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Colonial Secretary's Office,

27th June, 1916.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Annual Report on the Post Office and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st March, 1916.

By command,

ROBT. JOHNSTONE,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office, Jamaica, 14th June, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the forty-eighth report on the Postal and Telegraph Department for the period 1st April, 1915, to 31st March, 1916.

REVENUE COMPARED WITH ESTIMATES.

Postal	..	..	£39,985	8	0
Telegraphs	..	..	8,068	2	0½
			48,053	10	0½
Revised Estimates are—					
Postal	..	..	39,000	0	0
Telegraphs	..	..	7,000	0	0
			£46,000	0	0

2. These figures shew an increase over the forecast of £985, in the case of Postal and £1,068 in Telegraph Revenue, the original Estimate was for £50,000, the revised Estimate was based on actual receipts for the first six months of the year and has, I am glad to record, been exceeded by £2,053. Taking into consideration the shock to business following the outbreak of the European War which has caused a loss of postal revenue the world over there is reason to be proud that these receipts are only £3,168 behind the receipts for the year 1912-13, immediately preceding the outbreak of War.

3. The collections for 1915-16, as well as those for the two years immediately preceding are set out hereunder for comparison.

	1913-14.			1914-15.			1915-16.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postage	42,213	8	0½	38,790	1	8	37,697	16	11
Commission on Money Orders	315	0	6	684	15	11	396	7	5
Local com. on British Postal Orders	787	2	0	943	3	1	911	5	2½
Miscellaneous	750	16	9½	1,068	17	9½	979	18	5½
Telegraph	7,811	9	8½	8,255	4	11½	8,068	2	0½
	51,877	17	1	49,742	3	4½	48,053	10	0½

4. There is a decrease in each item of the above on comparison with the previous year or a total decrease in the collections for 1915-16 of £1,689.

5. In the Annual Report for 1914-15 I had occasion to explain the abnormal increase in "Commission on Money Orders"; this year the item has reverted to its normal condition, due to the measures adopted by the Department to prevent large commercial remittances being made by Money Order, a facility that was never intended.

6. The amount accruing from Passengers' Fares, Ewarton to St. Ann's Bay and Falmouth to Montego Bay and included in the item Miscellaneous is £405 3s. 7d.

7. The receipt on account of telegrams is only £187 behind the similar collection last year.

RETROSPECT.

8. The return hereunder of receipts going back for a period of twenty years is interesting, illustrating as it does the stride the Department has made.

	1895-96.	1905-06.	1915-16.
	£	£	£
Postage	22,489	29,560	37,698
Commission on Money Orders and British Postal Orders	388	538	1,307
Commission on Local Postal Orders	527	689	..
Telegraphs	6,156	5,983	8,068
Miscellaneous	173	806	980
Total	29,726	37,576	48,053

EXPENDITURE COMPARED WITH ESTIMATES.

9. The expenditure is as follows:—

	Expenditure.	Estimates.
Personal Emoluments	£24,600 3 5	£25,073 4 0
Mail Conveyance	16,786 2 0½	17,131 6 4
Services	6,038 2 5½	6,101 5 0
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	215 9 2	250 0 0
	47,639 17 0½	48,555 15 4
Telegraph Line Construction, Public Works Department	275 6 9	325 0 0
Telegraph Line Maintenance, Public Works Department	2,076 5 10	2,498 0 0
	49,991 5 7½	51,378 15 4

10. Savings surrendered as shewn above are £1,387 and are attributable to care and economy exercised with no loss of efficiency.

COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE.

	1913-14.			1914-15.			1915-16.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments	22,752	8	10	24,945	14	2½	24,600	3	5
Mail Conveyances	16,698	8	4½	18,357	19	8½	16,786	2	0½
Other Charges	7,352	9	6½	6,075	19	5½	6,038	2	5½
Telegraph Maintenance by Department ..	281	11	6	466	15	10½	215	9	2
	47,084	18	2½	49,846	9	3	47,639	17	0½
Maintenance of Telegraph Line by Public Works Department ..	2,048	4	8	2,286	8	8	2,076	5	10
Construction of Telegraph Line by Public Works Department ..	1,577	0	5	518	4	0	275	6	9
	50,710	3	3½	52,651	1	11	49,991	9	7½

11. The Department has been administered at a cost of £2,659 less than the year 1914-15.

RETROSPECT OF EXPENDITURE.

12. The following table exhibits the Expenditure of the Department in each tenth year from 1895-96.

	1895-96.	1905-06.	1915-16.
Personal Emoluments	13,879	15,252	24,600
Services	5,670	5,202	6,038
Maintenance of Telegraph Lines	2,170	799	2,567
Mail Conveyances	13,982	10,862	16,786
Total	35,701	32,115	49,991

13. The expenditure is again in excess of the Revenue Receipts by £1,938. I submit however that the receipts are not completely represented by the figures submitted, there is credit to be taken for the volume of official matter carried free which has been considerably added to since the outbreak of War.

14. The value of telegrams also transmitted free of cost is £412 5s. 10d.

POSTAL MISCELLANEOUS.

15. The following are details of the miscellaneous receipts amounting to £979 18s. 5½d.

	£	s.	d.
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	164	10	0
do do Bags	34	4	10
Fines	8	4	3
Delivery Fees on C.O.D. Parcels	69	13	9
Detention Fees	0	1	0
Surplus Cash	2	10	4½
Accrued postage on parcels exchanged with the United Kingdom ..	255	5	2
Miscellaneous	20	1	11½
Value found in Unclaimed Dead Letters ..	17	4	2½
Passengers Fares collected	405	3	7
Discount on Stamps purchased	0	19	3½
	979	18	5½

16. The undernoted were sold at District Post Offices and the Head Office and duly accounted for to the Superintending Medical Officer and the Stamp Commissioner:—

Quinine	£361	0	6
Impressed Stamps, etc.	596	3	8½
Judicial Stamps	2,545	11	9

17. The sale of quinine put up in suitable doses for children of varying ages up to 14 and for adults at a farthing per dose has I venture to say been appreciated by the Public as evidenced by the average sale of £30 per month. During the year it became necessary to limit the quantity sold to a single individual in a day since owing to a shortage of the commodity there was reason to believe that it would be purchased in large quantities to be retailed as a profit.

DISTRICT POST OFFICE.

18. During the year a Post Office was established at Colonel's Ridge in Clarendon on 28th April, 1915, and one at Myers' Wharf in Kingston on 23rd December, 1915.

19. The total number of District Post Offices at the close of the year was 201.

20. The Post Offices at Bluefields in Westmoreland and Laughlands in St. Ann, were temporarily closed on the 8th April, 1915 and 26th November, 1915, and re-opened on 1st May, 1915, and 1st January, 1916, respectively.

21. The Post Office conducted in the body of the Myrtle Bank Hotel which had been closed at the request of the Management on 30th June, 1915, was re-opened on 4th January, 1916, and continued until 29th April, 1916, when business was again suspended.

22. In consequence of the inability of parties interested to provide suitable accommodation the Post Office at Flint River in Hanover was closed on 31st October, 1915—the District did not suffer however for an office was established at a better site for the majority at Hopewell in the same parish.

23. All District Post and Telegraph Offices were inspected by the Travelling Supervisor during the year with satisfactory result.

CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

24. The usual estimate of mail matter which has passed through the Department in Kingston and at the several District Post Offices is exhibited in the return hereunder.

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
Inland Mails—						
Ordinary Letters—						
Public ..	2,608,564	2,347,705	2,494,409	3,252,920	2,927,628	3,104,284
Official ..	326,460	293,814	311,442	458,632	412,769	392,134
Post Cards ..	345,860	311,274	295,212	353,928	318,536	286,686
By vessels, not contract—						
U. K. and United States of America—						
Ordinary Letters ..	836,951	661,060	653,230	1,383,069	1,102,514	1,225,861
Post Cards ..	200,750	83,526	69,153	45,625	44,936	43,685
Other Countries—						
Ordinary Letters ..	564,685	398,850	323,214	671,308	351,835	320,078
Post Cards ..	12,541	8,890	5,048	5,167	4,108	4,260
Registered Letters, oversea	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total ..	4,895,811	4,105,119	4,151,708	6,170,649	5,162,326	5,376,988

Registered letters for delivery in Kingston—

	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
Local ..	80,426	77,976	70,460
Foreign ..	30,511	25,262	22,715
Official ..	34,449	33,758	33,423
Registered letters for delivery in the country—			
Local ..	19,310	17,565	19,696
Foreign ..	64,740	48,998	44,731
Registered letters for despatch—			
Oversea ..	29,531	24,283	22,334

At District Post Offices—

	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
Ordinary letters ..	2,909,956	1,803,946	1,447,589
Post Cards ..	79,100	79,541	137,306
Registered letters ..	155,467	124,423	112,517
	3,144,523	2,007,910	1,697,412

25. There has been, I am glad to observe, an increase over the previous year in the number of letters, etc., handled at Kingston and District Post Offices as the foregoing return discloses. This is a very hopeful sign and serves to demonstrate the resourcefulness of the Post Office even in time of great stress.

MISSING LETTERS, ETC.

26. The number of missing letters reported is again a matter for satisfaction as they bear but a very small proportion to the volume transmitted. I again urge that all letters containing value should be registered; Postal Orders should have the name of the Payee filled in as well as the office at which payment is desired and the sender should retain the counterfoil.

27. I regret to record that a member of the Subordinate Staff of the General Post Office, Kingston, was charged with the larceny of a post letter, pleaded guilty, and is now receiving the punishment, he merited. His depredations, I am glad to say, were apparently confined to two ordinary letters only as I have not received any complaint of missing letters which might be laid to him.

28. I also desire to record one of the many instances in which the Department has been able to remove the reflection cast on it by dishonest members of the Public. During the year a representation was made that a letter had been posted at a country station with a Postal Order enclosure under the eye of a witness addressed to a firm in Kingston, the letter was reported received but not the Postal Order; the number of the Order was fortunately preserved, and it was traced as having been negotiated by another Kingston firm. The matter was placed in the hands of the Police and in a very short time the Messenger who was alleged to have posted the letter under the "eye of a witness" was arrested and convicted of the larceny of the Order, he had actually removed it from the envelope while the flap was still wet before depositing it in the letter box. I received a very appreciative letter from the addressee, an extract of which I quote hereunder:—

"The public is undoubtedly too ready to jump to the conclusion, whenever a letter is missing, that the cause is a dishonest employee of the Post Office Department.

"We have passing through the Post Office in connection with our business, not fewer than 40,000 letters a year, and we have always been impressed by the immunity from loss which our letters enjoy. Such immunity would not be possible were the employees of the Post Office not of a very high standard of probity. It is inevitable that a black sheep will creep in now and again, and the constant surprise to us is how trustworthy the postal employees prove themselves.

"We have to confess that when miscarriages have occurred they have been traced to some employee of our own or of the senders."

29. A somewhat unique case occurred in the history of the Department and is I submit worthy of record. A native of a neighbouring colony engaged in business here applied to the Department for letters addressed to a firm which was unknown, and when questioned as to his right to ownership produced a power of Attorney purporting to be signed by a member of the firm authorising him to receive their mail, etc., the document turned out to be a forged one and the parties who issued it were prosecuted and convicted. It redounds to the credit of the Department to have suspected the transaction and to the energy of the Police to have brought it to a successful issue as the light of subsequent events shewed that the individuals were engaged in the conduct of wholesale fraud through the post.

INSURED LETTERS.

30. The comparative return of insured letters given below shews an increase of six in the case of those received and of twelve in the despatched. The Post Office Insurance System does not cover war risks.

Year.	No.	Received.			No.	Despatched.		
		Declared Value.				Declared Value.		
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1913-14 ..	38	1,583	8	2	19	554	9	6
1914-15 ..	17	1,120	19	6	25	272	14	0
1915-16 ..	23	257	1	0	37	1,030	9	7

RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

31. The following pieces of mail matter passed through the Return Letter Branch:—

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to United Kingdom	2,592	476
" " Other Countries	13,856	3,205
" " Writers in the Island	47,330	19,564
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous, writers not having been found	15,267	18,034
Newspapers returned to publishers	374	—

32. While the number of pieces of mail matter which find their way to the Dead Letter Office is small in comparison to the volume handled, there could still be a reduction if the senders of letters would exercise more care in the plain and correct direction of letters, etc., before posting. Frequently letters from business houses and others, correctly addressed on the letter paper but to the contrary on the en-

velope, are observed, as well as letters bearing no address at all; these invariably contain remittances, and in many instances are insufficiently signed to admit of immediate restoration to the senders. The Post Office in such cases is credited with the miscarriage.

33. There is a prevailing opinion that letters addressed to Clerks of Courts are free of charge for postage through the post. I desire to point out that this is not the case, and every letter for Clerks of Courts posted unpaid is at once sent to the Dead Letter Office and returned to the sender.

34. As a result of the United States Post Office vigorously enforcing its "Fraud-order Statutes" a number of letters containing remittances from Jamaica to fraudulent firms in the United States have been restored to the senders thereof through the Dead Letter Office. It is astonishing how easily the public accept an invitation by advertisement of an inducement to remit money to a firm which is obviously a fraud.

35. It does not appear that similar measures are adopted in the United Kingdom for suppressing these fraudulent mail order systems as I observe a number of letters are posted to such firms in England which are presumably delivered since they are never returned through the Dead Letter Office.

36. The number of registered and unregistered letters containing value which passed through the Dead Letter Office is 3,770, and the value found in them £871 1s. 1d.

37. The value of postage written off as irrecoverable is £66 9s. 11d.

MAIL CONVEYANCE—OCEAN.

38. A comparative return of the mails exchanged with the outside world is set out below.

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1913-14.		1914-15.		1915-16.		1913-14.		1914-15.		1915-16.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
<i>Kingston—</i>												
Non-contract	643	2,575	397	1,978	369	1,563	699	3,656	440	2,082	423	2,031
<i>Outport—</i>												
Non-contract	57	100	70	189	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	700	2,675	476	2,167	369	1,563	699	3,656	440	2,082	423	2,031

39. The number of mails in transit Jamaica was 185.

40. I have again to remark on the reduction in the number of vessels conveying mails to and from Jamaica, it is now confined exclusively to the steamers of the United Fruit Company and Elders and Fyffes, the former maintained a regular service twice and frequently three times per week to the United States, and twice per week from the States, and once per fortnight these boats call at Cuba both ways. The latter provided the only direct means of an exchange of mails and parcels post parcels with the United Kingdom and although not regular throughout the year the service could be regarded as fortnightly.

41. Mails for the West India Islands have been forwarded and received via Colon and New York.

42. As a result of the War the following steamers which had mails from England for Jamaica were lost and the mails not saved:—

S.S. "Candidate" 7th May, 1915.

S.S. "Arabic" 18th August, 1915.

S.S. "Hesperian" 3rd September, 1915.

The S.S. "Candidate" had a parcel post mail consisting fortunately of only 73 parcels. The "Arabic" and "Hesperian" had letter and newspaper mails.

43. The amount paid for the conveyance of mails abroad during the year is £2,543 13s. 10½d. and is £1,203 less than last year.

MAIL CONVEYANCE—INLAND.

44. The cost of the Inland Mail Conveyance for the year is £12,905 19s. 3d., and is less than the previous year by £1,706, due to economy exercised and referred to at paragraph 41 of the report for 1914-15.

45. The several services were maintained during the year with credit to the Public Works Department and the private Contractors. A break occurred on the north-eastern section of the Island due to the hurricane of 12th-13th August, 1915, which destroyed the railway track between Buff Bay and Port Antonio and rendered the road between Hector's River and Port Antonio impassable to motor conveyances. The Public Works Department very promptly provided a mule cart service between Buff Bay and Port Antonio and the Department resorted to the old mule pack service to maintain postal communication between Hector's River and Port Antonio.

MONEY ORDERS.

46. The usual comparative return of Money Orders issued and paid is attached to this report and discloses on reference to it an increase in our exchange with the United Kingdom. In the case of the United States the increase is confined to the issues only in Jamaica, the payments have been less by £5,457 and is due to the fact that Jamaica labourers are gradually becoming less in the Canal Zone owing to the completion of the Canal.

47. Under the existing Money Order Convention with the United States the rate of exchange is a fixed one of \$4.87 to the pound sterling, the normal business rate of exchange in peace time being \$4.80. The European War had the effect of fluctuating this rate considerably and it has had to be carefully watched during the year and the protective measure referred to at paragraph 44 of my Report for 1914-15 of increasing the commission adopted to suit conditions as they arose, the rate has been steady for three months at \$4.75 and the existing rate of commission is

Up to £1	..	Commission	9d.
" £2	..	"	1/1d.
" £3	..	"	1/7d.
" £4	..	"	2/1d.

and so on.

POSTAL ORDERS.

48. A return of British Postal Orders issued for use locally as well as to the United Kingdom and certain British Possession is furnished hereunder:—

Denomination.	No.	1914-15.		Denomination.	No.	1915-16.	
		Face Value.	Commission.			Face Value.	Commission.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
6d.	12,717	317 18 6	26 9 10½	6d.	16,473	411 16 6	34 6 4½
1/	35,128	1,756 8 0	73 3 8	1/	31,895	1,594 15 0	66 8 11½
1/6	22,800	1,710 0 0	47 10 0	1/6	23,740	1,780 10 0	49 9 2
2/	37,783	3,778 6 0	78 14 3½	2/	35,374	3,537 8 0	73 13 11
2/6	29,322	3,665 5 0	61 1 9	2/6	26,867	3,358 7 6	55 19 5½
3/	22,063	3,309 9 0	91 18 7	3/	21,169	3,175 7 0	88 4 1
3/6	9,578	1,676 3 0	39 18 3	3/6	9,828	1,719 18 0	40 19 0
4/	28,272	5,654 8 0	117 16 0	4/	27,991	5,598 4 0	116 12 7
4/6	11,778	2,650 1 0	49 1 6	4/6	12,001	2,700 4 6	50 0 1
5/	39,031	9,757 15 0	162 12 7	5/	36,689	9,172 5 0	152 17 5
7/6	5,160	1,935 0 0	32 5 0	7/6	6,499	2,437 2 6	40 12 4½
8/	14,495	5,798 0 0	120 15 10	8/	13,003	5,201 4 0	108 7 2
10/	34,765	17,382 10 0	289 14 2	10/	30,180	15,090 0 0	251 10 0
20/	14,940	14,940 0 0	249 0 0	20/	12,235	12,235 0 0	203 18 4
Total	317,832	74,331 3 6	1,440 1 5	Total	303,944	68,012 2 0	1,332 18 11

49. Postal Orders actually sold amount to £70,182 14s. 6d. and is less than the sales last year by £4,809.

50. Commission collected on these sales is £1,352 16s. 1½d. and the amount which the Colony benefits as a result of the use of these Orders locally and otherwise is as follows:—

	£ s. d.
Local Commission collected on Orders above 2/6 value ..	324 18 5½
Allowance by the London Post Office at the rate of £1 on every 1,000 Orders sold and paid ..	573 16 3
Orders not claimed by Payees within six years from the end of the year in which issued ..	10 3 6
	<u>908 18 2½</u>

51. The Postal Orders paid during the year amount to £55,561 18s. 7d. and compare with the two previous years as under:—

	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
At the G.P.O., Kingston ..	£9,472	£10,255	£9,008
At the Treasury, do ..	12,664	14,663	27,117
At District Post Offices and Parochial Treasuries ..	20,074	20,274	19,436
	<u>£42,210</u>	<u>£45,192</u>	<u>£55,561</u>

PARCELS POST.

52. A comparative return of the Parcels Post transactions is attached. The total number of parcels received from all sources is 1,145 in excess of last year, but is still 1,473 less than the year prior to the war.

53. The increase has been in the importation from the United States principally; there has been a falling off of 4,579 from the United Kingdom, this I attribute to the less frequent opportunities that exist for parcels post conveyance.

54. The declared value on the parcels received is £12,300 and is less than the similar value of the previous year by £14,560, while the import duty assessed is £7,065 or 1,037 more than the previous year; this is due to the fact that the ad valorem duty has been 16½% during the entire year under review and in addition a 10% surtax on the ad valorem duty existed from the 10th to 22nd March, 1916, while in 1914-15 from April, 1914, to September, 1914, it was 10% and for the remainder of the year 16½%.

55. The Department collected and transferred to the Revenue Department £7,672 0s. 9d. for import duty, being £1,422 more than last year. I cannot refrain the comment that this Department receives no clerical help nor financial credit for collecting this import duty which goes to swell the receipts of the Revenue Department.

56. Fines to the amount of £4 12s. 6d. were collected on account of parcels the contents of which were undervalued; in all these cases it did not appear that fraud was intended.

57. The usual watchfulness exercised by Post Office officials for packets passing through the letter post and suspected to contain articles liable to import duty resulted in a collection of £478 10s. 3d. of import duty.

58. I cannot too strongly urge the Public not to use the letter or sample post as a source for importing articles liable to customs duty; it is unsafe in the first instance since the packet may miscarry and the detention and subsequent treatment by the Department is inconvenient and cause delay in delivery.

59. The parcels despatched shew a decrease of 897 compared with the previous year, and is directly traced to the return for the British West Indies; the opportunities offering for the exchange of parcels with the sister colonies were few and far between, for while letter mails and prints are forwarded via New York parcels could only be forwarded via Colon.

60. A return is hereunder furnished of the Insured and Cash on Delivery parcels received and despatched:

<i>Insured Parcels.</i>			<i>Cash on Delivery Parcels.</i>		
Received.*			Received.		
Year.	No.	Amount.	No.	Trade Charges	Fees.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1913-14	2,873	9,479 19 3	4,264	5,699 3 10	106 18 0
1914-15	2,178	7,280 2 0	3,962	5,113 11 3	99 15 6
1915-16	1,687	5,623 10 3	3,697	4,964 14 7	92 13 0
Despatched.			Despatched.		
		£ s. d.			
1913-14	222	1,365 18 7			
1914-15	249	1,227 2 11			
1915-16	252	1,108 11 1			Nil.

61. The decrease which is perceptible in the number of Insured and Cash on Delivery parcels received from the United Kingdom is not surprising since the total number of parcels from the United Kingdom also shows a decrease and is one of the many instances which remind the Department of the stress through which it is passing due to the European War.

62. The Department still experiences some difficulty in disposing of the Cash on Delivery parcels received, the process followed is this:—a Notice is sent under registered cover to the addressee advising the receipt of the parcel, the trade charges and duty payable, and the fact that the time limit for delivery is 28 days. The trade charges for obvious reasons must be remitted to the Head Office before the parcel is forwarded and this is very clearly stated in the notice, yet in the face of all this frequent applications are received to forward the parcel to the office of delivery without the remittance having been made or to detain it for some period over the time limit. I take this opportunity to point out that the Cash on Delivery system can only be conducted on the conditions laid down in each advice notice and requests to the contrary must be refused.

TELEGRAPHS.

63. The following Telegraph Offices were converted into Telephone Stations:—

Scaforth and Trinityville in the parish of Saint Thomas on 30th September, 1915.

Sandy Bay in the parish of Hanover on 2nd Nov., 1915.

A Telephone Station was established at Whitehouse in Westmoreland on 15th June, 1915, and a Telegraph Office in conjunction with the Post Office was opened at Myers' Wharf, Kingston, on 3rd December, 1915.

64. A misconception appears to exist that a telephone office is not as secure with regard to transmission and secrecy as a telegraph office. I desire to remove such an impression, while it is not necessary to train an operator for the use of the telephone the Department exercises the greatest care in selection for filling the office of Telephone Clerk, and experience has shewn that errors in transmission are

not more frequent over the telephone than the telegraph. With regard to secrecy this difficulty can always be overcome, when the building does not lend itself to the provision of an inner room where the telephone can be placed, by providing a secret cabinet. A telephone office is more economically conducted but not at a sacrifice of efficiency.

65. In my report for 1914-15 I referred to the introduction of Vibrators and Phantophones and it may not be out of place to give a short description of them here. These instruments are constructed to work with highly vibrating currents, and, being fitted with condensers and impedance coils which keep the vibrating impulses from disturbing the telegraph and the telegraph signals from disturbing the vibrator and phantophone, are worked on one wire simultaneously with the telegraph. Their efficiency is so great that even if the line wire is lying on the ground they will operate while the telegraph cannot, if the wire is cut and disconnected the impulses will leap on to adjacent wires and back again to their own wire thus keeping up continuity impossible with the ordinary telegraph. These features, however, do not operate to their advantage as it is impossible to work more than one telegraph circuit with them when there are contiguous wires and if such wires are telephone wires the resultant effect is fatal to the telephone. For this reason I have been unable to utilize them to anything like the extent of their value as every outlet from Kingston throngs with telephone wires.

66. The principle of both instruments is practically the same, the only difference is, in the case of the vibrator the signalling arrangement is an ordinary morse key, and in the case of the phantophone it is a telephone transmitter, attention being gained by means of a button operating an electric horn at the distant end instead of a magneto operating a bell.

67. The total number of telegraph offices in existence at the close of the year was 67 and telephone offices 42.

68. The messages sent and received is shewn in the return attached, an increase of 6,905 is the result of a comparison with the similar return for 1914-15.

69. The amount collected by the Department at the several District Stations on account of the Cable Companies and duly transferred to them is:

Direct West India Cable Co., Limited	£2,124 15 5
West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.	929 14 11

MISCELLANEOUS.

70. In July, 1915, a system of prepayment of postage in money on Circulars, Accounts, etc., was authorised. Such mail matter must be put up in bundles of not less than 50 each and brought to the General Post Office at a suitable hour to the Department, the minimum quantity accepted is 10/ in value for postage.

71. Since December, 1915, duty is leviable in the United Kingdom on parts of motor cars, bicycles, except tyres, musical instruments, clocks, watches, and cinematograph films, as a result the importation of these articles is prohibited except through the Parcels Post.

72. The Staff have performed their duties during the year in a very creditable manner. I desire however, to record my special appreciation of the Staff at those Stations affected by the hurricane of 12th and 13th August, 1915, who stuck to their post during trying circumstances and assisted loyally to restore and maintain postal communication. The technical officers of the Kingston Office were very energetic in efforts to restore telegraph communication and as a result on the 14th August several offices were in touch with Kingston while by the 19th August all offices were practically in circuit.

73. The usual returns are forwarded.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ELLIS WOLFE,

Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Honourable
The Acting Colonial Secretary,
Kingston.

Returns showing the Gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post and
1915-16.

	£	s.	d.
Postage on unpaid correspondence	785	15	9
Stamps sold by Post Office Department	32,399	3	2
Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	4,815	0	0
Rent of private letter boxes	164	10	0
Fees for conveyance of private letter bags	34	4	10
Commissions on Money Orders	396	7	5
Void Money Orders			
Commissions on British Postal Orders	911	5	2½
Fees for detention of Country letters per packet for delivery in Kingston			
Commission on Inland Postal Orders			
Miscellaneous	353	18	0½
Telegraph Stamps sold	7,275	9	0½
Collections by Jamaica Government Railway	280	7	2
Additional charge on books of Telegraph forms	2	17	9
Fees for keeping Telegraph Offices open out of office hours	45	17	6
Official Telegrams	461	15	3
Telegraph Code Addresses	2	12	0
Passenger Fares Sold	609	12	2
Red Cross Stamps sold	164	19	10½
Pamphlets sold	1	12	1
	48,705	7	3½

LESS REFUNDS—

Postal Revenue ..	£651	0	7
Telegraph Revenue ..	0	16	8
			651 17 3
			£48,053 10 0½

Telegraph Department during the financial year ended 31st March, 1916.

	1915-16.		
	£	s.	d.
PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS—			
Salaries of Staff	7,156	11	0
Allowance for services out of office hours	2,076	4	11
Wages for sorters, letter carriers, etc.	1,948	5	2
Telegraph messengers, Head Office	206	19	6
Telegraph messengers, District offices and office servants	1,201	11	1
Messenger conveying mails between Post Office and Railway Stations	344	8	0
Box clearers and indoor men	577	2	9
Clerical assistance	168	4	5
Salaries of District Postmasters and Telegraph Clerks	9,447	16	3
Duty pay allowance	95	8	4
Salaries of Auxilliary Telegraph Clerks	387	12	10
Commission of 1 per cent. on sale of stamps	279	0	3
Remuneration of Officers of Public Works Department in connection with mail services	305	0	0
Allowance to cover loss by Banking Clerk	14	0	0
Discount of 2½ per cent. on stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	171	2	6
Opening of new Post Offices—Fees to D. P. Ms.	18	10	0
Train Post Office clearers	153	7	3
Com. of 10% on sale of Motor Passenger Fares	48	19	2
	£24,600	3	5
OTHER CHARGES—			
Travelling charges	599	19	11
Mail bags and wrappers	183	14	3
Date stamps, seals, etc.	31	3	5
Twine and wax and lead seals	670	12	11
Conveyance of letter carriers by tram car	250	0	0
Manufacture of Stamps and Post Cards	454	10	4
Rent of Post Offices	1,277	8	9
Telegraph Stores	215	9	2
Ship letter gratuities	2,543	13	10½
Uniforms	324	12	2
Rent of telephones	21	0	0
Advertising	3	4	6
Lighting	98	18	6
Water Supply	132	5	8½
Repairing instruments	25	7	6
Cleaning latrines	142	12	8
Contingencies	432	10	9½
Furniture	54	16	5½
Porterage	577	8	5½
Subsidy to Jamaica Government Railway	400	0	0
Mail conveyance miscellaneous	176	8	3
Mail conveyance, Inland	8,439	4	3
Services by Railway	4,090	0	0
Renewal of live stock	100	6	9
Transit rates payable Postal Union Countries other than United Kingdom	1,336	8	11
Proportion of cost of supply and repairs of Parcels Post receptacles, United Kingdom and Jamaica	20	15	1
Purchase and repairs of bicycles	70	0	1
Repairs to clocks	27	9	6
Stamp selling machine and power to operate Electric Stamping machine	19	12	4
Instruments for Electrical Inspector .. .. .	..	..	..
Opening of new Post Offices, mail conveyance and furniture	20	19	11
Private letter boxes .. .. .	..	..	..
Premium on bonds	198	19	2
Purchase of Motor Cars	100	0	0
Losses through hurricane, etc., written off .. .. .	..	..	..
Train Post Office—Uniforms .. .. .	..	..	..
	23,039	13	7½

RECAPITULATION—

Personal Emoluments	£24,600	3	5
Other Charges	23,039	13	7½
	£47,639	17	0½

PARCELS RECEIVED.

From	Consignments.			Parcels.			Import Duty.		
	1913-1914.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1913-1914.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1913-1914.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	50	42	38	24,111	20,856	16,277	3,271 17 3	3,826 3 11	4,168 9 3
British West Indies	134	117	102	334	227	215	15 5 2	20 5 4	7 6 7
United States of America	740	691	890	21,104	21,404	26,504	1,372 13 1	1,827 6 7	2,318 1 4
Dominion of Canada	48	50	40	1,940	1,435	1,146	133 1 3	107 2 9	89 16 7
Turks Island	7	5	4	16	7	5	0 4 7	0 5 1	0 6 1
Canal Zone	200	155	131	2,580	3,539	4,459	230 0 0	247 8 8	480 8 11
Bermuda	1	1	8	2	1	8	0 0 0	0 0 8	0 10 4
	1,181	1,061	1,213	50,087	47,469	48,614	5,023 1 4	6,028 13 0	7,064 19 1

	Postage accrued to Jamaica.			Declared value of Parcels.		
	1913-1913.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1913-1914.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	1,200 9 6	761 7 7½	540 8 0	37,408 2 5	39,957 7 5	21,034 5 6
British West Indies	..	..	..	239 5 11	117 13 11	80 5 10
United States of America	..	..	..	15,380 17 9	14,180 10 7	18,267 18 8
Dominion of Canada	38 13 6	45 8 0	40 12 3	1,384 11 0	818 16 11	553 0 0
Turks Island	..	..	..	1 14 0	2 0 0	1 11 10
Canal Zone	..	..	..	2,543 15 1	1,783 11 3	2,250 8 5
Bermuda	..	..	..	0 15 0	..	3 10 2
	1,239 3 0	806 15 7½	581 0 3	56,959 1 2	56,860 0 1	42,300 0 5

PARCELS DESPATCHED.

	Consignments.			Parcels.			Accrued to Jamaica.		
	1913-1914.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1913-1914.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1913-1914.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	48	53	36	5,845	4,841	4,024	213 16 2	120 15 11	133 4 4
British West Indies	229	176	169	1,594	1,357	468	36 4 0	9 12 0	14 19 8
United States of America	193	128	166	3,578	3,533	3,956	215 10 6	202 7 0	224 2 6
Dominion of Canada	36	41	40	1,439	778	892	54 6 9	33 17 4	28 4 0
Turks Island	11	8	8	70	49	73	5 3 0	1 7 4	1 10 8
Canal Zone	164	103	59	931	637	787	55 0 0	34 9 6	53 9 0
Bermuda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
H. M. Warships	..	..	12	..	..	802	..	..	..
	690	521	478	13,596	11,997	11,100	580 0 5	402 9 1	455 10 2

	Declared value of Parcels.		
	1913-1914.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	7,284 18 0	7,274 9 11	9,297 7 0
British West Indies	1,378 12 2	1,078 3 3	1,069 8 4
United States of America	2,134 8 3	1,905 15 4	1,653 10 1
Dominion of Canada	1,911 4 10	565 12 7	290 2 1
Turks Island	49 15 11	27 16 8	34 3 11
Bermuda	..	..	..
Canal Zone	387 2 1	269 12 2	731 5 7
H. M. Warships	..	42 13 6	..
	13,146 1 3	11,164 3 5	13,075 17 0

Return shewing the number of Telegraph Messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station from 1st April, 1915, to 31st March, 1916, as compared with return from 1st April, 1914, to 31st March, 1915.

Station.	1914-1915.		1915-1916.		Remarks.
	Messages	Messages	Messages	Messages	
	sent.	received.	sent.	received.	
Balaclava	2,426	2,018	2,754	2,317	And Telephone.
Christiana	1,681	1,827	1,920	2,303	
Spaldings	1,306	1,118	1,837	1,277	
Porus	688	655	733	667	
May Pen	2,112	1,678	2,422	2,109	
Chapelton	2,692	2,543	3,152	2,971	And Phantaphone and Telephone.
Alley	959	1,106	1,351	1,265	And Telephone.
Race Course	337	577	451	532	Telephone.
Salt River	587	561	772	717	Ditto
Milk River	400	347	412	426	Ditto
Old Harbour	2,852	2,736	3,604	3,313	
Yallahs	472	419	471	404	
Morant Bay	5,462	5,039	5,330	4,889	And Telephone.
Seaforth	434	466	404	416	Ditto
Trinity Ville	460	516	528	533	Ditto
Cedar Valley	170	183	200	204	Ditto
Port Morant	1,867	1,672	1,371	1,163	
Bowden (Wireless)	629	1,015	277	762	And Telephone.
Bowden	516	417	340	282	Telephone.
Bath	598	680	627	682	Ditto
Golden Grove	1,359	903	1,084	910	And Telephone.
Hectors River	312	308	226	251	
Manchioneal	1,377	1,277	952	877	
Priestmans River	517	407	314	333	
Port Antonio	17,326	17,605	15,834	15,402	And Vibrator.
Hope Bay	586	540	628	493	
Buff Bay	1,470	1,234	1,552	1,350	
Annotto Bay	4,478	4,323	4,455	4,334	
Highgate	1,153	1,288	1,373	1,441	
Richmond	3,337	2,479	2,847	2,404	And Phantaphone.
Port Maria	6,817	6,299	6,611	5,995	
Troy	119	180	153	210	Telephone.
Oracabessa	1,066	1,041	966	1,043	
Riversdale	244	253	..	..	Now handled by Railway.
Retreat	452	507	400	530	And Phantaphone
Troja	122	148	..	..	Now handled by Railway.
Gayle	1,062	1,124	952	958	Phantaphone.
Guys Hill	406	604	518	702	Ditto
Ocho Rios	1,010	1,038	945	902	
Port Royal	1,636	833	683	537	
Cross Roads	2,044	2,825	2,744	3,370	
Halfway Tree	1,383	2,690	1,247	2,700	
Constant Spring	561	811	515	815	
Gordon Town	266	384	267	364	And Telephone.
Newcastle	55	53	115	103	Telephone.
Castleton	224	221	183	234	
Glengoffe	424	678	322	588	Phantaphone.
Stony Hill	252	433	268	400	And Phantaphone.
Lawrence Tavern	174	209	213	270	Phantaphone.
Myrtle Bank	992	309	1,030	377	
Smith Village	177	132	136	121	Telephone.
Railway	3,712	3,822	5,144	4,798	
Total	228,172	228,172	235,077	235,077	

Return shewing the number of Telegraph Messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station from 1st April, 1915, to 31st March, 1916, as compared with return from 1st April, 1914, to 31st March, 1915:—

Station.	1914-1915.		1915-1916.		Remarks.
	Messages sent.	Messages received.	Messages sent.	Messages received.	
Kingston	57,463	58,713	58,946	62,372	And Telephone.
Myers Wharf			1,816	812	
Spanish Town	5,333	5,098	5,838	5,708	
Bog Walk	2,191	1,994	2,152	1,901	
Linstead	2,223	2,157	2,180	2,175	And Phantaphone.
Ewarton	1,259	1,309	1,298	1,265	
Moneague	1,385	1,627	1,802	1,824	
Claremont	948	963	871	826	And Telephone.
Pedro	152	210	141	187	Telephone.
St. Ann's Bay	6,483	6,093	7,225	6,687	
Runaway Bay	498	463	448	434	
Dry Harbour	1,041	964	822	777	
Browns Town	2,929	2,901	2,949	3,105	
Cave Valley	498	735	650	810	
Alexandria	569	617	650	650	
Boroughbridge	664	746	642	754	
Bethel Town	594	876	467	672	Telephone.
Stewart Town	373	565	332	406	Ditto
Brainerd	181	345	164	247	Phantaphone.
Jackson Town	473	521	377	319	And Telephone.
Clarks Town	393	447	436	438	Telephone.
Ulster Spring	450	591	488	546	And Telephone.
Albert Town	249	300	175	242	Telephone.
Rio Bueno	869	472	621	544	
Warsop	158	263	144	199	Telephone.
Duncans	1,007	1,019	982	1,148	And Telephone.
Falmouth	5,066	4,713	5,266	5,130	
Adelphi	260	249	226	277	Telephone.
Montego Bay	12,261	12,679	11,921	12,486	And Telephone and Vibrator
Rock River	8	2	262	289	Telephone.
Ramble	814	861	954	967	Ditto
Negril	615	588	520	547	Ditto
Lucea	5,127	4,700	4,788	45,85	And Vibrator.
Sandy Bay	319	410	287	349	Vibrator.
Little River	338	321	424	418	Telephone.
Green Island	865	1,034	1,034	1,027	Vibrator.
Grange Hill	845	880	1,165	1,058	
Benson-ton	62	113	54	85	Telephone.
Sav.-la-Mar	8,531	7,792	9,618	7,868	And Phantaphone and Telephone.
Little London	744	999	998	1,342	Telephone.
Bluefields	260	321	291	354	Phantaphone.
Petersfield	1,131	1,182	1,224	1,205	Telephone.
Black River	5,461	5,184	5,522	5,442	And Phantaphone.
White House			210	186	Phantaphone.
Lacovia	1,013	866	1,101	971	
Darliston	455	505	391	414	Telephone.
Santa Cruz	865	806	886	874	
Malvern	2,003	1,723	2,085	1,937	
Frankfield	336	394	752	853	Phantaphone.
Mandeville	5,021	5,163	4,976	4,930	
New Market	359	516	589	676	Phantaphone.
Newport	546	687	555	774	
Kellets	317	491	348	443	Telephone.
Williamsfield	1,293	1,085	1,651	1,413	Ditto
Cambridge	676	747	593	592	Ditto
Shooters Hill	787	781	691	752	And Telephone.
Carron Hall	432	614	263	425	Phantaphone.
Mile Gully	487	650	442	961	
Montpelier	731	586	731	625	Telephone.

MONEY ORDERS.

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.	
		<i>United Kingdom.</i>						<i>Turks Island.</i>			
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1913-14	1,799	8,149 7 7	729	2,712 2 11	115 0 2	1913-14	1	0 8 0	178	638 6 2	3 3 10
1914-15	2,475	37,143 8 0	620	2,204 1 5	362 12 11	1914-15	3	14 0 5	102	382 6 9	2 0 1
1915-16	1,414	7,233 17 8	1,019	3,597 0 8	119 9 4	1915-16	4	35 7 5	80	445 17 7	2 3 3
		<i>United States of America.</i>						<i>Panama.</i>			
1913-14	2,713	6,505 2 2	31,328	76,393 18 0	167 3 5	1913-14	15	38 6 10	5	31 3 9	0 4 0
1914-15	2,964	15,422 11 3	24,434	58,851 13 11	290 18 1	1914-15	20	68 6 6	3	10 3 4	0 9 11
1915-16	2,180	5,271 6 4	23,634	53,394 14 0	248 5 2	1915-16	11	39 8 0	1	12 0 0	..
		<i>Dominion of Canada.</i>						<i>British Honduras.</i>			
1913-14	241	1,035 8 1	1,051	2,357 17 5	18 0 2	1913-14	..	..	61	148 16 5	0 14 11
1914-15	197	844 0 2	965	2,138 4 9	16 10 0	1914-15	1	7 0 0	112	157 6 5	0 8 5
1915-16	114	418 11 2	695	1,540 12 4	17 0 3	1915-16	3	21 0 0	101	166 15 10	0 8 7
		<i>British Guiana.</i>						<i>Trinidad.</i>			
1913-14	14	51 16 9	39	76 11 8	0 8 11	1913-14	17	110 1 4	96	199 6 6	1 2 7
1914-15	11	37 19 1	37	75 7 6	0 12 5	1914-15	8	43 11 7	92	190 14 11	1 4 9
1915-16	3	18 10 0	37	46 17 8	0 3 11	1915-16	10	49 4 3	79	183 16 5	0 16 4
		<i>Barbadoes.</i>						<i>Bermuda.</i>			
1913-14	11	32 6 6	44	107 7 3	0 11 6	1913-14	3	9 16 4	21	57 6 4	0 6 0
1914-15	17	66 5 3	31	139 1 8	1 2 6	1914-15	..	..	34	382 5 2	1 18 3
1915-16	13	56 8 5	27	71 9 7	0 5 0	1915-16	2	3 19 3	63	628 16 11	3 2 8
		<i>Windward and Leeward Islands.</i>						<i>Grand Cayman.</i>			
1913-14	10	69 2 10	59	129 14 6	0 14 8	1913-14	57	303 15 5	198	1,068 11 9	5 14 2
1914-15	13	91 6 2	39	83 11 11	1 0 2	1914-15	44	183 5 4	63	578 5 8	4 1 8
1915-16	7	74 0 0	33	79 7 11	0 5 1	1915-16	35	257 11 11	31	362 15 6	1 6 3
		<i>Port Limon.</i>						<i>Cayman Brac.</i>			
1913-14	17	33 12 7	25	39 11 0	1 1 7	1913-14	1	0 4 6	59	145 4 3	0 14 6
1914-15	25	90 7 9	15	23 2 0	1 9 9	1914-15	..	..	5	12 15 4	0 1 3
1915-16	17	44 18 1	6	5 6 0	0 14 11	1915-16	6	13 17 6	2	18 0 5	0 1 3
		<i>St. Thomas, B. W. I.</i>						<i>St. Thomas, B. W. I.</i>			
1913-14	1	0 2 7	2	0 17 11	0 0 1	1913-14	1	0 2 7	2	0 17 11	0 0 1
1914-15	..	..	7	56 9 7	0 5 8	1914-15	..	..	7	56 9 7	0 5 8
1915-16	1	1 12 0	6	80 6 5	0 8 0	1915-16	1	1 12 0	6	80 6 5	0 8 0