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JAMAICA.



The nineties saw considerable development in the internal post of Jamaica. Two additional P.O.'s were opened in 1893-94, fourteen during the next year, and seven in 1895-90, bringing the total number of post offices up to 130. Owing to reduced rates of postage and also extended reduction of postal rates between the parishes of Jamaica, it was not long before over three million letters went annually through the post, making it necessary to extend the house delivery in Kingston. The line, across the island from south to the north coast at Montego Bay, was finished early in 1895, and the mail was thenceforward conveyed by rail. This enabled the

P.M.G. of Jamaica to double the mail service between Kingston and the western part of the island, and private parties there initiated a coach service, connecting with the rail the towns in the west which the line did not reach.

In the latter part of 1897 an epidemic of yellow fever broke out and spread from Kingston to several other parishes with fatal and deadly effect. Strong measures were taken and by February, 1898, the epidemic disappeared.

During 1897-98 there was a large falling off in the postal receipts due to trade depression, which was common to most Colonies. The P.M. also estimated that the decrease was due to the loss of £600, owing to the abolition of the system of prepaying official correspondence by means of stamps and reverting to the franking system on and from 1st January, 1898. The annual value of official postages was estimated at £2500.

With reduced outlet for her trade, Kingston turned her attention to local improvements. The Street Car Co. of Kingston, whose cars were drawn by mules, gave place to the W.I. Electric Co. Few local industries were started, but the establishment of two dairy associations near Kingston, where the milk supply had previously been in the hands of small vendors or hawkers ; the formation of new branches of the Jamaica Agricultural Society ; the importation of better breeds of cattle stock and poultry, were all indications that the pressure of harder times had led the community to realize the necessity for a thorough knowledge and practice of improved measures of culture and stock raising in the disposal of produce. At the close of the century the P.M.G. stated that every year the facilities for dispatch of occasional mails were greater. The Atlas line and United Fruit Co.'s boats took mails regularly to the U. S.A.

1969 Nov/Dec – Postmaster Salaries 1858

POSTAL HISTORY JAMAICA

The following notes from one of the West Indies Account Books at the General Post Office indicates the state of affairs about 1858 as regards Postmasters and their salaries.

Extracted by the Late Brigadier F. M. Montresor.

ISLAND POSTMASTERS 1858: COLONIAL ALLOWANCE BOOK 44/57

Post Office	Postmaster	Salary (Per annum)
ALEXANDRIA	I. MORRIS	£8
ANNOTTO BAY	G. G. SCOTLAND	£28
BATH	R. M. WHITTLE	£7
BLACK RIVER	E. R. SCOTT	£47
BROWN'S TOWN	1. HARRIS	£16
BUFF BAY	E. SKYERS	£11
CHAPELTON	F. LOWE	£22
CLARENDON	T. K. MELBOURNE	£25
CLAREMONT	M. B. FOREMAN	£11
DRY HARBOUR	R. P. DU COSTS	£25
DUNCANS	H. BENAIM	£10
FALMOUTH	M. SALMON	£109
EWARTON		£3
FLINT RIVER	E. FAYSUNARD (?)	£12
GOLDEN SPRING	I. HAMMETT	£2
GORDON TOWN	H. SYMON	£4
GOSHEN	R. MURCHETT	£26
GRANGE HILL	J. WAITS	£8
GREEN ISLAND	M. MUNRO	£7
HIGH GATE	J. MOGG	£5
HOPE BAY	T. H. MANN	£6
LILLIPUT	H. McDANIEL	£10
LARCEA	J. R. COLLYMEAD (?)	£31
LITTLE RIVER	A. McLACHLAN	£2
MANCHCONIAL	A. BROWN	£9
MANDEVILLE	S. BONITTO	£42
MAY HILL	W. WARD	£18
MILL GULLY	H. SENIOR	£6
MONEAGUE	S. D. LINDS	£14
MONTEGO BAY	W. FOWLER	£122
MONTPELIER	R. DAVIS	£3
MORANT BAY	E. HUNTER afterwards W. GRAY (?)	£31
OCHO RIGA	J. G. MESQUITA	£40 (to be reduced to £14 on new appointment)
OLD HARBOUR	N. N. SHEA	£19
PLANTAIN GARDEN RIVER	G. G. MANNING	£20
PEAR TREE GROVE	R. RYAN	£4
PORT ANTONIO	R. BRYMEN	£24
PORT MORANT	C. McKAY	£8
PORT MARIA	M. LEAY	£42
PORT ROYAL	-.BLADES	£40
PORT PORUS (?)	J. W. KELSEY	£20
RAMBLE	J. DA COSTA	£8
RIO BUONO	J. STEWARD	£9
RODNEY HALL	A. DELGARDO	£24
ST. ANN'S BAY	R. CARTER	£54
ST. DAVID'S	E. NOEL (?)	£5
SALTQUT	H. RIGG	£9
SAVANNA LA MER	S. N. WILLIAMS	£59
SPANISH TOWN	A. MUMFORD	£135
STEWART TOWN	E. CAVER	£6
VERE	S. RODRIGUES	£31
GAYLE		Not to be paid commission for the present. Later allowed usual commission