

(No. 41.)



1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CAMP OF EXERCISE, 1891:

REPORT.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



GENERAL POST OFFICE.

Hobart, May, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit herewith my Annual Report of the Post Office transactions for the year 1890, and have pleasure in inviting your attention to the increase of business in all branches.

Revenue and Expenditure.—The total collections on account of Revenue for the year 1890 amounted to £51,259 7s. 5d., consisting of various items estimated as follows:—Postage, £37,983 0s. 9d.; revenue stamps, £9500; and the balance fees and contributions.

In addition to the above may be added £726 17s. 8d. collected for Customs dues on contents of packets and parcels passing through as mail matter. The collection of Customs fees entails a considerable amount of clerical work, and which, of necessity, will grow with the development of the packet and parcel post systems.

In connection with the collection of revenue, it may be stated that the number of adhesive stamps issued was 5,100,060; post cards, 161,168; embossed envelopes, 4488; registration envelopes, 1572; and the value of impressed stamps, £9116 9s. 9d., exclusive of 11,210 exchanges, of the aggregate value of £226 8s. 6d.

Mail Matter.—Correspondence circulated last year embraced 3,681,145 inland letters despatched, an increase of 177,951 on the previous year; 1,354,522 ship letters were dealt with, showing an increase of 154,382 on the previous year; 137,157 post cards were posted, an increase of 26,252; and it is estimated that 4,941,571 newspapers were circulated.

Of the number of letters and packets posted, 752,342 were franked.

Dead Letter Branch.—19,664 unclaimed letters were dealt with, exclusive of “special request letters,” which may be calculated at nearly 2000. The work of this branch will continue to increase in proportion to the influx of population, and it has been necessary to make special provision for carrying on the duties in connection therewith in consequence of the serious illness of the officer in charge.

Post Offices.—During the past year 22 additional offices have been established. The total number at close of last year was 315, against 293 the previous year.

Number of miles of post roads at close of last year was 3100, and 867,702 miles were travelled during the year.

Inland Mail Service.—No special remarks in connection with this service are required, the contractors generally having performed their duties satisfactorily. It may, however, be advisable to mention that during the past three or four months much annoyance and anxiety has been given this Department, and the public inconvenienced, by the culpable neglect of one of the West Coast contractors who has failed in the performance of his duties, notwithstanding the instructions issued from time to time; consequently, such action has now been taken as will, it is hoped, lead to a more satisfactory state of affairs, although it will not be possible to meet the views of some correspondents until direct communication between Strahan and Zeehan has been established. It is hoped this may be accomplished in about three months hence.

Intercolonial Mails.—This service was much interrupted through the serious and prolonged strikes. The Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company, however, used every effort to maintain an efficient service, and there is no reason to complain of their failure.

Parcel Post.—The facilities afforded by this system for the transit of varied commodities are so convenient as to assure a constant increase of business; and there is no question that as the advantages of the system become more generally known it will be largely availed of, and on such account alone additional accommodation at the Hobart Office is urgently required; otherwise, it is feared that difficulty will be experienced in transacting the business satisfactorily. The declared value of foreign parcels received last year amounted to £5150 11s. 7d., upon which Customs duty to the extent of £726 17s. 8d. was collected.

Money Orders.—During the past year 68,992 orders, for £161,215 11s. 3d. were issued; 59,325 orders, for £134,861 11s. 10d. were paid; and the commission collected on orders issued was £2130 8s. 3d.; the respective increases being 4313 orders issued, for £3252 5s. 4d.; orders paid, 3549, for £4181 0s. 2d.; and commission collected, £71 3s. 3d. Although a considerable increase is shown, it is not nearly so large as in the preceding years; and this may be accounted for by the serious depression experienced during the past year originated by the strikes then prevailing, and also affected to some extent by the issue of "Postal Notes," which are found convenient for the transmission of small sums.

Postal Notes.—4556 were issued, varying in sums of 1s. to 20s., and of the aggregate value of £1435 9s. 4½d.

Post Office Savings Banks.—Deposits amounting to £44,109 9s. 6d. were received during the past year, and £1700 9s. 9d. was apportioned to depositors for interest during the same period. £41,917 13s. 8d. was withdrawn, leaving a balance of £55,881 1s. 5d. standing to credit of depositors, against £51,988 5s. 10d. at close of previous year. This may be considered satisfactory in face of the depression referred to.

Buildings.—Since the date of last Report the offices at Scottsdale and Green Ponds have been completed and possession taken. Other buildings for use of country offices are approaching completion. It is quite apparent that in the very near future it will be imperative to proceed with the construction of a commodious building at Mount Zeehan suitable in every respect for the transaction of an extensive and important business. At present the duties of both Post and Telegraph Departments are conducted under great disadvantages. Some allowance must therefore be granted for irregularities that occasionally occur at that office. On completion of the Strahan and Zeehan Railway it is anticipated that increased accommodation will also be required at Strahan.

Reference has already been made to requirements at Hobart, which cannot long be deferred.

Inspection.—I venture again to suggest the appointment of an Inspector, and can only reiterate my impression contained in a former report that such an officer would be of much value to the Department, and render good service in checking irregularities at inland stations, advising as to mail routes extensions, and supervising generally the inland service, now growing to considerable proportions, the branch offices numbering 315, and 182 mail services.

The Staff.—Regular attendance has been fairly maintained, no officer having been incapacitated from duty by illness for any length of time, with the exception of the one in charge of the Dead Letter Branch, who, I regret to say, still remains in a most precarious condition. The rapid growth of business generally will necessitate provision for additional strength to the Staff, as several of the officers are now compelled to remain in attendance after office hours for the purpose of completing necessary duties.

The accompanying Statement will afford an indication of the increasing importance of the Department and corresponding responsibility attached thereto.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. H. MAGRATH, *Secretary.*

The Hon. the Treasurer.

POSTAL BUSINESS DURING THE YEAR 1890.

	No.
Letters and Packets posted and distributed	5,090,400
Parcels (Half-year only).....	1183
Post Cards	137,157
Newspapers	4,142,654
Foreign and Intercolonial Letters and Packets received	908,434
Ditto Parcels (portion of year only)	3859
Ditto Newspapers	798,917
	£ s. d.
Total Amount of Money Order transactions	298,207 11 4
Ditto Savings Banks Deposits	45,809 19 3
Ditto Savings Banks Withdrawals	41,917 13 8
Ditto Postal Notes issued and paid	1435 9 4½
	No.
Total Number of Adhesive Stamps issued	5,100,060
Ditto Envelopes	6060
Ditto Post Cards.....	161,168
Ditto Requisitions for Impressed Stamps	6762
Ditto Exchanges	11,210
	£ s. d.
Total Amount of Collections on Revenue Account.....	51,986 5 1

NOTE.—The Business of the Department to date of current year indicates a large increase on above figures.

RETURN of the Amounts received at the General Post Office for Stamps sold during the Years 1872 to 1890, inclusive.

YEAR.	AMOUNT RECEIVED.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1872	13,321 5 11	991 8 1	—
1873	14,657 4 1	1335 18 2	—
1874	16,975 14 1	2318 10 0	—
1875	17,524 9 9	548 15 8	—
1876	19,289 14 6	1765 4 9	—
1877	21,952 17 4	2663 2 10	—
1878	23,382 15 8	1429 18 4	—
1879	24,184 5 2	801 9 6	—
1880—1 Jan. to 15 April—Postage and Revenue Stamps combined.....	£ s. d. 7755 1 7		
15 April to 31 Dec.—Postage Stamps	13,670 11 11	27,549 3 0	3364 17 10
Ditto—Revenue Stamps	6123 9 6		—
1881—Postage Stamps	20,143 0 7	30,121 13 7	2572 10 7
Revenue Stamps	9978 13 0		—
1882—Postage Stamps	22,916 12 7	32,525 9 6	2403 15 11
Revenue Stamps*	9608 16 11		—
† 1883—Postage Stamps	23,516 0 0	33,157 3 5	631 13 11
Revenue Stamps	9641 3 5		—
† 1884—Postage Stamps	25,070 2 0	33,991 17 1	834 13 8
Revenue Stamps	8921 15 1		—
† 1885—Postage Stamps	26,170 2 0	34,875 7 10	883 10 9
Revenue Stamps	8705 5 10		—
† 1886—Postage Stamps	27,709 12 11	36,661 7 0	1785 19 2
Revenue Stamps	8951 14 1		—
† 1887—Postage Stamps	29,000 0 0	38,287 2 9	1625 15 9
Revenue Stamps	9287 2 9		—
† 1888—Postage Stamps	31,000 0 0	42,252 5 11	3965 3 2
Revenue Stamps	11,252 5 11		—
† 1889—Postage Stamps	35,630 18 6	45,863 6 11	3611 1 0
Revenue Stamps	10,232 8 5		—
† 1890—Postage Stamps	37,983 0 9	47,483 0 9	1619 13 10
Revenue Stamps	9500 0 0		—

NOTE.—Rates of Postage on Intercolonial Letters reduced from 3d. to 2d. from 1 January, 1881.

* Amount of Revenue Stamps affected by abolition of several items of duty imposed in former years.

† Estimated.—The actual Post Office Revenue cannot be given, as postage stamps are used for Revenue Stamp purposes, and *vice versa*.

RETURN of the Number of Stamped Letters and Packets posted in Tasmania for the United Kingdom and other Places (exclusive of Intercolonial) during the Years 1872 to 1890, inclusive.

YEAR.	NUMBER OF LETTERS.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.
1872	39,889	1996	—
1873	42,879	2990	—
1874	41,340	—	1539
1875	42,956	1616	—
1876	43,348	392	—
1877	44,012	664	—
1878	46,964	2952	—
1879	46,535	—	492
1880	48,903	2368	—
1881	53,849	4946	—
1882	55,515	1666	—
1883	65,073	9558	—
1884	78,849	13,776	—
1885	81,061	2212	—
1886	78,677	—	2384
1887	83,570	4893	—
1888	82,227	—	1343
1889	85,478	3251	—
1890	90,432	4954	—

RETURN of the Number of Intercolonial Stamped Letters and Packets (or Letters and Packets for the Australian Colonies and New Zealand) posted in Tasmania during the Years 1872 to 1890, inclusive.

YEAR.	NUMBER OF LETTERS.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.
1872	142,510	15,987	—
1873	169,099	26,589	—
1874	183,962	14,863	—
1875	206,301	22,339	—
1876	222,157	15,856	—
1877	252,587	30,430	—
1878	274,403	21,816	—
1879	279,245	4842	—
1880	292,827	13,582	—
1881	337,223	44,396	—
1882	385,917	48,694	—
1883	428,341	42,424	—
1884	430,448	2143	—
1885	461,834	31,386	—
1886	485,312	23,478	—
1887	484,113	—	1199
1888	495,954	11,841	—
1889	552,468	56,514	—
1890	609,226	56,758	—

RETURN of the Number of Inland and Town Stamped Letters, Post Cards, and Packets posted in Tasmania during the Years 1872 to 1890, inclusive.

YEAR.	LETTERS.	POST CARDS.	PACKETS.	INCREASE.			DECREASE.		
				Letters.	Post Cards.	Packets.	Letters.	Post Cards.	Packets.
1872	622,238	—	21,029	37,214	—	2039	—	—	—
1873	773,744	—	25,673	151,506	—	4644	—	—	—
1874	882,252	—	32,301	108,508	—	6628	—	—	—
1875	993,876	—	36,815	111,624	—	4514	—	—	—
1876	1,144,292	—	48,657	150,416	—	11,842	—	—	—
1877	1,250,256	—	50,896	105,964	—	2239	—	—	—
1878	1,415,029	—	64,324	164,773*	—	13,428	—	—	—
1879	1,508,915	—	70,470	93,886	—	6146	—	—	—
1880	1,637,906	—	88,609	128,991	—	18,139	—	—	—
1881	1,807,241	—	113,225	169,335	—	24,716	—	—	—
1882	2,035,685	31,268	137,810	228,444	31,268	24,585	—	—	—
1883	2,164,739	43,033	185,126	129,054	11,765	47,316	—	—	—
1884	2,268,237	62,524	230,435	103,498	19,491	45,309	—	—	—
1885	2,351,771	66,742	257,623	83,534	4218	27,188	—	—	—
1886	2,484,075	84,643	289,299	132,304	17,901	51,674	—	—	—
1887	2,772,197	78,860	265,942	288,122	—	—	5783	23,357	—
1888	2,833,192	90,513	288,006	60,995	11,653	23,064	—	—	—
1889	2,872,479	110,905	392,918	39,287	20,392	104,912	—	—	—
1890	2,939,070	137,157	699,330	66,591	26,252	306,412	—	—	—

*Town Letters posted at Launceston have not been included in Return No. 4 for previous years, consequently the *actual* increase in 1878 over 1877 is 97,449; the difference in gross increase consisting of 67,919 Town Letters posted at Launceston.

POST OFFICE.

RETURN showing the Number of Post Offices, Persons employed, Extent of Post Roads, and Number of Letters, Post Cards, Packets, and Newspapers received and despatched, for the Years 1886-87-88-89-90.

	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Post Offices and Receiving Houses.....	251	258	278	293	315
Number of Persons employed	432	457	483	502	523
Miles of Post Roads	2092	2772	2825	2868	3100
Miles of Post Roads travelled	802,044	812,160	815,694	826,510	867,702

YEAR.	RECEIVED.												
	LETTERS.			POST CARDS.	PACKETS.		NEWSPAPERS.		TOTALS.				
	Inland stamped.	Franked.	Ship.		Inland stamped.	Ship.	Inland.	Ship.	Letters.	Post Cards.	Packets.	Newspapers.	
1886..	2,094,518	428,659	581,321	63,100	233,151	138,195	1,715,292	619,807	3,104,498	63,100	371,846	2,335,099	
1887 ..	2,223,191	522,010	567,843	77,784	255,235	143,335	1,948,007	629,116	3,313,044	77,784	400,570	2,577,123	
1888 ..	2,467,681	607,761	623,674	94,196	253,056	158,990	2,421,640	686,510	3,699,116	94,196	412,036	3,108,150	
1889 ..	2,442,855	636,126	625,771	116,004	373,115	181,341	2,820,264	699,825	3,704,752	116,004	554,456	3,520,089	
1890 ..	2,541,589	651,137	716,325	128,407	497,055	192,109	2,514,647	798,917	3,909,001	128,407	689,104	3,313,564	

YEAR.	DESPATCHED.													
	LETTERS.				POST CARDS.	PACKETS.			NEWSPAPERS.		TOTALS.			
	Inland stamped.	Town stamped.	Ship stamped.	Franked.		Inland stamped.	Town stamped.	Ship stamped.	Inland.	Ship.	Letters.	Post Cards.	Packets.	Newspapers.
1886 ..	2,092,108	381,967	517,720	526,114	84,643	278,540	10,759	46,269	2,778,738	408,198	3,517,909	84,643	355,568	3,186,931
1887 ..	2,228,452	391,855	518,936	583,760	78,860	249,828	16,114	48,747	2,907,239	424,504	3,723,003	78,860	314,689	3,331,743
1888 ..	2,387,581	445,611	558,683	610,182	90,513	272,317	15,089	52,925	3,194,426	438,542	4,002,057	90,513	340,931	3,632,968
1889 ..	2,384,756	487,721	574,369	630,715	110,905	392,018	13,870	63,577	3,324,538	400,294	4,077,563	110,905	470,365	3,724,832
1890 ..	2,428,308	510,762	627,930	752,842	137,157	683,909	15,421	71,728	3,731,078	411,576	4,319,342	137,157	771,058	4,142,654

REVENUE and Expenditure for the Years 1886-87-88-89-90.

	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Revenue.....	£ 32,509 12 11*	£ 33,566 17 6	£ 35,913 15 7	£ 39,536 1 0	£ 41,759 7 5†
Expenditure (actual payments to date)....	38,400 13 1	42,359 12 6	41,760 10 5	44,282 13 10	46,137 1 10

* In this amount sums as under have been included, which were not contained in previous Returns of Revenue and Expenditure :—

Fees.....	£ 3905 2 6
Contribution, Victoria	1500 0 0
	£ 5405 2 6

† In addition to this sum, the following amounts have been received :—

Stamp Duty	£ 9500 0 0
Customs Duty on Parcels received.....	726 17 8

POST OFFICE.

RETURN showing the Number of Inland Letters, Packets, Post Cards, and Newspapers posted, also the Number of Ship Letters, Packets, and Newspapers received and despatched, together with the Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office Department, during the Years 1882-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90.

	LETTERS.		PACKETS.		POST CARDS.	NEWSPAPERS.		REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.					
	<i>Inland,</i> (including Town Letters.)	<i>Ship.</i>		<i>Inland,</i> (including Town Packets.)	<i>Ship.</i>		<i>Inland,</i> (including Town Newspapers.)	<i>Ship.</i>						
		Received.	Despatched.		Received.	Despatched.		Received.	Despatched.					
1882	2,476,721	467,814	418,796	137,810	67,579	21,767	31,268	1,588,891	391,088	22,916	12 7	32,095	17 5	
1883	2,607,462	518,171	453,618	185,126	102,369	31,485	48,038	1,917,017	417,885	23,516	0 0	33,841	1 7	
1884	2,735,103	546,904	471,110	230,435	92,401	38,223	62,524	2,340,681	471,222	25,070	2 0	37,535	14 8	
1885	2,885,842	544,069	475,853	267,623	113,355	44,819	66,742	2,649,530	535,222	26,170	2 0	37,503	7 10	
1886	3,000,189	581,321	517,720	289,299	138,195	46,269	84,643	2,778,738	619,807	32,509	12 11	38,400	13 1	
1887	3,204,067	567,843	518,936	265,942	143,335	48,747	78,860	2,907,239	629,116	424,504	33,566	17 6	42,359	12 6
1888	3,443,374	623,674	558,683	288,006	158,990	52,925	90,513	3,194,426	686,426	438,542	35,913	15 7	41,769	10 5
1889	3,503,194	625,771	574,369	406,788	181,341	63,577	110,905	3,324,538	699,825	400,294	39,536	1 0	44,282	13 10
1890	3,681,145	716,325	638,197	699,330	192,109	71,728	137,157	3,731,078	798,917	411,576	41,759	7 5	46,137	1 10

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N.B.—1882. Of the Letters and Packets posted, 2,614,058 were stamped, 441,036 were franked.

1883.	"	"	"	2,834,968	"	442,723	"
1884.	"	"	"	3,008,005	"	466,866	"
1885.	"	"	"	3,140,066	"	524,071	"
1886.	"	"	"	3,347,363	"	526,114	"
1887.	"	"	"	3,458,932	"	583,760	"
1888.	"	"	"	3,732,806	"	610,182	"
1889.	"	"	"	3,917,213	"	630,715	"
1890.	"	"	"	4,398,058	"	752,342	"

RETURN showing the Number and Amount of Money Orders issued in TASMANIA during the Years 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, and 1890, classified according to the Rates of Commission charged thereon.

<i>Inland.</i>				<i>Intercolonial.</i>		<i>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.</i>				<i>Total.</i>	<i>Amount.</i>
<i>£2 and under.</i>	<i>Between £2 and £5.</i>	<i>Between £5 and £7.</i>	<i>Between £7 and £10.</i>	<i>£5 and under.</i>	<i>Between £5 and £10.</i>	<i>£2 and under.</i>	<i>Between £2 and £5.</i>	<i>Between £5 and £7.</i>	<i>Between £7 and £10.</i>		
20,091	6819	1348	2291	8460	2105	1543	858	129	348	43,992	110,852 17 3
22,444	7160	1260	2235	9466	1977	1595	989	111	412	47,649	121,312 11 9
25,634	7835	1409	2478	9448	1977	1864	1129	137	556	52,527	131,590 19 4
29,498	8689	1615	2861	9788	2041	1942	1152	187	602	58,375	144,122 19 8
33,310	9527	1838	3465	10,669	2069	1897	1145	164	595	64,079	157,963 5 11
35,864	10,431	2047	3079	11,935	2016	1865	1073	169	513	68,992	161,215 11 3

RETURN showing the Number and Amount of Money Orders issued and paid in TASMANIA from the Commencement of the System, 1st May, 1865, to 31st December, 1890; together with the Amount of Commission collected on Orders issued in the Colony.

<i>Period.</i>	<i>No. of Orders issued.</i>	<i>Amount of Commission.</i>	<i>Amount of Orders issued.</i>	<i>No. of Orders paid.</i>	<i>Amount of Orders paid.</i>	<i>Total Amount of Transactions.</i>
		<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>		<i>£ s. d.</i>	
1865	1201	85 18 6	4485 1 2	741	2824 10 7	7395 10 3
1866	2856	192 10 6	11,274 19 3	2030	8660 11 5	20,137 1 2
1867	3319	214 0 0	11,729 0 11	2412	10,332 17 5	22,275 18 4
1868	3376	221 10 0	18,070 1 9	2512	10,719 1 9	24,010 13 6
1869	4398	270 2 0	16,667 10 1	3135	12,090 16 4	29,928 8 5
1870	5193	315 19 0	19,337 17 7	3722	14,550 10 7	34,204 7 2
1871	5685	322 13 6	21,015 19 3	4411	16,467 13 7	37,806 6 4
1872	5820	317 6 6	21,171 0 3	5102	19,025 1 9	40,513 8 6
1873	6572	359 3 6	24,192 19 10	5534	21,108 3 5	45,600 6 9
1874	7131	396 10 0	27,063 4 5	5008	22,667 7 7	50,127 2 0
1875	7569	422 5 0	28,115 8 4	6179	22,218 9 10	50,756 3 2
1876	8851	478 17 0	32,426 10 7	6053	25,559 5 5	58,464 13 0
1877	13,068	687 9 6	47,273 12 0	8544	30,577 2 4	78,538 3 10
1878	15,237	781 15 0	54,900 10 2	9983	35,117 2 10	90,808 8 0
1879	17,065	874 2 6	61,152 10 8	11,024	37,382 13 0	99,409 6 2
1880	19,902	983 13 6	68,948 19 5	13,862	45,423 15 11	115,356 8 10
1881	25,219	1176 6 0	85,471 15 3	17,272	54,641 0 4	141,280 1 7
1882	30,229	1272 0 6	99,843 13 2	21,514	66,971 5 2	168,086 18 10
1883	33,912	1333 11 9	100,576 10 2	24,834	71,770 2 4	173,680 4 3
1884	38,145	1375 0 3	105,071 5 2	30,817	81,560 8 6	188,006 13 11
1885	45,392	1519 1 0	116,852 17 3	36,125	91,567 13 10	209,939 12 1
1886	47,649	1619 14 0	121,312 11 9	39,159	95,162 3 7	218,094 9 4
1887	52,527	1762 13 9	131,590 19 4	43,513	102,304 16 4	235,718 9 5
1888	58,386	1914 0 9	144,122 19 8	49,270	114,990 1 10	261,036 2 3
1889	64,679	2059 5 0	157,963 5 11	55,776	130,680 11 8	290,703 2 7
1890	68,992	2130 8 3	161,215 11 3	59,316	134,861 11 10	298,207 11 4

NOTE.—Reduced Rates of Commission on Inland Money Orders came into operation on 1st October, 1881.

