

George Henry Pearce

PMG from 8 Dec 1891 to 13 Oct 1903

Blue Book of 1868

... states appointed 1 December 1865.

Date of First Appointment under Colonial Govt 1860.

Gleaner 9 Dec 1891

The New Postmaster General

Mr. G. H. Pearce, chief clerk in the Post Office yesterday received the appointment of Postmaster General of Jamaica from His Excellency the Governor. We offer our congratulations to Mr. Pearce on his well-earned advance; and under his able management we have no fear for the continued prosperity and popularity of the Post Office, an institution which almost more than any other requires to be in touch with the general public.

Gleaner 16 March 1903

THE IMPORTANT CHANGES AHEAD.

WE published in our issue of Saturday a news paragraph in which several important changes in the personnel and working of the Kingston General Commissioners were hinted at and as there can be no doubt that some general scheme of reorganisation in connection with this department will shortly come before the public, we think it advisable to direct the attention of the citizens to a matter that so vitally concerns them. The people of Kingston have long been expecting something to be done in this connection. The discontent which has been expressed as to the work and cost of the Kingston General Commission has been immense, and no less a person than Mr. OLIVIER himself has pointedly criticised the unbusinesslike methods of a department which has done nothing at all adequate for the money it has expended, and which seems perfectly incapable of doing anything in a satisfactory manner. When asked for an account of their stewardship the Commissioners indulge in "ancient history", when requested to state what they intend to do in future, they supply us with still other editions of "ancient history" — or rather, "more ancient history" if that be possible. Now this sort of thing is ridiculous. We expect that a business department will be run like one; we don't expect it to be an antiquarian society with its members perpetually adoring the past, and, presumably, sighing for "the days that are no more". Needless to say, for the individual gentlemen who compose the Commission we have the highest personal respect: every man of them, no doubt is filled with good intentions and with the milk of human kindness. But it is only too obvious that they have been a little too tender in the past — a little too kind to their highly-paid servants — a little too inclined to regard the department under their control as the best of all possible departments. This we pointed out last year in a series of articles on "The Kingston General Commissioners," and no one has been bold enough to attempt the defence of this body in anything like a logical manner. That a drastic scheme of reform would have to be adopted in regard to it was therefore perfectly obvious to everyone, and we are glad to believe that such reform will shortly come about.

What will be done?: We cannot say definitely, of course, for the Taxation Commission has not yet reported, although it is probable they will do so within a few days. We can, however, venture to give a forecast of the recommendations they are likely to make, and can dispel some false ideas that have got into the public's mind. Rumour has it that Mr. ROGER NAUGHTON, the Chief Commissioner, will be appointed to the position of Postmaster General in place of Mr. GEORGE Pearce who, it is expected, will shortly resign his post.

There is no foundation for this rumour, however. As stated at intervals during the past five years we have heard that Mr. Pearce intended to give up his post, but somehow or other he has never done so, and does not seem in the least likely to do so. And even if Mr. Pearce resigned, Mr. ROGER NAUGHTON is decidedly not the man who would get his place, Jamaica Governments have done some wonderful things in their time, but the present one has shown a disposition to act sensibly.

Postmasters of Jamaica.

But what are the coming changes. They are likely to be very serious ones. In the first place, there will probably be a change in the constitution and personnel of the City Council, as was hinted long ago. And, if this does not take place then there will be a redistribution of the work now carried on by three different public bodies in this city—namely, the City Council, the Kingston General Commissioners, and the Public Works Department. There will both be a redistribution of the work and a reorganisation of it. And obviously, there must be, if the Constitution of the City Council is to remain unchanged, when the Kingston General Commissioners are abolished as a governing public body. On the other hand, if no particular redistribution of the work takes place—that is to say, if the whole or most of the work now undertaken by the Kingston General Commissioners be simply put into the hands of the City Council—then some change will assuredly take place in the constitution of that Board. What will it be? The question almost answers itself. The Council, of course, will in future be half elected, half nominated, with a paid Chairman who shall be possessed of large administrative powers. And that such a change will bring about improved efficiency and economy in the public service of this city there is no reason to doubt. There is, however, another side to the picture. Granting that thousands of pounds will be saved yearly by this step—will not the step be nevertheless a retrograde one. This is the query which will be put by many people, and certainly it deserves an answer. But before answering it right away we think it best to go more thoroughly in the proposed—or, at any rate, likely—change, and to see exactly how matters will one way or the other. In dealing stand with such a case we progress better by clear, calm, logical argument. For nothing whatever is to be gained by sham rhetoric, Or wild outbursts of perfectly, insincere "political patriotism".

Gleaner 4 Sept 1903

RETIRING SOON.

Postmaster General Quits The Service

TO RESIDE IN AMERICA

RETIREMENT TAKES EFFECT NEXT .MONTH

Mr. George Pearce, Postmaster for Jamaica has retired from the public service. His Excellency the Governor has sanctioned the retirement of Mr. Pearce but it will not take effect until the 13th prox.

Mr. Pearce has been a very efficient and painstaking public officer and whilst perhaps not a universaaly popular head of Department, his efforts have always been for the improvemnt of the postal service of the colony. He has been in the Post Office for over 43 years, and has served in all the various grades of the office. He succeeded the late Mr. Fred Sullivan as Postmaster and the service, during his term of administration has been one of marked activity and general advancement. It is an interesting fact that Mr. Pearce is now the officer in the Post office of those that were in the department in 1865.

On his retirement Mr. Pearce has decided to live in the United States.

Several probable successors have been mentioned in connection with the office, among them being Mr. E. Jordan Andrews, the Acting Island Treasurer, who is thought to be the most likely candidate for the position

Gleaner 13 October 1903

PEARCE'S ADIEU.

A STRIKING COMPLIMENT.

Passing through Richmond on Tuesday evening, I noticed a graceful little incident at the Railway Station, where the station agent presented a beautiful bouquet of Eucharist lilies, dahlia, exotice and aurealeas to Mr. Geo. H. Pearce, the Postmaster for Jamaica, who was passenger for Port Antonio, whence he sailed per Admiral Sampson, writes a correspondent in Buff Bay. Glancing around the bare looking village I wondered where such flowers could have bloomed. "Any good in Nazareth?" The recipient, as well as Mrs Pearce who was with him, was evidently much gratified at what was obviously an unexpected pleasure; he seemed to greatly appreciate the compliment.

The action is made noteworthy from the prevalent fancy that Mr. Pearce was not a popular favourite. This dispels the idea somehow, proving that he was at any rate in soime quarters.

Postmasters of Jamaica.

Since writing the above, I have been credibly informed that the bouquet was sent by the Postmistress at Richmond, who is said to be held in high esteem by the P. O. officials and the public alike. This is, therefore, more to Mr. Pearce's credit, as his strict discipline sometimes caused this very class —the P. O. Clerks —to be in wholesome awe of him.