

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

122. The Postmaster for Jamaica furnishes the following figures, comparing the postal revenues for 1910-11 with those of previous years:—

	1910-11.	1909-10.	1908-9.
	£	£	£
Postages	36,587	33,362	32,505
Commission on money orders	390	425	459
Local commission on British postal orders	225	212	195
Commission on local postal orders	831	777	742
Miscellaneous	938	865	673
Telegraphs	6,942	6,769	6,221
Total	45,913	42,410	40,795

MAR. 7, 1912.]

SUPPLEMENT TO THE JAMAICA GAZETTE.

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123. These statistics show an increase of £3,503 in gross revenue as compared with the previous year, due to increases of £3,224 and £173 in postage and telegraph collections, and of £140 on commissions on postal orders (British and local respectively), and on miscellaneous. The only decrease has been a small one of £35 on commissions on money orders.

124. The expenditure of the year by the department amounted to £42,336 as against £36,964 in 1909-1910, an increase of £5,372 due to continued expansion in the work of the department, an improvement in the pay of some subordinate officers and improved facilities afforded the public, among which may be mentioned the opening during the year of three new district post offices and the erection in Kingston of one collecting box.

125. A large initial outlay for purchase of mules and vans was incurred by taking over the North-side and Windward mail contracts by the Public Works Department.

126. The progress of the department is illustrated by the following figures:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1900-1901	26,927	24,227
1910-1911	45,913	42,336

127. As compared with the two previous years the numbers of letters and postcards were—

	At General Post Office.		
	1910-11.	1909-10.	1908-9.
Outwards	4,508,686	4,458,220	3,839,542
Inwards	5,688,126	5,707,807	4,579,495
Total	10,196,812	10,166,027	8,419,037
	At District Post Offices.		
Total	1,494,537	2,054,066	1,550,372
Grand Total	11,691,349	12,220,093	9,969,409
Telegrams sent and received	134,626	112,515	103,471

128. The introduction of sixpenny inland telegrams on January 1st, 1911, has resulted in an increase in the number of telegrams sent during the first three months of 1911 as compared with the corresponding months of 1910. This increase in telegrams has been accompanied by decrease in receipts over the same period; this decrease, however, shows a tendency to diminish, and it is anticipated that statistics covering a longer test period will give better results in this respect.

129. During the year facilities were offered to the public of buying five-grain doses of quinine for a farthing at all post offices. These facilities were taken full advantage of in every district of the Island.

130. The General Post and Telegraph Offices were transferred to the new public buildings.