

## Postmasters of Jamaica.

### **Reginald Honan Fletcher**

- 1873 Sept. 6. Born Spanish Town.
- 1890 Feb. 1. Entered Civil Service as third Class Clerk G.P.O.
- 1892 Sept. 1. Promoted 2nd Class Clerk, Post Office.
- 1908 Apl. 1. Promoted 1st class clerk, Post Office.
- 1915 Mar. 22. Chief Clerk, General Post Office.
- 1921 Apr. 1. Assistant Postmaster for Jamaica.
- 1925 Apr 1 Acting Postmaster for Jamaica
- 1925 Jul 7 Postmaster for Jamaica.
- 1933 May 23. Left for England on four months holiday.
- 1938 Apr 1 – 3 month leave of absence
- 1938 Jul 1 Retired
- 1939 Shortly after the commencement of World War II in 1939, he was appointed Government Chief Censor relinquishing this post in 1942
- 1937 to 1960 secretary to the Jamaica Social Welfare Commission
- 1967 Oct 16 Died

Mr. Fletcher is the son of the late Christopher T. H and Sophia A. Fletcher. Educated at Marie Ville College, Kingston. His recreations are cricket and tennis, a special lover of the former.

Justice of the Peace for the Parish of Kingston. Acted as Postal Censor during the Great War 1914-18. Member of the Savings Bank Board. Member of the Air Board.

## Jamaica Gleaner 7 July 1925

### MR. R. FLETCHER IS APPOINTED POSTMASTER

Was Acting in the Position after Mr. Wolfe's Retirement and now Confirmed.

#### A LONG EXPERIENCE

Joined the Department from 1890 and Worked his Way Up To The Top.

The Gleaner is able to announce this morning that Mr. R. H. Fletcher has been appointed Postmaster for Jamaica. The confirmation of the appointment, which was not unexpected, was received by the Colonial Secretary's Office yesterday.

The news will be received throughout the length and breadth of the island with the utmost gratification. Mr. Fletcher has had nearly forty years' experience in the postal department of the colony. He knows the work of the Department in all its branches, and it is the consensus of opinion that under his administration the service will be well managed and that necessary reforms will be carried out.

Mr. Fletcher was born at Spanish Town on the 6th September, 1873 the son of Christopher and Sophia Fletcher. He was educated at Marie Ville College under Fr. L. Jaeckel, M.A. He entered the Post Office Department of the Public Service on 1st February, 1890 was promoted first class clerk on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1908, chief clerk, 22nd March, 1915: and Assistant Postmaster for Jamaica on 1st April, 1921.

After the retirement recently of Mr. Ellis Wolfe, the late Postmaster, Mr. Fletcher acted as Postmaster, to which position he is now permanently appointed.

No appointment is yet made to fill the now vacant post of Assistant Postmaster.



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### Gleaner 12 Feb 1938

#### Heads Of Two Public Departments Due To Go On Their Pension

It is learnt that a Principal Clerk of the Island Secretariat is an applicant for the post of Registrar General and Deputy Keeper of the Records, in succession to Mr. P. Duff, who will retire from the service during the summer. It was from a Principal Clerkship in the Secretariat that Mr. Duff went on promotion to the Registrar-General's Department at Spanish Town several years ago, following the retirement of Mr. Al R. Soares. It was anticipated that Mr. Duff would continue as head of the department until the end of December next — indeed, rumour has it that this was the wish of the Government; but in his application for permission to go on his pension under the clause--which relates to age, he expressed the desire that he should -go on the retired list at the end of June.

While it is understood that Mr. R. H. Fletcher will go on three months' leave from his duties as Postmaster- for Jamaica as from July 1 to retire from the Civil Service at the end of September, it is thought in some quarters that he might be requested to continue as head of the department, in view of a somewhat early start in the installation of an island telephone and also the coming into being of a broadcasting station, the latter to be also connected with the Postal and Inland Telegraph Service.

The view is expressed by individuals who are outside the pale of the Public Service that for the above and other reasons, Mr. Fletcher should remain head of the department, especially as it is understood that while development work is proceeding, the Government's idea is that a stranger to Jamaica should be brought here and installed as successor to the official in question. Both undertakings should be well under way: at least broadcasting should be an accomplished fact, before Mr. Fletcher's retirement takes effect.



*MR. REGINALD H. FLETCHER*  
*Postmaster for Jamaica.*

### Jamaica Philatelist June 1939:

The Post Office. Since our last edition was published, the Department lost a very valuable officer in Mr. R. H. Fletcher, the Postmaster, who, despite the fact that he shows not the smallest sign of senility or decrepity, was retired on the score of age. Jamaica Welfare Ltd has succeeded to his ability, where we believe he finds agreeable employment of his talents. It is gratifying to observe that he has been succeeded by another efficient, courteous, hard-working Jamaican in the person of Mr. W. A. Campbell, who, after 36 years service in the Department, has earned reward of the highest position it can offer. The Department will be in excellent hands, while he is permitted to guide its affairs. He has an enviable reputation; having passed through all the stages of the mill, he is intimate with all details of operation; he is known to and liked by the public, because of his unflinching courtesy, his helpfulness and obvious desire to smooth the way; and his efficiency has received well deserved official recognition. We congratulate him on his promotion, and hope for him a very successful administration.

## Postmasters of Jamaica.

Gleaner 25 June 1960

Mr. R. H. Fletcher  
Honoured by JSWC

Mr. R.H. Fletcher former Post Master General , who has worked as secretary to the Jamaica Social Welfare Commission for 23 years was honoured by the Commission at a function held last week at the Myrtle bank Hotel.

The arranger for the occasion was the Hon DG Farquarson chairman of the JSWC. Mr Fletcher's retirement from the service with the Commission. In a message from the Premier, the Hon NW Manley, founder of Jamaica Welfare Ltd who was unable to be present Mr Fletcher was described as "one of the most remarkable men Jamaica has ever produced"

Mr Manley said he had become associated with Mr Fletcher to the early formative days when he took over the job of secretary to the Commission. In those days they were engaged in a new venture and were thinking out as creatively as possible a philosophy for community development and courses of action which would reflect that philosophy.

Mr Fletcher. he stated; plunged into the work with all the enthusiasm of a young man and brought to it a freshness of approach and a keenness of vision which made a tremendous contribution to the development of a service which is now an accepted part of the machinery of the Government of Jamaica and has won acclaim all over the world.

"In those early days there could have been no better guiding hand on a day-to-day level than that of the man whom you are pleased to honour this evening.

For him I have the warmest personal affection. He goes out of harness with great honour, may the rest of his days be rewarded by the richness of his memories and the abiding affection of his friends and fill those who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Appreciation for Mr Fletcher was expressed on behalf of the Board of Directors by Mr A McNair, a member of the Board, who referred to Mr Fletcher as an important factor in the development of the Commission", recognised today throughout the world as a pioneer community development project.

"We could not have had a better secretary. He got the co-operation of his staff and set a good pace and excellent standard for us to follow".

Mr McNair also spoke of the love which the people of Jamaica had for Mr. Fletcher, particularly the people throughout the little villages which he visited. He will be greatly missed. Mr C A Harriott spoke on behalf of the Jamaica Welfare Staff Association, mentioning Mr Fletcher's record of devotion to duty, his courage and humility". He has won the love and respect not only of the staff but of the whole country" It would be very difficult to replace him, he said and emphasized that his services should not be entirely lost to the Commission.

Mr Fletcher's career, from the time he Joined the Civil Service, was sketched by the Hon. Dr. Glendon Logan, Minister of Housing and Social Welfare. It took him 25 years, said Dr. Logan. to become first grade clerk and 35 years to become the first Jamaican ever to be elevated to the head of a department when he was made Postmaster General.

In those days heads of departments were always men from abroad. Mr. Fletcher, he stated, proved that a Jamaican could do a job as well as any one imported and he left behind a record which would be difficult to better. Men like Mr Fletcher came up the hard way but they laid a strong and firm foundation for the Civil Service as it was today

Dr. Logan referred to Mr. Fletcher s "three lives" —one in the Civil Service, another after his retirement and one with the JSWC.

"I am sure at this moment he is looking for new fields of endeavour and new fields to conquer" said Dr Logan.

His years of service had not gone unnoticed and although it had earned him the favour of reigning sovereigns, all he was happy about was the work he had done, satisfaction in serving his country and serving it well.

## Postmasters of Jamaica.

His has been a Life of great service to the people of Jamaica' Dr Logan concluded.

Mr Fletcher replied expressing his appreciation of the tribute which had been paid to him. He regretted that the Premier was unable to be present as it had been an honour to have been associated with him during the progress made by the JSWC to the present position it held.

"I have enjoyed my stay with the JSWC it has been a remarkable organization" He also thanked very much those who had organised the function in his honour.

A presentation was made to him by Lady Allan on behalf of the Board of Directors the staff and the Staff Association

### Gleaner 22 Jun 1966

Former PMG on the expert's promise

A retired Postmaster-General sent the Editor of the Gleaner the following letter yesterday:-

Sir:—

I am amused at the proud boast of the British postal expert (re-organizing the post offices in the past 20 months) that by the end of June 1966, a letter posted in Lucea for Morant Bay up to 3.00 pm. Will be available for delivery by 8.30 a.m. next morning (17½ hours).

When I retired, and for some time after, I left a transport service that gave the public the facility, of posting a letter in Lucea for Morant Bay up to 6.00 a.m. daily and which was available for delivery by 4.00 p.m. the same day <10 hours The above transport applied to all post offices, there was no complaint. There was available a routing list in each P. O. And the local P. M., by consulting the instructions, routed all letters by the quickest opportunity.

I had the experiences of mules, trams, trains, foot-couriers and finally mechanical conveyances.

This island is much too small for the British expert to exercise his practical experience, if he has any.

The Jamaican public are long suffering.

I am. etc.,

R. H. FLETCHER.

Retired Postmaster General

P. S. The expert will have to change his ideas.

## Postmasters of Jamaica.

### Gleaner 17 Oct 1967

Ex-Postmaster General dies at 94: burial today

Mr. Reginald Honan Fletcher, retired Postmaster-General of Jamaica, died at his residence, 1 Aralia Drive, Mona, near noon yesterday after a short illness. He was 94.

Mr. Fletcher did all his civil service with the Postal Department which he entered in 1890 retiring in 1938.

During his tenure of office, Mr Fletcher served as a Nominated Member of the then Legislative Council in 1934 and 1935 and in the latter year as manager of the Jamaica Civil Service Mutual Guarantee Association.

Mr. Fletcher was appointed secretary of Jamaica Welfare. Ltd (now Social Development Commission) in 1938 and served until 1980. Shortly after the commencement of World War II in 1939, he was appointed Government Chief Censor relinquishing this post in 1942.

#### Gold medal

Many were his social and sporting activities. He was president of the YMCA in 1944 and was Patron of the Association at the time of his death.

He was also associated with the Boy Scout movement and served as chairman of its Executive Committee in 1944. His service with this body earned him the Gold Medal of the Baden-Powell Guild and the Boy Scouts' Association of Jamaica in 1965 — the first person to receive such an honour in Jamaica,

In the field of sport Mr. Fletcher served as vice president of the Jamaica Cricket Board of Control and was a former president and life member of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Over the past several years he was a frequent contributor to the Press on matters affecting the postal service.

Born in Spanish Town on September 6 1873 he was a son of the late Christopher Fletcher and Sophia, nee Gabay. Educated at the then Marieville College and Kingston Collegiate School, he entered the postal service as an assistant on February 1, 1890, was promoted First Class Clerk in 1915 and Postmaster General in 1925. A Justice of the Peace for Kingston, he was awarded the I.S.O. (1938) and the O.B.E (1954).

Mr. Fletcher married in 1897 Miss Edith Maria Simpson of Kingston, the union bearing two sons (one deceased) and two, daughters. His wife predeceased him more than 20 years ago. He is survived by two daughters, the Misses Sybil and Madge Fletcher, and son Mr. Douglas Fletcher, C.B.E., a former member of the Senate, and partner of the firm of messrs. Myers, Fletcher and Gordon, solicitors of Kingston; and grand children.

He was a prominent Methodist.

After a service in Provident Methodist Church this afternoon at 5 o'clock, interment will follow in the churchyard.



**MR. R. H. FLETCHER**