INTRODUCTORY.

1. Nett revenue decreased from £96,938 to £92,826, a difference of £4,107. Gross revenue (including expenditure credits and the value of some free services rendered to other departments) decreased from £174,283 to £172,842, a difference of £1,441.

2. Recurrent expenditure decreased from £167,917 to £157,727, a reduction of £10,190. Apart from £2,832 expended from loan fund no special expenditure was incurred.

The surplus of revenue over expenditure increased from £6,133 in 1933, to £15,115 in 1934.

POST OFFICES.

3. Postal facilities were available at one hundred and fifty-one centres throughout the Colony and Protectorate at the end of 1934. Of these one hundred and eight and two travelling post offices on the Nigerian Railway were staffed by departmental officers; at forty-one places postal business was transacted by clerks of the provincial administrative staff, station-masters, and private persons acting as postal agents.

4. In March the Railway Postal Agency at Agege was converted to a departmental office with full Money Order and Savings Bank facilities in addition to telegraph and telephone services. The departmental post office at Ashaka was closed in March and replaced by a postal agency at Obetim, the new administrative headquarters in that area.

5. The postal agency at Ohafia was re-opened, and agencies were established at Nnewi (Onitsha) and Orlu (Owerri), but the postal agencies at Brass (Owerri) Nasarawa (Benue) and Kagoro (Plateau) were closed.

6. Money Order and Savings Bank facilities were extended to the following offices during the year:—Akure in the Western Division, Afikpo, Ahoda and Ikem in the Eastern Division, Kafanchan and Kaduna Junction in the Northern Division, and to Kumba and Tiko in the Cameroons.

BUILDINGS.

7. The Post Office at Kaura Namoda which was housed in a temporary building was transferred in March to a substantially built office acquired from the London and Kano Trading Company. The new building is more commodious and being situated near the Railway Station is more convenient in every way for the transaction of public business.
8. The temporary building at Gusau (Sokoto Province) used as a Post Office had to be vacated in October when a tornado tore off the roof and damaged the building beyond repair. Temporary accommodation is being provided in a Public Works Department Store pending arrangements for a suitable permanent building. Repairs to temporary offices and temporary staff quarters were effected as necessary.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PARCELS.

9. The estimated total number of postal articles, excluding parcels, showed an increase of 553,520 or 7.88 per cent over 1933 figures. Registered articles posted, included in the foregoing, increased by 15,980 or 4.9 per cent. The total number of parcels dealt with decreased by 19,120 or 16.1 per cent.

10. Imported parcels and dutiable letter packets decreased by 10,399 in number and £13,977 in value. A big factor in the decline of the inward parcel traffic is the increased facilities now available for the purchase in Nigeria of wearing apparel and footwear.

11. Exported parcels decreased by 3,220 in number and £20,188 in value, the average value of an exported parcel decreasing from £3 2s. 7d. to £2 3s. 4d. The decrease is mainly due to the lessened demand for snake and lizard skins.

12. Details of correspondence and parcel figures will be found in Appendix II.

RETURNED LETTER OFFICE.

13. More than 79,000 undelivered items were dealt with in the Returned Letter Office, Lagos, during the year among which were found negotiable documents to the value of £1,085 10s. 11½d. It was possible to return to the senders 24,960 items together with remittances totalling £954 12s. 7½d. The balance has been credited to revenue.

14. Of 3,617 registered items and 301 parcels 3,266 and 301 respectively were returned to their senders. The contents of fifty-four abandoned parcels were sold by auction during the year. The contents realised £3 9s. 11d. which was paid into revenue.

CHARLATANIC CORRESPONDENCE.

15. The number of letters and parcels intercepted under section 24 of the Post Office Ordinance during the year totalled 2,250. These contained remittances totalling £323 17s. 1d. which were returned to the senders. The number of items intercepted compares with 2,244 stopped last year, but the value of the remittances enclosed shows an increase of £90 which in these days of continued depression is surprising, and shows how difficult it is to break down the African’s belief in charms, talismans, brain pills and other concoctions.
POST OFFICE BANKING SERVICES.

(MONEY ORDERS, POSTAL ORDERS, SAVINGS BANK).

16. The advantages of the money order service are being more widely appreciated and the number of money orders issued increased by twenty-five per cent in number and twenty-three per cent in value. The increase in the number of paid money orders is seventeen per cent in number and twenty-five per cent in value. There has been a decrease in the number and value of external orders, the increase being confined to the internal service. The average value of each transaction was £9 4s.; an increase of 12s. 8d. over the preceding year. Details will be found in Appendix III.

17. Whilst there was a decrease of twenty-one per cent in the number of postal order transactions and of eight per cent in their value the average value of each transaction increased from 10s. 2d. to 11s. 10d. A decrease in the number of local press competitions, for which small entrance fees are demanded, is partly responsible for the disproportionate change. Details will be found in Appendix IV.

18. The total amount standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank at the close of 1933 was £70,969, against £56,206 at the close of the previous year. A detailed report on the Savings Bank is published as an annex to this report.

MAIL SERVICES.

19. In February it became possible to inaugurate direct mail despatches at frequent intervals with the Union of South Africa by the German African Lines steamers, and in May direct despatches with the Ivory Coast were commenced.

20. The mail service between the offices in the southern Cameroons (under British Mandate) and Europe was considerably improved by the arrangements made for despatching mails in each direction by the steamers of the African Fruit Company sailing fortnightly between Hamburg-Tiko-Rotterdam.

21. At the beginning of the year, the French Postal Administration utilised the motor service which the Compagnie Generale Transsaharienne operates during the dry season across the desert between Colomb Bechar in Algeria and Kano to despatch an overland mail from Marseille by each trip. A small quantity of correspondence was received by each of the four monthly mails from January to April. The time taken in transit between Marseille and Kano varied from twelve to fifteen days.

22. Serious washouts in the Zungeru area of the Western Railway due to the flooding of the Kaduma river occurred early in September and caused a complete dislocation of the through services to and from the Northern Provinces for approximately nineteen days. Suitable emergency arrangements were made, which, with very possible assistance rendered by the Railway Department and willing co-operation from mail contractors, made it possible for all services to be maintained with the minimum of inconvenience to the public.
23. Otherwise, except for a very few isolated instances, the external and internal mail services have been punctually and efficiently maintained throughout the year.

INTERNAL MAIL SERVICES.

24. The Eastern Railway limited midweek service was withdrawn from the 1st April, consequently the frequency of the mail services between the various offices on the Port Harcourt-Kaduna section of the line was reduced from thrice to twice weekly.

25. In June advantage was taken of facilities offered to introduce a daily mail service between Oshogbo, Benin and Asaba. In November the frequency of the service between Benin and Warri was increased to twice weekly.

26. A small mail despatched in August from Victoria to Calabar and to Port Harcourt was somewhat delayed in transit owing to the foundering of the s.s. George Watts on which the mails were being conveyed. It is again very satisfactory to be able to report that no mails have been lost during the year.

TELEGRAPHS.

27. During the year 590,364 cablegrams and internal telegrams were despatched. The number delivered was 577,146. In each case the decrease in comparison with the previous year is less than one per cent. Inland paid telegrams (excluding wireless messages) decreased by 8,095. Inland official telegrams increased by 4,008. External paid messages decreased by 275. The wireless traffic is included in the gross figures above and the wireless total of 10,355 messages is a slight increase on last year's figures.

28. The decrease in revenue from inland paid telegrams was £1,257, against the previous year's decrease of £2,598. The standardised internal Christmas greeting service produced a revenue of £116 as compared with £114 in 1933.

29. The revenue from inland wireless telegrams was £414 and telegrams exchanged between ships at sea and the Lagos Government wireless station produced £330. On the 19th of September, 1934, the Government wireless station discontinued accepting commercial traffic for and from ships at sea.

30. There was an increase of £2,250 in the revenue from forwarded and received cablegrams which can be partly attributed to the introduction of the five-letter code rate. Before the 1st of January, 1934, ten-letter codes were in general use. The revenue derived from telegrams forwarded by land lines to French West African Colonies was £92 in excess of last year's total.

31. Details of telegraph traffic will be found in Appendix V.

TRAFFIC.

32. An increase of telegraph traffic in the Minna area due to gold mining activities necessitated a re-arrangement of the circuits between Kaduna Junction, Minna and Yelwa and the provision of a duplex channel between Kaduna and Minna.
33. With the laying of the new sub-fluvial cable between Oron and Calabar, which was completed and brought into use on the 24th December, the main telegraph circuits to Calabar were routed via Uyo and Oron instead of via Uyo and Itu. The provision of the new cable has done much to improve communications with Calabar and to prevent the frequent interruptions and faults which formerly occurred on the Itu-Calabar section of the old land line which traversed swampy and very difficult country.

34. Communication was interrupted in August for four days between Ibi and Yola owing to the wires at the overhead crossing at Yakwala being broken down by a river steamer.

35. The Yelwa-Birnin Kebbi-Sokoto line was troublesome in the early part of the year otherwise apart from the inevitable minor interruptions, the routine work has been well maintained and the traffic generally expeditiously disposed of.

36. The Christmas seasonal traffic was again heavy and on the whole was expeditiously handled. The number of messages dealt with approximated last year's total.

WIRELESS.

37. The British Official Wireless Press Bulletins from Rugby were received regularly throughout the year at Lagos, Enugu and Kaduna.

38. For two periods each of eight days the wireless transmitter at Mamfe was faulty, necessitating telegrams handed in at that office having to be sent to Ikom or Kumba for despatch. Reception at Mamfe was uninterrupted. With this exception the wireless channels for inland telegraphic communication between Lagos and the Cameroon offices of Buea, Bamenda and Mamfe, and also between Lagos and Badagry, has again throughout the year been most satisfactorily maintained.

TELEPHONES.

39. The number of instruments rented by private subscribers at the end of the year was 896; the figure for the 31st December, 1933, being 898. There were fewer official subscribers; 1,117 against the previous year's total of 1,197. The total revenue collected from private subscribers amounted to £11,041 of which sum £1,076 is in respect of local calls in the Lagos Exchange Area. In 1933, when the tariff provided for higher rentals and no local call fees in the Lagos area, the total revenue was £10,363. Where a local call fee of one penny is in force rentals have been reduced from £20 per annum to £6 and £8 yearly for residential and business premises respectively. Expenditure credit received on account of official telephone services was £13,370 against £14,164 in the previous year.

40. Paid trunk call fee revenue decreased from £1,592 to £1,472 and the value of official trunk calls from £543 to £536.

41. Details will be found in Appendices VI to VIII.

ENGINEERING.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

42. Lagos.—The conversion of the Lagos Township telephones from a magneto to a central battery system was completed during the year. The latest and most efficient telephones procurable have been installed and the whole of the Lagos District, including Apapa, Ijora, Ebute Metta and Yaba, is now served from a Central Exchange. Considerable construction and re-arrangement of underground cables and of overhead lines was carried out to complete this work.
43. **Telephone Call Boxes.**—A few locally designed Telephone Call Office Kiosks, fitted with coin-collecting boxes, have been installed in the Lagos area.

44. **Calabar-Oron Cable.**—After much preliminary investigation a suitable cable was obtained and successfully laid in November between Oron and Calabar. Calabar telephone and telegraph services were provided previously (expensively and somewhat inadequately) by an overhead line from Itu to Calabar, fifty-three miles in length and built over very difficult country which made efficient maintenance almost impossible during the wet season. The new cable is laid in the tidal estuary of the Calabar and Cross Rivers. It was laid in one length 13\(\frac{3}{4}\) miles and the weight was over 100 tons. The Calabar landed end of the cable is connected to the Calabar Post Office by 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) miles of underground cable. The Oron landed end is connected to the Oron Post Office by 2\(\frac{1}{4}\) miles of overhead line. The successful completion of this work is the final step in the reorganisation of the communications in that area which provides better facilities at less cost.

45. **Ilu-Calabar overhead line.**—The recovery of this line is in progress.

46. **Aba-Uyo Telephone Trunk Line.**—By dismantling one wire from the spare line between Onitsha and Owerri and re-erecting this wire between Aba and Uyo, a new trunk line, on which a telegraph circuit is superposed, has been provided. This line completed the link to provide telephone trunk communication between Calabar and Port Harcourt.

47. **Abeokuta.**—Consequent on the erection of new electric power lines in Abeokuta all the telephone main routes have been reconstructed.

48. **The Burutu-Forcados telephone cable** (originally laid in 1915) developed low insulation in April, 1934 and about 1,000 yards of this cable which was in bad condition was replaced by new cable.

49. Elsewhere, as in 1933, because of the constant need of economy, only inexpensive reconstruction works and overhauls have been possible, but much useful work has been done.

**RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.**

50. The services maintained for the Railway Department have remained more or less stationary during 1934. Some recoveries of telegraph sets from Railway Offices were made as a result of economy measures by the Railway Department. The existing services have been maintained satisfactorily throughout the year. Three permanent stations to replace old wooden buildings were built by the Railway Department between Aro and Ibadan and the apparatus was changed over to the new buildings. The Assistant Works Superintendent continued his special tour of overhauling the electric train signalling apparatus, station by station.

51. **Telegraphs.**—The high standard of telegraph maintenance has been maintained and improvements have been carried out. Certain line sections have been overhauled and some circuit alterations for the improvement of the services have been made.

52. **Wireless.**—Although a certain amount of engine trouble has been experienced, communication between Lagos and the Cameroons stations, Buea, Mamfe and Bamenda, and between Lagos and Badagry, has been satisfactory.
53. *Broadcasting Reception.*—Tests and experimental work have been continued throughout the year. Reception has improved and is improving, due in some measure to the British Broadcasting Corporation's improvements in their transmitting aerials and also to improvements made in the receiving aerials and apparatus at the experimental Lagos Radio Distribution Station.

54. *Telephones.*—Propaganda was started in Lagos when the new central telephone exchange was completed and reduced rentals arranged. But for an energetic campaign there might have occurred a loss of revenue owing to the depressed condition of trade, instead of which the number of private telephones in the Lagos area has increased by sixty-one, partly due to the reduced rentals but especially due to advertisement and propaganda. Every effort is being made to make residents in the Lagos area “telephone minded”, and propaganda and advertisement will continue. An officer of the Department has taken on the duties of “Telephone Contract Officer” in addition to his other duties.

55. *Lagos New Exchange.*—All work in connection with this exchange has been completed. The new switchboard has provision for five trunk lines and 800 subscribers with an ultimate capacity of 1,600 subscribers. Ebute Metta and Apapa telephone exchanges have been closed, and all the telephones in these two areas have been absorbed by the enlarged Lagos exchange. Lagos now has the advantage of a central exchange serving the whole Township area in one operation.

56. Agege telephone exchange was re-opened in March.

57. To give some idea of the work involved in a telephone area, 452 works orders in connection with telephone additions, alterations and cessations were issued in Lagos alone during the year and the total sum credited for alterations was £100.

58. *Telephone Trunks.*—Telephone inter-communication between Port Harcourt, Aba, Itu and Calabar exchange areas is now established, and Trunk Call Office facilities have been provided at Uyo, Ikotekpene and Oron.

59. *Workshops.*—The volume of work in the workshops has shown no reduction. The main programme has been devoted to repairs and reconditioning, and although this type of work shows a reduction in the consumption of materials its demands are heavy on labour and supervision. Plant and machinery has been maintained in good condition. Testing arrangements have been extended and all apparatus before it is issued by the workshop is subjected to a higher standard of tests. The motor transport vehicles, after some years on the road, have been well maintained and they are wearing very well.

60. The standard of work, craftsmanship and technical qualifications of the African staff has shown but little improvement. New inventions and ideas follow one another so rapidly that the older type, formerly described as “practical all round men”, are being tried beyond their strength. The solution of this problem is being found by raising the educational standard for recruiting and by the arrangement of systematic training in simple theoretical knowledge in the technical school.

61. *Technical School.*—The effect on the staff of training in the technical school is worthy of comment. There is no doubt that this training has developed talent rapidly and technical school tuition at an appropriate stage in a promising man’s career is of great benefit to the service. A stage had been reached when ver-
few of the practically trained men could make further progress and
the men already trained in the school have brought a pleasing relief
where the lack of men with theoretical knowledge was most felt.
Much remains to be done, especially regarding the workshops, but
the establishment of a technical school has proved its worth.
Classes for all grades from the ordinary staff, as well as for new
recruits are systematically and regularly arranged.

62. Use is made of the facilities and equipment of the school
to test out groups of the local engineering staff in the scheduled
practical and theoretical tests of efficiency for increments and
promotions. Reports indicate that as a consequence of school
courses the staff concerned have shown increased usefulness in the
performance of their practical duties.

They have been impressed with the fact that they are fortunate
to be provided with such free training facilities and they have
been instructed and encouraged to spend more time in private study.

63. City and Guilds of London Institute.—Eight proba-
tioners sat for the examination in Telegraphy Grade I held in May.
Seven of the candidates were successful. Three first class and four
second class certificates were awarded. Special evening classes
were held during March and April to give the probationers final
lectures in preparation for this examination.

ACCOUNTS AND STORES.

64. There was no change in the establishment during the
year.

65. The sale of stamps to philatelists produced only £36.
In 1933 the sum of £589 was obtained from this source.

66. The number of engineering and postal store items stocked
increased by forty-six and totalled 2,349. The number
of stationery and printing items increased from 759 to 832.

67. The completion of the Lagos telephone exchange explains
the drop in the value of stores issued which fell from £12,288 to
£9,112. But for the fact that stores to the value of over £5,000 were
required in connexion with the Calabar-Oron submarine cable
scheme the drop would have been more marked. Stores taken into
stock in 1934 were valued at £4,774 against £11,587 in 1933. The
value of unallocated stores in stock on the 31st of December, 1934,
was £18,855 which is £4,340 less than the value of the stock at the
end of 1933.

68. A progressive reduction has been made in the unallocated
stock held and all indents on the Crown Agents have been
strictly examined and cut to minimum requirements. All depart-
mental stores were satisfactorily reported on by boards of survey,
discrepancies being negligible.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

69. The total revenue collected on behalf of other depart-
ments in 1934 was £37,332 compared with £37,027 in 1933. There
was a decrease of £4,193 in Customs duties collected on goods
imported by post and an increase of £1,924 in the sum paid to the
Eastern Telegraph Company for cablegrams handed in at post
offices.

70. The value of certain services rendered to other depart-
ments increased from £77,350 in 1933 to £80,016 in 1934. Of this
sum £13,370 was received as an expenditure credit on account of
telephone services and £25,336 on account of electric signalling
apparatus and other services rendered to the Railway Department.
71. Local relay services in Lagos produced £30 during the year. The revenue in 1933 was £14.

72. The gross expenditure of the Department was reduced by £13,898, from £174,457 in 1933 to £160,559 in 1934. The latter figure includes £2,832, expended from 1923 and 1927 loans in the construction of the new Lagos telephone exchange. Recurrent expenditure in 1934 was £157,727; £10,190 less than in 1933.

73. The gross cash receipts and payments of postmasters during 1934 amounted to £935,833 against £916,905 in 1933, exclusive of transactions carried out in the accounts with the Treasury and other postal administrations.

74. Details of revenue and expenditure will be found in Appendix I.

DEFALCATIONS AND MALPRACTICES.

75. No cases of defalcations occurred during the year. The person implicated in the case of embezzlement in connection with the delivery of parcels at Ibara mentioned in the 1931 report was apprehended and convicted in October. A junior clerk at Opobo was convicted for attempting to obtain money by false pretences under colour of his employment.

OFFENCES AGAINST THE POST OFFICE BY MEMBERS OF PUBLIC.

76. Arising out of seventeen cases instituted for offences against the Department, charges were brought against twenty persons, as a result of which sixteen convictions were obtained, the remaining four being acquitted. Six cases were in connection with postage stamps which had been previously used, five cases related to the theft of postal orders, and four cases arose out of the delivery of registered letters. The two remaining cases related to a fraudulent telegram and forgery in connection with a money order.

BURGLARIES.

77. Burglaries were committed at four Post Offices during 1934. At Ashaka on the night of the 7th January eleven parcels and some small articles of office equipment were stolen and official records burned. No trace of the perpetrators have been discovered. The attempts to burgle Imo Branch Office (Abeokuta) Lagos (Catholic Mission Street) and Ifon were unsuccessful and no loss of public money or property resulted and very little damage to the buildings was done.

TELEGRAPH TRAINING SCHOOL.

78. At the beginning of the year 1934, there were thirty-nine probationers in training in the Lagos Telegraph School. Of these, seven qualified and passed out on appointment as 3rd Class Postal Clerks and Telegraphists, but the engagements of four boys who showed no aptitude for Post Office manipulative duties were terminated. During the year six new entrants to replace casualties were admitted to the school. The number of probationers under training on the 31st December, 1934, was, therefore, thirty-four.

STAFF.

79. With the need for economy, vacancies have remained unfilled and a comparative statement showing the decrease in the pensionable staff from 1928-29 to 1934-35, together with the relative reduction in expenditure, is subjoined.
## Comparative Table of Staff and Expenditure for the Financial Years 1928-29 to 1934-35.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pensionable Staff</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>European</td>
<td>African</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-29</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929-30</td>
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<td>894</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933-34</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934-35</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction for the period</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

80. The casualties in the African staff of the Department were again heavy. The traffic branch lost in personnel a total of forty-five—thirty-five pensionable officers and ten non-pensionable employees and the engineering branch a total of sixteen—seven pensionable officers and nine non-pensionable employees. Details are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traffic</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pensionable</td>
<td>Non-pensionable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resignations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appointments terminated</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transferred to other Departments</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

G. B. HEBDEN, A.M.INST.E.E.
Postmaster-General, Nigeria.