



Supplement to the Jamaica Gazette.

VOL. XL.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1917.

No. 12.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 4th July, 1917.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Annual Report of the Post Office and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st March, 1917.

By command,

ROBT. JOHNSTONE,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office, Jamaica, 23rd June, 1917.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the forty-ninth report on the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st March, 1917.

REVENUE COMPARED WITH ESTIMATES.

Postal	..	..	..	£49,796	4	3½
Telegraphs	..	..	..	8,615	8	4
				58,411	12	7½
Revised Estimates are—						
Postal	..	..	..	£50,000	0	0
Telegraphs	..	..	..	8,000	0	0
				£58,000	0	0

2. My original estimates of receipts was £46,000, this was however increased by £12,000 when it was decided

"A" To impose from 1st April, 1916, to 31st March, 1917, a war tax of

- (1) a half penny on every letter addressed to the United Kingdom or any of His Majesty's Colonies or Dominions.
- (2) Three pence on every parcel post packet and on every postal packet containing dutiable matter arriving in the Island.
- (3) Three pence on every parcel post packet addressed to United Kingdom or any of His Majesty's Colonies or Dominions, not being a parcel post packet addressed to a member of His Majesty's Navy or Army.

"B" To increase the Inland postage on letters to 1½d. for the first oz., and one penny for each oz. after for the like period and to make the minimum charge for a telegram 9d. instead of 6d.

3. The war tax has realised expectations and if for the purposes of comparison the £12,000 estimate of war tax receipts is removed from the actual receipts, the collections for the year will be less than those of the year 1915-16 by £1,644.

4. The tax has been accepted without any serious grumble and the results prove how responsive the public are when the necessity arises.

5. Hereunder are the collections from 1914-15 for comparison.

	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Postage	38,790 1 8	37,697 16 11	47,127 12 9½
Commission on Money Orders	684 15 11	396 7 5	331 17 10
Local com. on British Postal Orders	943 3 1	911 5 2½	863 13 5½
Miscellaneous	1,068 17 9½	979 18 5½	1,473 0 2
Telegraph	8,255 4 11½	8,068 2 0½	8,615 8 4
	<u>49,742 3 4¼</u>	<u>48,053 10 0½</u>	<u>58,411 12 7¼</u>

6. A decrease is observed in each of the items "Commission on Money Orders" and "Commission on British Postal Orders," when compared with the previous years collections—these items have not been affected by any war tax hence they give a true indication of what might have been the collections on the whole but for the war tax.

7. The item "Miscellaneous," includes £711 17s. 0d., the actual amount collected at the rate of 3d. each as a war tax on every parcel post parcel and every postal packet containing dutiable matter received from abroad during the year.

8. £440 7s. 1d., is the amount collected, for Passenger Fares between Ewarton and Saint Ann's Bay, and Falmouth and Montego Bay and may be regarded as a set off against the cost of these Motor Mail Services included under the item of Expenditure, "Mail Conveyance."

RETROSPECT.

9. A comparison will be found in the following table of the receipts for a period of twenty years back.

	1896-97.	1906-07.	1916-17.
	£	£	£
Postage	23,331	31,298	47,127
Commission on Money Orders and British Postal Orders	414	655	1,196
Commission on Local Postal Orders	534	682	..
Telegraphs	5,480	6,614	8,615
Miscellaneous	146	642	1,473
	<u>29,805</u>	<u>39,891</u>	<u>58,411</u>

EXPENDITURE COMPARED WITH ESTIMATES.

10. The expenditure is as follows:—

	Expenditure.	Estimate.
Personal Emoluments	£24,798 5 6½	£25,022 11 9
Mail Conveyance	17,378 2 7½	17,914 4 4
Services	6,234 6 8¾	5,711 5 0
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	317 17 11	325 0 0
	<u>48,728 12 9¾</u>	<u>48,973 1 1</u>
Telegraph Line Construction, Public Works Department	240 3 6	235 0 0
Telegraph Line Maintenance, Public Works Department	2,247 7 10	2,047 0 0
	<u>51,216 4 1¾</u>	<u>51,255 1 1</u>

11. The savings effected is £39, but there has been an unforeseen expenditure under Telegraph Maintenance of £449, to effect repairs due to damage by Hurricane during the year.

COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE.

	1914-15.			1915-16.			1916-17.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments	24,945	14	2½	24,600	3	5	24,798	5	6½
Mail Conveyances	18,357	19	8½	16,786	2	0¼	17,378	2	7½
Other Charges	6,075	19	5½	6,038	2	5¼	6,234	6	8½
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	466	15	10½	215	9	2	317	17	11
	49,846	9	3	47,639	17	0½	48,728	12	9¾
Maintenance of Telegraph Line by Public Works Department	2,286	8	8	2,076	5	10	2,247	7	10
Construction of Telegraph Line by Public Works Department	518	4	0	275	6	9	240	3	6
	52,651	1	11	49,991	9	7½	51,216	4	1¼

12. The difference in the cost of administration is £1,225 more than the previous year.

RETROSPECT OF EXPENDITURE.

13. The Expenditure of the Department is shewn in the following table in each tenth year from 1896-97.

	1896-97.	1906-07.	1916-17.
Personal Emoluments	£12,275	£15,490	£24,798
Services	8,474	5,164	6,234
Maintenance of Telegraph Lines	1,974	802	2,806
Mail Conveyance	15,130	10,738	17,378
	37,853	32,194	51,216

14. There is an excess of £7,195 between the actual receipts and expenditure for the year. I would have recorded a deficit over £5,000 were it not for the yield from the war tax imposed.

15. Telegrams have been transmitted free of cost to the value of £613 14s. 5d.

POSTAL MISCELLANEOUS.

16. The Miscellaneous receipts amount to £1,473 0s. 2d., and are detailed hereunder:—

	£	s.	d.
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	164	0	0
do do Bags	41	9	6
Fines	6	1	6½
Delivery Fees on C.O.D. Parcels	56	17	7½
Public call telephones	0	17	11
Surplus Cash	0	3	4
Accrued postage on parcels exchanged with the United Kingdom	63	8	6
Miscellaneous	4	2	1½
Value found in Unclaimed Dead Letters	2	9	9
Passengers Fares collected	419	16	10
Discount on Stamps purchased	1	16	0½
War Tax on parcels from abroad	711	17	0
	1,473	0	2

17. Included in the above is £711 17s. 0d., the amount collected in cash at the rate of 3d. each as a special War tax on parcels and referred to at paragraph 2, sub-head (2) of this report.

18. All the other items bear fair comparison to the similar collections of the previous year except the item "Accrued postage on parcels exchanged with the United Kingdom" the net amount being £63 8s. 6d.,—the similar credit last year was £255 5s. 2d.,—the decrease is due to the fact that the number of parcels received from the United Kingdom is less and the number despatched to the United Kingdom is considerably more than hitherto.

19. The item "Public Call Telephones 17s. 11d." appears for the first time in the account and is the result of the new license granted to the Jamaica Telephone Co., Ltd., under the Provisions of the Telephone Law, 19 of 1893. A clause in the License stipulates that the Licensees shall establish Public Call Offices either at the Railway Station Kingston or the G. P. O. Kingston, and also at the Post Offices at the Cross Roads and Halfway Tree. Call Stations have accordingly been established at the Railway Station, Kingston, and at the Cross Roads and at the Halfway Tree Post Offices and are available to the

Public in the latter case at all hours. The charge for each call is 2d., and the Government is entitled to one-fourth of the gross receipts.

20. Hereunder is a return of Quinine, Impressed and Judicial Stamps Sold, the amounts in each case have been duly transferred to the Superintending Medical Officer and Stamp Commissioner.

Quinine	£384 19 11
Impressed Stamps, etc. ..	858 17 9½
Judicial Stamps	2,541 3 7

21. Red Cross Stamps to the value of £120 3s. 5d., were also sold in Kingston and at all District Post Offices and the amount duly transferred to Mr. L. Ashenheim.

DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

22. There has not been any New District Post Office established during the year, the total number open is therefore the same as at the close of 1915-16, viz:—201.

23. The Post Offices at Little London in Westmoreland and Rock River in Clarendon were temporarily closed on 8th January, 1917, and 12th January, 1917, and re-opened on 5th February, 1917, and 15th February 1917, respectively.

24. The Post Office at Myrtle Bank Hotel was re-opened on 1st December, 1916, and closed on 30th April, 1917.

25. The usual inspection of District Post Offices and Telegraph Stations was conducted by the Travelling Supervisor and was satisfactory.

26. I take this opportunity to record here my objection to a practise which is becoming prevalent among the member of the Public who are in a position to do it and that is of motoring to District Post Offices and persuading the P.M. to sell them selected stamps from the sheets supplied for sale to the Public in general.

The stamp sought is principally one in a sheet which may have an error in the overprinting of the words "War Stamp". The mutilation of the sheet is inconvenient from a Departmental point of view and the acquiring of the stamp in this manner is a distinct advantage by one section of the community over others in the District affected.

CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

27. Hereunder is an estimate of the Letters registered and ordinary and Post Cards which have passed through the Department during the year.

	1914-15.	Outwards. 1915-16.	1916-17.	Inwards. 1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Inland Mails—						
Ordinary Letters—						
Public ..	2,347,705	2,494,409	2,469,465	2,927,628	3,104,284	2,949,074
Official ..	293,814	311,442	314,556	412,769	392,134	372,529
Post Cards ..	311,274	295,212	280,452	318,536	286,686	272,356
By vessels, not contract—						
U.K. and United States of America—						
Ordinary Letters ..	661,060	653,230	649,176	1,102,514	1,225,861	1,260,057
Post Cards ..	83,526	69,153	54,534	44,936	43,685	45,460
Other Countries—						
Ordinary Letters ..	398,850	323,214	349,066	351,835	320,078	292,036
Post Cards ..	8,890	5,048	2,343	4,108	4,260	3,890
Registered Letters, oversea	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total ..	4,105,119	4,151,708	4,119,592	5,162,326	5,376,988	5,195,402

Registered letters for delivery in Kingston—

	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Local	77,976	70,460	66,702
Foreign	25,262	22,715	24,364
Official	33,758	33,423	33,020
Registered letters for delivery in the country—			
* Local	17,565	19,696	21,257
Foreign	48,998	44,731	51,620
Registered letters for despatch—			
Over sea	24,283	22,334	23,518

At District Post Offices—

	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Ordinary letters	1,803,946	1,447,589	1,070,449
Post Cards	79,541	137,306	357,162
Registered letters	124,423	112,517	107,009
	2,007,910	1,697,412	2,134,620

28. A decrease is exhibited and is shown principally in the return of Inland Mails due to the depression in trade, etc., an increase will be observed in the return of letters, etc., to and from abroad, and is accounted for by the number of Jamaicans now serving in the great War.

29. By a re-arrangement of the House Delivery of letters in Kingston and the employment of two more bicycles I was able in January, 1917, to extend the limit of the delivery on the east of the city to Camperdown Lands, Portland Road being the limit east and the Deanery Road the northern boundary

MISSING LETTERS, ETC.

30. The Public are to some extent acting on the oft repeated advice in these reports to fill in the name of the payee as well as the office at which payment is desired in Postal Orders before posting them, this is evidenced by the fact that I have been able to trace payment of several Postal Orders reported lost through the post, and in many instances restitution has been made.

31. Postal Orders do not like bank notes represent value in themselves. If an order is lost or stolen no person into whose hands it may fall, though himself innocent is entitled to receive the amount of the order. The rightful owner is alone entitled to cash the order. Oriental tradesmen are the principal sources through which lost or stolen Postal Orders are negotiated in an incomplete form, frequently unsigned by the payee, or original payee's name erased and another substituted. Business men and others would do well to regard the conditions of payment printed on the back of each Postal Order and refuse to accept them when there is any variation referring the applicant to this office.

32. It is an unpleasant duty to again record the infidelity of a member of the subordinate staff of the G.P.O. Kingston, he was charged with the larceny of a Post Letter traced to him through Postal Orders completely filled in, pleaded guilty and sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

33. In several cases of reported missing letters through the post I have been able to prove conclusively that the letter was either never posted or the money contents was abstracted before posting.

INSURED LETTERS.

34. A comparative return for three years of Insured Letters received and despatched is given hereunder:—

Year.	No.	Received.			No.	Despatched.		
		Declared Value.				Declared Value.		
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1914-15	17	1,120	19	6	25	272	14	0
1915-16	23	257	1	0	37	1,030	9	7
1916-17	—	—	—	—	28	315	13	3

RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

35. The following is a return of the unclaimed mail matter dealt with in the Dead Letter Office:—

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to United Kingdom	2,879	460
“ “ Other Countries	7,405	3,000
“ “ Writers in the Island	44,841	21,487
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous, writers not having been found	14,694	21,108
Newspapers returned to publishers	289	—

36. The amount of irrecoverable postage on unclaimed mail matter is £77 8s. 3d.

37. Registered and unregistered letters to the number of 5,220 were found to contain value to the amount of £996 15s. 1½d., and were duly reposted to the writers in all cases where the name of the writer was disclosed in the letter. It frequently happens that the Department is unable to restore an unclaimed letter found with value in it to the poster, due to the fact that the writer has only signed his or her first name, or in a few instances no name at all is available. The value in such letters as well as those which are unclaimed by the writers is duly placed in the account of the Colony—the amount during the year is £2 9s. 9d. and is duly recorded at paragraph 16.

MAIL CONVEYANCE—OCEAN.

38. The statement hereunder gives the particulars of mails despatched and received from abroad during each of the last three years.

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1914-15.		1915-16.		1916-17.		1914-15.		1915-16.		1916-17.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
Kingston—												
Non-contract	397	1,978	369	1,563	388	1,718	440	2,082	423	2,031	427	2,105
Outport—												
Non-contract	79	189	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	476	2,167	369	1,563	388	1,718	440	2,082	423	2,031	427	2,105

39 The number of mails in transit Jamaica was 111.

40. As pointed out in the 40th paragraph of my previous Annual Report, the Colony has been entirely dependent during the year for its Ocean Mail Service on the steamers of the United Fruit Co. and Elders and Fyffes.

41. Letter and Printed Matter Mails for the Sister Colonies in the West Indies have been regularly exchanged via the United States, but parcel mails have been dependant on opportunities by French and Italian line of steamers via Colon. I am indebted to the British Packet Agent at Colon for supplying me with information which has enabled me to despatch parcels in time to connect with these opportunities. The United States Post Office will not handle parcel mails in transit.

42. There has only been one loss of mails as a result of the war during the year—this occurred when the s.s. "Laconia" was sunk on 26th February. The Letter and Printed Matter Mails despatched from Jamaica on the 8th and 10th February, 1917, for England via New York were on the "Laconia."

43. The amount paid to the Steamship Companies for the conveyance of mails from the Colony is £2,613 3s. 3½d., and to the United Kingdom, United States, etc., for the onward conveyance of mail matter from Jamaica passing through these countries is £1,313 7s. 7d.

MAIL CONVEYANCE—INLAND.

44. The Inland Mail Conveyance has been carried through at a cost of £13,451 11s. 9d., and is £545 12s. 1d. in excess of the previous year, this is not surprising when it is taken into consideration the fact that the cost of materials and corn has increased nearly 50%.

45. The Services have been conducted without any interruption except during the heavy weather which prevailed in the eastern parishes during certain periods of the year and as a result of unbridged rivers there was some delay to the Motor Mail Conveyance. The Contractor however, on this section was always very energetic in his efforts to get through on schedule time.

46. I furnish hereunder the arrival and departure of the principal mails at the Kingston Post Office.

			Arrive.	Depart.
Northside, daily	..	..	9.10 a.m.	2.00 p.m.
Southside, tri-weekly	..	..	9.10 a.m.	4.00 p.m.
" through train daily	..	..	3.00 p.m.	10.30 a.m.
Windward direct, tri-weekly	..	..	7.00 a.m.	3.00 p.m.
" via Port Antonio tri-weekly	..	..	11.35 a.m.	2.00 p.m.
Port Antonio, daily	..	..	11.35 a.m.	2.00 p.m.

MONEY ORDERS.

47. A comparative table shewing the results of the interchange of Money Orders during the last three years between Jamaica and the several countries with which there exists an exchange is attached to this report. A summary of the figures for the year under review shews Jamaica issued 4,113 orders for £13,842, and the issues against us were 33,162 for £65,302.

48. Further analysis discloses an increase in the business done with the United Kingdom both ways, with the United States the increase has only been in the case of the orders payable in Jamaica and is £2,723 in excess of the previous year, this is gratifying as the increase is principally from the offices in the Canal Zone under American Administration and indicates that the Jamaica labourers who are still there are remitting their savings to their families here.

49. The Commission on Money Orders issued in Jamaica on the United States and which I quoted in the forty-seventh paragraph of my report for 1915-16 remains the same. It has not been found possible to revert to the old rate existing prior to the outbreak of the War for the reasons therein stated.

50. On the 1st July, 1916, the Telegraph Money Order Exchange between the United Kingdom and this Colony was adopted, by this means one is able to remit money either way with a delay not exceeding twenty-four hours. The particulars are cabled under the deferred system at half rates and the cost of the cable seldom exceeds £1. For the period 1st July, 1916, to 31st March, 1917, 8 orders were so transmitted from Jamaica with an aggregate value of £107, and a similar number of orders were received, the total value of which was £180.

POSTAL ORDERS.

51. I furnish hereunder a return of British Postal Orders issued to Kingston and the several District Post Offices in comparison with the similar issue of 1915-16.:

1915-16.				1916-17.			
Denom- ination.	No.	Face Value.	Com- mission.	Denom- ination.	No.	Face Value.	Com- mission.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
6d.	16,473	411 16 6	34 6 4½	6d.	9,355	233 17 6	19 9 9½
1/	31,895	1,594 15 0	66 8 11½	1/	30,820	1,541 0 0	64 4 2
1/6	23,740	1,780 10 0	49 9 2	1/6	19,093	1,431 19 6	39 15 6½
2/	35,374	3,537 8 0	73 13 11	2/	35,117	3,511 14 0	73 3 2½
2/6	26,867	3,358 7 6	55 19 5½	2/6	23,433	2,929 2 6	48 16 4½
3/	21,169	3,175 7 0	88 4 1	3/	21,151	3,172 13 0	88 2 7
3/6	9,828	1,719 18 0	40 19 0	3/6	9,160	1,603 0 0	38 3 4
4/	27,991	5,598 4 0	116 12 7	4/	26,731	5,346 4 0	111 7 7
4/6	12,001	2,700 4 6	50 0 1	4/6	11,818	2,659 1 0	49 4 10
5/	36,689	9,172 5 0	152 17 5	5/	37,732	9,433 0 0	157 4 4
7/6	6,499	2,437 2 6	40 12 4½	7/6	5,420	2,032 10 0	33 17 6
8/	13,003	5,201 4 0	108 7 2	8/	12,895	5,158 0 0	107 9 2
10/	30,180	15,090 0 0	251 10 0	10/	31,605	15,802 10 0	263 7 6
20/	12,235	12,235 0 0	203 18 4	20/	10,784	10,784 0 0	179 14 8
Total	303,944	68,012 2 0	1,332 18 11	Total	285,114	65,638 11 6	1,274 0 7

52. The amount received for Postal Orders sold is £64,609 and is £5,573 less than the previous year, and £10,382 less than the year 1914-15. This decrease helps to show that there is not so much exchange of money taking place locally, nor is there as much remittance to the United Kingdom and to the British Possessions.

53. The Commission collected is £1,256 12s. 9½d., and the amount accruing to the Colony is as follows:—

Local Commission collected on orders above 2s. 6d. value	£302 13 11
Allowance by the London Post Office at the rate of £1 on every 1,000 orders sold and paid	542 13 6
Orders not claimed by Payees within six years from the end of the year in which issued	16 19 0
	<hr/> 862 6 5

54. Postal Orders to the amount of £59,061 were paid during the year and compare with the two previous years as under:—

	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
At the G.P.O., Kingston ..	£10,255	£9,008	£8,083
At the Treasury, do ..	14,663	27,117	29,425
At District Post Offices and Parochial Treasuries	20,274	19,436	21,553
	<hr/> 45,192	<hr/> 55,561	<hr/> 59,061

PARCELS POST.

55. A tabular statement of the transactions of the Parcels Post Branch in comparison with the two years preceding is attached.

56. There is an increase of 1,381 in the number of parcels received when compared with the year immediately preceding and this is due to the large importation from the United States and a reduction in the importation from the United Kingdom.

57. Duty to the value of £8,941 was assessed on the parcels received during the year and is £1,877 more than the previous year; the Department actually collected and transferred to the Revenue Department £9,296 17s. 6d. being £1,624 16s. 9d. more than last year.

58. Letter and other packets detained on suspicion yielded £443 18s. 1d. in import duty.

59. Penalties in connection with parcels the contents of which were undervalued by the sender amounted to £3 6s. 3d.

60. The parcels despatched are in excess of the previous year by 2,269 and this is directly traced to an increase in the parcels despatched to the United Kingdom and principally addressed to members of the Jamaica War Contingent.

61. The opportunities by which parcel mails could be despatched to the British West Indies were only 84, as compared to 169 in 1915-16, and 176 in 1914-15. The United States Post Office will not handle parcel mails for the British West Indies or this means could be used in the same manner as it is used for the despatch of Letter Mail.

62. Hereunder is a return of the Insured and Cash on Delivery parcels received and despatched.

Year.	Insured Parcels.			Cash on Delivery Parcels.		
	Received.			Received.		
	No.	Amount.	No.	Trade Charges.	Fees.	
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
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	
1916-17	1,296	5,953 10 6	2,956	4,065 1 2	73 18 0	
Despatched.			Despatched.			
		£ s. d.				
1914-15	249	1,227 2 11				
1915-16	252	1,108 11 1		Nil.		
1916-17	146	826 5 11				

63. I have again to record a decrease in the number of Insured and Cash on Delivery parcels received and which is in proportion to the decrease exhibited on the total importation from the United Kingdom.

64. The Importers of parcels under the Cash on Delivery System are again reminded that it is impossible to retain a Cash on Delivery parcel over the time limit or to forward it to the P.O. to which it is addressed except the "Trade Charge" at least is sent to the Head Office.

65. The Special War Tax of threepence imposed by Law 8 of 1916 on every parcel post packet and on every postal packet containing dutiable matter arriving in the Colony yielded £711 17s. 6d.

TELEGRAPHS.

66. There are 64 Telegraph stations, 35 Telephone and 10 Phantophone stations in operation giving a total of 109 offices under the control of the Department from which messages can be sent and are received. In addition to these the Railway Telegraph service is available and affords additional, and in some instances isolated centres from which messages may be transmitted and distributed.

67. The office at Myrtle Bank was in accordance with the arrangement with the management of that Hotel closed on the 29th April, 1916, and re-opened on 1st December, 1916, and continued in operation until 30th April, 1917.

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

Ulster Spring and Jackson Town in the Parish of Trelawny on the 30th June, 1916.

Newport in the Parish of Manchester on 10th July, 1916.

69. The Telephone Offices at Little London in the parish of Westmoreland and Rock River in the parish of Clarendon were unavoidably and temporarily closed on the 6th and 11th January, 1917, respectively, and re-opened on 5th February and 1st February, 1917, respectively.

70. On reference to the comparative table of messages sent and received it will be observed that there is a falling off of 48,662 between the summary for the year under review and that immediately preceding, this is undoubtedly due to the very small quantity of bananas which have been exported during the year. The telegraph activity or otherwise is a true index to the banana industry of this Island, so much depends upon the prompt handling of this fruit and the competition of purchase that the business can always be gauged through this source. The hurricane in August, 1916, and subsequent blows had the effect of wrecking this industry practically for the balance of the year.

71. It is a pleasure to record the continuance of that harmony which has always existed between the local Superintendents of the Ocean Cable and this Department, the collections of the Department on behalf of the Companies are as under:—

Direct Cable Co.	£2,718 18 11
West India & Panama	465 5 3

These sums were duly transferred through the Treasurer.

MISCELLANEOUS.

72. On the 1st February, 1917, the system of Reply Coupons was adopted in the Postal Service of this Colony. The system affords a means for remitting 2½d. to any country in the scheme to prepay the postage on the reply to a letter. The Coupon is sold at the Money Order Office, Kingston, for 3d. each. These Coupons are not intended to be used as a means of remittance and will not be sold in large quantities. Coupons received in Jamaica are redeemed in Kingston for a postage stamp or stamps of the value of 2½d.

73. I desire to place on record the fact that since the outbreak of the Great War six young men, members of this Department, have volunteered for service.

Messrs. A. E. Shirley, V. E. Johns, and F. W. Morin obtained the necessary leave and went to England at their own expense where they became attached to English Regiments. I regret to record that young Morin was killed in action in France on the 23rd April, 1917, he was a very efficient clerk and the greatest sympathy is felt by the staff and myself for his sorrowing relatives.

74. Messrs. E. Bell, O. S. V. Brown, and A. L. Miller joined the Jamaica Contingents, the first of these three was in the Contingent of which several of the men were invalided home, but has since got sufficiently well to take up work in the Department again.

75. It has not been an easy matter to provide competent substitutes to fill the places of these young men, but I have always endeavoured to encourage their loyalty and the rest of the staff have helped in this respect to their credit.

76. I cannot close this report without bearing tribute to the efficient manner in which the entire staff have performed their duties during the year.

77. The usual returns are forwarded.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ELLIS WOLFE,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

Returns showing the Gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post and

					1916-17.
					£ s. d.
Postage on unpaid correspondence	..	..	..	..	962 10 11
Stamps sold by Post Office Department	..	..	..	..	39,924 9 11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	..	..	..	..	6,376 10 0
Rent of private letter boxes	..	..	..	..	164 0 0
Fees for conveyance of private letter bags	..	..	..	..	41 9 6
Commissions on Money Orders	..	..	..	..	331 17 10
War Tax on Parcels (Inward)	..	..	..	..	711 17 0
Commissions on British Postal Orders	..	..	..	..	863 13 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fees for detention of Country letters per packet for delivery in Kingston	..	..	..	..	—
Commission on Inland Postal Orders	..	..	..	..	—
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	131 14 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Telegraph Stamps sold	..	..	..	..	7,740 8 4
Collections by Jamaica Government Railway	..	..	..	..	222 1 0
Additional charge on books of Telegraph forms	..	..	..	..	2 1 6
Fees for keeping Telegraph Offices open out of office hours	..	..	..	..	51 1 6
Official Telegrams	..	..	..	..	591 12 7
Telegraph Code Addresses	..	..	..	..	10 10 0
Passenger Fares Sold	..	..	..	..	634 10 9
Red Cross Stamps sold	..	..	..	..	120 3 5
Pamphlets, handbooks, etc., sold	..	..	..	..	4 2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
					58,884 14 7 $\frac{1}{4}$

LESS REFUNDS—

Postal Revenue £470 15 5

Telegraph Revenue 2 6 7 473 2 0

58,411 12 7 $\frac{1}{4}$

Telegraph Department during the financial year ended 31st March, 1917.

	1916-17.		
	£	s.	d.
PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS—			
Salaries of Staff	7,240	15	8
Allowance for services out of office hours	2,134	7	10
Wages for sorters, letter carriers, etc.	2,030	10	9
Telegraph messengers, Head Office	205	1	0
Telegraph messengers, District offices and office servants	1,186	18	2
Messenger conveying mails between Post Office and Railway Stations	381	4	6
Box clearers and indoor men	558	3	6
Clerical assistance	148	6	2
Salaries of District Postmasters and Telegraph Clerks	9,353	16	7½
Duty Pay allowance	87	6	8
Salaries of Auxiliary Telegraph Clerks	408	13	9
Commission of 1 per cent. on sale of stamps	331	1	5
Remuneration of Officers of Public Works Department in connection with mail services	305	0	0
Allowance to cover loss by Banking Clerk	14	10	0
Discount of 2½ per cent. on stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	203	18	9
Opening of new Post Offices—Fees to D. P. M.s. .. .. .	..	..	..
Train Post Office clearers	159	4	6
Com. of 10% on sale of Motor Passenger Fares	49	16	3
	£24,798	5	6½

	£	s.	d.
OTHER CHARGES—			
Travelling charges	683	15	9
Mail bags and wrappers	163	4	1
Date stamps, seals, etc.	54	12	9
Twine and wax and lead seals	480	19	11
Conveyance of letter carriers by tram car	250	0	0
Manufacture of Stamps and Post Cards	755	2	7
Rent of Post Offices	1,237	12	5
Telegraph Stores	299	11	7
Ship letter gratuities	2,613	3	3½
Uniforms	341	3	1
Rent of telephones	21	0	0
Advertising	1	9	3
Lighting	138	2	4
Water Supply	122	7	11½
Repairing instruments	18	6	4
Cleaning latrines	143	4	9
Contingencies	490	15	2¼
Furniture	70	18	7
Porterage	543	10	10
Subsidy to Jamaica Government Railway	400	0	0
Mail conveyance miscellaneous	194	5	8
Mail conveyance, Inland	8,910	9	4
Services by Railway	4,090	0	0
Renewal of live stock	256	16	9
Transit rates payable Postal Union Countries other than United Kingdom	1,313	7	7
Proportion of cost of supply and repairs of Parcels Post receptacles, United Kingdom and Jamaica	6	15	1
Purchase and repairs of bicycles	90	16	6
Repairs to clocks	33	4	0
Stamp selling machine and power to operate Electric Stamping machine	5	3	8
Instruments for Electrical Inspector .. .. .	..	..	..
Opening of new Post Offices, mail conveyance and furniture .. .. .	..	..	..
Private letter boxes .. .. .	..	..	..
Premium on bonds	200	0	0
Purchase of Motor Cars .. .. .	..	..	..
Losses through Robbery, written off	0	8	0
Train Post Office—Uniforms .. .. .	..	..	..
	23,930	7	3¼

RECAPITULATION

Personal Emoluments	£24,798	5	6½
Other Charges	23,930	7	3¼
	£48,728	12	9¾

PARCELS RECEIVED.

From	Consignments.			Parcels.			Import Duty.		
	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1916-1917.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1916-1917.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1916-1917.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	42	38	31	20,856	16,277	14,234	3,826 3 11	4,168 9 3	4,643 2 6
British West Indies	117	102	63	227	215	118	20 5 4	7 6 7	11 10 6
United States of America	691	890	346	21,404	26,504	31,052	1,827 6 7	2,318 1 4	3,866 15 10
Dominion of Canada	50	40	16	1,435	1,146	1,220	107 2 9	89 16 7	124 9 5
Turks Island	5	4	5	7	5	17	0 5 1	0 6 1	0 2 10
Canal Zone	155	131	145	3,539	4,459	3,321	247 8 8	480 8 11	289 19 2
Bermuda	1	8	9	1	8	16	0 0 8	0 10 4	0 14 7
British Honduras	..	..	11	..	..	17	..	..	4 7 3
	1,061	1,213	626	47,469	48,614	49,995	6,028 13 0	7,964 19 1	8,941 2 1

	Postage accrued to Jamaica.			Declared value of Parcels.		
	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1916-1917.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1916-1917.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	761 7 7½	540 8 0	503 7 8	39,957 7 5	21,034 5 6	20,621 3 5
British West Indies	..	..	..	117 13 11	80 5 10	84 3 1
United States of America	..	..	..	14,180 10 7	18,367 18 8	24,476 3 2
Dominion of Canada	45 8 0	40 12 3	45 3 6	818 16 11	553 0 0	629 13 2
Turks Island	..	..	..	2 0 0	1 11 10	17 14 0
Canal Zone	..	..	..	1,783 11 3	2,259 8 5	1,460 5 4
Bermuda	..	..	..	..	3 10 2	6 13 1
British Honduras	..	..	..	..	..	17 8 8
	806 15 7½	581 0 3	548 11 2	56,860 0 1	42,300 0 5	47,313 3 11

PARCELS DESPATCHED.

	Consignments.			Parcels.			Accrued to Jamaica.		
	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1916-1917.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1916-1917.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1916-1917.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	53	36	38	4,841	4,924	7,238	120 15 11	133 4 4	133 17 8
British West Indies	176	169	84	1,357	468	312	9 12 0	14 19 8	11 7 0
United States of America	128	166	148	3,533	3,956	4,291	202 7 0	224 2 6	251 9 0
Dominion of Canada	41	40	50	778	892	737	33 17 4	28 4 0	28 17 8
Turks Island	8	8	7	49	73	53	1 7 4	1 10 8	1 16 0
Canal Zone	103	59	62	637	787	681	34 9 6	53 9 0	39 19 0
Bermuda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
H. M. Warships	12	..	..	802	..	..	..	..	..
British Honduras	..	..	21	..	..	57	..	..	1 15 0
	521	478	410	11,997	11,100	13,369	402 9 1	455 10 2	469 1 4

	Declared value of Parcels.		
	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	1916-1917.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	7,274 9 11	9,297 7 0	10,757 1 9
British West Indies	1,078 3 3	1,069 8 4	469 15 5
United States of America	1,905 15 4	1,653 10 1	1,673 11 5
Dominion of Canada	565 12 7	290 2 1	266 13 6
Turks Island	27 16 8	34 3 11	63 15 6
Bermuda	..	..	..
Canal Zone	269 12 2	731 5 7	329 4 1
H.M.S. Warships	42 13 6	..	62 18 4
British Honduras	..	..	..
	11,164 3 5	13,075 17 0	13,623 0 0

Return shewing the number of Telegraph Messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station from 1st April, 1916, to 31st March, 1917, as compared with return from 1st April, 1915, to 31st March, 1916.

Station.	1st April, 1915. 31st March, 1916.		1916-1917.		Remarks.
	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	
Kingston	58,946	62,372	47,911	50,223	
Myers Wharf	1,816	812	3,876	1,734	
Spanish Town	5,838	5,708	4,903	4,779	
Bog Walk	2,152	1,901	1,604	1,431	
Linstead	2,180	2,175	1,793	1,774	And Phantophone.
Ewarton	1,298	1,265	963	896	
Moneague	1,802	1,824	1,480	1,572	
Claremont	871	826	821	784	And Telephone.
Pedro	141	187	94	136	Telephone.
St. Ann's Bay	7,225	6,687	5,009	4,797	
Runaway Bay	448	434	276	275	
Dry Harbour	822	777	338	364	
Browns Town	2,949	3,105	2,371	2,480	And Telephone.
Cave Valley	650	810	589	627	
Alexandria	650	650	524	555	
Boroubridge	642	754	382	412	
Bethel Town	467	672	402	527	Telephone.
Stewart Town	332	406	204	227	Telephone.
Brainerd	164	247	71	124	Phanto.
Jackson Town	377	319	244	262	Telephone.
Clarks Town	436	438	471	569	Telephone.
Ulster Spring	488	546	362	452	Telephone.
Albert Town	175	242	140	190	Telephone.
Rio Bueno	621	544	519	450	
Warsop	144	199	110	123	Telephone.
Duncans	982	1,148	816	984	And Telephone.
Falmouth	5,266	5,130	5,044	4,651	
Adelphi	226	277	160	211	Telephone.
Montego Bay	11,921	12,486	10,217	10,475	And Phanto and telephone.
Rock River	262	289	172	205	Telephone.
Ramble	954	967	668	725	Telephone.
Negril	520	547	547	529	Telephone.
Lucea	4,788	4,585	3,376	3,457	
Sandy Bay	287	349	229	247	Phanto.
Little River	424	418	371	354	Telephone.
Green Island	1,034	1,027	689	630	
Grange Hill	1,165	1,058	884	953	
Benson-ton	64	85	30	29	Telephone.
Sav.-la-Mar	9,618	7,868	8,740	7,340	And Phanto and Telephone.
Little London	998	1,342	796	954	Telephone.
Bluefields	291	354	377	426	Phanto.
Petersfield	1,224	1,205	1,238	1,229	Telephone.
Black River	5,522	5,442	4,712	4,705	And Phanto.
White House	210	186	186	179	Phanto
Lacovia	1,101	971	1,025	917	
Darliston	391	414	328	354	Telephone.
Santa Cruz	886	874	790	816	
Malvern	2,085	1,937	1,856	1,690	
Frankfield	752	853	365	508	Phanto.
Mandeville	4,976	4,930	3,919	4,042	And Telephone.
New Market	589	676	352	469	Phanto.
Newport	555	774	551	743	Telephone.
Kelitts	348	443	157	222	Telephone.
Williamsfield	1,651	1,413	1,059	822	Telephone.
Cambridge	593	592	248	320	Telephone.
Shooters Hill	691	752	471	386	And Telephone.
Carron Hall	263	425	157	216	Phanto.
Mile Gully	442	691	521	679	
Montpelier	731	625	608	572	Telephone.
Balaclava	2,754	2,317	1,389	1,371	And Telephone.

Return shewing the number of Telegraph Messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station from 1st April, 1916, to 31st March, 1917, as compared with return from 1st April, 1915, to 31st March, 1916.

Station.	1st April, 1915. 31st March, 1916.		1916-1917.		Remarks.
	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	
Christiana	1,920	2,303	1,217	1,552	
Spaldings	1,837	1,277	854	873	
Porus	733	667	633	616	
May Pen	2,422	2,109	2,167	1,680	
Chapelton	3,152	2,971	2,226	2,196	And Phanto and Telephone.
Alley	1,351	1,265	1,255	1,135	And Telephone.
Race Course	451	532	351	422	Telephone.
Salt River	772	717	496	577	Telephone.
Milk River	412	426	384	446	Telephone.
Old Harbour	3,604	3,313	2,981	2,739	
Yallahs	471	404	469	443	
Morant Bay	5,330	4,889	4,771	4,508	And Telephone.
Seaforth	404	416	315	313	Telephone.
Trinity Ville	528	533	243	268	Telephone.
Cedar Valley	200	204	169	174	Telephone.
Port Morant	1,371	1,163	797	698	
Bowden (Wireless)	277	762	242	665	And Telephone
Bowden	340	282	316	297	Telephone.
Bath	627	682	403	519	Telephone.
Golden Grove	1,084	910	878	740	And Telephone.
Hectors River	226	251	191	181	
Manchioneal	952	877	372	445	
Priestman's River	314	333	259	256	
Port Antonio	15,834	15,402	10,064	10,026	
Hopk Bay	628	493	298	325	
Buff Bay	1,552	1,350	786	884	
Annotto Bay	4,455	4,334	3,071	3,037	
Highgate	1,373	1,441	769	775	
Richmond	2,847	2,404	1,878	1,735	And Phanto.
Port Maria	6,611	5,995	4,747	4,052	
Troy	153	210	95	118	Telephone.
Oracabessa	966	1,043	548	633	
Retreat	400	530	387	498	And Phanto.
Gayle	952	958	567	601	Phanto.
Guys Hill	518	702	436	498	Phanto.
Ocho Rios	945	902	573	548	
Port Royal	683	537	724	484	
Cross Roads	2,744	3,370	2,145	2,558	
Halfway Tree	1,247	2,700	1,021	2,393	
Coley Ville			222	67	
Constant Spring	515	815	318	521	
Gordon Town	267	364	156	267	And Telephone.
New Castle	115	103	34	45	Telephone.
Castleton	183	234	209	229	
Glengoffe	322	588	246	399	Phanto.
Stony Hill	268	400	205	343	And Phanto.
Lawrence Tavern	213	270	110	157	Phanto.
Myrtle Bank	1,030	377	641	289	
Smith Village	136	121	124	82	Telephone.
Railway	5,144	4,798	5,547	4,935	
Total	235,077	235,077	186,415	186,415	

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 Islands.</i>				
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.			£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
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
1916-17	1,484	7,809 19 7	1,002	4,285 3 3		1916-17	4	1 16 6	48	324 5 9	1 12 8
		<i>United States of America.</i>					<i>Panama.</i>				
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	2,189	5,271 6 4	23,634	53,394 14 0	248 5 2	1915-16	11	39 8 0	1	12 0 0	..
1916-17	2,396	5,014 18 7	27,654	56,117 4 8	176 9 6	1916-17	13	45 4 0	2	13 11 0	0 6 4
		<i>Dominion of Canada.</i>					<i>British Honduras.</i>				
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
1916-17	112	423 12 9	1,009	2,372 18 5	12 14 11	1916-17	..	..	95	186 3 3	0 9 3
		<i>British Guiana.</i>					<i>Trinidad.</i>				
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
1916-17	7	57 5 0	39	99 10 4	0 16 4	1916-17	15	80 4 2	54	63 1 6	0 15 2
		<i>Baradoes.</i>					<i>Bermuda.</i>				
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
1916-17	10	19 13 9	29	103 4 1	0 12 6	1916-17	4	17 9 6	58	504 5 0	2 12 5
		<i>Windward and Leeward Islands.</i>					<i>Grand Cayman.</i>				
						1914-15	44	183 5 4	63	578 5 8	4 1 8
						1915-16	35	257 11 11	31	362 15 6	1 6 3
						1916-17	35	187 8 9	88	886 7 9	5 9 5
		<i>Port Limon.</i>					<i>Cayman Brac.</i>				
1914-15	13	91 6 2	39	83 11 11	1 0 2	1914-15	..	..	5	12 15 4	0 1 3
1915-16	7	74 0 0	33	79 7 11	0 5 1	1915-16	6	13 17 6	2	18 0 5	0 1 3
1916-17	10	68 16 0	35	49 2 7	0 12 6	1916-17	10	59 11 11	32	252 12 4	1 11 10
		<i>St. Thomas, B. W. I.</i>									
1914-15	25	90 7 9	15	23 2 0	1 9 9	1914-15	..	..	7	56 9 7	0 5 8
1915-16	17	44 18 1	6	5 6 0	0 14 11	1915-16	1	1 12 0	6	80 6 5	0 8 0
1916-17	12	57 10 0	13	8 18 8	0 12 5	1916-17	1	0 8 4	4	37 2 3	0 3 9