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Colonial Secretary's Office, 10th September, 1904.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR directs the publication of the following Annual Report of the Postmaster for Jamaica for the financial year 1903-04.

By command,

H. CLARENCE BOURNE, Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office, 18th July 1904.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following report upon the Postal and Telegraph Department, for the financial year ending 31st March, last. The department having been passed over to local control in 1860, the year under review is the forty-fourth of its existence, as a Department of the Island Government, although the report is but the thirty sixth annual historical record of its progress, the first report having been made in respect of the year 1867-8, at the call of the late Sir John Peter Grant during his administration of the government.

## REVENUE COMPARED WITH ESTIMATES.

2. The cash collections for the year were as follows :—

Postal	...	£28,051	17	9½
Telegraphs	...	5,194	12	6

£33,246 10 3½

while the estimates called for

Postal	...	£24,000	0	0
Telegraphs	...	5,000	0	0

£29,000 0 0

There has therefore been an increase over the forecast on postal revenue of £4,051 17s. 9½d. and on telegraph of £174 12s. 6d., which but for the check to progress administered by the hurricane of August last would have been considerably greater.

## COMPARATIVE COLLECTIONS.

3. The revenue collections for 1903-4, compared with those of the two years preceding, are as follows :—

	1903-04.	1902-03.	1901-02.
Postages	£26,326	£26,234	£22,337
Commission on money orders	637	539	446
Commission on postal orders	690	698	615
Telegraphs	5,195	5,522	5,010
Miscellaneous	398	112	112
	33,246	33,105	28,520



The collections on account of postages and commissions on postal orders constitute a very good test of the general conditions of trade, during the periods embraced in the foregoing review and the conclusion drawn from examination is, that the effect of the hurricane on the year's transactions was to altogether discount the advancement which prevailing conditions would, under normal circumstances, have produced, and to place matters much as they were in the year preceding.

4. In regard to the amount shown as yielded by commissions on money orders, it must be explained that as the balance against the colony in its account with the United Kingdom is now paid over by the Crown Agents, the cost of remittance is not a direct debit against the department, but any consideration of the figures appearing under this head of revenue must take into account the fact, that the Crown Agents have to be kept in funds by the local government, and as during the past year a sum of £20,000 was paid to the Imperial Post Office on money order account, the cost of placing this sum in England forms a legitimate charge against the collections of £637, reducing the net yield to £487, a sum barely sufficient to cover the cost of the service. Any comparison of the rates of commission chargeable in this island, with those prevailing in the United Kingdom and in the United States, must recognize the fact that the burden of remitting about ninety per cent. of the whole sum involved in our transactions with the United Kingdom and nearly eighty per cent. in those with the United States, falls upon the colony. I hope the time is not far distant, when the competition for colonial trade will bring about such an adjustment of the relationship between supplier and consumer, as will result in the former, through the Post Office, bearing the cost of remitting the proceeds of the sale of his goods, an arrangement which might enable the department, to assimilate its scale of commission to that prevailing in the mother country.

5. The telegraph revenue shows a falling off in 1903-4 of £327, when compared with the yield in the year preceding, but putting aside service messages, the cost of which is charged to the several public departments using the telegraph, the falling off in general business is represented by the sum of £448. This branch of the department's business does not exhibit progress, the average yearly collections during the completed years of the present decade, contrasting unfavourably with the similar collections during the nineties, notwithstanding increased facilities. This unfavourable result is in part due to the increase of postal facilities, many more offices than were formerly the case enjoying a daily service, and in part to the fact, that a large corporation which in other circumstances, would be a valuable client, enjoys the use of long distance telephones under license from the government.

6. Under the head of miscellaneous revenue, in addition to the regularly recurring items of rents of private letter boxes, fees for conveyance of private letter bags and commissions on mail coach collections, which together yielded a sum of £94 during the year, is included, surplus cash in money order chest, void money orders passed to revenue, contents of unclaimed dead letters passed to revenue and fines; and the increase in the revenue brought to account under this general head, is due to the general overhauling of the Post Office accounts in the last two years. Under this head too is grouped the proportion of parcel post postages collected in England and allowed to the colony.

#### RETROSPECT.

7. The progress of the business of the department as measured by the collections in the last year of each decennary ending with four is thus stated:—

	Postages.	Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Telegraphs.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£
1863-4	11,067	115	.	.	171	11,353
1873-4	14,021	504	.	.	132	14,657
1883-4	16,232	250	.	4,512	386	21,380
1893-4	19,429	354	432	6,256	219	26,690
1903-4	26,326	487	690	5,195	398	33,246

In forty years postage revenue has increased by 126 per cent. notwithstanding the decrease in the rate of ocean letter postage, from a shilling to a penny and on inland rates from 3d. or 4d. (according to distance) to a penny, considerable abatements being also made in respect of second class mail matter. The increase in postal order commissions indicates an increase in ten years of 60 per cent. in circulation, but telegraph revenues have only improved by 15 per cent. when compared with the results of 20 years ago, and exhibit an actual falling off in comparison with the figures of 10 years ago.



## EXPENDITURE COMPARED WITH ESTIMATES.

8. The expenditure of the department during the year was as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Personal emoluments	15,745	4	5
Mail conveyance	11,435	15	4
Services	7,330	19	0
Expenditure by Public Works for maintenance of telegraph lines	1,705	3	11
	£36,217	2	8

and the appropriation by the Legislature for these services was the following:—

	£	s.	d.
Personal emoluments	15,301	10	1
Mail conveyance	12,371	15	0
Services	5,819	4	0
Maintenance of telegraph lines	1,065	0	0
	£34,557	9	1

There has therefore been a saving on the appropriation for mail conveyance of £936 and a deficit on the allowances for personal emolument, services and maintenance of telegraph lines of £444, £1,511 and £640 respectively, the reasons for which are elsewhere stated.

## COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE.

9. The expenditure in 1903-4 compared with the expenditure in each of the two preceding years is thus stated:—

	1903-4	1902-3	1901-2
	£	£	£
Personal emoluments	15,745	15,581	15,096
Mail conveyance	11,436	13,198	12,291
Services	7,331	5,580	5,501
Maintenance of telegraph lines	1,705	1,135	1,027
	£36,217	£35,494	£33,915

The increase in personal emoluments, is mainly due to reopening of certain district post offices and to employment of two messengers in the Mail Coach and Parcels Post Office. The decrease in cost of mail conveyance, is attributable to the readjustment of our fiscal relations with the Imperial Post Office, whereby the annual claims for a special contribution to loss sustained, consequent on joining the Postal Union, and for a proportion of our packet postages are merged in our annual contributions to the Royal Mail subsidy. That the readjustment is one that is attended with benefit to the colony will be recognised when it is stated that these claims amounted to £3,925 in 1902-3 against £2,100 last year. The increase in expenditure under head of "services" is almost wholly accounted for by larger charges under the item of "manufacture of stamps and post cards," partly the result of expenses in connection with the new issue of stamps, and also in a measure due to the ordering of increased stocks to meet larger demands. The item of maintenance of telegraph lines is administered by the Public Works Department.

## RETROSPECT OF EXPENDITURE.

10. The following figures show the expenditure of the island on account of its postal and telegraph service, for each tenth year under the principal heads of charge, viz.:—

	Personal Emoluments.	Mail Conveyance.	Services.	Maintenance of Telegraph Lines.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1863-4	3,656	6,818	588	.	11,062
1873-4	5,386	9,784	604	.	15,774
1883-4	9,431	10,940	1,692	1,630	23,693
1893-4	12,467	13,224	4,718	1,994	32,403
1903-4	15,745	11,436	7,331	1,705	36,217



This summary besides showing the expansion of the department, during the forty years embraced in the review, will, when considered in relation to the like summary of revenue given in paragraph 7, show that the department has ever had to make drafts on the general taxpayer for its maintenance—a circumstance which is not infrequently overlooked on the part of applicants for new post and telegraph offices and for the extension, in other directions of postal facilities. The late Postmaster was wont to claim a liberal credit for the conveyance of official correspondence and in this way, to bring income and expenditure more nearly together, but I am of opinion that any such credit, is more than offset by the provision, rent free, of many of our offices and by the assumption of the debts for constructing and extending the telegraph from time to time, incurred under the Telegraph Law, 1 of 1879.

#### POSTAL MISCELLANIES.

11. Analysis of the postages collected distributes the revenue received under this head in each of the last three years between ocean postages and inland postages in the following proportions :—

	Packet Postages.	Inland Postages.	Total.
1901-2	£4,382	£17,954	£22,336
1902-3	4,408	21,826	26,234
1903-4	4,892	21,434	26,326

The increase over 1902-3 on ocean postages is therefore £484, while there is a decrease on domestic postages of £392.

12. Miscellaneous items of revenue which found their way into the official chest during the year are summarised thus :—

Rent of private letter boxes	...	£69	12	0
Fees for conveyance of private letter bags	...	16	16	0
Mail Coach commissions	...	7	9	1
Surplus cash in money order chest	...	14	0	3
Fines	...	1	11	4
Void money orders	...	0	12	0
Contents of unclaimed dead letters	...	87	1	11½
Postage accrued to January 1 on parcels post parcels to and from United Kingdom, &c.	...	201	6	5
		£398	9	0½

13. The item of fines includes, besides fines imposed on mail contractors and on members of the staff, penalties imposed on members of the public for attempts to prepay postage by means of used stamps. This class of fraud was assuming large proportions and although the Convention of Washington stipulates that members of the Union should adopt repressive measures, little had been done to bring offenders to book, with the result that immunity induced the belief that the offence was not within the reach of the law. By treating these cases under the Stamp Law of 1903, which provides a maximum penalty of £50, with the alternative of six months imprisonment, and obtaining power under a regulation made by the Governor under the Post Office Law, to accept any mitigated penalty the Postmaster for Jamaica may elect to press for, where confession of fault is made, ready machinery has been devised to cope with and suppress a growing evil. Where a plea of not guilty is recorded or the ostensible offender fails to respond to a call for an explanation the case is remitted to the police for investigation and summons, and one such case dealt with within the year resulted in a fine of 50s., with the alternative of sixty days' incarceration.

14. The unclaimed dead letters containing value are being closely followed up and contents lodged to general revenue. This head of account will therefore regularly appear in our balance sheet. The passing to general revenue of these moneys does not imply a final forfeiture. Full particulars of every case are on record and any claimant establishing title will be recognized.

15. No new post offices were opened during the year, but the following which had been closed for various reasons were reopened, viz. :—

Hartlands, on 24th April, 1903  
 Laughlands, on 19th August, 1903  
 Belvedere, on 1st September, 1903  
 Pepper, on 5th October, 1903  
 Harry Watch, on 7th September, 1903  
 Guanaboa Vale, on 19th October, 1903  
 Titchfield, on 9th January, 1904.

16. At the close of the year there were 159 post offices throughout the island, serving the needs of the public, giving an average of an office to every 26.4 square miles of area, and to every 4,720 of the population. According to tables of international postal statistics, published by the Bureau of the International Postal Union, Jamaica would, both as regards numbers of offices to area and number to population, take high rank among "Union countries." On this showing it may,



with considerable force of reason, be claimed that progress lies not in the direction of the further multiplication of small offices, but in the improvement of the service to large communities, and I trust that during my administration I may be able to adhere steadfastly to this declaration of policy.

17. Of the total number of 159 offices, 93 or nearly 60 per cent. enjoyed a daily service at the end of the year, this facility having been extended to 13 offices, within the currency of the year. The number to which parcels could be sent, owing to their being served by horse post, was 86, the list having been augmented by 4 since the preceding year.

18. The systematic inspection of district offices is an essential feature in the administration of a service constituted as is the Post Office, and I am glad to say that during the year under review it was found practicable to inspect once all but four of the district offices and it was found feasible to inspect a few twice. With one exception the result of the inspection was generally satisfactory, but the exception disclosed shortcomings of sufficient gravity to justify the inspecting officer in at once relieving the Postmistress of duty and temporarily closing the office.

#### CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

19. The estimates which have been taken at the central office in Kingston and at the district post offices during each quarter of the year just past, of the letters and post cards which have passed through the local post office, exhibit the undernoted results. The figures of the similar estimates for the two years preceding are also given :—

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
<b>INLAND MAILS—</b>						
Ordinary letters—						
Public	1,260,662	1,267,669	1,269,822	1,379,221	1,384,513	1,385,321
Official	127,946	129,296	129,996	109,824	110,659	110,872
Post cards	24,452	24,523	24,947	25,818	26,537	26,677
Registered letters—						
Public	23,073	25,104	25,308	76,292	77,004	77,802
Official	28,240	33,127	33,604	17,255	17,787	17,902
<b>OCEAN MAILS BY VESSELS</b>						
<b>UNDER CONTRACT—</b>						
United Kingdom—						
Ordinary letters	251,917	254,874	278,374	273,459	330,801	363,981
Post cards	...	3,590	4,780	1,400	1,400	1,400
Inter-Colonial, B.W.I., &c.—						
Ordinary letters	84,549	71,340	76,087	98,029	102,060	119,282
Post cards	644	546	642	596	1,302	1,258
<b>BY VESSELS NOT CONTRACT—</b>						
United States of America—						
Ordinary letters	124,974	145,950	154,378	128,128	153,987	152,787
Post cards	6,386	13,510	22,166	1,152	2,519	5,064
Other countries—						
Ordinary letters	73,504	78,285	76,300	59,747	60,077	63,586
Post cards	4,925	6,621	8,349	208	190	550
Registered letters, oversea	28,240	28,767	29,004	19,665	20,076	20,704
	2,039,512	2,083,202	2,133,817	2,190,794	2,288,912	2,347,186

#### AT DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
Ordinary letters	1,108,453	1,115,252	1,118,119
Post cards	41,899	42,210	44,364
Registered letters	44,156	50,317	51,228
	1,194,508	1,207,779	1,213,711



These figures show a sustained progress under all the several divisions into which the information is classified, the increase being 114,821 pieces of first class mail matter or 2 per cent. on comparison with the figures of 1902-3.

20. While the increase in circulation is thus shown to be 2 per cent. the increase in the number of letters registered, was only equal to 1·3 per cent., leading to the conclusion that the important safeguard of registration is not being adopted so frequently and systematically, as it should be. This question of registration is one of such importance to the community and to the department, that I must yet again summarize the position thus :—

- (a) The Post Office does not undertake the conveyance of letters containing value unless registered
- (b) by transmitting value letters through post unregistered wrong is done to the departmental revenue.
- (c) unjustifiable temptation is placed in the way of every person through whose hands such letters have to pass.
- (d) and therefore, not only direct personal wrong-doing, but grave moral responsibility lies at the door of every one who, through either carelessness or the desire to save a two-penny fee, neglects to register letters and packets containing money, securities and other articles of value. Nor does the matter altogether rest here. The loss of an unregistered letter or parcel raises a suspicion against everyone who could possibly have had access to it, not excepting the postmaster himself, as in more than one case during my short administration of the office, have I been satisfied through quiet enquiries, made on my behalf by the police, that letters about the alleged loss of which loud and indignant complaints have been made, have never been mailed.

21. It is hardly necessary to labour the other side of the question—the security afforded by registration, but it may be useful to mention that during the year but three cases of miscarriage of registered letters came under notice. In two cases letters were obtained by personation and in the third the letter was snatched while the postmaster's back was momentarily turned. In each case the alleged perpetrator of the wrong was brought to trial and in two cases convictions were obtained. In one case where the postmistress admitted want of care in identifying the applicant for the letter, a refund of the amount lost was made and in a second case the amount was recovered.

22. Excluding the registered letters which are not classified in the foregoing statement under the countries to which sent and from which received, the oversea correspondence for the past two years is stated thus :—

	Pieces. 1902-3.	Pieces. 1903-4.
United Kingdom	590,665 or 48·1	648,535 or 48·8
Intercolonial	175,248 or 14·3	197,269 or 14·8
United States	315,966 or 25·8	334,395 or 25·1
Other Countries	145,173 or 11·8	148,845 or 11·2
	<u>1,227,052</u>	<u>1,329,044</u>

This would seem to bear some slight testimony that the efforts made towards welding the fragments of the empire are bearing fruit, a proportionate improvement being observable in the interchange of correspondence with the United Kingdom and with other colonies. The absolute value of these figures is somewhat discounted by the sending of mails for the United Kingdom *via* the United States, but that there can have been no increase in the volume of mail thus transmitted is concluded, from the temporary dislocation of the steam ship service to the United States.

23. There was apparently no estimate of the circulation of correspondence made in respect of the year 1863-4, but figures from 1873-4 are available, and the following taken at decennial rests will show the growth of the department.

	Over-sea correspondence.	Inland correspondence.
1873-4	285,040	797,922
1883-4	549,807	1,212,351
1893-4	1,378,752	4,315,962

There has been thus a fivefold increase in thirty years in the volume of correspondence handled, the increase being slightly greater in the inland circulation than in the oversea exchanges. No records have been possible in the case of second class mail matter, but the probability is that the increase is in much greater ratio.



24. The number of insured letters received during the year was 28 of the declared value of £1,305 and the number despatched 74, the declaration of value calling for £4,623. The like figures for the year preceding were 30 of declared value of £1,264 received and 82 of value of £5,720 despatched.

#### RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

25. The mail matter dealt with in the Return Letter Branch during the year is thus analysed:—

	Paid.	Unpaid
Letters returned to United Kingdom	2,270	217
" " Other Countries	3,803	2,630
" " Writers in the Island	22,764	3,262
" destroyed being illegible or anonymous	1,960	570
" " writers not having been found	3,087	1,236
Newspapers returned to publishers	9,621	—

Contrasting these figures with the volume of correspondence mentioned in paragraph 21, it will be seen that the proportion of letters entrusted to the Department in respect of which, for one cause or another, there was failure to effect delivery was but .07 per cent., a not unsatisfactory result considering the shifting character of a large proportion of the island population.

26. The amount of irrecoverable postage written off on account of unclaimed mail matter during the year was £111 17s. 7d., and the number of packets which were found to contain value was 2,244, the value being £543 19s. Each such packet was reposted under registered cover to the writer.

#### MAIL CONVEYANCE—OCEAN.

27. The following statement gives the particulars of oversea mails despatched and received during each of the last three years:—

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1901-2.		1902-3.		1903-4.		1901-2.		1902-3.		1903-4.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
<i>Kingston—</i>												
Contract ...	78	807	78	807	81	790	104	1,008	104	1,029	112	1,092
Non-Contract ...	315	768	321	779	257	421	437	840	363	781	258	665
<i>Outports—</i>												
Non-Contract ...	30	31	30	31	94	94	94	357	138	273	109	246
	423	1,606	429	1,617	432	1,305	690	2,205	605	2,081	479	2,003

It will be observed that although there was an increase of three in the number of vessels by which mails were despatched, when contrasting the figures of the past year with those of 1902-3 there was a decrease of 312 in the number of mails made up and the statistics of mails received, show a decrease of 126 in the number of vessels carrying mails and 80 in the number of mails received. The temporary dislocation of the fruit trade had the natural effect of largely reducing the number of opportunities for interchange with the United States and Europe, but the utilization of the ships of the United Fruit Company in addition to those of the Royal Mail and Hamburg American Lines, for the carriage of mails to the Republics of Central America has prevented an equally marked decrease appearing in the number of outward opportunities.

28. The number of oversea mails despatched averaged during the past year 4.3 per working day and those received 6.6. Facts thus presented will not only show how favourably the colony is situated in the matter of extra-insular mail opportunities, but when it is remembered that most of these opportunities are not regular, but fitful, and that the resulting work is mainly centred on the Kingston Staff, they will also, it is hoped, serve to demonstrate that the conditions of the service are such as to render errors of handling and sorting unavoidable.



29. The cost of the Ocean Mail service during the year, as compared with the cost during the year preceding, was as under:—

	1903-4.	1902-3.
Contributions towards Imperial Contract with R.M. Steam Packet Co.	£2,100	£2,161
Sea and Territorial transit rates paid to other Countries	150	150
Ship Letter Gratuities	1,093	1,067
	£3,343	£3,378

The last item only showing a tendency to grow, the expenditure under this head having increased by £26 in a year witnessing a serious extraneous check. The rate of payment for the carriage of mails by non-contract vessels was settled at a penny per letter, so far back as 1877, and it is an anachronism that the period of time which has witnessed a reduction in Ocean postage from a shilling to a penny and a reduction in the cost of the Trans-Atlantic Service from £3,500 to £2,100, should not also have seen a commensurate reduction in this service. The Estimate of the proportion of the oversea correspondence conveyed by contract and by non-contract vessels, considered in connection with the proportion of the subsidy falling on the Post Office Department, shows that the cost to the island of contract service per piece of first class mail matter was only a halfpenny for 5,000 miles of sea transit whereas the rate of gratuity allows a 1d. per letter for what is in practice a 1,500 mile sea transport.

30. A consideration of the foregoing figures will show that the equities of the situation require a reduction by at least half of the rates paid for ship letter gratuities, and overtures were made to the several agents of steamship lines, with a view to effect such a change, without resort to legislation, but without result. In the course of these negotiations information was sought as to the conditions prevailing in neighbouring colonies, and the following represent such conditions:—

Barbados—

For every five letters sent to places included in the Imperial Penny Postage Scheme	...	1d.
For every five letters to other places	...	2½d.
For every five articles other than letters	...	¼d.

There is no local law bearing directly on the subject of the carriage of mails by these steamers.

British Guiana—

For every ten letters sent to New York by the Quebec & Armstrong lines	...	1d.
For every twenty newspapers and books	...	1d.

The local law makes it compulsory on masters of vessels to take mails tendered to them and allows the Postmaster, under regulations, to pay gratuity in respect of them. In practice, and outside of the two lines named, mails are made up for every steamer leaving the port and signifying its willingness to take a mail, and for these no gratuity is paid.

Trinidad—

No gratuity is paid for the carriage of either first or second class mail matter, nor does the local ordinance make it compulsory on non-contract vessels to carry mails.

The postal authorities at Washington have it in contemplation to endeavour to make arrangements to materially reduce the postage to those countries, with which the United States of America have large commercial relations, but it is clear that Jamaica cannot participate, when the arrangements materialize unless we are able in the meantime to make more economical arrangements for sea transit.

31. The several services enumerated by the Postmaster in paragraphs 27 to 37 of the last year's Departmental Report have continued throughout the year, without other interruption than the restriction of opportunity resulting from the hurricane. The steamers of the subsidized lines have not always been punctual to schedule time in their arrival and the default besides entailing additional labour on the staff and irritation to correspondents, has resulted in extra charges on the department for special mail conveyance approximating £278.

MAIL CONVEYANCE—INLAND.

32. The inland mail service has been carried through for the year at a cost of £8,292, against £8,254 in 1902-3. The Northside and Southside trunk services have been efficiently conducted by the contractors and the Public Works Department respectively, but the Windward Service was such as to leave much room for improvement, and at one time it was a question whether steps should not be taken to determine the contract. It is hoped however that the remonstrances addressed to the contractor, accompanied by the imposition of fines, will have the effect of im-



33. By a rearrangement of the time-table of the East-bound mail coach, it is scheduled to connect with the outgoing train at Port Antonio on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and to collect a mail from all offices on the route for conveyance by train, and on the return journey to distribute a Kingston mail conveyed by train on the days which alternate with the departure of the regular tri-weekly mails, thus all the offices on the main east end line are afforded a daily service. A similar rearrangement has given the Northside mail line a daily service and all offices within easy reach of the railway had already been served daily. In addition to the main line offices referred to arrangements were completed during the year, for placing the following on the daily schedule, viz., Hampstead and Clonmel in St. Mary and Hayes and the Alley in Clarendon. Proposals are under consideration for a general daily service, but I am afraid the difficulty of accommodating the railway time table to postal purposes and the cost may operate to delay, if not to defeat, their materialization.

34. In connection with the question of mail conveyance, I would like to point out that the principal mails are timed to arrive at, and depart from, the post office at Kingston as under:—

	Arrive.	Depart.
Northside, tri-weekly	9.10 a.m.	1.45 p.m.
Northside, coach	11.10 "	1.45 "
Southside, tri-weekly	9.10 "	4.00 "
Southside, through train, daily	3.00 p.m.	10.00 a.m.
Windward, direct	9.45 a.m.	1.45 p.m.
Windward, via Port Antonio	11.10 "	2.00 "
Port Antonio, daily	11.10 "	1.45 "

The service being entirely dominated by the railway time table, the effect of the arrangement is, that practically the whole of the Inland mails have to be handled within the limits of three hours, and when it is added that the work is carried on in a dark and unsuitable office, those who are prone to comment ungenerously on the "carelessness of Post Office officials" may be disposed to modify the asperity of their criticism and recognise that the conditions are such as to make for error.

35. Except in the east end route, the necessity for subsidizing mail coaches, quâ mail coaches, has practically passed away, competition having brought livery stable rates down to the level of those fixed for the coaches. On the renewal of mail contracts, there is no longer need to stipulate for provision for passengers. The passenger services maintained during the year and the collections made by the department on behalf of the contractors in respect of them were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Ewarton and Montego Bay	152	3	3
Kingston and Port Antonio	112	10	0

A more reliable service to the East would result in better returns, and closer supervision than is apparently now accorded would, it is felt, amply repay the contractor.

#### MONEY ORDERS.

36. A comparative table giving the results of the interchange of money orders during the last three years between this colony and the several administrations with which there exists an exchange, is forwarded as an appendix to this report. A summary of figures for the past year shows, that Jamaica issued 13,882 orders for £35,006 and the issues against us were 5,270 for £12,063; accordingly this administration had to bear the cost of sending £22,943 out of the country, a circumstance which will supply the reason sought by some enquirers of our relatively high rate of commission, when compared with the rates charged in the United Kingdom and in the United States.

37. Further analysis discloses an increase in 1903-4 over 1902-3, in the volume of business done with the United Kingdom of £628; with the United States of £2,648 and with Canada of £591. All other exchange countries show decreased business aggregating £752, and the net increase in the year's transactions is £3,115.

38. A comparison of the money order figures at ten year intervals produces the following results:—

	Issued by Jamaica		Issued against Jamaica.	
	No.	£	No.	£
1863-4	1,369	8,568	71	294
1873-4	5,606	43,152	222	864
1883-4	7,221	42,183	801	2,758
1893-4	11,706	43,520	1,764	4,791
1903-4	13,882	35,006	5,270	12,063

In 1863-4 there was only an exchange with the United Kingdom, during last year there was a direct exchange with twelve other countries and an indirect "through order" exchange with each country with which our corresponding exchanges were linked.



39. Of the whole volume of business done in 1863-4 this country had to bear the cost of remitting 93 per cent.; in 1873-4 the proportion to be remitted was 96 per cent.; in 1883-4 88 per cent.; in 1903-4 80 per cent. and in the last year 49 per cent. The fall in the percentage is not due to any alteration in our relationship with the great manufacturing countries, but to the fact that our smaller neighbours bear the relationship of debtors to this island and the sum of the debts of growing transactions paid through the Crown Agents tends to lessen the adverse balance against this administration. Another thread of enquiry which shows satisfactory results is the change in the class of business done that has developed in the course of time. In the first year of the five in respect of which figures are given the money orders issued averaged £6 3s. each; in 18873-4 the average was £7 7s.; in 1883-4 £5 8s.; in 1893-4 £3 7s. and in 1903-4 the average of orders issued by Jamaica had dropped to £2 5s. This is as it should be as the whole design of the money order system is to afford to the remitters of small amounts the facilities extended by banking institutions to those who deal in large sums.

40. The money order system is one that is so hedged around with checks and safeguards that the average individual would be ready to asseverate that fraud was impossible, but during the year just passed a youth purchased an International order at a Parochial Treasury on Chicago and by altering its face value obtained in exchange a supply of goods in excess of the amount he had deposited. On the order being returned, protested, persistent effort was made to bring home the offence to the perpetrator, as it was felt that to allow a crime of the sort to go unpunished, would reflect discredit on us as a community. The efforts of the police were, I am glad to say, crowned with success and the offender was convicted and sentenced to a term of twelve months' penal servitude.

#### POSTAL ORDERS.

41. The following statement shows the number of each denomination of postal orders issued for sale during each of the last three years:—

#### POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED.

Denomination.	1901-2.			1902-3.			1903-4.		
	No.	Face Value.	Commission.	No.	Face Value.	Commission.	No.	Face Value.	Commission.
s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
6	18,875	471 17 6	39 6 5½	23,675	591 17 6	49 6 5½	20,680	517 0 0	43 1 8
1 0	37,600	1,880 0 0	78 6 8	40,250	2,012 10 0	83 17 1	44,847	2,242 7 0	93 8 7½
1 6	38,350	2,876 5 0	79 17 11	43,700	3,277 0 0	91 0 10	45,612	3,420 18 0	95 0 6
2 6	41,000	5,125 0 0	85 8 4	45,775	5,721 17 6	95 7 3½	43,322	5,415 5 0	9 5 1
5 0	33,685	8,421 5 0	140 7 1	38,375	9,523 15 0	159 17 11	38,311	9,577 15 0	159 12 7
10 0	22,910	11,455 0 0	19 18 4	26,765	13,382 10 0	223 0 10	26,180	13,090 0 0	218 3 4
	192,420	30,229 7 6	614 4 9½	218,540	34,580 0 0	702 10 5	218,952	34,263 5 0	699 11 9½

The actual sales vary slightly from these figures, the amounts actually paid into the Treasury in each of the periods named being:

	£ s. d.
1901-2	30,356 16 0
1902-3	34,128 4 0
1903-4	33,905 18 6

42. A comparison of these figures shows a small increase in 1903-4 over 1902-3 of 412 in the total number of orders issued with a decrease in face value of £317. Orders of the denominations of 1s., 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. appear to be the most popular and the sixpenny ones the least so, the issues of these being less than half the number of either of the three first named. The rate of commission calculated on the whole over-turn amounts to a little over two per cent.

43. Many of the complaints received of missing letters allege the enclosure of postal orders; it may not therefore be out of place, even at the cost of the repetition of what has been again and again pointed out in Departmental Reports and elsewhere, that postal orders partake of the character of open drafts payable to bearer on presentation and as such should not be transmitted through the post except under registered cover. By filling in orders for payment at a designated Treasury and to known individuals some security is provided against their negotiation by unauthorized persons, but the risk to the remitter remains.



## PARCELS POST.

44. In appendix C is given a tabular statement showing the transactions of the parcel post branch of the department for the year, in comparison with the like information for the two years preceding. The postage accruing to Jamaica from this service during the past year was £589 os. 8d., against 487 16s. 3d. in 1903, or an increase of £101. The declared value of, and as a consequence the duty collected on, the goods imported through this service exhibited a diminution of £2,472 and £461 respectively, but the value of parcels despatched was £773 more than in 1902-3. The number of parcels received fell off by 677, while the number of those despatched increased by 431.

45. The great bulk of the business done through the Parcels Post is carried on with the United Kingdom, as the following calculations of proportion based on declared values will demonstrate:—

		1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.
Parcels received	{ United Kingdom	80 0/0	78 0/0	85 0/0
	{ United States	18	19	12
	{ Other Countries	2	3	3
Parcels despatched	{ United Kingdom	76	76	74
	{ United States	8	8	6
	{ Other Countries	16	16	20

Any transit parcels passing through the United Kingdom are credited to that country, but the number and value of these are inconsiderable and would not materially affect the figures.

46. Our arrangement with the United Kingdom is to pool the postage on parcels and of the gross proceeds to allot one third for sea postage and one third each to the contracting parties. A similar arrangement exists with the Dominion of Canada, but with the United States and other exchanges each country appropriates its collections. As previously stated these arrangements resulted in an income to Jamaica during the past year of £589 os. 8d. Viewing this sum in relation to the cost of handling at the head station and distributing and collecting 26,000 separate parcels it cannot be said that the parcel post is a source of profit to the department. Heretofore the share of postage appropriable for ocean carriage has been paid over to the United Kingdom, to be dealt with, but it has recently been pointed out that the colony is entitled to retain a moiety of the sea postage accruing in respect of parcels transmitted by the Direct Line Steamers and when resulting adjustments shall have been made an appreciable sum as well as increased annual returns, will be credited to the colony.

47. For the purposes of postage all parcels are classified in three divisions, viz., those of 3 lbs., of 7 lbs. and 11 lbs., and statistics arranged under these heads show that of our total exchange 20,447 parcels or 76 per cent. fell under the 3 lb. rate; 3,049 or 11 per cent. under the 7 lb. rate and 3,472 or 13 per cent. under the 11 lb. rate. The parcel post may thus very fairly claim to have fulfilled its design, a ready and convenient means for the interchange of small packages.

48. During the year, arrangements were made under which the examination for customs purposes and assessment of duty are conducted by officers of the department, without the intervention of an officer from the Collector General's Department, and all letters detained on the supposition that they contained articles liable to customs duty are listed, and passed into the parcels post branch and there dealt with as ordinary post parcels with the exception that examination is only carried out in the presence of the addressee, or his agent, or with his express sanction. Although I am advised that the language of the post law gives the Postmaster like control over these packets as that possessed with regard to ordinary post parcels, I hesitate to exercise it. The effect of the change of practice, is on the one hand to limit examination and assessment to Kingston where alone the necessary machinery exists, instead of permitting examination at each port of entry, while on the other payment of duty and delivery can be effected at any mail coach office instead of at ports of entry only.

## TELEGRAPHS.

49. At the end of the year there were 73 telegraph stations connected with the post office system in operation, against 72 at the end of 1902-3, an office having been opened at Hector's River in Portland, in January, 1904. In addition to these the Railway telegraph service was available to the general public and this affords 35 additional centres from which messages may be transmitted, or at which they may be received and distributed. This number of available offices gives an office to each 7,270 of the population and one to each 39 square miles of area.

50. The office at Titchfield Hotel was closed on 12th May, 1903, at the close of the tourist season of 1902-3, and re-opened on the 9th January, 1904, for the season of the succeeding year, and, although not actually brought to an issue within the year, arrangements were concluded for closing the office at Stewart Town and opening one at the neighbouring village of Jackson Town, Stewart Town being served by a telephone connection with Jackson Town.

51. Having regard to the very sparse population served by some of the district telegraph stations, the lack of any tendency on the part of such communities to expand, the small advantage taken of the service, and the relative cost of its maintenance, the question has arisen whether the



legitimate needs of such communities may not be fitly met by a less expensive telephone service linked with and forming feeders to the trunk telegraph lines. It is urged that the interests of the general community would be better served by development of the trunk lines rather than the multiplication of small unremunerative district offices on branch lines.

52. A scrutiny of the tabular statement given at Appendix D. will serve to illustrate and give point to any arguments that may be urged against the retention at their present status of many of the offices now being maintained. Salt River despatching 87 messages and receiving 65; Pratville despatching 177 and receiving 200; Blue Mountain Valley receiving 126 and despatching 124; Whitehouse receiving 179 and despatching 211; Stony Hill receiving 110 and despatching 156; Castleton receiving 145 and despatching 216 and Newcastle receiving 148 and despatching 180 are all cases in point. The statement referred to also shows a total number of messages handled during the year, in comparison with the figures for the year preceding to have been

1903-04	...	97,306
1902-03	...	101,712

or a decrease of 4,406 equal to 4·3 per cent.

53. The department continues to work in harmony with the local Superintendents of the Ocean Cables, and from time to time receives appreciated courtesies and aid in return for services rendered. During the currency of the year £2,035 were collected on behalf of the Direct Line and £274 on behalf of the West India and Panama Service.

#### EXTRA INSULAR.

54. Among what I may term the extra insular improvements carried through within the year, which to a greater or less extent affect this community I may enumerate the following:—

- (a) Arrangements made with the Canadian Postal Authorities under which Canadian newspapers and periodicals are admitted to this island at Canadian domestic rates of postage. The rates and conditions are set out in the local newspapers of 12th February last.
- (b) Arrangements made by the postal authorities of British Guiana with the postal administration of Surinam (Dutch Guiana), under which money orders may be exchanged with that country, all countries enjoying reciprocal agreements with the contracting administrations, being privileged to participate through the intermediary of the principals. For particulars see notice in newspapers of 16th December, 1903.
- (c) Arrangements made by British Guiana with Surinam (Dutch Guiana) for the interchange of ordinary and insured parcels post parcels, all administrations doing business with either of the contracting parties being privileged to participate through their intermediary. The conditions are set out in Gazette of 31st March last.
- (d) Reduction by the United States Post Office in the scale of commissions charged on International Money Orders, drawn on certain specified countries among which is Jamaica. The scale is now 8 cents for sums under \$10; 10 cents up to \$20, advancing thereafter at 5 cents for every \$5 up to the maximum of \$100, for which the commission is 50 cents.

#### GENERAL.

55. No report on the transactions of 1903-4 would be complete without some reference to the hurricane of the 11th August last, which for a time paralysed the machinery of the department, especially that appertaining to the telegraph branch. On the morning of the 12th Half-way Tree was the only district office in communication with Kingston; on the 13th Up-Park Camp was added and Port Royal and Stony Hill on the 15th. By the 21st of the month or within ten days communication had been restored with all but six offices, and by the opening days of September work was in full operation at all offices except Myrtle Bank, where the line was not replaced owing to local circumstances, until some time afterwards.

The record is one of which reflects much credit on the several Superintendents of Public Works and on the Superintendent of Telegraphs and his assistants, and it affords practical testimony of energy and devotion to duty.

56. The offices at Bowden, Manchioneal and Rio Bueno were completely wrecked and the business at Bowden and at Rio Bueno is still carried on in temporary premises. Advantage is being taken of the demolition of the Bowden office, to arrange for its re-erection on the post road and for the business of the Port Morant office being merged in that falling to Bowden. A special note of commendation must be made of the devotion to duty on the part of the clerks in charge of Bowden and Manchioneal respectively, who in circumstances of grave personal danger made every effort for the preservation of the books and properties under their care.

57. Nor was the general interruption of business without contribution from the postal service, but as in this service the disorganization consisted rather in delays than in actual suspension, it is difficult to summarize the effects of the storm within brief limits.



58. Mr. G. H. Pearce, the late Postmaster, retired from the public service in October last, after a service extending to 38 years, during which period he bore a large part in the building up of the department, and some idea of the scope and value of the labour performed will be gathered from a consideration of those portions of this report, in which I have sought to trace the growth of business by making comparisons at decennial periods. On taking up the reins of departmental administration my mission must necessarily be in the direction rather of development than expansion, and in this there is much to be done, beginning with the housing problem and considering such questions as more rapid mail conveyance by motor machines, telephone services, daily posts, automatic cancellers, &c. Some no doubt altogether unattainable while others are barred by considerations of cost.

59. Arrangements were made during the year for putting the head office staff establishment—auxiliary and subordinate—on a proper footing of organization without incurring additional cost, and proposals have been submitted for grading the district staff into definite classes. Some embarrassment to the administration and hardship to individuals resulting from the present arrangement of fixing different rates of emolument for different offices according to importance, but these have been reserved for further consideration.

60. In closing this report I have to express my acknowledgments to the whole staff for the spirit of loyalty in which I, an official stranger to the work and the workers, though in many cases not a personal one, have been received and for the ready and cheerful assistance in all circumstances afforded me.

I have, etc.,

A. H. MILES, Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, Kingston.



## A.—Return showing the Gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post and

Postage on unpaid correspondence	...	£606 10 1½	
Stamps sold by Post Office Department	...	22,863 18 4½	
Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	...	2,939 1 3	
Rent of private letter boxes	...	69 12 0	
Fees for conveyance of private letter bags	...	16 16 0	
Commissions on Money Orders	...	636 15 8	
Fees for detention of country letters per packet for delivery in Kingston	...	3 3 0	
Commission on mail coach collections	...	7 9 1	
Commission on Postal Orders sold	...	69 10 0	
Miscellaneous	...	3 4 11 11½	£28,129 7 5½
Telegraph stamps sold	...	4,632 16 3	
Additional charge on books of Telegraph Forms	...	3 0 6	
Fees for keeping Telegraph Offices open out of office hours	...	27 12 6	
Official telegrams	...	531 3 3	5,194 12 6

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 £33,323 19 11½



Telegraph Department during the financial year ending 31st March, 1904.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<b>PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS—</b>						
Salaries of staff	5,052	0	9			
Allowance for services out of office hours	878	18	10			
Wages of sorters, letter carriers, etc.	948	15	9			
Telegraph messengers head office	155	15	7			
Do. district offices	747	1	1			
Office servants	68	5	0			
Messengers to and from Railway and clearing pillar letter boxes	102	19	4			
Packet newspaper sorters	149	1	3			
Messengers parcels post office	61	7	9			
Clerical assistance	109	11	6			
Letter carriers Spanish Town	62	8	0			
Salaries of district Postmasters and Telegraph Clerks	6,736	1	11			
Do. auxiliary Telegraph Clerks	243	12	5			
Commission of 1 o/o on sale of stamps	230	5	3			
Remuneration of officers of Public Works Department in connection with mail services	199	0	0	15,745	4	5

**OTHER CHARGES—**

Travelling charges	524	11	2½
Mail bags and wrappers	92	5	9
Dated stamps, seals, etc.	23	18	6
Twine and wax	169	7	7
Conveyance of letter carriers by tram car	108	6	8
Manufacture of stamps and post cards	2,740	15	5
Stores and manufacture of telegraph stamps	146	17	1
Manufacture of postal orders	382	3	8
Rent of post offices	1,617	18	7
Ship letter gratuities	1,092	16	8
Uniforms	204	16	2
Winding clocks	7	10	0
Rent of telephone	12	5	0
Advertising	62	19	11
Lighting	45	13	4
Water supply	73	4	11½
Repairing instruments	54	9	0
Cleaning latrines	45	6	0
Padlocks	2	6	11
Contingencies	668	16	0
Furniture	38	0	3
Taxes	52	17	4
Porterage	256	9	8

**MAIL CONVEYANCE—**

Tri-weekly mails on main lines	1,167	0	0
Daily " "	1,727	7	7
Tri-weekly branch service	864	9	6
Daily " "	918	8	7
Unforeseen expenses	9	5	8
Services by Railway	2,700	0	0
Special mail trains for packet expresses	278	1	6
Conveyance of mails between district post offices and Railway stations	248	13	10
Conveyance of mails between general post office wharves and Railway	180	0	0
Transit rates payable to Postal Union Countries other than United Kingdom	149	12	0
Contribution towards the loss on the West India Royal Mail contract service	2,100	0	0

£24,511 18 9



## B—MONEY ORDERS.

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.
1901-02	8,956	22,337 13 9	1,562	3,890 3 1	434 7 4	1901-02	21	11 17 11	361	1,511 14 4	6 13 0
1902-03	10,432	24,400 11 3	1,564	3,567 13 6	485 13 1	1902-03	59	47 14 4	355	1,358 19 4	6 14 2
1903-04	9,787	24,483 11 5	1,844	4,112 8 7	461 8 11	1903-04	17	26 18 0	361	1,261 13 4	7 8 8
United States of America.						Panama.					
1901-02	2,992	6,338 14 5	731	1,982 10 2	137 10 5	1901-02	5	11 18 0	119	282 5 1	1 12 11
1902-03	3,272	6,804 9 9	903	2,336 16 2	154 14 5	1902-03	6	26 16 0	07	245 11 3	1 12 11
1903-04	3,218	8,197 12 0	1,353	3,611 2 9	184 7 11	1903-04	12	30 0 0	206	282 10 10	2 4 7
Dominion of Canada.						British Honduras.					
1901-02	230	891 17 4	134	380 10 4	15 15 2	1901-02	5	10 1 11	70	185 16 0	1 0 6
1902-03	218	822 14 1	124	345 3 6	14 0 5	1902-03	4	23 14 0	63	144 11 0	0 16 11
1903-04	302	1,318 12 7	165	440 0 4	20 8 8	1903-04	9	22 3 4	89	142 5 9	0 19 10
British Guiana.						Trinidad.					
1901-02	111	189 11 8	114	198 13 0	3 15 4	1901-02	30	72 6 4	111	297 12 7	2 8 1
1902-03	113	181 14 6	141	206 19 7	3 11 1	1902-03	47	106 9 3	180	359 19 1	2 19 1
1903-04	92	178 7 9	101	146 4 0	3 5 8	1903-04	82	215 5 11	229	403 5 5	4 10 8
Barbados.						Bermuda.					
1901-02	275	325 19 9	257	566 12 2	9 7 5	1901-02	11	36 15 9	232	449 2 4	2 9 7
1902-03	269	317 10 6	212	544 5 10	9 2 8	1902-03	8	18 2 2	574	1,152 9 7	3 8 1
1903-04	223	292 10 0	219	348 6 2	7 13 1	1903-04	29	75 14 10	365	712 3 2	4 5 11
Windward and Leeward Islands.						Grand Cayman.					
1901-02	104	173 1 10	310	581 5 7	5 3 4	—	2	1 0 0	1	5 0 0	0 1 11
1902-03	149	233 3 9	345	688 16 11	7 11 4						
1903-04	109	163 18 5	327	597 8 8	5 17 5						



## C—PARCELS RECEIVED.

From	Consignments.			Parcels.			Import Duty.		
	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ..	54	53	53	11,333	15,388	17,461	2,217 19 5	2,863 16 9	2,674 10 6
British West Indies	115	135	147	339	364	421	22 9 6	25 7 5	30 6 3
United States of America ...	371	449	212	2,176	4,976	2,216	450 14 0	569 6 9	267 3 11
Dominion of Canada	12	12	12	214	364	371	19 12 1	16 4 7	55 16 9
Turks Island ...	9	12	12	22	56	22	0 7 11	0 12 6	2 1 3
Belize ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bermuda ...	12	12	13	54	47	27	5 5 10	16 17 7	1 1 9
	573	673	449	14,138	21,193	20,518	2,716 8 9	3,492 5 7	3,031 0 5

  

	Postage Accrued to Jamaica.			Declared value of Parcels.		
	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	310 6 0	312 19 8	426 16 8	14,190 15 4	19,158 6 3	18,761 1 4
British West Indies ...	...	...	...	282 5 7½	212 17 6	198 2 5
United States of America ...	...	...	...	3,139 6 1	4,759 6 9	2,714 6 9
Dominion of Canada	4 11 8	10 10 10	6 3 4	138 17 7	276 11 9	349 11 2
Turks Island ...	...	...	...	5 5 1	19 7 6	19 14 6
Bermuda ...	...	...	...	37 4 3	96 14 7	8 2 1
	314 17 8	323 10 6	443 0 0	17,793 13 11½	24,523 4 4	22,050 18 3

## PARCELS DESPATCHED.

	Consignments.			Parcels.			Accrued to Jamaica.		
	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	52	52	52	3,431	3,385	3,502	70 6 0	74 15 0	67 19 4
British West Indies	159	186	174	357	470	655	8 1 0	12 10 0	14 13 0
United States of America ...	46	49	48	1,070	1,187	1,151	48 0 6	68 19 6	52 9 6
Dominion of Canada	14	17	11	134	172	290	2 5 10	3 15 7½	4 17 6
Turks Islands	12	11	13	200	143	144	0 9 4	3 2 0	3 19 0
Bermuda ...	9	11	12	24	47	94	0 9 4	1 3 8	2 2 4
	292	326	310	5,216	5,404	5,835	120 12 0	164 5 9½	146 0 8

  

	Declared value of Parcels.		
	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	3,353 10 10½	2,875 17 11½	3,390 13 4½
British West Indies	433 2 6	356 6 7	521 7 6
United States of America	347 12 5	317 18 6½	272 7 0½
Dominion of Canada	50 8 1½	91 13 8	110 10 3
Turks Islands	213 17 10½	126 2 0	172 18 0
Bermuda	19 4 3	37 17 9	110 6 11½
	4,417 16 0½	3,805 16 5½	4,578 3 1½



D.—Return showing the number of Telegraphic Messages sent from, and received at, each telegraph station from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904, as compared with return from 1st April 1902 to 31st March, 1903.

Station.	1st April, 1902, to 31st March, 1903.		1903-1904.		Remarks.
	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	
Kingston	23,120	25,543	24,382	25,857	Transmitting station.
Myrtle Bank	1,376	715	1,037	509	
Spanish Town	2,000	2,148	2,127	2,280	
Bog Walk	770	791	581	585	
Linstead	607	647	653	812	Do. do
Ewarton	567	465	455	423	
Moncague	803	989	666	938	
Claremont	468	451	394	407	
St. Ann's Bay	5,053	4,870	4,112	3,827	Do. do.
Runaway Bay	895	836	724	631	
Dry Harbour	747	803	528	545	Do. do.
Brown's Town	1,762	1,840	1,604	1,656	Do. do.
Cave Valley	289	343	318	305	
Stewart Town	177	215	172	177	
Ulster Spring	247	354	240	301	
Rio Bueno	832	755	483	412	
Duncans	792	713	644	586	
Falmouth	2,267	2,444	2,508	2,541	
Montego Bay	6,405	6,017	5,906	5,904	Do. do.
Ramble	509	509	561	621	
Lucas	2,241	2,269	2,521	2,534	
Green Island	338	338	471	483	
Grange Hill	521	582	391	415	
Sav-la-Mar	2,982	2,613	3,543	3,669	Do. do.
White House	177	168	179	211	
Black River	2,035	1,920	1,861	1,913	
Middle Quarters	431	405	465	507	
Santa Cruz	408	422	347	367	
Malvern	719	729	635	669	
Mandeville	2,714	2,972	2,490	2,708	Do. do.
Newport	507	411	329	414	
Shooter's Hill	541	624	500	681	Do. do.
Mile Gully	258	266	296	328	
Balaclava	650	574	725	606	
Christiana	390	477	447	505	
Porus	830	715	606	588	
May Pen	900	1,016	975	1,020	
Chapelton	1,385	1,189	1,120	1,275	
Alley	717	718	572	539	
Salt River	169	173	57	65	
Milk River	362	439	339	367	
Pratville	212	236	177	200	
Old Harbour	652	719	718	811	
Yallahs	225	203	211	229	
Morant Bay	2,245	1,933	2,334	2,062	Do. do.
B. M. Valley	128	222	126	134	
Trinity Ville	233	325	185	246	
Port Morant	318	300	433	370	
Bowden	587	254	475	200	
Bath	500	512	468	481	Do. do.
P. G. River	345	330	345	356	
Manchioneal	512	494	522	475	
Hector's River	...	...	24	24	Opened 6th Jan., '04.
P. M. River	320	341	251	273	
Port Antonio	9,828	8,112	7,709	6,535	Transmitting station. Reopened 9th Jan. '03.
Titchfield	609	404	683	418	
Hope Bay	245	212	246	266	
Buff Bay	679	652	549	551	
Annotto Bay	2,618	2,214	1,950	1,848	Do. do.
Highgate	391	604	356	522	
Port Maria	3,997	4,264	3,710	3,686	Do. do.
Oracabessa	808	900	571	680	
Retreat	439	394	363	362	
Gayle	273	329	306	380	
Ocho Rios	1,040	962	946	868	
Port Royal	909	926	1,108	935	
Up-park Camp	520	706	620	746	
Half-way Tree	495	828	604	969	
Constant Spring	924	746	815	691	
Gordon Town	129	217	187	271	
New Castle	158	170	148	180	
Castleton	171	187	145	216	
Stony Hill	119	182	110	156	
Railway	2,303	2,423	2,763	2,432	
St. Mgts. Bay	104	123	...	...	Closed 6th Jan. '03, transferred to railway. Opened 5th to 14th Feb., 1903.
Hayes	42	22	...	...	
Total	101,712	101,712	97,306	97,306	



Colonial Secretary's Office, 27th June, 1904.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Annual Report of the transactions of the Island Record Office for the year ended 31st March, last.

By command,

H. CLARENCE BOURNE, Colonial Secretary.

*To His Excellency the Acting Governor.*

May it please Your Excellency :

I have the honour to present a report of the transactions of the Island Record Office for the year ended 31st March, 1904.

2. In the year under report 2,037 documents were passed in for record, showing an increase of 211 over the preceding year.

The following table shows the increase and decrease under each description of document for the last three years. The marked increase under "patents" arose from grants of land to the West India Improvement Company and to East Indian Immigrants who decided to settle in the island. "Conveyances" show an increase of 161 and "mortgages" of 65.

3. Under the Hurricane Loans Law, 47 of 1903, receipts given for loans are required to be lodged and kept in the Island Record Office, such documents being indexed as mortgages affecting the land mentioned therein. Up to 31st March last 1,460 receipts had thus been received for record and indexed.

Documents recorded during the years 1901-02 to 1903-04.

Year.	Conveyances, Leases, &c.	Mortgages, Bills of Sale, &c.	Patents.	Wills.	R. M. Court Wills	Powers.	Bonds.	Accounts Current.	Crop Accounts.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
1901-1902	696	588	9	72	114	114	131	17	16	173	1,930
1902-1903	627	483	8	62	92	136	128	28	18	244	1,826
1903-1904	791	548	165	46	100	152	78	17	13	127	2,037
1903-1904—Receipts under the Hurricane Loans Law, 47 of 1903, received and indexed as Mortgages, in accordance with Section 8											1,460

4. While the Record Office is really one of attendance for transacting business, involving the examination there of each document tendered for record as to its character and sufficiency of stamping, taxing it for record fees, &c., the department facilitates in every way the transaction of such business by post. In recent times there has been increased resort to the services of the office, only a very few solicitors now giving a personal attendance, or employing agents for the purpose. The registered correspondence of the office has been as follows :—

1901	...	1,333
1902	...	1,460
1903	...	1,558

As in many cases a correspondence is conducted under one registration number, the foregoing figures fail to represent the actual extent of correspondence by at least 25 per cent.

The money transactions in the year numbered 2,124.

5. The revenue of the department for the year was £1,402 13s. 2d., the total for the previous year having been £1,248 14s. 3d. The receipts for the past two years were brought to account under the following heads :—



## Statement of revenue for the years 1902-03 and 1903-04.

		1902-3.	1903-4.
Fees for Registration, &c.	...	£908 15 6	£1,064 19 8
" " Office Copies	...	32 14 6	22 4 6
" " Recording with Expedition	...	31 0 0	22 10 0
" " Entering Satisfactions	...	37 16 0	31 6 0
" " Searches	...	42 16 0	49 11 0
		<u>£1,053 2 0</u>	<u>1,190 11 2</u>
Stamps on Receipts	...	178 16 0	201 10 0
" " Office Copies	...	16 13 0	10 12 0
		<u>£195 9 0</u>	<u>212 2 0</u>

6. The cost of up-keep of the department for the year was as follows :—

## Statement of Expenditure for 1903-4.

Staff salaries	...	£478 10 0
Copyists' earnings	...	203 7 1
Servants' wages, contingencies, &c.		64 18 2
		<u>£746 15 3</u>

7. During the year a large room on the ground-floor of the Record Office has been reconstructed and rendered fire-proof by the Public Works Department. In this apartment the most valuable of the island records are now stored, and their safety no longer depends altogether upon the efficiency or otherwise of the Spanish Town fire appliances.

S. P. SMEETON, Deputy Keeper of the Records.

Spanish Town, 11th June, 1904.

I have the honour to certify to your Excellency that this report is made by the Deputy Keeper of the Records under my direction pursuant to the Statute.

H. R. PIPON SCHOOLLES,

Acting Chief Justice and Keeper of the Records.

June, 1904.