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Colonial Secretary's Office, 26th October, 1903.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Annual Report on the Post Office Department for the year 1902-03.

By Command,

SYDNEY OLIVIER, Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office, 28th August, 1903.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Post Office Department, being that for the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1903.

REVENUE.

2. The cash collections on account of Post Office and Telegraphs during the year amount to £33,105 8s. 11½d., as under:—

Postal	...	£27,583 12 5½
Telegraphs	...	5,521 16 6
		£33,105 8 11½

The above stated collections exceed those during the year 1901 1902 by the sum of £4,073 9s 7½d. on Postal Revenue and by £511 9s. 2d. on account of Telegraphs, the total excess being £4,584 18s. 9½d.

3. A comparison of the above actual collections with the Estimates for the similar period discloses that the Estimates on account of Post Office have been exceeded by the sum of £5,083 12s. 5½d. and for Telegraphs by the sum of £821 16s. 0d.

4. I furnish below the usual abstract of the above mentioned collections under each head of Revenue in comparison with similar figures for the two years preceding.

Period.	Postages.	Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Telegraphs.	Miscellaneous	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1900-1901 ...	21,124 4 3½	384 3 0	616 17 0½	4,714 15 3	87 4 5	26,927 4 0
1901-1902 ...	22,336 13 7½	445 16 7	615 0 0	5,010 7 4	112 12 7	28,520 10 1½
1902-1903 ...	26,234 3 11½	539 6 10	698 5 6	5,521 16 6	111 16 2	33,105 8 11½

5. The Telegraph collections include the sum of £412 10s. 0d. for Official Telegrams, the value of which has been credited to this Department and charged in the Treasury books against each Department for which the service has been performed under the system which I pointed out in the third paragraph of my last Annual Report as having been given effect to during last year.

6. In addition to the cash collections as represented by the sale of Postage Stamps, &c., the Department conveyed free of charge Official mail matter for such of the Departments and Public Functionaries as have been authorised to send and to receive correspondence free of charge through the Post, the value of the postage on such mail matter being estimated at a minimum rate of £2,500 per annum. Adding this estimated amount therefore to the above stated Postal collections it results that the earnings of the Post Office Department for Postages may be stated approximately to have been £30,083 12s. 5½d. as against £26,010 2s. 9½d. during the preceding year.

7. The following is also the usual approximate analysis of the collections under the head of Postages, exhibiting the amount on account of Packet and Inland Postages respectively.

Year.	Packet Postages	Inland Postages	Total
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1900-1901	3,754 14 1½	17,369 10 2	21,124 4 3½
1901-1902	4,382 9 6	17,054 4 1½	22,336 13 7½
1902-1903	4,408 1 5½	21,266 2 5½	26,231 3 11½

8. It will be observed that the above analysis discloses that the increase under the head of Postages has taken place principally in Inland Postages, the collections on account of which exceed those of last year by the sum of £3,871 18s. 4½d.

9. The above satisfactory increase which has taken place during the year under report, as shown above, in Postal and Telegraph receipts has been in my opinion attributable to the passing away of the successive years of commercial and agricultural depression. The year under report is the third year since 1896 that I have been able to record any increase under the head of Inland Postages as a result of such depression. It will thus be seen that the Post Office transactions are always resilient and responsive to any general improvement in trade and commerce.

10. I also submit that the satisfactory state of the Post Office, as disclosed by its Revenue, may be accepted as a very fair and reasonable indication that the Public of this Colony are ready to appreciate increased Postal facilities, which I have always regarded as great factors in the progress and civilization of any community, and as auxiliary to a proper educational system.

11. I am also glad to be able to report, as a result of a review of the gross receipts of the Post Office for the year under report, that this is the first year in which the Department has not been worked at a loss; for the total gross receipts amount to £27,482 17s. 6½d. while the expenditure amount to £26,562 7s. 8½d. with the result that there is a net Revenue of £920 9s. 10d. not including Official Postages which, as stated above, I estimate at £2,500, rather than a deficit as there has been for some time past.

12. This satisfactory result has been caused not only by the increase in the Postal receipts as shown above but has been due also to a decrease in the amount of the contribution which is payable to the Mother Country for proportion of the subsidy to the contract with the Imperial Government for the mail service between the United Kingdom and the British West Indies.

The amount payable for such subsidy is now £2,100.

13. The collections on account of Postages include as usual the freight on parcels conveyed by Passenger Mail Coaches, which are subsidized by the Government for the conveyance of Mails and such parcels as exceed the limit of weight, say eight ounces, by the ordinary tri-weekly or daily Post Services.

14. Turning to the statement annexed to this Report of the Gross Revenue in detail it will be seen that the earnings for freight on Parcels is given as £512 13s. 4d. being the collections for the period 1st April to 31st December, 1902, after the latter date the freight on parcels has been prepaid by means of Postage Stamps; therefore the collections appear under the head of Stamps sold, and will hereafter cease to appear as a separate item. If, for the purpose of comparison, however, the average collections say £170 17s. 9d., from 1st January to 31st March last be added to the amount stated above, it results that £683 11s. 1d. may be accepted, approximately, as the revenue for freight on parcels during the year under review, as against £561 4s. for the year preceding. As pointed out in previous reports, these receipts were formerly placed to the credit of the Contractors who subsidized the Mail Coaches to the Government.

15. It will be seen that the receipts under the head of Commission on Money Orders exceed those of the year 1901-1902 by the sum of £93 10s. 3d., while the Commission on Postal Orders exhibit an increase of £83 5s. 6d.

16. The receipts under the head of Miscellaneous consist of the following items:—

Rent of Private Letter Boxes	...	£84 19 0
Fees for conveyance of Private Letter Bags	...	18 0 6
Mail Coach Commissions	...	3 10 7
Miscellaneous	-	5 6 1
		£111 16 2

The item of £5 6s. 1d. includes £4, being the proceeds of the sale of a diamond ring which was found in the Posting Box at the Falmouth Office a few years ago, but was never claimed although duly advertised; 7s. for fines on Mail Contractors and 19s. 1d. cash found on the counter of the General Post Office on several occasions.

17. The total amount of Postage Stamps, Post Cards and Newspaper Wrappers sold during the year is £24,592 7s. 0½d., of which amount the Stamp Commissioner sold £1,737 5s. and retained the usual annual sum of £1,170, being the estimated proportion of Postage Stamps used in the payment of Revenue Stamp Duties. The Stamp Commissioner allowed a discount of 2½ per cent. on his sales, while District Postmasters were credited with £243 15s. 4d. for Poundage on stamps sold by them.

18. Impressed Stamps for Revenue purposes to the amount of £393 17s. 10d. and Judicial Stamps to the amount of £1,754 8s. 3d. were sold at the District Post Offices and accounted for by this Department to the Stamp Commissioner.

CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

19. The estimates which have been taken at the G. P. O., Kingston, and at the District Post Offices during each quarter of the year under review of the letters and post cards which have passed through the Jamaica Post Office result, on comparison with similar estimates during the preceding years 1900-1901 and 1901-1902, as under:—

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1900-1901	1901-1902	1902-1903	1900-1901	1901-1902	1902-1903
INLAND MAILS—						
Ordinary Letters—						
Public	1,256,136	1,260,662	1,267,669	1,374,229	1,379,221	1,384,513
Official	126,746	127,946	129,296	109,133	109,824	110,659
Post Cards	25,865	24,452	24,523	24,678	25,818	26,537
Registered Letters—						
Public	22,239	23,073	25,104	74,100	76,292	77,004
Official	27,846	28,240	33,127	16,879	17,255	17,787
OCEAN MAILS—BY VESSELS UNDER CONTRACT—						
United Kingdom—						
Ordinary Letters	150,835	251,917	254,874	226,102	273,459	330,801
Post Cards	4,863	...	3,590	1,400	1,400	1,400
Inter-Colonial, B.W.I., &c—						
Ordinary Letters	71,407	84,549	71,340	95,800	98,029	102,060
Post Cards	155	644	546	549	596	1,302
BY VESSELS NOT UNDER CONTRACT—						
United States of America—						
Ordinary Letters	119,114	124,974	145,950	124,386	128,128	153,987
Post Cards	3,998	6,386	13,510	787	1,152	2,519
Other Countries—						
Ordinary Letters	102,602	73,504	78,285	58,344	59,747	60,077
Post Cards	3,441	4,925	6,621	66	208	100
Registered Letters, Packet	18,735	28,240	28,767	16,175	19,665	20,076
	1,933,982	2,039,512	2,083,202	2,122,628	2,190,794	2,288,912

At District Post Offices.

	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
Ordinary Letters	1,106,651	1,108,453	1,115,252
Post Cards	40,612	41,899	42,210
Registered Letters	35,210	44,156	50,317
	1,182,473	1,194,508	1,207,779

20. The above estimates disclose that 5,579,893 letters and post cards were received and despatched during the year as against 5,424,814 during the previous year, being an estimated increase of 155,079. The total number of Registered articles of mail matter included in the above statement is 252,182 as against 236,921 for the corresponding period of last year, and I am glad and proud to be able to record again that the same immunity from any loss or miscarriage of registered articles to which I have repeatedly referred in previous Annual Reports has again attended the dealings of the Post Office with such a large number of registered articles, while the number of complaints of the alleged loss of ordinary mail matter bears but a very small proportion to the number of articles handled. I submit that this is extremely satisfactory and bears evidence on the whole to the honesty of the employees of this Department.

21. The number of articles which were registered in Jamaica and insured for places abroad is of the declared value of £5,720 7s. and I am glad to say that they also have been dealt with without giving rise to any claim for compensation.

OCEAN MAILS.

22. I subjoin the usual comparative statement for the three years ending 31st March, 1903, shewing the number of contract and non-contract vessels which have conveyed mails to and from Jamaica.

	Outwards.						Inwards					
	1900-1901.		1901-1902.		1902-1903.		1900-1901.		1901-1902.		1902-1903.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
<i>Kingston—</i>												
Contract	56	695	78	807	78	807	77	935	104	1,008	104	1,029
Non-Contract	293	592	315	768	321	779	352	795	437	849	363	781
<i>Outports—</i>												
Non-Contract	60	61	30	31	30	31	127	272	149	357	138	273

23. The cost of Ocean Mail Services during the year is as under :—

Contribution towards the loss on the Imperial Contract with the R. M. Steam Packet Co. for the West India Mail Service	...	£2,160 17 5
Sea and Territorial Transit Rates Paid to other Countries	...	150 16 4
Ship Letter Gratuities	...	1,066 19 4
		£3,378 13 1

as against £4,435 6s. 11d. during the year preceding, the decrease being due to the re-adjustment during the year of the Colonial Contribution towards the loss on the West India Packet Service as a result of which this Colony has been refunded, in respects of payments during the year, the sum of

£364 2s. 7d. by the Imperial Post Office through the Crown Agents on account of the diversion of the Steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to Trinidad, as well as of the sum of £1,056 10s. 0d. on account of Contribution from 16th February, 1901, to 30th September, 1902, and of the sum of £1,400 for Transit Rates which, under the adjustment, has ceased to appear as a charge against the Jamaica Post Office, the future amount payable £2,100, which has been fixed as the contribution of this Colony towards the Imperial Contract, including all Transit Rates and Conveyance of Parcels.

24. During the year 1901 the Colony's contribution amounted to £5,140 per annum, and in the 34th paragraph of my report for that Year I pointed out that a reduction of the annual contribution had been agreed to by the Imperial Government in proportion to the reduction (to be computed) in the amount of mail matter sent by the Royal Mail Line. I also forecasted that as a result of such reduction the net cost of the Foreign Mail Service to this Colony would not exceed £2,000 per annum.

25. The approximate value of the Sea Postages collected during the year under review is £4,408 1s. 5½d. as shown in the approximate analysis of Postages at paragraph 7, and if from this amount the expenditure of £3,378 13s. 1d. be deducted, it results that the net cost is £1,029 8s. 4½d., more than verifying my forecast.

26. To avert, or at any rate to explain away any criticism which may result from a comparison of the above figures with those contained in the gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office Department which is appended to this Report, I would point out that the respective payments of £1,400 and £2,525 for Transit Rates payable to the United Kingdom and for contribution to the United Kingdom on account of the West India Mail Contract were made before this Colony was advised of the result of the re-adjustment above referred to; therefore the amounts, as stated above, had to appear in the statement of Expenditure for the period under review.

27. The Mail Services between the United Kingdom and Jamaica have continued to be performed during the year by the Steamers of the Direct Line of the Elder, Dempster Company and by the Steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company; but I regret that almost for the first time I have to record that such services have not been performed regularly within contract time. The Steamers of the Elder, Dempster Company failed to arrive on contract time on fourteen occasions, while those of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company failed to arrive on contract time on three occasions.

28. Under a revised Time Table of the Service by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company between Southampton and Jamaica, Trinidad has been included as a Port of Call, while Jamaica has been omitted. The alteration took effect with the outward bound steamer "Atrato" leaving Southampton on the 9th July, 1902, and with the homeward bound steamer "Para" leaving Jamaica on the 29th July, 1902. Under this time table the steamers are timed to arrive at Jamaica from Southampton, etc., at noon on each alternate Friday and to leave Jamaica for Southampton, etc., at noon on each alternate Tuesday.

29. When considering this altered Time Table it became my duty to point out to the Government the additional expenditure for special mail trains as well as the inconvenience which might be caused to correspondents from the change in the hour of arrival at Jamaica of the steamers, namely, on Friday at noon instead of at 8 a.m. and by the departure at noon instead of at 2 p.m. on Tuesday. As a result of this representation it was agreed that a sum of £500 per annum should be deducted from Jamaica's contribution to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's contract.

30. The effect of the altered Time Table on the Inland Packet Express Mail Service is that the mails have to be despatched on the preceding Mondays from the District Post Offices on the North Western Main Line between Green Island and Lucea, Lucea and Montego Bay, and Montego Bay and Ewarton, and from all Branch Post Offices on that line of Post an hour or two earlier to admit of their arriving in Kingston by train from Ewarton on Tuesday morning in time for despatch.

31. Frequent opportunities for the exchange of Mails between the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and other places via the United Kingdom and Jamaica have continued to be afforded by the Steamers of the United Fruit Company as well as those of the Hamburg-American Line, both lines of Steamers having provided during the year under report a very efficient mail service.

32. The Mails to and from the United States by the Steamers of the United Fruit Company have been forwarded via Boston and Philadelphia, while the mail exchanges by the Hamburg-American Line steamers have been direct between Kingston and New York.

33. Mails have also been exchanged with Central America by the Steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company as well as those of the Hamburg-American Line.

34. The Steamers of Messrs. J. E. Kerr & Co., clearing principally from Port Maria for New York have also afforded many useful opportunities for forwarding mails from Jamaica to the United States.

35. The Mail Service between Jamaica and Halifax, Bermuda and Turks Island has been conducted during the year under review, by the Steamers of Messrs. Pickford & Black with commendable punctuality.

36. Mails have also been despatched to Mexico by the Steamers of the Leyland Line, while mails continue to be exchanged with the Cayman Islands by the Schooners trading between Kingston, Montego Bay, Lucea and Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac.

37. A fairly regular Mail Service between Jamaica and Santiago de Cuba has been maintained by the Steamers "Tomas Brooks" and "Benito Estenger" for which Messrs. Lascelles, de Mercado are the Agents.

38. There has been an increase during the year under review of the opportunities afforded for the exchange of mails with places abroad by vessels not under contract. This is amply illustrated by the fact that the payments for Ship Letter Gratuities, as stated above, is £1,066 19s. 4d. as against £801 4s. 1d. during the preceding year. Such increased opportunities have occurred principally with the Steamers of the United Fruit Company, the rate of payment to each Company being 1d. per letter.

39. The thanks of this Department and of the Public are due to the Agents and Superintendents of the Companies above-mentioned for the very regular manner in which they have informed the Post Office of the departure of their steamers, giving this Department ample time to advise the Public thereof as well as for the efficient services rendered generally.

40. I would again point out, however, that in connection with the net cost of the Foreign Mail Service with Jamaica as detailed above, that this Colony contributes a moiety of the subsidy of £40,000 per annum which is paid to Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Company by the Imperial Government for the fortnightly service between Jamaica and Bristol which service, with that of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, establishes a weekly mail service between this Colony and the Mother Country.

INLAND MAIL SERVICE.

41. The cost of the Inland Mail conveyance during the year under report is £7,558 5s. 0d. This amount, representing the payment to Mail Contractors, the Public Works Department, and to the Jamaica Government Railway, the Railway continuing to receive annually for the conveyance of mails by train the sum of £2,700 per annum.

42. The sum of £199 was paid to the Officers of the Public Works Department for superintendence of the mail services which have been undertaken by the Public Works Department.

43. The Inland mail conveyance has been conducted without any interruption during the year, and to this satisfactory result the Public Works Department and the Jamaica Government Railway have most materially assisted. The mail services undertaken by the Public Works Department have been most efficiently carried out, and I again bear testimony to the valuable assistance rendered by the Superintendent of Public Works in each Parish.

44. The tri-weekly mail service between Santa Cruz and Malvern has, during the year under review, been converted into a daily mail service. The alteration took effect on the 15th November 1902.

45. Tri weekly mail services have been established between Middle Quarters and Giddy Hall and between Mountainside and Pedro Plains in the Parish of St. Elizabeth.

DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

46. At the end of the year under report there were 156 District Post Offices as against 153 in the year preceding.

47. A District Post Office has been established at "Giddy Hall" in the parish of St. Elizabeth on the 18th March, 1903 and at "Pedro Plains" in the same parish on the 20th March, 1903.

48. The District Post Office at "Enfield" in the parish of St. Mary had to be temporarily closed on the 28th July, 1902, but was re-opened on the 9th January, 1903. The Post Office at "Negril" in the parish of Westmoreland was temporarily closed on the 9th December, 1902, but was re-opened on the 22nd January, 1903. The Post Office at "Hartlands" in the parish of St. Catherine was closed on the 19th January last. The Post Office at "Crofts Hill" in the parish of Clarendon was closed on the 22nd January, 1903, but was re-opened on the 28th of the same month. The Post Office at "Maidstone," which had been closed on the ground of economy, on the 28th February, 1899, was re-opened on the ground of public necessity, on the 9th February, 1903. The Post Office at "St. Margaret's Bay," as well as the Telegraph Station were transferred to the Railway Station on the 6th January, 1903, the Station Agent at that place undertaking the duties of District Postmaster.

49. During the year and on the occasion of the Riot at Montego Bay great inconvenience was experienced in consequence of the Government not being able to communicate with the Police at Spanish Town, St. Catherine, the Post Office and Telegraph Station at Spanish Town being kept in Public rooms which did not afford residents for the Postmistress and Telegraph Clerk, the efforts of this Department having failed to secure public buildings in Spanish Town which afforded such accommodation. It was, therefore decided to place at the disposal of the Post Office Department the public buildings known as "The Laundry." The Post Office and Telegraph Station were accordingly removed to such premises on the 6th February, 1903.

MONEY ORDERS.

50. The following is a statement of the transactions of the Money Order Branch for the year in comparison with similar transactions for the preceding two years.

United Kingdom.						Turks Islands.					
Year.	Jamaica Issue.		Payable in Jamaica.		Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica.	Year.	Jamaica Issue.		Payable in Jamaica.		Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.			No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1900-1901	7,698	23,052 13 7	1,475	3,771 1 6	381 4 11	1900-1901	16	31 18 10	233	861 0 11	4 10 11
1901-1902	8,956	22,337 13 9	1,562	3,890 3 1	434 7 4	1901-1902	21	11 17 11	361	1,511 14 4	6 13 0
1902-1903	10,432	24,400 11 3	1,564	3,567 13 6	485 13 1	1902-1903	59	47 14 4	355	1,358 19 4	6 14 2
	United States of America						Panama.				
1900-1901	2,864	6,872 10 9	726	2,051 10 2	144 0 10	1900-1901	5	18 1 0	120	430 9 2	2 8 9
1901-1902	2,992	6,038 14 5	731	1,982 10 2	137 10 5	1901-1902	5	11 18 0	119	282 5 1	1 12 11
1902-1903	3,272	6,804 9 9	903	2,336 16 2	154 14 5	1902-1903	6	26 16 0	107	245 11 3	1 12 11
	Dominion of Canada						British Honduras.				
1900-1901	335	1,515 1 1	102	374 15 4	24 4 2	1900-1901	4	4 8 1	84	120 5 7	0 15 11
1901-1902	230	891 17 4	134	389 10 4	15 15 2	1901-1902	5	10 1 11	70	185 16 0	1 0 6
1902-1903	218	822 14 1	124	345 3 6	14 0 5	1902-1903	4	23 14 0	63	144 11 0	0 16 11
	British Guiana						Trinidad.				
1900-1901	126	258 3 2	83	178 7 10	4 8 3	1900-1901	19	20 8 4	114	417 12 1	2 14 3
1901-1902	111	189 11 8	114	198 13 0	3 15 4	1901-1902	30	72 6 4	111	297 12 7	2 8 1
1902-1903	113	181 14 6	141	206 19 7	3 11 1	1902-1903	47	106 9 3	180	359 19 1	2 19 1
	Barbados.						Bermuda.				
1900-1901	264	280 4 5	266	713 9 6	9 14 8						
1901-1902	275	325 19 9	257	506 12 2	9 7 5						
1902-1903	269	317 10 6	242	544 5 10	9 2 8						
	Windward and Leeward Islands										
1900-1901	99	162 7 7	265	381 4 2	4 6 1	From 15th Feb to 31st Mar.,					
1901-1902	104	173 1 10	310	581 5 7	5 3 4	1901-1902	1	0 7 6	30	66 3 9	0 7 0
1902-1903	149	233 3 9	345	688 16 11	7 11 4	1901-1902	11	36 15 9	232	449 2 4	2 9 7
						1902-1903	8	18 2 2	574	1,152 9 7	3 8 1

51. The above summary shows that 14,579 Money Orders amounting to £32,982 19s. 7d. in value were drawn by Jamaica on other Countries during the year under review as against 12,740 in number, and £30,097 18s. 8d. in value, while the issues of other countries on Jamaica during the year is 4,568 in number and £10,951 1s. 9d. in value as against 4,001 in number and £10,326 4s. 8d. in value during the preceding year. The above comparison results in shewing that the issue of Jamaica on other countries is in excess of the issue of the previous year by 1,839 in number, and £2,885 0s. 11d. in amount. An increase will also be observed to have taken place in the issue of other countries on Jamaica to the extent of 567 in number and £624 17s. 1d. in amount. The increase in both directions has in fact occurred principally in the transactions with the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

52. In the 50th paragraph of my last Annual Report I drew attention to the fact that there had been a decrease in the Money Order transactions with the Mother Country, the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada. I therefore submit that the increase shewn above during the year under review may also be accepted as a clear indication that this Island was not any longer suffering to the previous extent from depression in trade, commerce and agriculture.

53. The Commissions which accrued to this Colony, after deducting premium on remittances to the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada amount to £539 6s. 10d. The premiums on remittances to the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Canada, respectively, amount to £151 9s. 4d. The details of the Commissions are as follows:—

United Kingdom	...	£485 13 1
United States of America	...	154 14 5
Canada	...	14 0 5
British Guiana	...	3 11 1
Barbados	...	9 2 8
Windward and Leeward Islands	...	7 11 4
Panama	...	1 12 11
Turks Island	...	6 14 2
British Honduras	...	0 16 11
Trinidad	...	2 19 1
Bermuda	...	3 8 1
Grand Cayman	...	0 12 0
		<hr/> £690 16 2

Less Premiums on Remittances :—

United Kingdom	£138 15 0	
United States of America	11 8 10	
Canada	1 5 6	151 9 4
	<hr/> £539 6 10	

54. The balances in favour of the Imperial Post Office on Money Orders were paid, as hitherto, by means of Commissariat Certificates until the 15th March, 1903, after which date settlement has been made through the Crown Agents for the Colonies who are authorised to pay the Imperial Post Office fortnightly a sum not exceeding £750, on the understanding that should such payments at any time prove insufficient to cover the monthly issues by this Colony on the Mother Country, the Crown Agents are authorised to pay on demand such further amount as may be necessary.

55. The remittances to the United States of America and to the Dominion of Canada have continued to be made by means of Bills of Exchange in favour of the Postmaster General of the United States and of the Dominion of Canada. The Bills, which are payable in New York and Halifax, are purchased in equal amounts from the Colonial Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia.

56. Under an agreement between His Honour the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, and approved by His Excellency the Governor, a Money Order Exchange between those Islands and Jamaica and places abroad via Jamaica came into force on the 1st January, 1903.

57. Under this arrangement persons resident in Grand Cayman enjoy the great advantage which they did not possess previously of sending and receiving small as well as large sums of money not only to and from Jamaica but to and from every country with which Jamaica has concluded a convention or an agreement for the exchange of Money Orders.

58. The benefits resulting to Grand Cayman from the Money Order System are obvious, and I submit that the Public there must be very grateful to His Honour the Commissioner, Mr. Sanguinetti, through whose efforts the system has been established.

59. The Cayman Islands had already been permitted to avail themselves of the Postal Order System in Jamaica which is also used in the remittance of small sums by the Public in both places, the Postmaster at Grand Cayman being supplied with Jamaica Postal Orders for such purpose to a limited extent.

60. A feature of the Money Order transactions, as detailed above, is to be found in the increase which has taken place in the number and amount of Money Orders issued in Bermuda and payable in Jamaica: such increase being 342 in number and £703 7s. 3d. This has been due to the exodus of labourers to Bermuda, who are being employed in Imperial Works which are being carried on there, and who are remitting a portion of their earnings to their families in this Colony.

POSTAL ORDERS.

61. Postal Orders of the face value of £34,580 0s. 0d. have been issued for sale at the General Post Office, Kingston, and at the several District Post Offices as against £30,229 7s. 6d. during the year 1901-1902, while the sales amount to £34,128 4s. face value, upon which the Commission is £698 5s. 6d., as shewn at paragraph 4 under the head of Revenue, the sales during the preceding year, being £30,356 16s. 0d., and commission £615 0d. 0d., the increase being £3,771 8s. 0d.

Postal Orders Issued.

Denomination.	1900-1901.			1901-1902.			1902-1903.		
	No.	Face Value.	Commis- sion.	No.	Face Value.	Commis- sion.	No.	Face Value.	Commis- sion.
s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
6	17,574	439 7 0	36 12 3	18,875	471 17 6	39 6 5½	23,675	591 17 6	49 6 5½
1 0	38,498	1,924 18 0	80 4 1	37,600	1,880 0 0	78 6 8	40,250	2,012 10 0	83 17 1
1 6	39,643	2,973 4 6	82 11 9½	38,350	2,876 5 0	79 17 11	43,700	3,277 10 0	91 0 10
2 6	49,122	5,015 5 0	83 11 9	41,000	5,125 0 0	85 8 4	45,775	5,721 17 6	95 7 3½
5 0	33,308	8,327 0 0	138 15 8	33,655	8,421 5 0	140 7 1	38,375	9,593 15 0	119 17 11
10 0	23,029	11,514 10 0	191 18 2	22,910	11,455 0 0	190 18 4	26,765	13,382 10 0	223 0 10
	192,174	30,194 4 6	613 13 8½	192,420	30,229 7 6	614 4 9½	218,540	34,580 0 0	702 10 5

Postal Orders Sold.

	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
April	2,461 17 0	2,414 15 6	3,035 8 0
May	2,620 17 0	2,099 11 0	2,811 17 0
June	2,499 13 6	2,403 10 6	2,837 2 0
July	2,629 11 0	2,699 15 6	2,852 0 0
August	2,487 8 6	2,313 17 0	2,691 17 0
September	2,16 0 6	2,431 2 0	2,889 13 6
October	2,695 19 6	2,631 12 6	2,944 12 0
November	2,554 13 6	2,629 8 0	2,774 15 0
December	2,780 15 6	2,949 2 6	3,154 8 0
January	2,421 1 0	2,567 19 0	2,689 17 0
February	2,349 0 6	2,418 16 0	2,641 0 0
March	2,522 14 0	2,797 6 6	2,865 14 6
	30,339 11 6	30,356 16 0	34,128 4 0

62. This increase, like that shewn in Postal, Telegraph and Money Order transactions, is also, I submit, another indication of the returning prosperity which appeared to be taking place in the general condition of this Colony during the year under review.

EXPENDITURE.

63. The Expenditure during the year under review, as detailed in the Statement appended to this Report, is shewn to be £26,562 7s. 8½d., but as this amount includes (see paragraph 26) the sum of £1,400 for Transit Rates on mail matter sent to and via the United Kingdom, and £2,515 for contribution to the Imperial contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. for the West India Mail Service, for the purpose of comparison of the expenditure of the year under report, it is necessary to deduct the following amounts which have been refunded since the close of the year, by the Imperial Government, viz. :—

Transit Rates	...	£1,400 0 0
Contribution, &c.	...	364 2 7
		£1,764 2 7

64. This being done it results that the expenditure relative to the period under review is £24,798 5s. 1½d. as against £25,517 7s. 0d. for 1901-1902 being a net decrease of £719 1s. 10½d.

65. A comparison of the above revised actual Expenditure with the Estimates for the corresponding period shews that it is less by the sum of £1,182 5s. 9½d.

66. In the 11th paragraph of this Report I have recorded that the satisfactory result of a surplus of £920 9s. 10d. rather than a deficit, as hitherto has occurred during the year under review, but if the revised figures be used and £1,764 2s. 7d. be added to the sum of £920 9s. 10d., the net surplus is £2,684 12s. 5d. on Post Office Account.

67. The following revised Statement may be useful as explanatory of the actual results of the gross Revenue and Expenditure for the year under remark :—

REVENUE:			
Gross Receipts from Letters, Post Cards, Newspapers, Books and Parcels	£26,133	9	0½
Commission on Money Orders	...	539	6 10
Postal Orders	...	698	5 6
Miscellaneous	...	111	16 2
		£27,482	17 6½
EXPENDITURE:			
Salaries, Wages and other Charges	£21,419	12	0½
Transit Rates payable to United Kingdom and other Countries	1,217	15	8
Contribution to Imperial Contract	2,160	17	5
		24,798	5 1½
		£2,684	12 5

68. I subjoin also the usual abstract in comparison form of the gross Expenditure shown in the detailed statement already referred to.

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.			Services.	Total.
	Head Offices.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean	Proportion of Royal Mail Contract with Imperial Government.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1900-01	5,915 9 2	2,956 4 3	8,510 17 5	2,507 10 7	5,140 0 0	3,360 6 2½	28,390 8 1½
1901-02	5,668 5 0	2,951 7 2	8,054 16 1	2,258 0 3	2,177 6 8	4,407 11 10	25,517 7 0
1902-03	5,637 17 8	2,968 5 7	8,254 6 11	2,617 15 8	2,525 0 0	4,559 1 10½	26,562 7 8½

69. The net decrease of £719 1s. 10½d. referred to in the revised expenditure this year has occurred under the following heads, and is explained thus:—

DECREASE.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries Head Office	...	30 7 4	
Ocean Mail Conveyance	...	1,040 4 7	
Contribution to Royal Mail Contract with Imperial P.O.	...	16 9 3	1,087 1 2
INCREASE.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries District Post Offices		16 18 5	
Inland Mail Conveyance		199 10	
Miscellaneous		51 10 0½	367 19 3½
			£719 1 10½

70. The decrease under the head of Salaries at the Head Office has been the result of changes in the staff, while that in Ocean Mail Conveyance and Contribution to the Royal Mail Contract with the Imperial Post Office has relation to the refunds by the Mother Country, as already explained.

71. The increase in respect of salaries at the District Post Offices results from the opening and re-establishment of the Post Offices as recorded at paragraph 48 and the item of Inland Mail Conveyance has relation to the higher rate of payments to Mail Contractors and to the need for Special Mail Trains arising out of the late arrival of steamers of the Elder Dempster Company and of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, as already pointed out in paragraph 27, while the net increase under the head of Miscellaneous is to be found principally under the head of Services out of office hours, Travelling Charges and Petty Expenses. The additional expenditure for Allowances for Services out of Office hours is due to the late arrival of the steamers referred to above, as well as to the receipt and despatch out of office hours of mails by vessels not under contract. An increased amount of travelling was rendered necessary in connection with the new system of accounting by District Postmasters.

72. The Travelling Supervisor of District Post Offices and a Clerk from the General Post Office were despatched simultaneously to different parts of the Island to check the accounts at each District Post Office and to instruct the District Postmasters in the new System before the close of the Financial Year, which duty was most expeditiously and efficiently performed by the officers concerned.

MAIL COACHES.

73 The earnings of the several lines of Mail Coaches are as under, in comparison with similar earnings for the two years ending 31st March, 1902.

I.—Kingston and Montego Bay.				VIII.—Lucea and Green Island.			
Year.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.	Year.	Passenger's Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1900-1901	266 10 0	195 3 9	461 13 9	1900-1901	...	1 1 9	1 1 9
1901-1902	149 2 3	302 3 0	451 5 3	1901-1902	...	...	...
1902-1903	207 4 9	306 11 0	413 15 9	1902-1903	...	...	...
II.—Montego Bay and Lucea.				IX.—Richmond and Port Maria.			
1900-1901	94 12 0	11 3 0	105 15 0	1900-1901	...	8 4 6	28 4 6
1901-1902	...	9 13 9	9 13 9	1901-1902	...	18 12 6	18 12 6
1902-1903	...	9 10 0	9 10 0	1902-1903	...	12 12 6	12 12 6
III.—Kingston and Port Antonio.				X.—Montpelier and Sav. la-Mar.			
1900-1901	133 2 0	112 2 0	235 4 0	1900-1901	...	50 9 3	56 9 3
1901-1902	63 4 0	68 14 3	127 18 3	1901-1902	...	35 7 3	35 7 3
1902-1903	88 7 3	58 6 3	146 13 5	1902-1903	...	25 7 3	25 7 3
IV.—Kingston and Annotto Bay.				XI.—Ipswich and Black River.			
1900-1901	...	13 18 6	13 18 6	1900-1901	...	30 0 6	30 0 6
1901-1902	...	9 2 3	9 2 3	1901-1902	...	28 15 0	28 15 0
1902-1903	...	7 4 3	7 4 3	1902-1903	...	19 15 0	19 15 0
V.—Kingston and Hapelon.				XII.—Balaclava and Santa Cruz.			
1900-1901	...	17 9 0	17 9 0	1900-1901	...	23 16 9	23 16 9
1901-1902	...	14 10 3	14 10 3	1901-1902	...	18 15 0	18 15 0
1902-1903	...	12 6 9	12 6 9	1902-1903	...	12 0 6	12 0 6
VI.—St. Ann's Bay and Port Maria.				XIII.—Williamsfield and Mandeville.			
1900-1901	...	19 14 6	19 14 6	1900-1901	...	30 14 9	30 14 9
1901-1902	...	16 5 9	16 5 9	1901-1902	...	20 9 3	20 9 3
1902-1903	...	9 11 3	9 11 3	1902-1903	...	14 1 6	14 1 6
VI.—Dry Harbour and Brown's Town.							
1900-1901	...	35 17 6	35 17 6				
1901-1902	...	31 12 6	31 12 6				
1902-1903	...	20 12 6	20 12 6				

74. The total earnings being summarized give the following results:

For Passengers Fares	£295 12 0
For Parcels	507 18 9
	£803 10 9

75. The collections for freight on parcels, as stated above, relate to the period 1st April, 1902, to 31st December, 1902, during which time payment was made by cash instead of by means of stamps as has been done since the 1st January, 1903, as pointed out at paragraph 14. For the purpose of comparison therefore with last year's transactions it is necessary to add £169 6s. 3d., being the average collections for the three months ending 31st March, 1903, to the amount shown for freight on parcels, with the result that the total collections amount to £972 17 0d., as against £792 12s. for the year 1901-1902; being an increase of £180 5s. 0d., of which the sum of £77 5s. 9d. has relation to Passengers Fares while the sum of £102 19s. 3d. relates to Parcels.

76. The earnings on account of Passengers Fares have been paid to the several contractors, while, as already pointed out, the earnings on account of Parcels have been carried to the credit of Revenue.

RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

77. The Mail matter which was disposed of during the year is as follows:—

	Paid	Unpaid.
Letters returned to the United Kingdom	2,531	429
" " " other Countries	5,085	2,631
" " " writers in the Island	25,248	4,713
" destroyed being illegible or anonymous	1,148	325
" writers not having been found	3,069	377
Newspapers returned to Publishers	7,925	

78. The amount of irrecoverable postage on unclaimed etc mail matter is £94 16s. 8d.

79. The number of Packets which were found to contain value to the amount of £456 11s. 11d. is 2,013, each packet having been reposted and registered to the writer

80. The above figures, I submit, disclose that the efforts of this Department to restore to the writers unclaimed matter have been attended with some amount of success, since the letters which had to be destroyed bear such a small proportion to the number returned to the writers.

81. The work in the Returned Letter Branch has been performed principally by the members of the Female Auxiliary Staff under the immediate supervision of the Senior Clerk or Matron of the Telegraph Staff, and who herself, in the presence of another member of the staff, opens each unclaimed letter before it is returned, to ascertain if there be any money contents: each letter bearing the initials of the Senior Clerk and her assistant. Any letter covering value is at once recorded.

82. It will be thus seen that there is little, if any, opportunity for fraud in dealing with the contents of unclaimed letters as has been ungraciously suggested to me sometimes, leading me to give this explanation.

TELEGRAPHS.

83. The following is a comparative statement with the two years preceding of the gross receipts of the Telegraph Branch:—

	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stamps sold	4,608 18 0	4,519 14 0	5,080 18 9
Additional charge on Books containing Message Forms	3 17 6	2 8 3	3 4 9
Fees for opening Stations out of Office Hours	24 2 0	23 4 0	25 3 0
Official Telegrams	77 17 9	458 5 3	412 10 0
Adjustment of Telegraph account with Railway	...	6 15 10	...
	4,714 15 3	5,010 7 4	5,521 16 6

84. As pointed out in my remarks under the general head of Revenue there has been an increase of £511 9s. 2d., the above details showing that the increase has occurred in the messages sent by the Public as exhibited by the amount of Stamps sold, which is £5,080 18s. 9d. as against £4,519 14s. during 1901-1902, the official telegrams being £45 15s. 3d. less.

85. The usual numerical return of telegrams sent and received which is appended to this report shows that 101,712 messages were sent and received as against 91,898, during the previous year, being an increase of 9,814. Of the total number 2,303 were sent over the Railway Lines.

86. In addition to the above stated transactions the Department collected at District Stations and lodged in the several Parochial Treasuries, and subsequently paid over to the respective representatives of the Cable Companies in this Island, the sum of £2,677 18s. 5d., as under:—

On account of the Direct Cable Co.	£2,393 18 3
On account of W. I. and Panama Cable Co.	284 0 2
	£2,677 18 5

87. Further sums to the amount of £168 14s. 7d. were collected at the Myrtle Bank Hotel Station and accounted for directly by the Clerk without passing through the Treasury, viz:—

For D. W. C. Co.	£163 10 10
“ W. I. and Panama Cable Co.	5 3 9
	£168 14 7

88. The expenditure for the working expenses of the Telegraph Branch is £7,797 13s. 8d. as against £7,371 0s. 2d. during the year 1901-1902, being an increase of £426 13s. 6d. and £402 in excess of the Estimates for the year under review.

89. The expenditure under each head of service is given hereunder, while the items will be found detailed in the Statement annexed to this report :—

Year.	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries ...	4,615 14 2	4,573 7 11	4,706 2 9
Wages ...	888 7 9	880 9 2	959 17 9
Services ...	1,922 4 1	1,917 3 1	2,131 13 2
	7,426 6 0	7,371 0 2	7,797 13 8

90. The increase in the expenditure has taken place under the head of Salaries, Wages and other Charges. That under Salaries and Wages is the result of the establishment of Telegraph Stations at Constant Spring Hotel and at Titchfield and of changes in the staff consequent on illness, &c., which necessitated the employment of the Auxiliary Staff; that under Other Charges has relation principally to the item of Travelling Charges and Services out of office hours. The excess of Travelling Charges also relates to the changes in the Staff above referred to, while the excess in payments for "Overtime" is due to the extra holiday consequent on the Coronation and to the increased facilities granted to the Public for opening the Telegraph Stations on Sundays and out of office hours.

91. At the end of the year under review there were in existence 72 Telegraph Stations, including that at the Head Office and those at the Myrtle Bank, Constant Spring and Titchfield Hotels.

92. The Telegraph Station at Titchfield Hotel was opened temporarily on the 8th January, 1903, at the instance of the United Fruit Company, for the convenience of tourists: the Company agreeing to provide lodging accommodation for the Clerk in charge. It was closed at the end of the Tourist Season on the 12th May, 1903.

93. The Telegraph Station at St. Margaret's Bay was closed on the 6th January, 1903, when the Post Office was transferred on the ground of economy to the Railway Station, as pointed out at paragraph 48.

94. A Temporary Telegraph Station was opened on the 5th February, 1903, at Hayes in the parish of Clarendon in connection with the Military Manœuvres.

95. The School of Telegraphy at the Head Office and the system of teaching candidates at the district Stations have been continued to be conducted during the year with most satisfactory results.

96. At the end of the year there were 40 young women on the Auxiliary Staff who had been learning Telegraphy and Postal work, of these 15 were holding acting appointments and twenty-five were awaiting employment.

97. Two of the Auxiliary Learners for the Telegraph School were transferred to the Railway Department during the year and I understand that they are doing credit to the training they received in the Post Office.

98. While the young women are awaiting permanent employment, they have been from time to time employed to great advantage in clerical work in the different branches of the General Post Office, Kingston.

99. The entire staff of young women who are employed on the permanent staff either as District P. M's and Telegraph Clerks, Assistant Telegraph Clerks, or as Clerical Assistants at the Head Office, Kingston, as well as those on the Auxiliary Staff, have, I am pleased to be again able to report, discharged their duties with uniform intelligence and assiduity and have proved, as I have with much pleasure and satisfaction previously reported, to be very faithful, trustworthy and respectable. The experience of this Department in this respect will I venture to hope induce the Government to throw open other branches of the Public Service to the young women of this Colony at no distant date. I am of the opinion and feel sure that the experiment will be successful.

100. During the year His Excellency the Governor approved of the transmission of telegrams on Sundays and out of Office hours subject to the condition that the Clerks be found on duty and on deposit of One Pound as compensation to the staff employed in the service; formerly the concession was limited to telegram relating to death or illness.

101. The net cost of the Telegraph Service to the Colony is £3,410 13s. 6d. as against £3,387 18s. 4d. during the previous year.

102. The following is explanatory of the above net cost :—

Revenue as detailed above	...	£5,521 16 6
Working Expenses by P. O.	£7,797 13 8	
Maintenance of Lines by P. W.		
Department	1,134 16 4	8,932 10 0
Net deficit		£3,410 13 6

103. If the net surplus on account of the Post Office Department shown at paragraph 67 be deducted from the net deficit on account of Telegraphs, it results that £726 1s. 0d. is the net deficit on both Post Office and Telegraph Account.

PARCELS POST.

104. The transactions of the Parcels Post Branch are as under, in comparison with those of the two years ended 31st March, 1902.

PARCELS RECEIVED.

From	Consignments.			Parcels.			Import Duty.		
	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	28	54	53	9,332	11,333	15,388	1,745 13 9	2,217 19 5	2,863 16 9
British West Indies ...	80	115	135	196	339	364	4 3 4	22 9 6	25 7 5
United States of America ...	154	371	449	3,365	2,176	4,976	331 16 8	450 14 0	569 6 9
Dominion of Canada ...	12	12	12	228	214	364	18 7 9	19 12 1	16 4 7
Turks Island ...	9	9	12	21	22	56	18 8 0	0 7 11	9 12 6
Belize ...	1	..	..	1	..	..	0 1 9	..	..
Bermuda ...	8	12	12	20	54	47	1 7 5	5 5 10	16 17 7
	292	573	673	13,164	14,138	21,195	2,157 18 8	2,716 8 9	3,492 5 7

	Postage Accrued to Jamaica.			Declared value of Parcels.		
	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	269 14 4	310 6 0	312 19 8	12,558 18 5	14,190 15 4	19,158 6 3
British West Indies ...	..	..	..	442 6 9½	282 5 7½	212 17 6
United States of America ...	..	..	..	2,696 13 9	3,139 6 1	4,759 6 9
Dominion of Canada ...	4 2 3½	4 11 8	10 10 10	121 18 8	138 17 7	276 11 9
Turks Island ...	..	..	..	12 0 9	5 5 1	19 7 6
Belize ...	..	..	..	0 10 6	..	..
Bermuda ...	..	..	..	8 10 8	37 4 3	96 14 7
	273 16 7½	314 17 8	323 10 6	13,849 19 6½	17,793 13 11½	24,523 4 4

PARCELS DESPATCHED

	Consignments.			Parcels.			Accrued to Jamaica.		
	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	29	52	52	2,777	3,431	3,385	56 0 4	70 6 0	74 15 0
British West Indies ...	163	159	186	381	357	470	14 19 4	8 1 0	13 10 0
United States of America ...	48	46	49	814	1,070	1,187	39 18 0	48 0 6	68 19 6
Dominion of Canada ...	12	14	17	170	134	172	3 6 0½	2 5 10	3 15 7½
Turks Islands ...	12	12	11	210	200	143	16 12 0	0 9 4	3 2 0
Belize ...	2	..	..	2	..	..	0 1 0	..	..
Bermuda ...	9	9	11	26	24	47	1 9 0	0 9 4	1 3 8
	265	292	326	4,380	5,216	5,404	132 5 8½	129 12 0	164 5 9½

	Declared Value of Parcels.		
	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	2,798 7 3	3,353 10 10½	2,875 17 11½
British West Indies ...	436 0 11	433 2 6	356 6 7
United States of America ...	281 9 0½	347 12 5	317 18 6½
Dominion of Canada ...	53 15 5	50 8 1½	91 13 8
Turks Islands ...	215 8 8½	213 17 10½	126 2 0
Belize ...	.. 14 0	..	..
Bermuda ...	15 14 9	19 4 3	37 17 9
	3,831 10 0½	4,417 16 0½	3,805 16 5½

105. The above details shew that 5,404 parcels of the total declared value of £3,805 16s. 5½d. were despatched to places abroad, while 21,195 of the declared value of £24,523 4s. 4d. were received. The total number of parcels dealt with being 26,599: an increase of 7,245 in the number dealt with during the year 1901-1902.

106. The credit to the Colony resulting from the above transactions for Postage and Customs duties is £3,980 1s. 10½d. as under:—

Share of Postage on Parcels received	£323	10	6
“ “ “ despatched	164	5	9½
Customs Duties	3,492	5	7
	£3,980	1	10½

as against £3,160 18s. 5d. during the year preceding.

107. This is the largest increase which has taken place in the Parcels Post business since its inauguration in 1885 and is attributable to the increased mail service with the Mother Country as also to the triple scale of Postage.

108. The packets which were found in the Mails, and which were detained for inspection of their contents by the Customs Authorities number 2,740, import duty to the amount of £126 14s. 5d. being collected on an assessed value of £880 19s.

109. During the year there were only two complaints as to the miscarriage of parcels, and I am pleased to say that such miscarriages have not destroyed the good record as to the correct dealing with of parcels since the inauguration of the system; for I am glad to say the enquiry has resulted in shewing conclusively that the miscarriage did not occur in this Administration.

MISCELLANEOUS

110. I regret to have to record in this report the infidelity of a Senior Officer in the Accounting Branch of this Department during the year under report; but I am glad to say that the Public Exchequer has not suffered through such infidelity for the defalcations arising out of his breach of trust have been more than covered by his Bond.

111. I went on leave of absence for three months during the year under review, and advantage was taken thereof by His Excellency the Governor to appoint the Auditor General to act for me for the purpose of enquiring into the system of accounts which had been in existence since the transfer of the Post Office from Imperial to Colonial rule with the satisfactory result that the good work commenced by Mr. Bertram and carried on after my return is now in full working operation. The system inaugurated has made it possible for the District Postmasters to keep a much better check over their transactions, as under the old system their accounts were prepared at the Head Office from returns sent in by them and forwarded for their acceptance, while under the present system they prepare a monthly Stock and Cash Account which is sent up to the Head Office for examination and correction, if necessary.

112. Before I went on leave I made application for Bicycles for the use of the Box Clearers and Telegraph Messengers and during my absence, at the instance of the Acting Postmaster for Jamaica, the Government were good enough to grant them. As I now write they are in use and are fulfilling my expectations.

113. A further nest of twelve Private Letter Boxes were supplied to the District Post Office at Port Antonio during the year under review.

114. The Department continues to be conducted in premises which, as I have repeatedly pointed out in previous reports, and otherwise, are quite unsuitable to its requirements and most inconvenient to the public, who justly complain to me most bitterly. This is a matter of very great regret to me, for I have found it impossible to do what I wished to do in the direction of granting greater postal facilities and improved conveniences to the Public. This is my 38th year of service in the Post Office Department, and I had hoped ere the close of my Official career to see the Public of this Colony provided with Post Office and Telegraph premises of which they might be proud; but I am afraid this will not happen in my time.

I have, &c.,

GEO. H. PEARCE, Postmaster for Jamaica.

RETURN shewing the number of Telegraphic Messages sent from and Received at each Telegraph Station from 1st April, 1902, to 31st March, 1903, as compared with Return from 1st April, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.

Station.	1st April, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.		1902-1903.		Remarks.
	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	Messages Sent	Messages Received.	
Kingston	21,869	23,225	23,120	25,543	Transmitting Station.
Myrtle Bank	1,485	850	1,376	715	
Spanish Town	2,019	2,158	2,000	2,148	
Bog Walk	819	685	770	791	
Linstead	786	809	607	647	" "
Ewarton	439	457	567	465	
Moneague	864	1,041	803	989	
Claremont	394	418	468	451	
St. Ann's Bay	3,821	3,686	5,053	4,870	" "
Runaway Bay	501	497	895	836	
Dry Harbour	618	572	747	803	" "
Brown's Town	1,821	1,948	1,762	1,840	" "
Cave Valley	274	302	289	343	
Stewart Town	156	199	177	215	
Ulster Spring	261	299	247	354	
Rio Bueno	527	546	832	735	
Duncans	638	640	792	713	
Falmouth	2,319	2,347	2,267	2,444	
Montego Bay	5,384	5,160	6,465	6,047	" "
Ramble	348	404	509	509	
Lucea	1,967	1,975	2,241	2,269	
Green Island	259	261	338	338	
Grange Hill	294	282	321	282	
Sav.-la-Mar	3,026	2,704	2,982	2,613	" "
White House	142	172	177	163	
Black River	2,002	2,136	2,038	1,928	
Middle Quarters	512	515	431	405	
Santa Cruz	393	417	408	422	" "
Malvern	699	740	719	729	
Mandeville	2,926	2,977	2,714	2,972	" "
Newport	297	362	307	411	
Shooters Hill	364	483	541	624	" "
Mile Gully	286	290	258	266	
Balaclava	705	627	650	574	
Christiana	445	505	390	477	
Porus	721	653	830	715	
May Pen	872	881	910	1,016	" "
Hayes	56	56	42	22	Opened 5th to 14th Feb. '03.
Chapelton	1,101	1,108	1,385	1,189	Transmitting Station.
Alley	749	758	717	718	
Salt River	154	161	169	173	
Milk River	424	453	362	439	
Pratville	119	148	212	236	
Old Harbour	778	826	652	719	
Yallahs	163	224	225	283	
Morant Bay	1,783	1,634	2,245	1,933	" "
B. M. Valley	108	165	128	222	
Trinity Ville	199	307	233	325	
Pt. Morant	245	239	318	300	
Bowden	563	327	587	254	" "
Bath	321	310	500	512	
P. G. River	374	391	345	330	
Manchioneal	465	505	512	494	
P. M. River	297	284	320	341	" "
Port Antonio	7,440	6,650	9,828	8,112	Opened Jan. 8th to 12th May, '03.
Titchfield	---	---	609	404	Closed 6th Jan. '03. Transferred to Railway.
St. Margaret's Bay	179	210	104	123	
Hope Bay	325	272	245	212	
Buff Bay	537	482	679	652	
Annotto Bay	2,434	1,901	2,618	2,214	Transmitting Station.
Highgate	574	778	391	604	
Port Maria	4,108	3,971	3,997	4,264	" "
Oracabessa	839	871	808	900	
Retreat	342	243	439	394	
Gayle	339	453	273	329	
Ocho Rios	789	821	1,040	962	
Port Royal	761	769	909	926	
Up-Park Camp	513	568	520	706	
Half-way Tree	605	750	495	828	
Constant Spring	300	237	924	746	
Gordon Town	143	194	129	217	
New Castle	158	179	158	170	
Stony Hill	127	225	119	182	
Castleton	147	178	171	187	
Railway	2,008	2,065	2,303	2,423	
Total	91,898	91,898	101,712	101,712	

Return showing the Gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office

Post Office—

Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received at District Offices	£475	18	9	
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received at General Post Office	95	0	2	
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received from United Kingdom	98	1	9½	
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received from other Countries	357	13	7½	
Stamps sold by Post Office Department	22,855	2	10½	
Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	1,737	5	0	
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	84	19	0	
Fees for conveyance of Private Letter Bags	18	0	6	
Commissions on Money Orders	539	6	10	
Fees for detention of Country Letters per Packet for delivery in Kingston	1	9	0	
Commissions on Mail Coach Collections	3	10	7	
Commissions on Postal Orders sold	698	5	6	
Discount on Stamps purchased from public	0	4	6	
Mail Coach Collections	512	13	4	
Miscellaneous	5	6	1	37,482 17 6½

Telegraphs—

Stamps sold	5,080	18	9	
Additional charge on Books	3	4	9	
Fees for keeping Telegraph Offices open out of Office hours	25	3	0	
Adjustment of Telegraph Account with Jamaica Government Railway	...			
Official Telegrams	412	10	0	5,521 16 6

Department, during the Financial Year, ending 31st March, 1903.

		£	s	d.	£	s	d.
POST OFFICE—PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS—							
Salary of Postmaster for Jamaica	...	700	0	0			
Salaries of Clerks	...	3,640	12	0			
Clerical Assistance	...	60	19	3			
Wages of Sorters, Letter Carriers, &c.	...	995	11	6			
Packet Newspaper Sorters	...	137	5	1			
Salaries of District Postmistresses	...	2,905	17	7			
Messengers conveying Mails between G. P. O. and Railways, &c.	...	103	9	10			
Wages of Letter Carriers at Spanish Town	...	62	8	0	8,606	3	3
COMMISSION ON STAMPS SOLD—							
Poundage on Stamps sold by Department	...	...			243	15	4
CONVEYANCE OF MAILS—							
Unforeseen expenses in connection with Mail Conveyance	...	36	14	11			
Contractors	...	4,855	5	0			
Ship Letter Gratuities	...	1,066	19	4			
Conveyance of Mails between District Post Offices and Railway Stations	...	292	17	0			
Transit Rates payable to Postal Union Countries other than United Kingdom	...	150	16	4			
Proportion of Postage payable to United Kingdom	...	1,400	0	0			
Special Mail Trains for Packet Expresses	...	167	10	0			
Services by Railway	...	2,700	0	0			
Remuneration of Officers of Public Works Dept. in connection with Mail Services	...	199	0	0	10,872	2	7
OTHER CHARGES—							
Allowances for Services out of Office hours	...	484	15	3			
Travelling Charges	...	362	7	11			
Mail Bags and Wrappers	...	89	7	3½			
Letter Carriers Uniforms	...	151	8	8			
Customs Officers Overtime in Parcels Post Office	...	34	17	6			
Petty expenses	...	442	15	2			
Furniture	...	29	17	4			
Lighting	...	46	10	4			
Winding Clocks	...	6	0	0			
Rent of Telephone	...	11	16	3			
Cleaning Latrines	...	52	14	0			
Rent of Offices	...	779	13	4			
Date Stamps and Type	...	16	14	4			
Conveyance of Letter Carriers by Tram Car	...	91	13	4			
Twine and Wax	...	116	10	7			
Manufacture of Stamps and Post Cards	...	1,117	17	0			
Manufacture of Postal Orders	...	87	12	0			
Conveyance of Clerk from Royal Mail Steamer at Port Royal	...	1	1	0			
Advertising	...	120	8	4			
Water Supply, General Post Office	...	2	16	0			
Taxes	...	268	10	11	4,315	6	6½
POSTAL UNION CONTRIBUTION—							
Contribution to United Kingdom to meet additional loss consequent on joining Postal Union	...				2,525	0	0
					26,562	7	8½
TELEGRAPH BRANCH—PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS—							
Salary of Superintendent	...	400	0	0			
Salaries of Assistants to Superintendent	...	500	0	0			
Salaries of Operators	...	3,806	2	9			
Wages of Messengers, Head Office	...	156	0	0			
Wages of Messengers, District Offices	...	803	17	9	5,665	0	6
OTHER CHARGES—							
Lighting	...	5	1	8			
Repairing Instruments	...	46	9	0			
Porterage	...	277	19	10			
Rent of Offices	...	891	6	1			
Petty Payments	...	90	14	10			
Water Supply	...	73	6	9			
Travelling Charges	...	173	0	7			
Furniture	...	61	13	2			
Services performed out of office hours	...	346	18	11			
Messengers Uniforms	...	35	5	3			
Stores and manufacture of Stamps	...	129	17	1	2,131	13	2
					£7,797	13	8
DRAWBACK ENTRIES—							
Re-directed Letters	...	337	10	11½			
Letters sent through Returned Letter Branch	...	109	18	4½			
Stamps supplied to Foreign Countries	...	19	2		448	8	6