

643. (a.) All parcel-receptacles belonging to other Administrations are to be returned to the country of origin by the first opportunity, as many as necessary being used for enclosing parcels. Such receptacles must not be returned in any other way than through one of the offices making up direct parcel-mails for the country of origin.

(b.) In order to minimize the number of empty receptacles carried along the coast, receptacles belonging to other Administrations may be used for the transmission of parcels to the final port of embarkation (usually Wellington), but with this exception the use in the inland service of receptacles belonging to other Administrations is strictly forbidden. Any irregular use in the inland service of parcel-post receptacles belonging to another Administration is to be reported to the Secretary.

(c.) The despatch from one New Zealand office to another of receptacles belonging to other Administrations must always be advised on form P.P. 48.

(d.) Chief Postmasters at despatching offices will return parcel-receptacles by first mail to country of origin. Returned empties should be, as far as possible, packed one within another. When being returned, empty receptacles must be sealed. The weight of empty receptacles should be included in the advice of gross weight and tare in parcel-bills to London.

ARRIVAL OF FOREIGN-PARCEL-MAILS.

644. Parcel-mails must be subjected to the same scrutiny as ordinary mails.

645. Parcels must be carefully unpacked, one by one, and, with the exception of ordinary parcels from the United Kingdom, checked with the parcel bill, and if any parcel is found open or in a torn or injured condition it must be refastened, sealed with the official seal or by means of one of the labels provided for securing open letters, and initialled by the officer affixing the seal or label. The circumstance should be reported.

646. Parcel-mails made up in London are divided as follows :—

Parcel-mail for	Contains Parcels for Postal District of
Auckland ..	Auckland, Hamilton, Thames.
Christchurch ..	Christchurch, Timaru.
Dunedin ..	Dunedin, Oamaru, Invercargill.
Wellington ..	Wellington, Wanganui, Gisborne, Napier, New Plymouth, Blenheim, Nelson, Greymouth.

647. Parcel-lists are furnished in duplicate by the London Office, and one copy will frequently arrive in advance of the mail. When the mail has been disposed of one copy is to be forwarded to the Secretary (Postal Division), General Post Office.

648. When intercolonial or foreign parcel-mails are opened at offices other than those to which they are addressed, the parcel-bills on which the Customs duty has been assessed should be sent to the Secretary (Postal Division), and duplicates to the office of address. (But see Rule 853.) Parcel-bills are in all cases to be checked, signed, and date-stamped at the offices at which the mails are opened.

649. Receiving officers must weigh the parcel-mails received from London when such mails have been conveyed along the New Zealand coast by steamers not owned by the owners of the steamers by which the mails have been conveyed to the Dominion. In such cases the gross and net weights must be entered on the parcel-bill, and the net weight must be entered on the advice of reshipment