

466. (a.) Inland undelivered post-cards and commercial papers must be, as far as possible, returned direct to the senders by Chief Postmasters.

(b.) Inland undelivered circulars which do not bear thereon a special request for return to the sender must be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office.

467. In the case of insufficiently addressed correspondence originating beyond the Dominion which clearly indicates the town for which it is intended, every reasonable effort must be made to effect delivery to the addressees. In the event of non-delivery, such correspondence should not immediately be treated as undeliverable, but should be retained for the regulation period—viz. from Australia, six weeks; from other countries beyond New Zealand, two months.

468. Circulars and catalogues from beyond the Dominion, delivery of which cannot possibly be effected, are to be sent to the Dead Letter Office at the expiration of one clear month from date of receipt, unless they are returnable direct to the country of origin in accordance with a special request.

469. At all chief post-offices unclaimed inland letters, letter-cards, and packets are to be retained from date of receipt as follows:

An Article.	To be sent to the Dead Letter Office after having been retained from date of receipt for—
Addressed to a post-office or "to be called for," or to a person residing beyond postman's delivery	One month.
Addressed to a street where addressee is unknown or which he has left without leaving an address	One week after reaching delivery counter.
All other inland letters (except ship letters and letters addressed to hotels, &c.)	To be returned immediately it has been ascertained that they cannot be delivered.

470. Postmasters must cause frequent visits to be made to hotels, shipping companies' offices, and other agencies, for the purpose of examining undelivered letters, telegrams, packets, and newspapers, and of returning such as have remained undelivered beyond the time prescribed by regulations for remaining at post-offices, or of forwarding any of them to specific addresses known to the officers. Officers are to examine the letters, &c., in the rack, if any, and are to make application for and examine all undelivered postal packets that may be held in the office or elsewhere. Of course, only such letters are to be recovered as may be agreed to be returned or given up by the hotel-proprietors, &c., except those that have lain the full time prescribed by the Act. Letters which cannot be delivered must be treated as unclaimed, and forwarded to the Dead Letter Office. A record is to be kept of the date of each visit. See Rule 437 (a) (7), and section 23 of the Post and Telegraph Act, 1908, here reprinted as follows:—

23. (1.) Every postal packet addressed to any person at any premises licensed under the Licensing Act, 1908, or at any shipping office, or public or private lodginghouse, and delivered to or received by the licensee of such premises, or the person apparently in charge of such office or lodginghouse, or any one acting as the agent or servant of any such licensee or person, shall be deemed to be under the control of the Postmaster-General until delivered to the person to whom the same is addressed.