

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. Postal Services in Early Days.—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. 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. 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.

3. Development of Postal Services.—In the early days mails were conveyed along the main roads by coaches, built after the style of the old-fashioned English mail 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 1908.* The number of post offices open in each State and in the Commonwealth at decennial periods since 1841, and at the end of the years 1907 and 1908, 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 1908.

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Commonwealth.	C'wealth (excluding Interstate Excess).
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	...
1907	1,809	1,656	480	704	298	375	5,322	...
1908	1,966	1,633	499	686	320	378	5,482	...

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1841 TO 1908.

DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL SERVICES, 1841 TO 1908 (Continued).

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland. †	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Commonwealth.	C'wealth (excluding Interstate Excess).
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NUMBERS OF LETTERS AND POSTCARDS DEALT WITH. (,000 OMITTED.)

1841	...	720	56	*
1851	...	975	504	*	364
1861	...	4,370	6,110	515	1,540	...	836	13,564
1871	...	7,510	11,716	1,793	3,163	1,189	26,040	24,382
1881	...	26,356	26,308	5,178	10,759	995	2,682	72,278
1891	...	64,154	\$62,527	15,346	17,836	3,193	5,852	168,908
1901	...	82,783	82,599	23,270	21,395	17,451	11,173	238,671
1907	...	137,229	122,508	36,006	28,364	24,653	14,911	363,671
1908	...	149,654	128,986	40,363	27,132	25,614	15,323	387,072
1908	...	149,654	128,986	40,363	27,132	25,614	15,323	387,072

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
1871	...	1,478	1,590	1,489	1,712	\$2,668	1,175	1,553
1881	...	3,445	3,024	2,286	3,885	3,372	2,304	3,164
1891	...	5,616	\$5,460	3,870	5,548	6,414	3,929	5,270
1901	...	6,033	6,821	4,813	5,840	9,306	6,436	6,237
1907	...	8,848	9,904	6,638	7,329	9,329	8,433	8,746
1908	...	9,402	10,250	7,347	6,815	9,663	8,431	9,053
1908	...	9,402	10,250	7,347	6,815	9,663	8,431	9,053

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
1871	...	3,992	5,173	1,307	2,213	\$352	1,156	14,173
1881	...	16,528	11,441	4,530	5,927	715	2,345	41,486
1891	...	42,517	\$22,729	11,896	8,883	1,666	5,376	93,067
1901	...	52,318	26,297	12,805	9,573	7,975	7,440	116,408
1907	...	48,341	30,960	19,214	7,713	9,419	10,707	126,354
1908	...	50,461	31,890	20,445	7,843	9,505	12,113	132,257
1908	...	50,461	31,890	20,445	7,843	9,505	12,113	132,257

NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS DEALT WITH PER 100 OF THE POPULATION.

1841	...	965	1,024	*	...	...	...	...
1851	...	386	590	*	778	...	...	...
1861	...	958	792	1,370	868	...	995	885
1871	...	786	702	1,086	1,198	\$1,407	1,122	845
1881	...	2,160	1,315	2,000	2,140	2,423	2,015	1,816
1891	...	3,722	\$1,965	3,000	2,763	3,346	3,609	2,904
1901	...	3,813	2,172	2,538	2,617	4,253	4,285	3,042
1907	...	3,117	2,503	3,543	1,993	3,564	6,056	3,038
1908	...	3,171	2,509	3,721	1,970	3,586	6,665	3,094
1908	...	3,171	2,509	3,721	1,970	3,586	6,665	3,094

* Included in New South Wales. † In 1884. ‡ In 1872. § In 1890. || The figures up to and including the year 1901 are partly estimated.

4. *Interstate and Oversea Postages for whole Commonwealth, 1901 to 1908.*—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 table the matter dealt with is divided into (i.) matter posted in the Commonwealth for delivery within the Commonwealth, (ii.) matter received from places outside the Commonwealth, and (iii.) matter despatched to places outside the Commonwealth.

**INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR WHOLE COMMONWEALTH,
1901 TO 1908.**

Year.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers.	Parcels.	Packets.
POSTED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH (,000 OMITTED).				
1901	209,529	92,383	1,253	36,395
1902	230,554	87,467	1,339	36,783
1903	232,173	78,502	1,515	35,658
1904	243,168	82,011	1,640	38,896
1905	270,766	82,206	1,807	45,466
1906	296,433	91,590	2,120	49,095
1907	309,069	92,223	2,363	64,784
1908	329,162	96,359	2,508	68,569
OVERSEA RECEIVED (,000 OMITTED).				
1901	5,682	7,283	80	2,875
1902	6,342	7,342	86	3,181
1903	6,292	7,116	90	2,820
1904	7,863	7,495	98	3,258
1905	9,689	8,195	94	3,536
1906	9,814	7,973	106	2,688
1907	9,541	8,753	119	3,498
1908	13,699*	8,446	107	4,124
OVERSEA DESPATCHED (,000 OMITTED).				
1901	4,945	3,055	35	1,319
1902	5,072	3,440	44	1,371
1903	6,024	4,449	47	1,463
1904	7,147	4,649	50	1,974
1905	8,552	4,790	54	2,170
1906	10,394	4,860	60	2,169
1907	10,894	5,548	64	2,356
1908	10,624	5,400	68	2,191

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

5. **Interstate and Oversea Postages for each State, 1908.**—The following table shews separately for each State the postage matter dealt with in 1908 under the same classification adopted in the preceding paragraph :—

INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR EACH STATE, 1908.

State.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers.	Parcels.	Packets.
POSTED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN COMMONWEALTH (,000 OMITTED).				
New South Wales ...	124,531	39,637	1,273	30,957
Victoria	113,171	23,071	458	13,676
Queensland	33,355	14,125	467	10,153
South Australia ...	22,625	5,254	127	7,662
Western Australia ...	20,757	5,464	137	3,180
Tasmania	11,723	8,808	46	2,941
Commonwealth ...	326,162	96,359	2,508	68,569

INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA POSTAGES FOR EACH STATE, 1908.—(Continued).

State.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers.	Parcels.	Packets.
OVERSEA RECEIVED (,000 OMITTED).				
New South Wales ...	7,098	2,136	36	1,552
Victoria ...	3,808	2,888	29	1,298
Queensland ...	1,456	1,365	16	511
South Australia ...	864	960	9	22
Western Australia ...	1,022	711	12	438
Tasmania...	423	386	5	303
Commonwealth ...	14,671	8,446	107	4,124

OVERSEA DESPATCHED (,000 OMITTED).

New South Wales ...	4,076	2,251	32	1,021
Victoria. ...	3,156	2,239	18	883
Queensland ...	847	318	6	76
South Australia ...	780	178	5	111
Western Australia ...	845	192	5	54
Tasmania...	920	222	2	46
Commonwealth ...	10,624	5,400	68	2,191

6. **Postal Facilities, 1908.**—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 1908. 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, 1908.**

State.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwltth.
Number of post and receiving offices...	2,492	2,346	1,395	715	392	414	7,754
Number of square miles of territory to each post office in State ...	124	37	480	1,264	2,489	63	384
Number of inhabitants to each office...	510	542	396	569	681	449	551
Number of inhabitants per 100 sq. miles	512	144	82	45	27	709	143

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

(ii.) *Newspapers.* The different rates charged for the carriage of newspapers in the various States, prior to Federation, continued after the control of the Postal Departments had been taken over by the Commonwealth, until the 1st November, 1902, when a uniform rate was imposed by the Post and Telegraph Rates Act 1902. On all newspapers posted for delivery within the Commonwealth (without condition as to the number contained in each addressed wrapper posted) by registered newspaper proprietors, or by newsvendors, or returned by newsvendor or agent to the publishing office, a charge of one penny per twenty ounces on the aggregate weight is imposed. On all other registered newspapers posted within the Commonwealth for delivery therein the charge is a halfpenny per ten ounces for each newspaper. At the end of the year 1908 there were in all 1592 publications registered in the Commonwealth under section 29 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 for transmission by post as newspapers. The charge on postage of registered newspapers for transmission to the United Kingdom and to other parts of the world is one penny up to four ounces, and a halfpenny for every additional two ounces. Newspapers which are not registered are charged at the same rates as parcels or packets.

(iii.) *Parcels.* Parcels may not exceed 11 lbs. in weight, 3ft. 6in. in length, or 6ft. 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. **Postal Department as Developmental Agency.**—The extent to which the Postal Department is used as a developmental agency is partly shewn by the subjoined table. This return shews the number of country mail services upon which losses were incurred from 1901 to 1908, and also the number of services upon which a profit was made, together with the total loss and the total profit in each State.

PROFIT AND LOSS ON COUNTRY MAIL SERVICES, 1908.

State.	Services shewing Loss.		Services shewing Profit.	
	Number.	Loss.	Number.	Profit.
	No.	£	No.	£
New South Wales	363	9,655	548	82,890
Victoria	620	15,711	192	11,260
Queensland	339	18,672	176	9,530
South Australia	142	8,285	107	17,812
Western Australia	125	9,748	25	1,338
Tasmania	87	1,910	121	11,601
Commonwealth	1,676	63,981	1,169	134,431

From the above table it may be seen that the Commonwealth as a whole earns a profit of £70,450 on country mail services.

9. **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, 1908.* The subjoined table shews the number of registered letters posted in each State during the year 1908, classified according to the places to which they were despatched for delivery, viz. :—

NUMBER OF REGISTERED LETTERS POSTED DURING 1908.

(,000 OMITTED.)

State.	Posted in each State for Delivery with-in that State.	Posted in each State for Delivery in other States.	Posted in each State for Delivery in Places outside the C'wealth.	Total.
New South Wales ...	663	25	23	711
Victoria ...	799	79	48	926
Queensland ...	333	42	22	397
South Australia ...	183	28	12	223
Western Australia ...	276	36	21	333
Tasmania ...	160	13	5	178
Commonwealth ...	2,414	223	131	2,768

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

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

(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 com-

mence on the 1st February, 1898, for a period of seven years. The total amount of the subsidy was £170,000 per annum, of which £98,000 was payable by the Imperial Government and £72,000 by the Australian States in proportion to their population. These contracts expired on the 31st January, 1905, and pending negotiations for a new contract the mails were carried at poundage rates. On the 1st February, 1905, the Peninsular and Oriental Company commenced its eighth Australian contract with the British Postmaster-General on behalf of the Imperial Post Office only, and in connection with the India and China mail services, one payment being arranged for the whole service, and the Commonwealth Government not, as hitherto, being a party to the contract. Mails are still carried from Australia by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, but are carried at Postal Union rates and not under contract with the Commonwealth. On the 25th April, 1905, the Orient-Pacific Company concluded a new contract with the Commonwealth Government for a fortnightly service between England and Australia. The subsidy was at the rate of £124,880 per annum. This contract has now been replaced by the new mail contract referred to in the next sub-section hereof. Fremantle has, since the year 1900, been the first and last port of call for 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, which have been specially built, and which are each over 12,000 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 Taranto to Adelaide is to be completed within twenty-six days fourteen hours, and from Adelaide to Taranto within twenty-seven days two hours, but the latter period may be exceeded by thirty-six hours during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon. The amount of the subsidy is fixed at £170,000 per annum; but, if the earnings of the company be decreased, or the expenses increased, by reason of any Commonwealth shipping legislation passed subsequently to the date of the agreement, to the extent of not less than £5000 a year, the contractors have the right to terminate the agreement unless the subsidy is increased. Insulated space of not less than 2000 tons of forty cubic feet is to be provided in each of the new vessels, and the freights are not to exceed one halfpenny per lb. for butter and sixty shillings per ton for fruit. White labour only is to be employed, and no discrimination is to be made between unionists and non-unionists. If before or during the sixth year of the period of the contract an accelerated service is provided by any competing line of mail ships, the contractors must, if so required by the Postmaster-General, provide a service equal to the competing service, at an increased subsidy, to be determined by agreement or arbitration. The Commonwealth flag must be flown on the mail ships, which the Commonwealth has the right to purchase at a valuation at any time. Within six months of the Postmaster-General establishing a permanent wireless telegraphy station at Rottneest Island, or at any point on the coast between Fremantle and Brisbane, the company must fit the mail ships with wireless telegraphy installations. The new service was inaugurated on the 11th February, 1910.

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

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

(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, 1909, and afterwards, at a subsidy of £26,626 per annum, for a period of one year pending the receipt of tenders for an improved and accelerated service.

(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, 30th JUNE, 1909.

Description of Service.	Frequency of Service.	Ports between which Service is maintained.	Particulars regarding Subsidies.
1. <i>To and from Europe, via Suez—</i>			
(a) Peninsular and Oriental* ...	Fortnightly	Adelaide, Fremantle and London, <i>via</i> Brindisi and Marseilles	Subsidised by Imperial Govt. Mails from Aust. at Postal Union rates
(b) Orient Pacific* ...	"	Adelaide, Fremantle & London, <i>via</i> Taranto	Subsidised. Date of agreement, 15th Nov., 1907. Term from Feb., 1910. Amt. of subsidy £170,000. Subsidy paid by all States on a <i>per capita</i> basis.
(c) Messageries Maritimes ...	13 voyages yearly	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† Canadian Australian Steamship Co.</i>	Monthly	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, extended for one year. 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.

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, Bellingier 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, Eden, Bega 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 & Cookt'n	Subsidised by agreement dated 29th Nov., 1905, for three years, extended for one year. 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 five years. Amount of subsidy £6000. Subsidies under 5 (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, Melb'rne, and Sydney, via North Queensland ports, extending to China and Japan	" "
(b) Burns, Philp and Co. ...	Monthly	Port Darwin and Boroloola, calling half-yearly at Roper River	Postal Union Rates.
(c) Nippon Yusen Kaisha ...	Irregularly	Pt. Darwin & Wyndham	Subsidised by agreement for three years. Amount of subsidy, (d) £350; (e) £125 per voyage.
(d) Jolly and Co. ...	Four times a year		
(e) " " ...	Every eight weeks		
(ii.) To SOUTH COAST PORTS—			
(a) Gulf Steamship Co. ...	Weekly	Pt. Adelaide & Kingscote	Subsidised to 31st December, 1910. Amount of subsidy, (a) £495; (b) £270; (c) £270; (d) £135.
(b) " " ...	Twice a wk.	" Edithburgh	Subsidised for three years from 1st January, 1908. Amount of subsidy, £1680.
(c) " " ...	"	" Stansbury	Subsidised without agreement. Amount of subsidy, £36. Subsidies under 6 (i.) (b), (c), (d), and (ii.) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), paid by South Aust.
(d) " " ...	Weekly	" Pt. Vincent	
(e) Adelaide Steamship Co. ...	"	" Pt. Lincoln	
(f) Adelaide Steam Tug Co. ...	As required	Port Pirie & Hummocks Hill	
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 Australian United S. Navigation, Huddart, Parker, Howard Smith, Melb. S.S. Co., and McIlwraith McEachern lines	Conjointly, weekly	Fremantle, Albany, and Adelaide	Poundage rates.
(c) Messageries Maritimes, Norddeutscher Lloyd, and the German and Ausn. lines ...	Each month	Fremantle and Adelaide	Postal Union rates by first two, and poundage rates by last two lines.
(d) White Star line ...	Monthly	Albany and Adelaide	Poundage rates.
(ii.) To & FROM PORTS ON N.W. COAST			
(a) Adelaide Steamship Co. ...	"	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 se's'n	Fremantle, Derby, and Wyndham	
(iii.) To AND FROM PORTS ON S. COAST			
(a) Adelaide Steamship Co. ...	Weekly	Albany and Esperance	Subsidised by agreement dated 1st February, 1909, for three years. Amount of subsidy, £4000. W.A. Govt. pays £750; Cwith. Govt. £3250.
(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. ...	„	Melbourne, Burnie, etc.	„ „
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. Subsidised by N.S.W. Govt. Mails at poundage rates. Poundage rates.
(b) Burns, Philp & Co. ...	Monthly	Sydney, do., do.	
(c) China Navigation, Eastern & Ausn., and Burns, Philp Co.'s	About three times a month	Sydney, to Hong Kong, Manila, etc., <i>via</i> North Queensland ports	
(d) Norddeutscher Lloyd	Monthly	<i>Via</i> German New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, and Singapore	Postal Union rates.
(e) Nippon Yusen Kaisha	„	Sydney to Manila, China, and Japan, <i>via</i> N. Queensland ports	„ „
(f) Various other steamers	About monthly	Sydney or Newcastle and ports in Borneo, Java, Sumatra, and Malay Peninsula	Poundage rates.
(g) W.A.S.N. Co. & Ocean S.S. Co.	Fortnightly	W.A. Ports, Java, and Singapore	„ „
10. <i>South Africa</i> — White Star, Lund's, Currie's, and other Companies	Irregularly	Various	„ „
11. <i>North America</i> — (a) Weir line ...	„	Sydney, San Francisco, and Vancouver	Poundage rates.
(b) Various steamers ...	„	Sydney or Newcastle to San Francisco	Poundage rates.
(c) Various steamers ...	„	Sydney to Guaymas (Mexico)	„ „
(d) Spreckels Line	10 voyages yearly.	Syd., Wellington, Tahiti	„ „
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.	Subsidised by Commonwealth at £12,000 per annum.
(b) „ „	Every two months	Sydney to Gilbert and Marshall Islands	
(c) German S.S. Co.	Every 4 mth	„ „	Subsidised by German Gov.
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

11. **Amount of Mail Subsidies Paid by Each State, 1901 to 1908.**—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 way of mail subsidies for each year from 1901 to 1908 inclusive:—

MAIL SUBSIDIES.—TOTAL AMOUNTS PAID, 1901 to 1908.

Year ...	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Amount £	134,332	137,217	140,097	163,622	171,294	199,463	198,475	196,110

The following table shews the amount paid by each State in respect of each mail subsidy during the year 1908 :—

MAIL SUBSIDIES.—AMOUNT PAID BY EACH STATE IN RESPECT OF EACH SUBSIDY, 1908.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Orient-Pacific ...	46,685	37,045	16,120	11,684	7,783	5,474	124,791
Vancouver Service ...	9,868	7,939	3,459	2,481	1,692	1,075	26,514
Oceanic Co.—San Francisco...	...	...	1,028	...	...	...	1,028
Victoria-Tasmanian Service ...	...	4,187	...	1,216	810	569	6,782
Northern Ports of Queensland	...	...	23,715	...	...	...	23,715
South Coast of Sth. Australia	...	...	...	2,647	...	...	2,647
Northern Territory...	...	...	...	2,375	...	...	2,375
West. Australia—N.W. Coast	...	...	...	...	4,000	...	4,000
South Coast	...	...	...	...	3,000	...	3,000
Pacific Islands ...	...	...	...	1,258	...	...	1,258
Total ...	56,553	49,171	44,322	21,661	17,285	7,118	196,110

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 22. *Distribution of Expenditure of Postal Department.*)

12. **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 1908 :—

AVERAGE AND FASTEST TIME OCCUPIED IN CONVEYANCE OF MAILS VIA SUEZ CANAL, BETWEEN LONDON AND ADELAIDE, AND VICE VERSA, DURING 1908.

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., via Brindisi and Colombo ...	28	7	28	1	29	22	29	8
Orient Pacific S. N. Co., via Naples and Suez ...	30	8	30	1	32	4	31	14
*Messageries Maritimes, via Mar- seilles ...	...	...	...	...	32	22	31	16
*Norddeutscher Lloyd, via Genoa	...	...	...	...	32	17	30	3

* 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 $17\frac{1}{2}$ 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 during the year 1908:—

AVERAGE AND FASTEST TIMES OCCUPIED IN CONVEYANCE OF MAILS VIA VANCOUVER BETWEEN LONDON AND SYDNEY, AND VICE VERSA, DURING 1908.

Service.	London to Sydney.		Sydney to London.	
	Average Time.	Fastest Time	Average Time.	Fastest Time.
	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Canadian-Australian Line, <i>via</i> Vancouver ...	$37\frac{2}{3}$	37	$35\frac{1}{3}$	34

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 Paid and of Notes Sold, 1908.*—The following table shews the total value of money orders issued and paid, and of postal notes sold in

each State and in the Commonwealth during the year 1908, together with the total amount of commission on money orders and poundage on postal notes received by the Postal Department :—

VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED AND PAID AND OF POSTAL NOTES SOLD, TOGETHER WITH THE TOTAL AMOUNTS OF COMMISSION AND POUNDAGE RECEIVED IN EACH STATE DURING 1908.

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 ...	2,539,265	2,646,050	21,189	931,124	18,117
Victoria ...	975,442	1,311,557	9,294	764,919	14,971
Queensland ...	751,718	613,673	7,107	235,280	4,566
South Australia ...	298,144	313,548	3,031	160,061	3,235
Western Australia ...	900,875	625,181	6,770	197,626	3,524
Tasmania ...	267,884	214,953	2,595	102,661	2,006
Commonwealth ...	5,733,328	5,724,962	49,986	2,391,671	46,419

(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, 1910.

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

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:—

POUNDAGE RATES, POSTAL NOTES, 1910.

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 and Postal Notes Issued and Paid, 1901 to 1908.**—The following table shows the total number and face value of money orders and postal notes issued and paid in the Commonwealth during each year from 1901 to 1908:—

**NUMBER AND VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES ISSUED AND PAID,
1901 TO 1908.**

Year.	Money Orders.				Postal Notes.			
	Issued.		Paid.		Issued.		Paid.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).	No. (,000).	£ (,000).
1901 ...	1,318	4,193	1,339	4,082	3,507	1,290	3,505	1,280
1902 ...	1,283	4,281	1,251	4,162	3,583	1,328	3,599	1,324
1903 ...	1,261	4,346	1,244	4,342	4,022	1,517	3,981	1,517
1904 ...	1,289	4,497	1,266	4,470	4,525	1,718	4,596	1,759
1905 ...	1,312	4,771	1,286	4,760	5,099	1,890	5,079	1,939
1906 ...	1,329	5,059	1,318	5,034	5,478	2,076	5,479	2,078
1907 ...	1,388	5,533	1,374	5,508	6,060	2,271	6,052	2,272
1908 ...	1,437	5,733	1,402	5,725	6,321	2,392	6,321	2,392

15. **Classification of Money Orders Issued and Paid, 1908.**—The following table shows the number and value of money orders issued in each State during the year 1908 and classified according to the country where payable.

**MONEY ORDERS ISSUED IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY
WHERE PAYABLE, 1908.**

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	581,960	8,097	38,704	9,887	638,648
Victoria ...	197,281	5,424	25,189	8,626	236,520
Queensland ...	168,588	1,589	18,796	5,367	194,340
South Australia ...	68,921	957	9,550	2,906	82,334
Western Australia	178,371	1,163	18,471	2,887	200,892
Tasmania ...	76,767	1,764	4,770	1,160	84,461
Commonwealth	1,271,888	18,994	115,480	30,833	1,437,195

VALUE.

New South Wales	£ 2,381,897	£ 25,645	£ 90,628	£ 41,095	£ 2,539,265
Victoria ...	877,311	17,003	54,110	27,018	975,442
Queensland ...	670,675	5,349	44,115	31,579	751,718
South Australia ...	266,638	3,307	19,791	8,408	298,144
Western Australia	827,962	5,854	46,914	20,145	900,875
Tasmania ...	249,614	6,618	8,989	2,663	267,884
Commonwealth	5,274,097	63,776	264,547	130,908	5,733,328

The following table shews the number and value of money orders paid in each State during the year 1908, and classified according to the country where issued.

**MONEY ORDERS PAID IN EACH STATE, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE
COUNTRY OF ISSUE, 1908.**

NUMBER.

State in which paid.	Where Issued.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United K'dom.	In Other Countries.	
New South Wales	578,221	38,156	14,798	11,834	643,009
Victoria ...	270,674	27,536	11,000	9,155	318,365
Queensland ...	146,158	2,859	5,134	2,339	156,490
South Australia ...	74,744	2,316	2,685	1,370	81,115
Western Australia	129,662	1,954	4,069	910	136,595
Tasmania ...	57,268	5,836	1,569	1,864	66,537
Commonwealth	1,256,727	78,657	39,255	27,472	1,402,111

VALUE.

State in which paid.	Where Issued.				Total.
	In the Commonwealth.	In New Zealand.	In the United K'dom.	In Other Countries.	
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,449,878	93,942	46,347	55,883	2,646,050
Victoria...	1,167,362	71,165	34,144	38,886	1,311,557
Queensland ...	577,682	8,539	17,336	10,116	613,673
South Australia ...	293,193	6,267	8,530	5,558	313,548
Western Australia	601,051	4,850	15,158	4,122	625,181
Tasmania	190,998	14,563	4,479	4,913	214,953
Commonwealth	5,280,164	199,326	125,994	119,478	5,724,962

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.

16. Classification of Postal Notes Paid, 1908.—The subjoined table shews the number and value of postal notes paid during the year 1908 in each State and in the Commonwealth, classified according to the State in which they were issued.

Particulars regarding the total number and value of postal notes issued and paid during previous years since the inauguration of the Commonwealth have already been given in paragraph 14 hereof.

**NUMBER AND VALUE OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO
STATE OF ISSUE, 1908.**

State in which Paid.	Postal Notes Issued in—						
	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cw'ith.
NUMBER.							
New South Wales	2,219,479	98,075	108,063	36,101	24,582	21,081	2,507,381
Victoria ...	140,378	1,779,726	28,737	45,294	44,802	52,182	2,091,119
Queensland ...	35,017	6,155	451,714	1,395	1,571	733	496,585
South Australia ...	38,972	22,080	1,991	341,079	16,322	1,339	421,783
Western Australia	5,629	8,921	868	4,808	328,988	663	349,877
Tasmania ...	40,550	159,750	19,278	27,406	4,729	202,698	454,411
Commonwealth	2,480,025	2,074,707	610,651	456,083	420,994	278,696	6,321,156

VALUE.							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	817,214	39,163	41,409	12,338	11,013	7,183	928,320
Victoria ...	61,319	659,208	11,250	18,048	25,938	22,138	797,901
Queensland ...	15,274	3,060	173,585	641	912	335	193,807
South Australia ...	20,483	9,992	958	117,696	9,882	649	159,660
Western Australia	2,541	4,495	468	2,420	147,706	223	157,853
Tasmania ...	14,293	49,001	7,610	8,918	2,175	72,133	154,130
Commonwealth	931,124	764,919	235,280	160,061	197,626	102,661	2,391,671

The following statement shews the number of postal notes of each denomination paid in the Commonwealth during the year 1908:—

**NUMBER OF POSTAL NOTES PAID, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DENOMINATION,
1908.**

Denomination.	Number Paid.	Denomination.	Number Paid.	Denomination.	Number Paid.
s. d.		s. d.		s. d.	
0 6	65,598	3 6	325,573	10 6	155,416
1 0	282,034	4 0	524,349	15 0	389,790
1 6	188,443	4 6	371,855	20 0	853,091
2 0	347,622	5 0	763,632		
2 6	427,023	7 6	325,572		
3 0	511,826	10 0	789,332	Total ...	6,321,156

17. **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 1906, 1907, and 1908. 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, 1906 to 1908.**

State.	Number of Parcels Posted.			Value collected.			Revenue, including Postage, Commission on Value, Registration and Money Order Commission.		
	1906.	1907.	1908	1906.	1907.	1908.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	3,798	4,814	6,400	6,025	7,763	11,755	579	702	985
Victoria ...	731	617	270	1,220	1,075	347	93	96	30*
Queensland ...	25,039	27,729	26,865	33,507	36,876	36,924	3,556	3,954	3,713
South Australia ...	51	39	125	59	77	236	9	6	18
Western Australia	6,539	9,236	13,093	11,198	15,783	21,331	971	1,333	1,869
Tasmania ...	10	72	62	17	83	132	1	7	9
Commonwealth	36,168	42,507	46,815	52,026	61,657	70,725	5,209	6,098	6,624

* Exclusive of postage.

18. **Transactions of the Dead Letter Office, 1908.**—Under sections 45 to 53 of the Post and Telegraph Act 1901 the Postmaster-General may cause all unclaimed and undelivered postal articles originally posted within the Commonwealth which have been returned from the place to which they were forwarded to be treated as unclaimed articles and opened. Every unclaimed letter and postal article must be kept for the prescribed period at the office to which it has been transmitted for delivery, and must then be sent to the General Post Office. Letters and packets originally posted elsewhere than in the Commonwealth are returned to the proper authorities in the country in which they were so posted, or, if originally posted in another State, are returned to the General Post Office of that State; but unclaimed or undelivered newspapers may be forthwith sold, destroyed, or used for any public purpose. Opened postal articles not containing anything of value are returned to the writer or sender if his name and address can be ascertained, but may otherwise be destroyed forthwith. As regards opened letters and packets containing valuable or saleable enclosures, a list and memorandum of the contents are kept, and a notice is sent to the person to whom the letter or packet is addressed if he be known, or otherwise to the writer or sender thereof if he be known. Upon application within three months of the date of such notice the letter or packet may be claimed by the addressee, or, failing him, by the writer or sender. If unclaimed within three months the letter and contents may be destroyed or sold, and the proceeds paid into the consolidated revenue fund. The following table shows the total number of letters, postcards, and packets dealt with by the Dead Letter Offices in the Commonwealth during the year 1908, 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, 1908.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwth.
LETTERS (,000 omitted).							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	321	238	113	29	87	48	836
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	64	40	11	9	12	4	140
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	43	32	23	11	17	10	136
Total ...	428	310	147	49	116	62	1,112
POSTCARDS (,000 omitted).							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	6	11	7	9	5	3	41
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	103	9	6	18	2	4	142
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	7	7	3	4	2	2	25
Total ...	116	27	16	31	9	9	208
PACKETS (,000 omitted).							
Returned to writers, delivered, etc. ...	810	24	65	34	22	2	957
Destroyed in accordance with Act ...	61	100	7	5	4	...	177
Returned to other States or Countries as unclaimed ...	9	42	42	17	14	10	134
Total ...	880	166	114	56	40	12	1,268
Grand Total (letters, postcards, & packets)	1,424	503	277	136	165	83	2,588

19. **Post Offices and Receiving Offices and Employes, 1901 to 1908.**—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 the year 1901, and from 1904 to 1908 inclusive :—

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES AND RECEIVING OFFICES, 1901 to 1908.

State.	1901.		1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.	
	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.
New South Wales ...	1,684	524	1,726	513	1,744	522	1,769	519	1,809	510	1,966	526
Victoria ...	1,637	18	1,652	18	1,655	18	1,659	657	1,656	670	1,633	713
Queensland* ...	411	823	450	921	447	913	468	886	480	909	499	896
South Australia ...	713	...	711	...	711	...	706	7	704	12	686	29
Western Australia ...	187	28	243	34	261	34	281	57	298	67	320	72
Tasmania† ...	376	...	371	12	370	9	373	19	375	31	378	36
Commonwealth ...	5,008	1,393	5,153	1,498	5,188	1,496	5,256	2,145	5,322	2,199	5,482	2,272

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

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND NUMBER OF MAIL CONTRACTORS, 1901 to 1908.

State.	1901.		1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.	
	Emploýs.	Mail Contractors.	Emploýs.	Mail Contractors.	Emploýs.	Mail Contractors.	Emploýs.	Mail Contractors.	Emploýs.	Mail Contractors.	Emploýs.	Mail Contractors.
New South Wales ...	5,636	984	5,763	1,006	5,890	1,029	5,943	1,037	6,964	1,072	7,343	1,305
Victoria ...	3,962	890	4,041	934	4,066	912	4,896	919	5,744	758	5,989	776
Queensland* ...	2,616	—	2,641	—	2,640	—	2,610	630	3,021	640	3,073	550
South Australia†	1,945	—	2,046	—	1,727	259	1,734	255	1,767	261	1,871	237
Western Australia	1,303	140	1,316	150	1,273	154	1,941	152	1,579	208	1,670	206
Tasmania‡	865	—	—	—	—	—	811	164	814	172	843	177
Commonwealth ...	16,327	2,014	15,807	2,090	15,616	2,354	17,935	3,157	19,889	3,111	20,789	3,251

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

At the end of the year 1908, out of the total number of persons, 24,040, employed in the Postmaster-General's Department, 13,478 were employed wholly, and 10,562 were employed partially in the service.

20. **Postal Routes, 1908.** The following table shows the length of postal routes and the number of miles travelled by mail conveyances during the year 1908:—

POSTAL ROUTES, 1908.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
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MILES OF ROUTE.

Railway ...	3,438	3,309	3,747	2,164	2,290	631	15,579
Water ...	4,438	52	2,267	6,911	3,172	881	17,721
Other ...	32,292	10,780	30,281	8,341	8,672	1,887	92,253
Total... ...	40,168	14,141	36,295	17,416	14,134	3,399	125,553

MILES TRAVELLED BY MAIL CONVEYANCES (,000 omitted.)

Railway ...	1,253	4,278	3,043	1,727	1,457	812	12,570
Water ...	629	21	274	262	165	207	1,558
Other ...	8,077	3,694	4,389	1,576	902	859	19,497
Total ...	9,959	7,993	7,706	3,565	2,524	1,878	33,625

21. **Gross Revenue of Postal Department, 1901 to 1908.**—The following table shows the gross revenue of the Postal Department for the years 1901 to 1908 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 1908.

Year.	Postal Branch.	Telegraph Branch.	Telephone Branch.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1901	1,567,254	602,438	218,715	2,388,407
1902	1,591,898	580,873	257,316	2,430,087
1903	1,657,852	505,210	281,366	2,444,428
1904	1,776,081	505,216	300,448	2,581,745
1905	1,867,814	538,555	332,593	2,738,962
1906	2,026,880	590,369	368,498	2,985,747
1907	2,181,427	642,373	394,685	3,218,485
1908	2,239,377	651,124	411,164	3,301,665

The following tables give an analysis of the gross earnings of the Postal Department in each State and in the Commonwealth during the year 1908 :—

ANALYSIS OF GROSS REVENUE ON POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1908.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwlth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Postage	834,915	522,994	270,654	185,506	138,520	91,922	2,044,511
Telegraphs	206,685	143,627	107,802	96,864	76,158	19,988	651,124
Telephones	161,016	122,434	46,507	34,386	32,791	14,030	411,164
Money order commission	20,867	8,503	6,752	3,001	6,596	2,609	48,328
Poundage on postal notes	18,141	15,413	4,315	3,092	3,395	1,940	46,296
Private boxes and bags	6,561	2,960	2,727	1,245	1,592	790	15,875
Miscellaneous	29,921	18,437	11,910	14,537	7,458	2,104	84,367
Total	1,278,106	834,368	450,667	338,631	266,510	133,383	3,301,665

22. **Expenditure in respect of the Postal Departments, 1901 to 1908.**—The sub-joined table shews the total expenditure in respect of the Postal Department in the Commonwealth from 1901 to 1908 inclusive. 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 :—

TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT, 1901 to 1908.

State.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Expenditure ... £	2,287,254	2,329,984	2,524,531	2,630,869	2,685,158	2,770,745	3,116,298	3,358,501

The following table shews the distribution of expenditure on various items in each State during the year 1908 :—

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE OF POSTAL DEPARTMENTS, 1908.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwllth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Proportion of Central office expenses	3,612	2,874	1,248	905	602	423	9,664
Salaries	520,098	368,231	176,620	143,615	167,818	48,945	1,425,327
Contingencies	190,142	163,634	104,984	48,092	58,204	29,509	594,565
Conveyance of mails—							
Steamship—Subsidised	66,441	52,967	47,736	22,556	18,123	7,786	215,609
Poundage rates	13,098	6,409	3,959	1,241	1,858	1,631	28,196
Railway	89,539	60,424	53,898	23,925	22,706	13,114	263,606
Other	114,027	43,743	58,678	23,001	25,831	11,503	276,783
Cable subsidies	10,605	8,621	8,973	624	415	7,394	36,632
Telegraph works	15,391	12,297	11,056	4,812	4,532	470	48,558
Telephone works	102,759	95,783	34,491	34,231	20,077	19,505	306,846
Rent	8,178	2,286	1,604	378	522	3	12,971
Repairs and maintenance of buildings	8,607	3,420	4,130	1,516	2,932	793	21,398
Fittings and furniture	2,028	1,706	546	128	641	204	5,253
Sanitation and water supply	3,486	3,022	807	477	908	132	8,832
Additions, new works, etc.	10,933	27,057	18,162	9,204	4,463	444	70,263
Pensions, etc.	8,080	8,120	1,208	...	2,011	...	19,419
Supervision of works	927	174	311	179	285	13	1,889
Proportion of Audit office expenses	566	406	394	97	310	225	1,998
Proportion of survey of cable route	501	398	173	125	84	59	1,340
Miscellaneous	6,258	997	1,461	310	228	98	9,352
Total	1,175,276	862,569	530,439	315,416	332,550	142,251	3,358,501

§ 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. In Queensland a line runs to Burketown, near the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, *via* Normanton; another line extends to Cloncurry and Urandangi, in the extreme west of the State. Branch lines extend to all important coastal and inland towns, while considerable networks of lines converge from the country districts towards the centres of population. From Adelaide the transcontinental line, 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. Number of Telegraph Offices and Length of Lines and Wire Open, 1901 to 1908.—The following table shews the number of telegraph offices and the length of telegraphic lines and of telegraph wire exclusive of railway telegraphs, available for use, in the Commonwealth at the end of the year 1901, and from 1904 to 1908 inclusive :—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES, LENGTH OF LINE AND WIRE, AVAILABLE FOR USE, 1901 to 1908.

Particulars.			1901.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
No. of Offices	...	No.	2,568	2,674	2,787	2,920	3,208	3,411
Length of Line	...	miles*	41,943	42,358	42,922	42,903	43,384	44,554
„ Wire	...	„ †	101,708	125,081	129,739	131,939	85,173	94,025

* Including telephone and railway telegraph lines in New South Wales, and including railway telegraph lines in South Australia up to and including 1905. † Including telephone and railway telegraph wires in New South Wales up to and including 1906, and including railway telegraph wires in South Australia up to and including 1905.

The following table gives corresponding particulars for each State up to the end of the year 1908. The particulars are exclusive of railway telegraphs :—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES, LENGTH OF LINE AND WIRE IN EACH STATE, 1901 TO 1908.

Particulars.		N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwlth.
No. of Offices	No.	1,290	710	597	332	245	237	3,411
Length of Line	miles	16,338*	4,027	10,411	5,332	6,406	2,040	44,554
„ Wire	„	34,061	10,961	21,908	12,946	10,968	3,181	94,025

* Including telephone and railway.

4. Revenue and Expenditure, 1901 to 1908.—Particulars as to the revenue from the telegraph systems for the years 1901 to 1908 are given on page 769, while particulars as to the expenditure on telegraph works for the year 1908 are given on page 770.

5. **Number of Telegrams Despatched, 1901 to 1908.**—The following table shews the total number of telegrams despatched in the Commonwealth from 1901 to 1908, inclusive:—

NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED, (,000 OMITTED) 1901 to 1908.*

Year ...	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Number* ...	8,003	8,010	8,743	8,688	9,138	10,140	10,867	11,280

* Including inter-state cablegrams.

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

NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED IN EACH STATE, 1908 (,000 OMITTED).

State, etc. ...	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Inland (counted once)	3,066	1,830	1,515	835	1,238	252	8,736
Interstate* ...	735	675	371	329	302	132	2,544
Total ...	3,801	2,505	1,886	1,164	1,540	384	11,280

* Including inter-state cablegrams.

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

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ORDINARY TELEGRAMS, 1910.

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

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

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR PRESS TELEGRAMS, 1910.

Particulars.	Within any State.		Interstate.		Relating to Parliamentary, Executive Departmental, and other Commonwealth 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

7. 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 except for experimental purposes; tenders for the erection of such stations at Sydney and Fremantle were invited and received by the Postmaster-General early in 1910.

In December, 1909, a conference of representatives of the Commonwealth, New Zealand, the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, Fiji, the Admiralty, and the Pacific Cable Board was convened at Melbourne to report upon the establishment of wireless telegraphy in the Pacific. The chief recommendations of this Conference were:—(a) That high-power stations be established at Sydney, Doubtless Bay (New Zealand), Suva (Fiji), and Ocean Island, and (b) that medium-power stations be established at Tulagi (Solomon Islands), and Vila (New Hebrides). The total cost of construction of the scheme covered by these recommendations was £42,000, while the total annual cost was estimated at £13,820 for a continuous service, and £9970 for a restricted service. It was proposed to apportion the cost between Great Britain, New Zealand, Fiji, and Australia.

§ 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. The line was owned by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, and was subsidised by the Tasmanian Government until the year 1909. On the 28th February, 1908, the Postmaster-General entered into an agreement with Messrs. Siemens Brothers and Company Ltd., of London, for the manufacture and laying of two submarine cables between Tasmania and Victoria. The 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, Posiety 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 shews particulars of the revenue, expenditure, total loss, and the proportion of the loss payable by the Commonwealth for each financial year since the opening of the cable :—

REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, AND LOSS ON WORKING OF PACIFIC CABLE, 1903 to 1909.

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
1909 ...	113,093	173,981	60,887	20,296

The total cost of construction to the 31st March, 1909, was £1,999,127; 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 1908-9 was £77,545, while the amount paid to the renewal fund was £31,000.

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, 1906 to 1908.—The subjoined table shews the number of cablegrams received and despatched in the Commonwealth from 1906 to 1908. Returns for previous years are not available :—

CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED, 1906 to 1908.

Particulars.	Cablegrams Received.			Cablegrams Despatched.			Total Cablegrams Received and Despatched.		
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Number...	199,002	219,854	221,976	209,419	230,808	231,214	408,421	450,662	453,190

The following table shews the total number of cablegrams received and despatched in each State during the year 1908. The figures given are exclusive of interstate cablegrams, which are classed as interstate telegrams (See § 2. hereof) :—

NUMBER OF CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED IN EACH STATE, 1908.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.†	C'wealth. ‡
Number received ...	103,870	74,857	8,768	16,921	11,866	6,194	221,976
„ despatched ...	108,634	75,351	10,178	15,367	15,134	6,550	231,214
Total ...	212,504	150,208	18,946	32,288	26,500	12,744	453,190

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

It may be seen that the figures given in the above table for Tasmania and the Commonwealth are exclusive of interstate cablegrams. In 1908 the number of such cablegrams received in Tasmania was 139,724, and the number despatched 131,877, giving a total of 271,601.

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 ...	1,788
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. In July, 1909, the “through” charge for press cables was reduced from one shilling to ninepence per word.

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

11. **Cable Subsidies paid by each State, 1901 to 1908.**—The agreement between the State Governments and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company expired on the 30th April, 1900. Since the year 1895 the amounts guaranteed—£237,736 to the company and £37,552 to South Australia—have been met by the receipts, and the contracting States have, therefore, not been called upon to contribute.

(i.) *Total Subsidies Paid, 1901-8.* The following table shews the total amounts paid by way of cable subsidies for each calendar year from 1901 to 1908, inclusive:—

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CABLE SUBSIDIES PAID, 1901 to 1908.

Year.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Amount ... £	13,207	8,728	38,056	37,911	35,160	24,997	30,837	29,313

(ii.) *Subsidies Paid by each State, 1908.* The subjoined statement shows the amounts paid by each State in respect of each cable service during the year 1908:—

**AMOUNTS PAID BY THE SEVERAL STATES IN RESPECT OF EACH SUBSIDISED
CABLE SERVICE, 1908.**

State.	Tasmania- Victoria.	New Caledonia.	Pacific.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	...	2,000	6,112	8,112
Victoria ...	1,983	...	6,933	8,916
Queensland ...	...	2,000	5,045	7,045
South Australia ...	624	...	...	624
Western Australia ...	416	...	...	416
Tasmania ...	4,200	...	...	4,200
Commonwealth ...	7,223	4,000	18,090	29,313

As the agreement in connection with the Tasmanian cable expired in 1909, and as new cables have been laid by the Commonwealth Government (see page 774 *ante*), the guarantees were, in the course of the year 1909, reduced to those in connection with the New Caledonia and Pacific cables.

§ 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 1908 are given on page 769 *ante*, while particulars of the expenditure on telephone works in each State for the year 1908 are given in a subsequent table on the following page.

(i.) *Number of Telephone Exchanges, etc., in Commonwealth, 1901 to 1908.* The following table shows the number of telephone exchanges, the number of telephone connections, and the length of telephone wire, exclusive of telegraph and railway telephone wire, in the Commonwealth at the end of the year 1901 and from 1904 to 1908 inclusive:—

**NUMBER OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGES AND CONNECTIONS AND LENGTH OF WIRE,
1901 TO 1908.**

Particulars.	1901.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Telephone Exchanges ... No.	120	142	150	178	226	285
„ Connections ... „	24,577	32,599	35,280	38,152	46,756	54,502
Length of Wire ... miles	47,717	64,459	71,695	78,638	119,052	145,572

(ii.) *Number of Telephone Exchanges, etc., in each State, 1908.* The following table gives corresponding particulars for each State at the end of 1908 :—

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES, CONNECTIONS, AND LENGTH OF WIRE IN EACH STATE, 1908.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwilt.
Tel. Exchanges No.	113	52	41	24	35	20	285
„ Connections „	22,414	14,838	6,623	3,837	4,780	2,010	54,502
Length of Wire miles	59,694	48,553	15,062	8,775	11,263	2,225	145,572

2. Telephone Rates.—A new system of telephone charges was approved by the Commonwealth Executive Council on the 19th March, 1909. The new regulations stipulate that from the 19th March, the new system shall apply immediately to all new subscribers and to existing subscribers “after a date to be specified in a notice to him, issued by the Postmaster-General.” In practice this means at the end of existing contracts.

The new scale of rental charges is as follows :—

TELEPHONES.—RENTAL CHARGES, 1909-10.

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

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

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

3. Miscellaneous Particulars, 1908.—The following table gives various interesting particulars of the operation of the telephone services in each State for the year 1908 :—

PARTICULARS OF OPERATION OF TELEPHONE SERVICES, 1908.

Particulars.				N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwth.
Telephone Exchanges	...	...	No.	113	52	41	24	35	20	285
Public Telephone Bureaux	...	...	No.	199	357	151	239	95	244	1,285
Extension Lines—										
Metropolitan	...	...	No.	3,503	3,408	543	186	994	50	8,684
Country	...	...	No.	487	571	285	43	304	79	1,769
Total	...	...	No.	3,990	3,979	828	229	1,298	129	10,453
Private Lines—										
Metropolitan	...	...	No.	357	240	78	241	140	13	1,069
Country	...	...	No.	871	217	272	152	36	97	1,645
Total	...	...	No.	1,228	457	350	393	176	110	2,714
Connections—										
Central Exchange	...	...	No.	5,633	5,757	2,833	2,641	1,813	979	19,656
Suburban Exchanges	...	...	No.	10,759	5,815	416	690	1,151	32	18,863
Country Exchanges	...	...	No.	6,022	3,266	3,374	506	1,816	999	15,983
Total	...	...	No.	22,414	14,838	6,623	3,837	4,780	2,010	54,502
Telephone instruments in use	...	...	No.	27,829	20,623	7,952	5,602	6,078	2,490	70,564
Rental received	...	...	£	161,016	109,270	34,192	34,887	31,254	12,184	382,903
Length of wire opened during year	...	...	Miles	10,722	9,185	3,269	1,565	1,421	351	26,543
Total length of wire at end of year	...	...	Miles	59,694	48,553	15,062	8,775	11,263	2,225	145,572
Cost of construction during year	...	...	£	85,422	147,208	26,098	20,171	6,680	14,675	300,254
Total cost to end of year	...	...	£	736,540	871,191	220,379	187,442	172,071	77,363	2,264,986

4. **Financial Position of Telephone Branch.**—In 1909 an investigation into the financial position of the telephone branch of the Postmaster-General's Department was commenced, and in December of that year a report was issued dealing with the telephone accounts of the system in the State of Victoria. This report shews that during each of the years 1901 to 1908 there was a profit on the working of the system, amounting in all to £150,580; in the financial year 1908-9 there was a loss of £7789, giving a net profit up to the 30th June, 1909, of £142,791.

The following table shews the revenue and expenses of the Melbourne metropolitan network during each year of Federal control, the expenses comprising working expenses, maintenance, depreciation, rent, interest on capital, insurance, and head-office charges:—

**MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN TELEPHONES.—REVENUE AND EXPENSES,
1901 to 1909.**

Particulars.	Four mths. to 30th June, 1901.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.
Révenue £	16,392	56,733	62,720	71,077	73,818	80,118	88,828	89,466	92,960
Expenses £	11,225	36,692	44,234	49,169	54,671	60,844	66,383	83,924	100,455

The total revenue for the period specified in the above table was £632,112, and the total expenses £507,597, giving a net profit on metropolitan lines of £124,515, out of a total net profit on all lines of £142,791. It is stated in the report that the decrease in profit 1907-8 and the loss in 1908-9 are attributable to the introduction of the measured system of telephone rates introduced in February, 1907.