelaide, and Melbourne. The tender of the Peninsular and Oriental Company was accepted, and the service was inaugurated in September, 1852, by the arrival at Melbourne of the "*Chusan*." This service was continued until 1854, when it was stopped in consequence of the Crimean War, but in 1856 a line of steamers was again started, and the service was carried on by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, in conjunction with the Royal Mail Company, for some years.

(i.) *Mail Route via San Francisco.* The service *via* the Red Sea did not at that time give much satisfaction to the public, and was looked upon with a certain amount of disfavour in New South Wales and New Zealand. The effect was to stimulate the colonists to agitate for an improved service, and proposals were made for the establishment of a line of mail packets from Sydney to Panama *via* Wellington, by rail across the isthmus, and thence to Great Britain. The result was that in 1866 the line was started, and continued in operation until the end of 1868, when it was terminated through the failure of the company by which it had been carried out. The completion of the railway across the American continent in 1869, with its western terminus at San Francisco, opened up a new and agreeable route, and in that year a monthly service was inaugurated by the Union Steamship Company, in conjunction with the Pacific Steamship Company, from Sydney to San Francisco *via* Auckland. This service was subsidised to the extent of £37,000 per annum, of which New South Wales paid £25,750 and New Zealand £11,250, and was continued until November, 1890, when a new contract was entered into and the amount of the subsidy largely reduced, the amount of the contribution being based upon the weight of mail matter carried. Various extensions of the contract were made, but the last agreement made between the New Zealand Government and the Oceanic Steamship Company of San Francisco expired on the 10th November, 1906, and has not since been renewed. From that date mails were carried at Postal Union rates until the 12th April, 1907, when the service was discontinued.

(ii.) *Route via Suez Canal.* The establishment of a mail route *via* America had the effect of stimulating the steamship owners who were engaged in the service *via* Suez, and from that time there was a marked improvement in the steamers, as well as in the punctuality and speed with which the mails were delivered. The Peninsular and Oriental Company have, with very few interruptions, carried mails from the Australian States almost from the inception of the ocean steam service. Towards the end of 1878, the Orient-Pacific Company commenced carrying mails between Australia and the United Kingdom, and has continued to do so ever since. New contracts were entered into with the Peninsular and Oriental and the Orient-Pacific Companies for a weekly service, subsidised by the Imperial Government and by all the States of Australia, to commence on the 1st February, 1898, for a period of seven years. The total amount of the subsidy was £170,000 per annum, of which £98,000 was payable by the Imperial Government and £72,000 by the Australian States in proportion to their population. These contracts expired on the 31st January, 1905, and pending negotiations for a new contract the mails were carried at poundage rates. On the 1st February, 1905, the Peninsular and Oriental Company commenced its eighth Australian contract with the British Postmaster-General on behalf of the Imperial Post Office only, and in connec-

tion with the India and China mail services, one payment being arranged for the whole service, and the Commonwealth Government not, as hitherto, being a party to the contract. Mails are still carried from Australia by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, but are carried at 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, and the mails are now carried under this contract. The subsidy is at the rate of £124,880 per annum; the contract expired on the 31st January, 1908, but has been extended until 1910, when a new mail contract comes into operation. The contract time is twenty-nine days between Adelaide and Naples, and the agreement contains conditions that only white labour is to be employed, and that steamers used in the service are to be fitted for the conveyance of refrigerated cargo. The Orient Company have stipulated for liberty to cancel the contract at six months' notice, if any new legislation is imposed which would be detrimental to the Company's interest, unless the Federal Government indemnify them by an increase in subsidy to the extent of the loss imposed. Fremantle has, since the year 1900, been the first and last port of call for the mail steamers to Europe, in lieu of Albany, the original port of call; the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient-Pacific Companies' steamers sail alternately conveying the weekly homeward and outward mails.

(a) *The New Mail Contract.* On the 1st January, 1906, tenders were invited by the Commonwealth Postmaster-General for a fortnightly mail service between Adelaide and Brindisi, to alternate with a similar service to be provided by the Imperial Government, and a contract was entered into with Sir James Laing and Company Limited, providing for a service at an annual subsidy of £125,000. This contract, however, fell through, and new tenders were accordingly called for. On the 15th November, 1907, an agreement was entered into with the Orient Steam Navigation Company Limited providing for a fortnightly service for a period of ten years, commencing in February, 1910. The mail service is to be carried out by existing vessels belonging to the company and by five new mail ships, to be specially built, of at least 11,000 tons gross registered tonnage and of not less than seventeen knots speed. Two more new vessels are to be added within eighteen months and six years respectively from February, 1910. The vessels are to call at Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, and at least six of them at Hobart during the months of February to May, inclusive. The voyage from Brindisi to Adelaide is to be completed within twenty-six days fourteen hours, and from Adelaide to Brindisi within twenty-seven days two hours, but the latter period may be exceeded by thirty-six hours during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon. The amount of the subsidy is fixed at £170,000 per annum; but, if the earnings of the company be decreased, or the expenses increased, by reason of any Commonwealth shipping legislation passed subsequently to the date of the agreement, to the extent of not less than £5000 a year, the contractors have the right to terminate the agreement unless the subsidy is increased. Insulated space of not less than 2000 tons of forty cubic feet is to be provided in each of the new vessels, and the freights are not to exceed one halfpenny per lb. for butter and sixty shillings per ton for fruit. White labour only is to be employed, and no discrimination is to be made between unionists and non-unionists. If before or during the sixth year of the period of the contract an accelerated service is provided by any competing line of mail ships, the contractors must, if so required by the Postmaster-General, provide a service equal to the competing service, at an increased subsidy, to be determined by agreement or arbitration. The Commonwealth flag must be flown on the mail ships, which the Commonwealth has the right to purchase at a valuation at any time. Within six months of the Postmaster-General establishing a permanent wireless telegraphy station at Rottnest Island, or at any point on the coast between Fremantle and Brisbane, the company must fit the mail ships with wireless telegraphy installations.

(b) *French and German Subsidised Mail Services.* Vessels belonging to the Messageries Maritimes and the Norddeutscher Lloyd, which are under contract respectively with the French and German Governments to convey mails monthly between Marseilles

and New Caledonia and between Bremen and Sydney, *via* Genoa, also carry mails for the Commonwealth Government from Australia to Europe at Postal Union rates. The Messageries Maritimes service commenced in November, 1882; the total tonnage of vessels belonging to this company in the Australian service at the end of the year 1907 was 30,014 tons, the amount of the annual subsidy granted by the French Government being £120,000. The first contract for the establishment and maintenance of a mail steamship line between Germany and Australia was made between the Imperial German Government and the Norddeutscher Lloyd in 1885, and the service was inaugurated in July, 1886, with the steamer "Salier."

(iii.) *Route via Vancouver and Canadian-Pacific Railway.* During the year 1893 a direct monthly service was started between Sydney and Vancouver, in British Columbia, *via* Wellington, in New Zealand, and thence to Liverpool *via* the Canadian-Pacific Railway, the New South Wales Government paying an annual subsidy of £10,000 for the maintenance of this service for a period of three years. In 1896 the agreement was renewed for a further period of three years, and in 1899 was again renewed for four years, subject to the same terms and conditions, except that the route was *via* Brisbane instead of Wellington. The contract was further extended, at an increased subsidy, from time to time until the 31st July, 1907, and afterwards, at a subsidy of £26,626 per annum, for a period of two years from 1st August, 1907.

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

SUMMARY OF MAIL SERVICES, COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, 1907.

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> Naples	Subsidised. Date of agreement, April, 1905. Term extended to Feb., 1910. Amt. of subsidy £124,880. § Subsidy paid by all States on a <i>per capita</i> basis.
(c) Messageries Maritimes	Monthly	New Caledonia and Marseilles, <i>via</i> Fremantle and Adelaide	Subsidised by French Govt. Mails from Aust. at Postal Union rates.
(d) Norddeutscher Lloyd	"	Fremantle, Adelaide & Bremen, <i>via</i> Genoa	Subsidised by German Govt. Mails from Aust. at Postal Union rates.
2. <i>To and from Europe, via Vancouver</i> † Canadian Australian Steamship Co.	"	Sydney and Vancouver, B.C., <i>via</i> Brisbane, Fiji, Honolulu, and once every eight weeks to Fanning Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 31st July, 1907, for two years. Amount of subsidy, £26,626. Subsidy paid by all States on a <i>per capita</i> basis.
3. <i>To and from New Zealand—</i> (a) Conjointly by Union S.S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Proprietary	Weekly	Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington	Poundage rates.
(b) Do. do. do.	"	Sydney, Hobart, and Auckland	" "
(c) Conjointly by Shaw, Savill, and Albion Co. & N.Z. Shipping Co.	Fortnightly	Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, and Wellington	" "
(d) Other Steamers,....	Irregularly, when convenient	Sydney, Wellington, Auckland, and Lyttelton	" "

* Mails carried also to India *via* Colombo. † Carries also mails to Canada and the United States. § Including £4880 paid for extension to Brisbane. In addition the Queensland Government also pays £21,120 for such extension.

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
4. To and from ports in N.S. Wales—			
(i.) NORTHERN PORTS—			
(a) North Coast S.N. Co. ...	Twice weekly	Sydney, Manning River, Port Macquarie, Macleay, Nambucca, Bellinger Rivers, Coffs Harbour, Clarence River, Byron Bay, and Richmond River	Poundage rates.
(b) Cain's Co-Operative S.S. Co. ...	Weekly	Sydney & Port Macquarie	" "
(ii.) SOUTH COAST PORTS—			
Illawarra and S. Coast S.N. Co. ...	Twice weekly	Sydney, Bermagui, Moruya and Tathra	" "
5. To and from Northern Ports of Qld.—			
(a) Australian United Steam Navigation Co. ...	Weekly	Brisbane, Gladstone, Townsville, Cairns, Mourilyan, Geraldton, Pt. Douglas & Cook's n	Subsidised by agreement dated 25th Nov., 1905, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £17,000.
(b) Do. do. do. ...	Once every three weeks	Brisbane, Normanton & Burketown, via Townsville, Cooktown, and Thursday Island	Subsidised by agreement dated 16th January, 1906, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £6000. Subsidies under 4 (a) and (b) paid by Queensland.
(c) Other steamers ...	Irregularly, when convenient	Various...	Poundage rates.
6. To and from Ports in S. Australia—			
(i.) NORTHERN TERRITORY—			
(a) The Eastern and Ausn., and the China Navigation Co.'s	Irregularly	To and from Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, via North Queensland ports, extending to China and Japan	" "
(b) Jolly and Co. ...	Four times a year	Port Darwin and Victoria R., calling half-yearly at Roper River	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st April, 1904, for three years and nine months. Amount of subsidy, (a) £75; (b) £350; (c) £125 per voyage.
(c) " " ...	do.	Port Darwin & Boroloola	
(d) " " ...	Every eight weeks	" Wyndham	
(ii.) TO SOUTH COAST PORTS—			
(a) Gulf Steamship Co. ...	Weekly	Pt. Adelaide & Kingscote	Subsidised to 31st December, 1907. Amount of subsidy, (a) £295; (b) £173; (c) £173; (d) £132; (e) £75.
(b) " " ...	Twice a wk.	" Edithburgh	
(c) " " ...	"	" Stansbury	
(d) " " ...	Weekly	" Ardrossan	
(e) " " ...	"	" Pt. Vincent	
(f) Adelaide Steamship Co. ...	"	" Pt. Lincoln	Subsidised for three and three-quarter years from 1st April, 1904. Amount of subsidy, £1495.
(g) Adelaide Steam Tug Co. ...	As required	Landing and embarking mails	Subsidised for one year from 1st July, 1906. Amount of subsidy, £567.
(h) " " " ...	"	Port Pirie & Hummocks Hill	Subsidised without agreement. Amount of subsidy, £36. Subsidies under 5 (i.) (b), (c), (d), and (ii.) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) paid by South Australia.
7. Western Australia—			
(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 Ausn. United S. Navigation, and the Huddart, Parker lines	Conjointly, weekly	Fremantle, Albany, and Adelaide	Poundage rates.
(c) Messageries Maritimes, Nord-deutscher Lloyd, the German and Ausn., and the White Star lines	Each monthly	Fremantle and Adelaide	Postal Union rates by first two, and poundage rates by last two lines.
(ii.) TO & FROM PORTS ON N.W. COAST			
(a) Adelaide Steamship Co. ...	Monthly	Fremantle and Derby	Subsidised by agreement dated 28th February, 1907, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £4000. Subsidy paid by Western Australia.
(b) " " ...	Once each sixty days	Fremantle & Wyndham	Poundage rates.
(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 season	Fremantle, Derby, and Wyndham	
(iii.) TO AND FROM PORTS ON S. COAST			
(a) Melbourne Steamship Co. ...	Weekly	Albany and Esperance	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st January, 1906, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £3000. Subsidy paid by Western Australia.
(b) " " ...	Fortnightly	Albany & Israelite Bay	
(c) " " ...	Quarterly	Albany and Eucla	

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
8. <i>Tasmania</i> —			
(a) Union S. Co. and Huddart, Parker Proprietary	3 times a week	Melb'rne & Launceston	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st October, 1906, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £13,000, payable by all States on a <i>per capita</i> basis. Poundage rates.
(b) Do. do. do. ...	Twice a wk.	„ Burnie	
(c) Do. do. do. ...	Weekly	Sydney, Hobart, and Wellington	
(d) Union Steamship Co. ...	Fortnightly	Sydney, Eden, Launceston, and Devonport	
(e) New Zealand mail services, see above New Zealand, 3 (a) & (b)	Twice a wk.	Sydney, Melb'ne, Hobart, Bluff, Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland	
(f) To and from ports in Western districts	Weekly	Hobart and Strahan	„ „
(g) Ellerker and Co., and Patterson and Co.	When convenient	Various ...	„ „
9. <i>To Eastern Ports</i> —			
(a) A. Currie and Co. ...	Once every five weeks	†Melbourne, Sourabaya, Samarai, Batavia, and Singapore	Subsidised by Victorian Government for trade purposes at £2000 a year for three years from December, 1907. Mails at poundage rates.
(b) China Navigation, Eastern & Ausn., and Burns, Philp Co.'s	About three times a month	Sydney, to Hong Kong, Manila, etc., via North Queensland ports	
(c) Norddeutscher Lloyd ...	Monthly	Via Germ'n New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, and Singapore	Postal Union rates.
(d) Nippon Yusen Kaisha ...	„	Sydney to Manila, China, and Japan, via N. Queensland ports	„ „
(e) Various other steamers ...	About monthly	Sydney or Newcastle and ports in Borneo, Java, Sumatra, and Malay Peninsula	Poundage rates.
10. <i>South Africa</i> — White Star, Lund's, Currie's, and other Companies	Irregularly	Various ...	„ „
11. <i>North America</i> —			
(a) Weir line ...	Monthly	Sydney, San Francisco, and Vancouver	Poundage rates.
(b) Oceanic S.S. Co. ...	„	Sydney, Auckland, Pago Pago, Honolulu, and San Francisco	Postal Union rates.
(c) Various steamers ...	About fortnightly	Sydney or Newcastle to San Francisco	Poundage rates.
(c) Various steamers ...	Monthly	Sydney to Guaymas (Mexico)	„ „
12. <i>South America</i> — Various steamers	About weekly	Sydney or Newcastle to ports in Chili, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay	„ „
13. <i>Pacific Islands</i> —			
(a) Burns, Philp and Co. ...	Monthly	Sydney to Lord Howe & Norfolk Islands, N. Hebrides, British New Guinea & Solomon Is. Sydney to Gilbert and Marshall Islands	Subsidised by Commonwealth at £12,000 per annum.
(b) „ „ ...	Every two months		
14. <i>Noumea</i> —			
(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.
15. <i>Fiji</i> —			
(a) Union S.S. Co. ...	Monthly	Sydney and Suva	„ „
(b) S.S. South Australian ...	Every six weeks	Sydney & Suva, Fotuna, Rotamah & Wallis Is.	„ „
(c) Union S.S. Co. ...	Monthly	Sydney, Auckland, Suva, Tonga, and Samoa	„ „
16. <i>Fiji and Noumea</i> — Burns, Philp and Co. ...	„	Sydney, Noumea, & Suva	„ „
17. <i>Ocean and Pleasant Islands</i> — Various steamships	„	Sydney, Ocean and Pleasant Islands	„ „

: Calling also irregularly at Sydney or Adelaide.

† Service ceased 12th April, 1907.

10. **Amount of Mail Subsidies Paid by Each State, 1901 to 1907.**—The mail subsidies are paid by the Commonwealth Postal Department, but are debited to the several States. The following table shews the total amount paid by each State by way of mail subsidies for each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive :—

MAIL SUBSIDIES.—TOTAL AMOUNTS PAID BY EACH STATE, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	35,888	35,901	36,670	39,802	45,679	57,110	59,878
Victoria ...	22,642	23,137	22,555	22,179	38,770	47,182	48,390
Queensland...	39,297	38,815	40,876	42,971	41,292	42,145	44,836
South Australia	15,252	16,539	13,173	28,412	11,685	17,344	18,031
Western Australia*	12,091	13,143	16,727	16,712	16,162	18,643	17,344
Tasmania ...	9,162	9,682	10,096	13,546	17,706	17,039	9,996
Commonwealth ...	134,332	137,217	140,097	163,622	171,294	199,463	198,475

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

The following table shews the amount paid by each State in respect of each mail subsidy during the year 1907 :—

MAIL SUBSIDIES.—AMOUNT PAID BY EACH STATE IN RESPECT OF EACH SUBSIDY, 1907.

State.	Orient-Pacifc.	Van-couver Service.	Victoria-Tas-manian Service.	Northern Ports of Queens-land.	South Coast of South Australia.	Western Australia.		Total.
						N.W. Coast.	South Coast.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
N.S.W. ...	46,304	9,868	3,706	...	...	...	...	59,878
Victoria ...	38,005	7,394	2,991	...	...	...	...	48,390
Queensland...	16,528	3,199	1,299	23,810	...	...	...	44,836
S. Australia	11,861	2,292	932	...	2,946	...	...	18,031
W. Australia	8,137	1,553	635	...	...	4,019	3,000	17,344
Tasmania ...	5,514	1,089	3,393	...	...	...	...	9,996
C'wealth ...	126,349	25,395	12,956	23,810	2,946	4,019	3,000	198,475

Particulars of amounts paid for the carriage of mails at poundage rates and by railways and other conveyances are given in a later part of this section. (See Paragraph 26. *Distribution of Expenditure of Postal Department.*)

11. **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 the monthly service *via* Vancouver, by which mails are sent from Sydney to London in thirty-five days. After leaving Fremantle, where the Western Australian

mails are landed, the outward mail steamers *via* the Suez Canal all call at Adelaide, where the remaining mails are landed and conveyed to their ultimate destination by rail. The subjoined table shews the average and the fastest times occupied in the conveyance of mails from London to Adelaide and *vice versa* during the year 1907 :—

AVERAGE AND FASTEST TIME OCCUPIED IN CONVEYANCE OF MAILS VIA SUEZ CANAL, BETWEEN LONDON AND ADELAIDE, AND VICE VERSA, DURING 1907.

Service.	London to Adelaide.				Adelaide to London.			
	Average Time.		Fastest Time.		Average Time.		Fastest Time.	
	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.	Days.	Hours.
Peninsular and Oriental S.N. Co., <i>via</i> Brindisi and Colombo ...	28	11	28	0	30	4	29	12
Orient Pacific S. N. Co., <i>via</i> Naples and Suez ...	30	5	29	9	32	0	31	1
*Messageries Maritimes, <i>via</i> Mar- seilles ...	...	...	...	...	32	19	32	3
*Norddeutscher Lloyd, <i>via</i> Genoa	...	...	...	...	32	19	30	13

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

The journey by rail from Adelaide, where the mails for the eastern States are landed, to Melbourne takes 17½ hours; from 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 subjoined table shews the average and the fastest times occupied in the conveyance of mails between Sydney and London and *vice-versa* by the mail routes *via* Vancouver and San Francisco respectively during the year 1907 :—

AVERAGE AND FASTEST TIMES OCCUPIED IN CONVEYANCE OF MAILS VIA VANCOUVER AND SAN FRANCISCO RESPECTIVELY, BETWEEN LONDON AND SYDNEY, AND VICE VERSA, DURING 1907.

Service.	London to Sydney.		Sydney to London.	
	Average Time.	Fastest Time.	Average Time.	Fastest Time.
	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Canadian-Australian Line, <i>via</i> Vancouver ...	37½	37	38½	34
*Oceanic Steamship Co., <i>via</i> San Francisco ...	43½	40	38½	34

* Service discontinued 12th April, 1907.

12. Letters, Packets, and Newspapers Transmitted by Different Ocean Mail Routes during the Year 1907.—The subjoined table shews the number of letters, packets, and newspapers transmitted for interstate delivery and for delivery in countries other than Australia, by the different routes during the year 1907 :—

**NUMBER OF LETTERS, PACKETS, AND NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED
BY DIFFERENT OCEAN MAIL ROUTES, 1907.**

Classification.	P. and O. Co., <i>via</i> Colombo and Marseilles.	Orient Royal Mail Line, <i>via</i> Suez and Naples.	Can- adian Aus- tralian Steamers <i>via</i> Van- couver.	Oceanic S.S. Co., <i>via</i> San Fran- cisco.	Nord- deut- scher- Lloyd, <i>via</i> Genoa.	Messa- geries Mari- times, <i>via</i> Mar- seilles.	Total by all Mail Steamers.
RECEIVED.							
INTERSTATE—							
Letters ...	1,336,910	1,684,274	4,735	...	72,047	51,276	3,149,242
Packets ...	364,587	372,004	214	...	10,291	5,677	752,773
Newspapers ...	1,079,485	1,221,807	995	...	33,138	14,697	2,350,122
OTHER COUNTRIES—							
Letters ...	3,385,221	3,634,697	665,226	119,733	52,600	33,688	7,891,165
*Packets ...	462,789	578,313	46,477	34,878	6,898	2,664	1,132,019
*Newspapers ...	3,803,032	3,941,091	657,209	170,865	28,981	12,710	8,613,888
DESPATCHED.							
INTERSTATE—							
Letters ...	1,381,139	1,797,040	23,716	15,233	32,898	46,810	3,296,836
Packets ...	245,355	304,433	7,874	4,863	5,219	7,687	575,431
Newspapers ...	1,148,892	1,243,463	24,329	12,581	10,500	14,344	2,454,109
OTHER COUNTRIES—							
Letters ...	2,582,249	2,913,744	322,819	110,736	11,368	13,743	5,954,659
Packets ...	510,792	568,983	47,661	12,279	892	929	1,141,536
Newspapers ...	1,017,794	1,041,396	144,287	51,310	1,812	2,699	2,259,298
TOTAL RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED.							
INTERSTATE—							
Letters ...	2,718,049	3,481,314	28,451	15,233	104,945	98,086	6,446,078
Packets ...	609,942	676,437	8,088	4,863	15,510	13,364	1,328,204
Newspapers ...	2,228,377	2,465,270	25,324	12,581	43,638	29,041	4,804,231
OTHER COUNTRIES—							
Letters ...	5,967,470	6,548,441	988,045	230,469	63,968	47,431	13,845,824
Packets ...	973,581	1,147,296	94,138	47,157	7,790	3,593	2,273,555
Newspapers ...	4,820,826	4,982,487	901,406	222,175	30,793	15,409	10,873,186

* In the returns for the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, the number of newspapers received from other countries is included in the number of packets received. † Service discontinued April, 1907.

13. Money Orders and Postal Notes.—The issue of money orders and postal notes in the Commonwealth is regulated by sections 74 to 79 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901. A money order, which may be issued for payment either within the Commonwealth or abroad, may not be granted for a larger sum than £20, nor a postal note, which is payable only within the Commonwealth, for a larger sum than twenty shillings. Money orders are sent direct from the Commonwealth to the United Kingdom, and to most of the British colonies and possessions; to the German Empire and German colonies; to Italy; and to the United States of America. Money orders, payable in Japan and China, are sent *via* Hong Kong; orders payable in all other countries are sent through the General Post Office in London, where new orders are issued and forwarded to the addresses of the payees, less threepence for every £5, or part thereof. In order that the full amount of the original order may be forwarded to the payee, this extra commission must be paid by the remitter.

(i.) *Value of Orders Issued and Drawn and of Notes Sold, 1907.*—The following table shews the total value of money orders issued and drawn, and of postal notes sold in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year 1907, together with the total amount of commission on money orders and poundage on postal notes received by the Postal Department:—

VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED AND DRAWN AND OF POSTAL NOTES SOLD, TOGETHER WITH THE TOTAL AMOUNTS OF COMMISSION AND POUNDAGE RECEIVED IN EACH STATE DURING 1907.

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 ...	2,433,898	2,506,434	20,567	...	17,615
Victoria ...	938,197	1,266,234	9,588	735,933	14,486
Queensland ...	734,564	615,828	6,859	215,534	4,198
South Australia ...	293,053	322,585	3,083	149,262	3,027
Western Australia ...	858,767	587,893	6,996	182,139	3,234
Tasmania ...	275,046	208,742	2,685	94,192	1,857
Commonwealth ...	5,533,525	5,507,716	49,778	...	44,417

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

RATES OF COMMISSION, MONEY ORDERS, 1906.

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

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

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

Denomination of Note ...	6d. to 1s. 6d.	2s. to 4s. 6d.	5s.	7s. 6d.	10s. to 20s.
Poundage charged ...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	1d.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2d.	3d.

14. **Number and Value of Money Orders Issued, 1901 to 1907.**—The following table shews the total number and face value of money orders issued in each State during each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive:—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
NUMBER.							
N.S.W. ...	482,768	538,796	541,392	559,908	579,310	579,154	602,751
Victoria ...	228,931	217,634	215,694	221,578	221,732	230,253	236,954
Queensland ...	157,552	137,168	137,048	141,905	148,284	164,443	185,323
South Aust. ...	99,526	78,041	71,933	73,669	73,999	75,728	80,015
West. Aust. ...	192,477	189,514	197,407	198,675	200,501	190,126	195,063
Tasmania ...	156,407	121,397	97,187	93,410	88,261	86,411	87,853
C'wealth ...	1,317,661	1,282,550	1,260,661	1,289,205	1,312,087	1,329,115	1,387,959
VALUE.							
N.S.W. ...	£ 1,637,488	£ 1,761,149	£ 1,772,186	£ 1,834,934	£ 2,076,146	£ 2,267,137	£ 2,433,898
Victoria ...	700,618	706,791	721,017	747,875	759,763	814,564	938,197
Queensland ...	539,450	506,990	501,375	525,869	556,183	613,325	734,564
South Aust. ...	264,330	246,826	251,655	257,034	264,608	269,233	293,053
West. Aust. ...	725,584	768,751	839,073	866,810	849,492	835,072	858,767
Tasmania ...	325,176	290,113	260,705	270,688	264,768	259,496	275,046
C'wealth ...	4,192,646	4,280,620	4,346,011	4,497,210	4,770,960	5,058,827	5,533,525

15. **Number and Value of Money Orders Paid, 1901 to 1907.**—The following table shews the total number and face value of money orders paid in each State during each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive:—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS PAID IN EACH STATE, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
NUMBER.							
N.S.W. ...	478,520	545,861	553,283	564,685	583,895	605,571	618,665
Victoria ...	299,525	306,510	318,766	319,886	312,244	316,382	320,107
Queensland ...	102,628	105,556	115,927	119,444	124,280	137,168	153,423
South Aust. ...	81,078	82,479	82,030	83,581	81,614	78,926	83,745
West. Aust. ...	82,080	85,700	190,155	107,401	118,164	119,918	130,847
Tasmania ...	295,278	125,317	73,379	71,178	66,079	66,146	67,204
C'wealth ...	1,339,109	1,251,423	1,244,440	1,266,175	1,286,276	1,318,111	1,373,991
VALUE.							
N.S.W. ...	£ 1,669,730	£ 1,812,063	£ 1,835,295	£ 1,922,787	£ 2,182,629	£ 2,350,288	£ 2,506,434
Victoria ...	1,005,067	1,053,313	1,121,807	1,125,557	1,102,652	1,122,551	1,266,234
Queensland ...	398,429	400,042	431,091	410,409	466,876	523,378	615,828
South Aust. ...	283,875	295,372	310,658	307,039	303,526	293,300	322,585
West. Aust. ...	338,623	372,689	451,774	481,348	513,047	543,256	587,893
Tasmania ...	386,586	228,958	191,949	193,192	190,872	200,835	208,742
C'wealth ...	4,082,310	4,162,437	4,341,974	4,470,332	4,759,602	5,033,618	5,507,716

16. **Classification of Money Orders Issued and Paid, 1907.**—The following tables shew the number and value of money orders issued in each State and classified according to the country where payable, and also the number and value of money orders paid in each State and classified according to the country of issue during the year 1907.

MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY WHERE PAYABLE, 1907.

State in which Issued.	Where Payable.				Total.
	In the Com- monwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United K'dom.	In Other Countries.	
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	551,368	7,923	33,441	10,019	602,751
Victoria ...	198,315	5,634	23,879	9,126	236,954
Queensland	161,997	1,354	16,300	5,672	185,323
South Australia ...	67,662	866	8,769	2,718	80,015
Western Australia	172,374	1,226	19,376	2,087	195,063
Tasmania ...	79,858	1,915	4,897	1,183	87,853
Commonwealth	1,231,574	18,918	106,662	30,805	1,387,959

VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,287,140	25,135	78,180	43,443	2,433,898
Victoria ...	840,429	17,934	50,765	29,069	938,197
Queensland ...	651,920	4,785	40,720	37,139	734,564
South Australia ...	263,650	2,837	18,173	8,393	293,053
Western Australia	784,228	5,191	55,646	13,702	858,767
Tasmania ...	255,804	7,762	8,526	2,954	275,046
Commonwealth	5,083,171	63,644	252,010	134,700	5,533,525

MONEY ORDERS PAID IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE COUNTRY OF ISSUE, 1907.

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	554,057	38,015	14,357	12,236	618,665
Victoria ...	272,952	26,070	11,150	9,935	320,107
Queensland	143,433	2,935	4,805	2,250	153,423
South Australia ...	77,540	1,914	2,874	1,417	83,745
Western Australia	123,887	1,742	4,127	1,091	130,847
Tasmania ...	58,749	4,445	1,780	2,230	67,204
Commonwealth	1,230,618	75,121	39,093	29,159	1,373,991

State in which paid.	Where Issued.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United K'dom.	In Other Countries.	
VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,318,570	87,476	43,639	56,749	2,506,434
Victoria ...	1,126,977	63,082	34,138	42,037	1,266,234
Queensland ...	582,131	8,904	13,839	10,954	615,828
South Australia ...	302,399	5,775	8,010	6,401	322,585
Western Australia	564,054	4,651	14,066	5,122	587,893
Tasmania ...	186,566	11,466	4,545	6,165	208,742
Commonwealth	5,080,697	181,354	118,237	127,428	5,507,716

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.

17. **Number and Value of Postal Notes Issued, 1901 to 1907.**—The following table shews the total number and face value of postal notes issued in each State during each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive:—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES ISSUED IN EACH STATE, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
NUMBER.							
N.S.W. ...	1,400,844	1,409,180	1,571,612	1,756,996	2,028,269	2,151,429	2,436,085
Victoria ...	1,361,311	1,387,039	1,475,853	1,635,435	1,743,227	1,846,787	1,990,190
Queensland ...	307,170	290,063	346,375	398,366	456,479	508,948	564,868
South Aust. ...	297,444	296,997	320,740	344,831	378,835	400,449	432,172
West. Aust. ...	72,616	122,877	186,263	231,846	285,502	332,989	377,622
Tasmania ...	67,204	77,665	121,653	158,037	206,309	237,571	259,051
C'wealth ...	3,506,589	3,583,821	4,022,496	4,525,511	5,098,621	5,478,173	6,059,988
VALUE.							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
N.S.W. ...	508,432	506,159	581,604	655,471	723,168	808,759	894,274
Victoria ...	523,210	528,381	558,976	617,386	652,704	690,138	735,933
Queensland ...	117,087	110,509	130,651	151,770	171,447	192,417	215,534
South Aust. ...	100,585	102,112	113,076	121,321	132,329	137,639	149,262
West. Aust. ...	21,002	55,841	90,939	115,416	138,506	162,592	182,139
Tasmania ...	20,095	24,851	41,930	56,820	72,352	84,156	94,192
C'wealth ...	1,290,411	1,327,853	1,517,176	1,718,184	1,890,506	2,075,701	2,271,334

18. **Number and Value of Postal Notes Paid, 1901 to 1907.**—The following table shews the total number and face value of postal notes paid in each State during each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive:—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES PAID IN EACH STATE, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
NUMBER.							
N.S.W. ...	1,399,712	1,423,369	1,566,508	1,733,142	1,958,681	2,180,647	2,443,177
Victoria ...	1,392,559	1,432,734	1,552,775	1,724,486	1,828,523	1,946,109	2,046,712
Queensland ...	288,318	259,455	298,688	331,737	363,272	405,284	450,322
South Aust. ...	294,907	293,590	322,341	349,039	377,481	395,967	423,426
West. Aust. ...	*66,740	112,934	186,238	*245,514	294,218	259,155	301,993
Tasmania ...	62,725	77,445	54,894	212,418	257,002	291,546	386,713
C'wealth ...	3,504,961	3,599,527	3,981,444	4,596,336	5,079,177	5,478,708	6,052,343
VALUE.							
N.S.W. ...	£ 507,740	£ 514,048	£ 580,774	£ 646,682	£ 724,669	£ 807,973	£ 882,060
Victoria ...	532,244	544,979	591,805	655,857	695,575	740,681	779,791
Queensland ...	108,746	97,045	113,434	127,332	140,098	156,612	174,530
South Aust. ...	97,576	102,651	118,003	129,265	141,653	148,622	161,581
West. Aust. ...	*14,115	37,529	90,078	119,763	145,507	120,324	139,886
Tasmania ...	19,421	28,179	22,939	80,118	91,419	103,398	134,129
C'wealth ...	1,279,842	1,324,431	1,517,083	1,759,017	1,938,921	2,077,610	2,271,977

* Estimated.

19. **Classification of Postal Notes Paid, 1907.**—The subjoined table shews the number and value of postal notes paid during the year 1907 in each state and in the Commonwealth, classified according to the State in which they were issued:—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO STATE OF ISSUE, 1907.

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	2,160,666	98,136	101,131	37,940	24,788	20,516	2,443,177
Victoria...	137,360	1,744,710	27,573	43,956	45,466	47,647	2,046,712
Queensland ...	30,623	5,925	410,292	1,307	1,589	586	450,322
South Australia ...	46,644	21,614	1,671	335,130	17,157	1,210	423,426
Western Australia	5,010	8,755	683	4,095	282,918	532	301,993
Tasmania ...	46,411	113,066	23,332	9,744	5,599	188,561	386,713
Commonwealth...	2,426,714	1,992,206	564,682	432,172	377,517	259,052	6,052,343
VALUE.							
New South Wales	£ 776,931	£ 37,282	£ 38,177	£ 11,893	£ 11,083	£ 6,694	£ 882,060
Victoria ...	59,589	645,831	10,556	17,042	26,359	20,414	779,791
Queensland ...	13,407	2,799	156,597	543	937	247	174,530
South Australia ...	25,396	9,586	763	114,837	10,475	524	161,581
Western Australia	2,357	4,441	325	1,910	130,661	192	139,886
Tasmania ...	16,594	36,788	9,027	3,037	2,562	66,121	134,129
Commonwealth...	894,274	736,727	215,445	149,262	182,077	94,192	2,271,977

The following statement shows the number of postal notes of each denomination paid in the Commonwealth during the year 1907:—

**NUMBER OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DENOMINATION,
1907.**

Denomination.	Number Paid.	Denomination.	Number Paid.	Denomination.	Number Paid.
s. d.		s. d.		s. d.	
0 6	77,464	3 6	309,763	10 6	148,815
1 0	267,227	4 0	512,227	15 0	369,887
1 6	179,331	4 6	348,479	20 0	798,086
2 0	334,757	5 0	737,353		
2 6	408,278	7 6	311,911		
3 0	491,602	10 0	757,163	Total ...	6,052,343

20. The Value Payable Post.—This is a system under which the Postal Department undertakes to deliver registered articles sent by parcel post within the Commonwealth, and to recover from the addressee on delivery a specified sum of money fixed by the sender, and to remit the sum to the sender by money order, for which the usual commission is charged. The object of the system is to meet the requirements of persons who wish to pay at the time of receipt for articles sent to them, and also to meet the requirements of traders and others who do not wish their goods to be delivered except on payment. In addition to the ordinary postage, commission on the value of the articles transmitted at the rate of twopence on sums not exceeding ten shillings, and one penny for each additional five shillings or part thereof, must be prepaid by postage stamps affixed to the articles distinct from the postage and marked "commission." The registration fee (threepence) and the proper postage must also be prepaid. If the addressee refuse delivery, the parcel is returned to the sender free of charge. The subjoined statement gives particulars of the number and value of parcels sent through the Value Payable Post in each State during the years 1905, 1906, and 1907. The system has been established in Queensland for some years, but was only extended to the whole Commonwealth with the advent of Federal control of the post office:—

**VALUE PAYABLE PARCELS POST.—NUMBER POSTED, VALUE COLLECTED AND
REVENUE, 1905 to 1907.**

State.	Number of Parcels Posted.			Value collected.			Revenue, including Postage, Commission on Value, Registration and Money Order Commission.		
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,839	3,798	4,814	2,644	6,025	7,763	257	579	702
Victoria ...	390	731	617	1,042	1,220	1,075	30*	93	96
Queensland ...	18,095	25,039	27,729	23,594	33,507	36,876	2,496	3,556	3,954
South Australia ...	95	51	39	104	59	77	11	9	6
Western Australia ...	4,494	6,539	9,236	7,637	11,198	15,783	667	971	1,333
Tasmania ...	7	10	72	14	17	83	1	1	7
Commonwealth	24,920	36,168	42,507	35,035	52,026	61,657	3,471	5,209	6,098

* Exclusive of postage.

21. Transactions of the Dead Letter Office, 1907.—Under sections 45 to 53 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 the Postmaster-General may cause all unclaimed and undelivered postal articles originally posted within the Commonwealth which have been returned from the place to which they were forwarded to be treated as unclaimed articles and opened. Every unclaimed letter and postal article must be kept for the

prescribed period at the office to which it has been transmitted for delivery, and must then be sent to the General Post Office. Letters and packets originally posted elsewhere than in the Commonwealth are returned to the proper authorities in the country in which they were so posted, or, if originally posted in another State, are returned to the General Post Office of that State; but unclaimed or undelivered newspapers may be forthwith sold, destroyed, or used for any public purpose. Opened postal articles not containing anything of value are returned to the writer or sender if his name and address can be ascertained, but may otherwise be destroyed forthwith. As regards opened letters and packets containing valuable or saleable enclosures, a list and memorandum of the contents are kept, and a notice is sent to the person to whom the letter or packet is addressed if he be known, or otherwise to the writer or sender thereof if he be known. Upon application within three months of the date of such notice the letter or packet may be claimed by the addressee, or, failing him, by the writer or sender. If unclaimed within three months the letter and contents may be destroyed or sold, and the proceeds paid into the consolidated revenue fund. The following table shews the total number of letters, postcards, and packets dealt with by the Dead Letter Offices in the Commonwealth during the year 1907, 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, 1907.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwlth.
LETTERS.							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	265,811	316,965	110,131	27,531	94,576	43,106	858,120
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	66,768	51,592	9,269	7,845	3,468	3,766	142,708
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	41,743	29,712	17,569	9,477	18,011	12,304	128,816
Total ...	374,322	398,269	136,969	44,853	116,055	59,176	1,129,644
POSTCARDS.							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	7,823	14,029	5,624	6,880	3,242	2,134	39,732
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	7,823	16,807	4,638	8,035	1,289	2,144	40,736
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	8,426	7,072	2,739	1,906	3,357	624	24,124
Total ...	24,072	37,908	13,001	16,821	7,888	4,902	104,592
PACKETS.							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	406,596	29,641	70,593	31,625	6,642	736	545,833
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	53,971	191,188	7,074	1,061	17,052	388	270,734
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	21,941	55,420	42,288	33,367	38,608	8,128	199,752
Total ...	482,508	276,249	119,955	66,053	62,302	9,252	1,016,319
Grand Total (letters, postcards, & packets)	880,902	712,426	269,925	127,727	186,245	73,330	2,250,555

22. **Post Offices and Receiving Offices and Employes, 1901 to 1907.**—The following tables shew, as far as returns are available, the numbers of post and receiving offices and the corresponding numbers of employes in each State and in the Commonwealth at the end of each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive :—

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES AND RECEIVING OFFICES, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.	
	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.
N.S.W. ...	1,684	524	1,693	523	1,708	520	1,726	513	1,744	522	1,769	519	1,809	510
Victoria ...	1,637	18	1,645	18	1,646	18	1,652	18	1,655	18	1,659	657	1,656	670
Queensland ...	411	823	433	867	441	884	450	921	447	913	468	886	480	909
S. Australia ...	713	...	702	...	706	...	711	...	711	...	706	7	704	12
W. Australia ...	187	28	197	28	218	25	243	34	261	34	281	57	298	67
Tasmania† ...	376	...	369	6	370	8	371	12	370	9	373	19	375	31
C'wealth ...	5,008	1,393	5,039	1,442	5,089	1,455	5,153	1,498	5,188	1,496	5,256	2,145	5,322	2,199

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

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND NUMBER OF MAIL CONTRACTORS, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.	
	Employés.	Mail Contractors.	Employés.	Mail Contractors.	Employés.	Mail Contractors.	Employés.	Mail Contractors.	Employés.	Mail Contractors.	Employés.	Mail Contractors.	Employés.	Mail Contractors.
N.S.W. ...	5,636	984	5,724	973	5,726	996	5,763	1,006	5,850	1,029	5,943	1,037	6,964	1,072
Victoria ...	3,962	890	3,955	880	4,017	914	4,041	934	4,086	912	4,896	919	5,744	758
Queensland ...	2,616	—	2,627	—	2,686	—	2,641	—	2,640	—	2,610	630	3,021	640
South Aust.†	1,945	—	1,974	—	1,973	—	2,046	—	1,727	259	1,734	255	1,767	261
West. Aust.	1,303	140	1,286	136	1,331	140	1,316	150	1,273	154	1,941	152	1,579	208
Tasmania†	865	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	811	164	814	172
C'wealth ...	16,327	2,014	15,566	1,989	15,733	2,050	15,807	2,090	15,616	2,354	17,935	3,157	19,889	3,111

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

At the end of the year 1907, out of the total number of persons, 23,000, employed in the Postmaster-General's Department, 13,204 were employed wholly, and 9796 were employed partially in the service.

23. **Postal Routes, 1907.** The following table shows the length of postal routes and the number of miles travelled by mail conveyances during the year 1907:—

POSTAL ROUTES, 1907.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
MILES OF ROUTE.							
Railway ...	3,418	3,288	3,572	2,160	2,041	631	15,110
Water ...	4,438	52	2,267	7,176	3,426	881	18,240
Other ...	35,325	9,983	29,731	8,186	8,257	1,847	93,329
Total... ..	43,181	13,323	35,570	17,522	13,724	3,359	126,679
MILES TRAVELLED BY MAIL CONVEYANCES.							
Railway ...	3,867,350	4,130,755	2,758,860	1,695,879	1,326,814	812,235	14,091,893
Water ...	629,604	20,856	273,946	320,910	159,434	207,036	1,611,786
Other ...	12,389,729	3,701,512	4,163,440	1,623,551	889,040	848,240	23,615,512
Total	16,886,683	7,853,123	7,196,246	3,640,340	2,375,288	1,867,511	39,819,191

24. **Gross Revenue of Postal Department, 1901 to 1907.**—The following table shews the gross revenue of the Postal Department in each State for the years 1901 to 1907, inclusive, under three heads, viz., the Postal, the Telegraph, and the Telephone branches. In the Postal branch is included the revenue derived from money-order commissions, poundage on postal notes, private boxes and bags, and miscellaneous sources :—

GROSS REVENUE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
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POSTAL BRANCH.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
N.S.W. ...	596,552	610,434	652,761	705,393	743,986	802,353	874,528
Victoria ...	437,894	432,311	448,486	470,886	480,979	541,430	558,610
Queensland	203,128	204,520	191,931	227,715	233,523	255,060	299,872
S. Australia	148,336	157,474	166,400	152,429	161,920	180,827	193,394
W. Australia	109,335	121,303	122,862	135,053	157,837	153,818	155,023
Tasmania ...	72,009	64,834	75,412	84,605	89,569	93,392	100,000
C'wealth ...	1,567,254	1,590,876	1,657,852	1,776,081	1,867,814	2,026,880	2,181,427

TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

N.S.W. ...	191,664	187,802	154,839	151,036	150,830	186,962	208,710
Victoria ...	120,385	125,252	106,839	111,287	124,994	133,536	136,542
Queensland	83,939	85,514	83,266	75,649	88,285	89,772	105,593
S. Australia	106,853	84,612	74,840	81,116	87,157	94,074	99,337
W. Australia	82,533	81,824	68,137	69,641	71,834	69,678	73,197
Tasmania ...	17,064	16,892	17,289	16,487	15,455	16,347	18,994
C'wealth ...	602,438	581,896	505,210	505,216	538,555	590,369	642,373

TELEPHONE BRANCH.

N.S.W. ...	81,852	96,278	105,002	116,328	127,514	144,933	154,151
Victoria ...	62,019	76,326	86,600	88,633	102,396	108,437	118,510
Queensland	20,938	24,619	27,321	28,011	31,765	36,927	42,931
S. Australia	20,617	21,925	23,209	26,351	25,815	30,075	33,237
W. Australia	26,950	29,464	30,324	30,970	33,995	36,239	32,430
Tasmania ...	6,339	8,704	8,910	10,155	11,108	11,887	13,426
C'wealth ...	218,715	257,316	281,366	300,448	332,593	368,498	394,685

TOTAL POSTAL REVENUE.

N.S.W. ...	870,068	894,514	912,602	972,757	1,022,330	1,134,248	1,237,889
Victoria ...	620,298	633,889	641,925	670,806	708,369	783,403	813,662
Queensland	308,005	314,653	302,518	331,375	353,573	381,759	448,396
S. Australia	275,806	264,011	264,449	259,896	274,892	304,976	325,968
W. Australia	218,818	232,591	221,323	235,664	263,666	259,735	260,650
Tasmania ...	95,412	90,430	101,611	111,247	116,132	121,626	132,420
C'wealth ...	2,388,407	2,430,088	2,444,428	2,581,745	2,738,962	2,985,747	3,218,485

25. **Expenditure in respect of the Postal Departments, 1901 to 1907.**—The sub-joined table shews the total expenditure in respect of the Postal Departments in each State. The figures given include certain items of expenditure, such as rent, repairs and maintenance of buildings, fittings and furniture, sanitation, water supply, and new buildings and additions which are under the control of the Department of Home Affairs:—

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

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	790,783	759,619	884,963	920,390	970,808	966,498	1,077,534
Victoria ...	517,609	550,227	582,520	624,841	627,735	668,046	800,238
Queensland ...	389,332	420,904	425,568	419,144	415,420	438,899	496,108
South Australia ...	240,846	237,532	240,987	254,698	259,656	281,040	272,578
Western Australia...	251,289	257,283	277,021	300,727	302,150	295,300	321,289
Tasmania ...	97,470	101,431	100,232	106,571	109,389	120,962	148,551
Commonwealth ...	2,287,329	2,326,996	2,511,291	2,626,371	2,685,158	2,770,745	3,116,298

26. **Analysis of Gross Revenue and Expenditure of Postal Departments, 1907.**—The following tables give an analysis of the gross earnings, and shew the distribution of expenditure in each State and in the Commonwealth, during the year 1907:—

ANALYSIS OF GROSS REVENUE ON POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1907.

Particulars.	N S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwlth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Postage ...	809,697	518,631	273,389	179,102	138,126	92,357	2,011,302
Telegraphs ...	208,710	136,542	105,593	99,337	73,197	18,994	642,373
Telephones ...	154,151	118,510	42,931	33,237	32,430	13,426	394,685
Money order commission	20,794	8,750	6,695	3,131	7,018	2,693	49,081
Poundage on postal notes	17,615	15,474	4,198	3,003	3,234	1,857	45,381
Private boxes and bags	6,170	2,858	3,060	1,501	1,631	...	15,220
Miscellaneous	20,252	12,897	12,530	11,657	5,014	3,093	65,443
Total ...	1,237,389	813,662	448,396	330,968	260,650	132,420	3,223,485

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENTS, 1907.

Particulars.	N S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwlth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries ...	506,447	355,172	173,793	144,219	161,656	48,086	1,389,373
Contingencies ...	171,655	150,666	91,931	44,513	54,544	26,777	540,086
Conveyance of mails—							
Steamship—Subsidised	50,739	48,982	23,810	20,197	16,356	10,417	191,763
Poundage rates	8,475	6,475	3,924	834	1,554		
Railway ...	83,651	57,589	49,861	*12,792	17,949	13,211	235,053
Other ...	109,817	46,359	89,660	16,570	27,586	22,038	312,030
Cable subsidies ...	11,427	6,637	8,573	...	...	7,171	33,808
Telegraph works ...	12,995	7,794	7,600	18	10,371	832	39,610
Telephone works ...	86,139	78,989	23,344	26,154	12,559	18,149	245,334
Rent ...	5,897	2,192	1,597	508	459	...	10,653
Repairs and maintenance of buildings	7,425	3,870	2,912	1,850	2,325	1,025	19,407
Fittings and Furniture	1,907	1,167	598	202	757	235	4,866
Sanitation and water supply	2,349	1,164	837	415	951	133	5,849
New buildings and additions	8,309	25,159	14,829	3,885	11,162	86	63,430
Pensions ...	7,569	7,595	1,075	...	2,344	...	18,583
Supervision of works	256	135	175	133	343	126	1,168
Proportion of Audit office expenses	540	215	432	178	280	261	1,906
Unforeseen expenditure	137	78	17	8	93	4	337
Mail service to Pacific Islands	1,800	...	...	...	...	...	1,800
Miscellaneous	...	...	1,140	102	...	...	1,242
Total ...	1,077,534	800,238	496,108	272,578	321,289	148,551	3,116,298

*For nine months' accounts only.

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

3. Length of Telegraph Lines and Wire Open, 1901 to 1907.—The following table shews the length of telegraphic lines and of telegraph wire exclusive of railway telegraphs, available for use in each State at the end of each year, from 1901 to 1907 inclusive:—

**LENGTH OF TELEGRAPH LINE AND WIRE, EXCLUSIVE OF RAILWAY TELEGRAPHS,
AVAILABLE FOR USE IN EACH STATE, 1901 to 1907.**

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
LENGTH OF LINE.							
New South Wales* ...	Miles. 14,272	Miles. 14,356	Miles. 14,395	Miles. 14,491	Miles. 14,827	Miles. 15,417	Miles. 15,910
Victoria ...	3,989	4,001	4,006	3,904	3,913	3,931	3,998
Queensland ...	10,246	10,247	10,180	10,154	10,154	10,198	10,253
South Australia† ...	5,763	5,776	6,039	6,071	6,092	5,330	5,380
Western Australia ...	6,173	6,112	6,079	6,199	6,389	6,451	6,296
Tasmania ...	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,539	1,547	1,576	1,597
Commonwealth ...	41,943	41,992	42,199	42,358	42,922	42,903	43,384
LENGTH OF WIRE.							
New South Wales† ...	46,153	58,907	62,356	67,058	71,086	74,754	27,211
Victoria ...	9,795	9,894	10,161	10,518	10,583	10,663	10,786
Queensland ...	20,537	20,695	20,759	20,764	20,786	20,875	21,000
South Australia† ...	13,918	14,021	14,847	15,041	15,353	12,905	12,923
Western Australia ...	9,105	9,105	9,369	9,414	9,637	9,713	10,196
Tasmania ...	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,286	2,294	3,029	3,057
Commonwealth ...	101,708	114,822	119,692	125,081	129,739	131,939	85,173

* Including telephone and railway. † Previous to 1906 railway telegraph line and wire were included. ‡ Previous to 1907 telephone and railway wire were included.

4. **Number of Telegraph Offices, 1901 to 1907.**—The following table shews the number of telegraph offices, exclusive of railway telegraph offices, open for use in each State from 1901 to 1907:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES OPEN, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
New South Wales ...	978	983	987	1,005	1,069	1,122	1,278
Victoria ...	446	472	472	482	509	565	607
Queensland... ..	481	476	481	498	515	536	556
South Australia ...	286	287	290	300	299	304	317
Western Australia ...	167	167	172	183	188	200	226
Tasmania ...	210	204	205	206	207	193	224
Commonwealth ...	2,568	2,589	2,607	2,674	2,787	2,920	3,208

5. **Revenue and Expenditure, 1901 to 1907.**—Particulars as to the revenue from the telegraph systems in each State for the years 1901 to 1907 are given on page 780, while particulars as to the expenditure for the year 1907 are also given on the same page.

6. **Number of Telegrams dealt with, 1901 to 1907.**—The subjoined table shews the number of telegrams despatched in each State for delivery in that State, the number of telegrams despatched in each State for delivery in other States of the Commonwealth and

received for delivery in each State from other States, and also the total number of telegrams—exclusive of cablegrams—dealt with in each State. The last set of figures represents the sum of the corresponding figures for each State in the first two sets of figures. The true total for the Commonwealth in the last table, however, is not obtained by merely adding together the figures for the several States, since interstate telegrams are counted both in the State in which they are despatched and in that in which they are received. A second total is therefore shewn, obtained by subtracting from the first total half the sum of the number of interstate telegrams received and despatched:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED AND RECEIVED IN EACH STATE,

1901 TO 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
INLAND (COUNTED ONCE).							
N.S.W.	2,220,622	2,306,484	2,215,823	2,192,757	2,293,656	2,645,749	2,903,681
Vic. ...	1,623,985	1,618,128	1,706,497	1,644,522	1,689,145	1,785,046	1,812,253
Q'land	*963,259	*902,780	*1,011,193	*1,012,984	*1,126,774	1,290,431	1,450,074
S.A. ...	517,617	523,762	638,903	686,330	687,010	723,577	799,679
W.A. ...	912,335	878,469	1,072,774	1,003,335	1,064,710	1,123,579	1,169,708
Tas. ...	237,634	227,215	282,832	277,831	301,632	310,400	270,832
C'wlth.	6,475,452	6,456,838	6,927,922	6,817,759	7,162,927	7,878,782	8,406,177

INTERSTATE, RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED.

N.S.W.	1,124,283	957,591	1,026,722	1,055,044	1,118,322	1,307,398	1,434,748
Vic. ...	760,781	882,750	1,018,126	1,028,030	1,016,116	1,314,722	1,413,022
Q'land	*401,745	*438,246	*476,609	*477,663	*514,501	587,752	651,157
S.A. ...	365,599	386,088	475,040	491,134	526,596	590,461	630,368
W.A. ...	282,996	306,279	480,744	525,258	544,937	533,929	539,682
Tas. †...	*119,491	*134,459	*157,239	164,159	184,970	198,139	243,839
C'wlth.	3,054,895	3,105,413	3,629,480	3,741,288	3,905,442	4,532,401	4,912,816

TOTAL DEALT WITH.

N.S.W.	3,344,905	3,264,075	3,242,545	3,247,801	3,411,978	3,953,147	4,338,379
Vic. ...	2,384,766	2,500,878	2,719,623	2,672,552	2,705,261	3,099,768	3,225,275
Q'land	*1,365,004	*1,341,026	*1,487,802	*1,490,647	*1,641,275	1,878,183	2,101,231
S.A. ...	883,216	909,850	1,113,843	1,177,464	1,213,606	1,314,038	1,430,047
W.A. ...	1,195,331	1,184,748	1,553,518	1,528,593	1,609,647	1,657,508	1,709,390
Tas. † ...	*357,125	*361,674	*440,071	441,990	486,602	508,539	514,671
C'wlth.	9,530,347	9,562,251	10,557,402	10,559,047	11,068,369	12,411,183	13,318,993
C'wlth§	8,002,901	8,009,545	8,742,662	8,688,403	9,115,648	10,144,983	10,862,585

* Partly estimated. † Interstate cablegrams. ‡ Including interstate cablegrams.

§ Allowing for interstate excess.

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

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ORDINARY TELEGRAMS.

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

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

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR PRESS TELEGRAMS.

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

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. The Postmaster-General is empowered to grant licenses to establish and use stations and appliances for wireless telegraphy, on the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions and payment of the prescribed fees. The Act does not apply to ships belonging to the King's Navy. Up to the present time no wireless telegraphy stations have been established in the Commonwealth.

§ 3. Submarine Cables.

1. **First Cable Communication with the Old World.**—As far back as 1857 the question of connecting Australia with the old world by means of submarine cables was brought forward in South Australia. No steps, however, were taken in the direction of constructing the cable until the year 1869, when various schemes were proposed. About this time the British Australian Telegraph Company was formed for the purpose of laying a cable to Australia without subsidy or guarantee. Communication had already been provided between London and Singapore *via* Bombay and Madras, and also through Java from Batavia to Banjoewangie. The proposal of the above company was to lay cables from Singapore to Batavia and from Banjoewangie to Port Darwin, from which place connection would be made overland with the Queensland telegraph system at Normanston. It was, however, subsequently decided that the company's line should end at Port Darwin, the South Australian Government undertaking to construct an overland line from Port Augusta to Port Darwin, a distance of 1971 miles. In November, 1871, the submarine cable was completed, and communication was established between Port Darwin and London. On the 22nd August, 1872, the construction of the line from Port Darwin to Adelaide was accomplished at an expenditure of nearly £500,000. The cable from Port Darwin is now under the control of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company.

2. **The Tasmania-Victoria Cables.**—In the meantime the cable joining Tasmania to the continent of Australia had been laid, and was open for use in 1869, the total length being 170 miles. This cable starts from Flinders, near Cape Schanck, in Victoria, and ends at Low Head, at the mouth of the River Tamar, in Tasmania. The line is owned by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, and was subsidised by the Tasmanian Government to the extent of £4200 per annum; the receipts are also guaranteed up to £5600 per annum. Both the subsidy and the guarantee expire in the year 1909.

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 laying of these cables was completed in February, 1909. 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, excluding the supply of spare cable, was £49,455.

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

Company and connecting the Port Darwin-Singapore cable with London, *via* Hong Kong, Shanghai, Posiëtt Bay (Pacific Russia), Libau (Russian Baltic), and Newbiggin (England).

4. The Pacific Cable.—In July, 1898, a conference of representatives of Great Britain, Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and New Zealand was held for the purpose of considering a project for a cable to be laid across the Pacific Ocean, touching only British territory on its way from Australia to Canada, thus providing an "All Red" route, as it is termed, for a cable system between England and Australia. In the following year it was agreed at a meeting held by representatives of the countries interested that the cable should be laid and that Great Britain 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 and opened for use on the 3rd November, 1902. There are cable-stations at Norfolk Island, Fiji, and Fanning Island, and a branch cable runs from Norfolk Island to New Zealand. The following table 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 1908.

Year ended the 31st March.	Revenue.	Expenditure, (including Annuities and Renewal Fund.	Loss.	Commonwealth Proportion of Loss.
	£	£	£	£
1903 ...	...	...	90,518	30,172
1904 ...	80,118	167,869	87,751	29,250
1905 ...	87,446	163,296	75,850	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

The total cost of construction to the 31st March, 1908, was £1,998,685, originally paid by Great Britain. The proportions of this cost payable by the other countries is to be paid off by 50 annual instalments. The total amount of the annuity paid to Great Britain during the year 1907-8 was £77,545, while the amount paid to the renewal fund was £32,000.

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

6. The New Caledonian Cable.—In April, 1892, a French company, known as the Compagnie Française des Câbles Télégraphiques, entered into an agreement with the French, the New South Wales, and the Queensland Governments to lay down a submarine cable between New Caledonia and Queensland in return for guarantees by the

French Government to the extent of £8000, and by the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland to the amount of £2000 each annually for a period of thirty years. The cable was opened for use in October, 1893, the Australian shore-end being at Bundaberg. The Governments of New South Wales and Queensland are entitled to use the cable for the transmission of official messages up to the amount of their guarantees.

7. Number of Cablegrams Received and Despatched in each State, 1905 to 1907.—The subjoined table shows the number of cablegrams received and despatched in each State and in the Commonwealth from 1905 to 1907. Returns for previous years are not available:—

CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED, 1905 to 1907.

State.	Cablegrams Received.			Cablegrams Despatched.			Total Cablegrams Received and Despatched.		
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1905.	1906.	1907.
New South Wales	81,548	93,256	103,047	82,519	96,478	106,830	164,067	189,734	209,877
Victoria ...	55,749	67,194	72,200	59,279	70,315	75,518	115,028	137,509	147,718
Queensland ...	6,455	7,443	8,529	7,961	9,297	9,914	14,416	16,740	18,443
South Australia	17,436	16,610	17,419	13,084	15,006	16,057	30,520	31,616	33,476
West. Australia	10,446	9,258	12,042	14,504	12,406	15,553	24,950	21,664	27,595
Tasmania *	4,777	5,241	6,617	4,915	5,917	6,936	9,692	11,158	13,553
Commonwealth	176,411	199,002	219,854	182,262	209,419	230,808	358,673	408,421	450,662

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

The following table shows the total number of cablegrams despatched and received in each State during each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive:—

NUMBER OF CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED, 1901 to 1907.

State.	Cablegrams Despatched and Received.						
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
N.S.W. ...	104,590	159,031	152,814	144,936	164,067	189,734	209,877
Victoria ...	44,824	86,243	100,715	109,635	115,028	137,509	147,718
Queensland	9,723	8,260	12,749	12,741	14,416	16,740	18,443
S. Australia	29,431	29,472	21,823	29,373	30,520	31,616	33,476
W. Australia	30,268	30,313	34,216	25,873	24,950	21,664	27,595
Tasmania.*	†6,289	†7,077	†8,276	18,679	9,692	11,158	13,553
C'wealth	225,125	320,396	330,593	341,237	358,673	408,421	450,662

* Exclusive of interstate cablegrams, which are classed as interstate telegrams (see page 783).
† Partly estimated.

From the first table given in this paragraph it may be seen that during each of the years specified the number of cablegrams despatched has exceeded the number received. During the year 1907, for example, the number despatched formed 51.21 per cent. on the total number received and despatched. From the second table it may be seen that the total number received and despatched annually has more than doubled since the year 1901.

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 Port Darwin.</i>		<i>Via South Africa.</i>	
	Miles.		Miles.		Miles.
Perth to Roebuck Bay ...	1,485	Adelaide to Port Darwin ...	2,134	Perth to Mauritius ...	4,417
Roebuck Bay to Banjoewangie ...	970	Port Darwin to Banjoewangie ...	1,150	Mauritius to Durban ...	1,786
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 Port Darwin ...	2,992
Norfolk Island to Suva (Fiji) ...	1,129	Port Darwin to Hong Kong ...	4,237
Suva to Fanning Island ...	2,351	Hong Kong to Poisset Bay ...	2,647
Fanning Island to Bamfield (Canada) ...	3,980	Poisset 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. This remained the standard rate for eleven years, when the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company reduced it in 1886 to nine shillings and fourpence a word for ordinary messages, to seven shillings and a penny for Government messages, and to two shillings and eightpence a word for press messages. At a conference of the postal and telegraphic authorities held in March, 1891, 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. Owing to various circumstances the cable traffic did not respond to the reductions, and heavy losses were incurred. It was, therefore, decided at a conference held at Melbourne to increase the rates for ordinary messages to four shillings and ninepence per word. The new rates came into force on the 1st January, 1893, concurrently with an agreement under which New Zealand joined the guarantees to the company and to South Australia.

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

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

10. Cable Subsidies Paid by Each State, 1901 to 1907.—The agreements between the State Governments and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company expired on the 30th April, 1900. Since the year 1895 the amounts guaranteed—£237,736 to the company and £37,552 to South Australia—have been met by the receipts, and the contracting States have, therefore, not been called upon to contribute.

(a) The following table shews the total amounts paid by each State by way of cable subsidies for each calendar year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive:—

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CABLE SUBSIDIES PAID BY EACH STATE, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	3,494	1,993	12,028	11,613	10,530	4,223	11,427
Victoria ...	1,505	...	10,058	10,114	8,430	8,073	6,637
Queensland ...	2,519	2,513	11,770	11,984	12,000	8,501	8,573
South Australia ...	1,423	...	...	...	...	...	...
Western Australia ...	66	22	...	...	...	...	...
Tasmania ...	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
Commonwealth ...	13,207	8,728	38,056	37,911	35,160	24,997	30,837

(b) The subjoined statement shews the amounts paid by each State in respect of each cable service during the year 1907:—

AMOUNTS PAID BY THE SEVERAL STATES IN RESPECT OF EACH SUBSIDISED CABLE SERVICE, 1907.

State.	Tasmania-Victoria.	New Caledonia.	Pacific.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	...	2,000	9,427	11,427
Victoria ...	525	...	6,112	6,637
Queensland ...	...	2,000	6,573	8,573
South Australia ...	...	...	...	...
Western Australia ...	...	...	...	...
Tasmania ...	4,200	...	...	4,200
Commonwealth ...	4,725	4,000	22,112	30,837

As the agreement in connection with the Tasmanian cable expires in 1909, and as new cables have been laid by the Commonwealth Government (see page 785 *ante*), the guarantees will, in the course of the year 1909, be reduced to those in connection with the New Caledonia cable and with the Pacific cable.

§ 4. Telephones.

1. **Development of Telephone Services.**—The Postal Departments of the several States have established telephone services in all the capital towns and in many of the important centres of population throughout the Commonwealth. Particulars as to the revenue from telephone services in each State for the years 1901 to 1907 are given on page 780 *ante*, while particulars of the expenditure on telephone works in each State for the year 1907 are given in a subsequent table on the same page. Telephone rates are at present charged under the toll system (see page 791 *hereof*); it is proposed, however, to shortly remodel the basis upon which such charges are made.

(i.) *Number of Telephone Exchanges, 1901 to 1907.* The following table shews the number of telephone exchanges in each State at the end of each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive:—

NUMBER OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGES, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
New South Wales ...	48	51	57	61	64	76	96
Victoria ...	20	20	20	22	24	31	40
Queensland...	15	15	15	19	19	24	31
South Australia ...	12	12	12	11	11	11	16
Western Australia ...	12	12	13	13	16	20	26
Tasmania ...	13	13	16	16	16	16	17
Commonwealth ...	120	123	133	142	150	178	226

(ii.) *Number of Telephone Connections.* The subjoined table shews the number of telephone connections to the various exchanges in each State at the end of each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive:—

NUMBER OF TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS, 1901 to 1907.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
New South Wales ...	9,864	11,079	12,091	13,138	14,224	15,453	18,989
Victoria ...	6,049	6,847	7,610	8,429	9,259	10,424	12,935
Queensland...	2,978	3,296	3,749	3,936	4,210	4,405	5,820
South Australia ...	1,831	1,983	2,179	2,319	2,508	2,510	3,123
Western Australia ...	2,764	2,941	3,332	*3,448	*3,643	3,797	4,145
Tasmania ...	*1,091	1,158	1,236	1,329	1,441	1,563	1,744
Commonwealth ...	24,577	27,304	30,197	32,599	35,280	38,152	46,756

* Estimated.

(iii.) *Length of Telephone Wire, 1901 to 1907.* The subjoined table shews the length of telephone wire, exclusive of telegraph and railway telephone wire, available for use in each State at the end of each year from 1901 to 1907, inclusive:—

**LENGTH OF TELEPHONE WIRE, EXCLUSIVE OF TELEGRAPH AND RAILWAY
TELEPHONE WIRE, 1901 to 1907.**

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
New South Wales ...	15,885	17,727	19,479	20,853	22,111	23,403	48,971
Victoria ...	17,354	20,894	22,577	25,073	28,638	30,984	39,368
Queensland ...	4,360	4,911	5,613	6,309	7,697	9,758	11,812
South Australia ...	3,935	4,244	4,572	4,972	5,384	6,034	7,209
Western Australia ...	4,944	4,947	5,431	6,016	6,494	6,957	9,842
Tasmania ...	1,239	1,199	1,300	1,236	1,371	1,502	1,850
Commonwealth ...	47,717	53,922	58,972	64,459	71,695	78,638	119,052

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

TELEPHONE TOLL SYSTEM.—UNIFORM CHARGES FOR ALL STATES.

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

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

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

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

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

For calls above 3000 calls half-yearly, four calls for one penny.

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

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

(iii.) *Proposed Alteration in Rates.* It is now proposed to abolish the system of rates, on the previous page, and to charge a fixed annual rental, and in addition, a certain sum for each effective call.

3. **Miscellaneous Particulars, 1907.**—The following table gives various interesting particulars of the operation of the telephone services in each State for the year 1907 :—

PARTICULARS OF OPERATION OF TELEPHONE SERVICES, 1907.

Particulars.		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwlth.
Telephone Exchanges ...	No.	96	40	31	16	26	17	226
Public Telephone Bureaux ...	No.	855	345	364	196	47	218	2,025
Extension Lines—								
Metropolitan ...	No.	3,242	2,593	528	157	996	18	7,534
Country ...	No.	392	424	400	37	305	47	1,605
Total ...	No.	3,634	3,017	928	194	1,301	65	9,139
Private Lines—								
Metropolitan ...	No.	335	229	82	229	139	18	1,032
Country ...	No.	737	201	198	127	37	107	1,407
Total ...	No.	1,072	430	280	356	176	125	2,439
Connections—								
Central Exchange ...	No.	5,235	5,504	2,081	2,286	1,658	862	17,626
Suburban Exchanges ...	No.	9,399	5,053	320	560	1,036	27	16,395
Country Exchanges ...	No.	4,355	2,378	3,419	277	1,451	855	12,735
Total ...	No.	18,989	12,935	5,820	3,123	4,145	1,744	46,756
Telephones in use ...	No.	24,363	18,412	6,680	4,646	5,446	2,253	61,800
Rental received ...	£	154,151	118,510	31,728	28,409	32,430	10,979	376,207
Length of wire opened during year ...	Miles	6,887	8,384	2,278	1,175	1,115	134	19,973
Total length of wire at end of year ...	Miles	48,971	39,368	11,812	7,209	9,842	1,850	119,052
Cost of construction during year ...	£	86,139	131,462	23,344	26,154	14,108	18,149	299,356
Total cost to end of year ...	£	651,118	723,983	194,281	167,271	165,391	62,688	1,964,732