



# Supplement to the Jamaica Gazette.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1919.

No. 17.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following  
Annual Report on the General Post Office for the year ended 31st March, 1919.

By command,

D. H. HALL,  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

NOTE—The Appendices for this Report are not printed in the Gazette Supplement but the complete Report will appear in extenso in the Departmental Volumes as usual.

*Post Office and Telegraph Report for the year ended 31st March, 1919.*

General Post Office, Jamaica, 30th June, 1919.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report upon the Postal and Telegraph Departments for the financial year ended 31st March, 1919, being the fifty-first report of its existence.

## REVENUE COMPARED WITH ESTIMATES.

			£	s.	d.
Postal	...	..	50,409	15	10½
Telegraphs	..	..	10,241	7	10½
			60,651	3	8½
Revised Estimates are :—					
Postal	..	..	49,750	0	0
Telegraphs	..	..	8,550	0	0
			58,300	0	0



2. It will be observed that my revised Estimates are £2,351 short of the actual receipts. The War Tax was again in force and if its estimate of receipts is deducted from the actual receipts and the difference compared with the collections for 1915-16 which do not include a War Tax, an excess of £4,598 is shown, this illustrates the revival of revenue due without doubt to the cessation of hostilities since 11th November, 1918.

3. I furnish hereunder, a return of the collections under the various heads for the year under report and alongside of it is shown the similar collections for the two years preceding :—

	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Postage	47,127 12 9 <sup>3</sup>	44,517 17 5 <sup>1</sup>	46,248 7 1 <sup>1</sup>
Commission on Money Order	331 17 10	288 15 11	257 7 3
Local com. on British Postal Orders	863 13 5 <sup>1</sup>	789 2 6 <sup>1</sup>	817 15 10
Miscellaneous	1,473 0 2	2,870 5 1 <sup>1</sup>	3,086 5 8
Telegraph	8,615 8 4	8,811 8 7	10,241 7 10 <sup>1</sup>
	<u>58,411 12 7<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>57,277 9 7<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>60,651 3 8<sup>1</sup></u>

4. The "Postage" Account shows recovery and is only £879 below that for 1916-17, the commission on Money Orders continues to decrease but there is a slight improvement in the commission on British Postal Orders when these are compared with the similar collection for 1917-18.

5. The receipts of £10,241 credited to "Telegraphs" establishes a record for the collections of that branch of the Department and is one of which the Department can justly feel proud. The best indication of the Colony's industrial revival is reflected in this satisfactory return of the Telegraph Revenue. In addition, account has to be taken of the rent received for private telephone lines operated under Law 10 of 1893 etc., the annual collection is now £523 1s. 6d. the principal lessees being the United Fruit Co., and the Atlantic Co.

6. The miscellaneous receipts show an increase of £216 and is due to the increased collections on account of "Passengers Fares" on the northside, the collections are £650 as against £409 for 1917-18.

7. The entire collections exceed those of the preceding year by £3,374 and if £8,000 the estimated yield of the war tax is eliminated, and comparison made with the collections for the year 1913-1914 immediately preceding the outbreak of the Great War, an excess of £774 is the result, thus illustrating the rapid recovery of Postal Revenue receipts.

#### RETROSPECT.

8. The following comparative Return, spreading over twenty years illustrates the financial growth of the Department, the collections for the year under review being a record one and is £32,000 in excess of that 20 years ago.

	1898-99.	1908-09.	1918-19.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Postage	21,439 0 0	32,210 0 0	46,248 0 0
Commission on Money Orders	392 0 0	654 0 0	257 0 0
Commission on Postal Orders	594 0 0	742 0 0	818 0 0
Telegraph	6,101 0 0	6,220 0 0	10,242 0 0
Miscellaneous	126 0 0	969 0 0	3,086 0 0
	<u>28,652 0 0</u>	<u>40,795 0 0</u>	<u>60,651 0 0</u>

#### EXPENDITURE COMPARED WITH ESTIMATES.

9. The expenditure of the Department and the appropriation by the Legislature is given hereunder :—

	Expenditure.	Estimate.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Personal Emoluments	24,627 4 2	25,398 8 10
Mail Conveyance	18,390 18 6	19,314 4 4
Services	7,020 11 8 <sup>1</sup>	6,307 8 0
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	488 15 4	425 0 0
	<u>50,527 9 8<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>51,445 1 2</u>
Telegraph Line Construction Public Works Department	21 1 1	2,138 10 0
Telegraph Line Maintenance Public Works Department	1,844 8 1	
	<u>52,392 18 10<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>53,583 11 2</u>



10. The saving therefore on the administration is £1,190 12s. 3½d.

## COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE.

	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Personal Emoluments	24,798 5 6½	24,205 15 10½	24,627 4 2
Mail Conveyances	17,378 2 7½	17,530 10 3½	18,390 18 6
Other Charges	6,234 6 8½	6,061 6 8½	7,020 11 8½
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	317 17 11	477 16 9	488 15 4
	48,728 12 9½	48,275 9 7½	50,527 9 8½
Maintenance of Telegraph Line by Public Works Department	2,247 7 10	2,367 4 11	1,844 8 1
Construction of Telegraph line by P. W. Department	240 3 6	3 9 0	21 1 1
	51,216 4 1½	50,646 3 6½	53,392 18 10½

11. There is an increase of £1,746 15s. 4½d on comparison with the year 1917-18, the principal cause of increase is to be found in Inland Mail Conveyance and the cost of twine and is due to the reason given at paragraph 37.

## RETROSPECT OF EXPENDITURE.

12. The expenditure of the island on account of its postal and telegraph service is shewn hereunder in periods of ten years beginning with 1898-99.

	1898-99.	1908-09.	1918-19.
	£	£	£
Personal Emoluments	14,879	16,663	24,627
Services	6,721	5,539	7,021
Maintenance of Telegraph Lines	1,331	934	2,354
Mail Conveyance	15,730	11,096	18,391
	38,661	34,232	52,393

## POSTAL MISCELLANEOUS.

13. Miscellaneous items of revenue totalling £3,086 5s. 8d. are as under:—

	£ s. d.
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	167 4 0
Do do Bags	42 3 6
Fines	11 1 8
Delivery Fees on C. O. D. Parcels	20 9 10½
Public call Telephones	5 7 3
Surplus Cash	2 17 8½
Miscellaneous	0 0 4
Value found in Unclaimed Dead Letters	9 12 4
Passengers Fares collected	650 3 11
Discount on Stamps purchased	0 6 0
War Tax on Parcels from abroad	539 5 3
Money Order Settlement, difference in Exchange	1,637 13 10
	3,086 5 8

14. The item "Passenger Fares Collected" shows an increase of £241 over the similar collections for last year. £650 3s. 11d. represent the Passenger Fares collected on the mail route Ewarton to Montego Bay, and gives a fair idea, I submit, of the appreciation of a combined mail and passenger conveyance between the two points.

15. Quinine, Impressed and Judicial Stamps to the value stated hereunder was sold in Kingston and at the several District Post Offices.

Quinine	£534 19 9½
Impressed Stamps, etc.	920 19 6½
Judicial Stamps	2,571 13 3

16. There was an increase of £197 in the sale of Quinine as compared with the year 1917-18 and is due entirely to the influenza epidemic in October and November 1918.



## DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

17. One new District Post Office was established on 18th July, 1918, at Grange Lane in the parish of St. Catherine which brings the total up to 202.

18. The following Post Offices were temporarily closed and re-opened as per the dates set out:—

	Closed.	Re-opened.
Alderton in parish of St. Ann	4th April, 1918.	6th April, 1918.
Alligator Pond in parish of Manchester	8th Nov. 1918.	18th Nov., 1918.
Alston in parish of Clarendon	13th Nov., 1918.	7th January, 1919.
Maggotty in parish of St. Elizabeth	20th October, 1918.	18th Nov., 1918.

19. The usual inspection of District Post Offices was carried out during the year with satisfactory results.

20. A house to house delivery of correspondence by Letter Carriers was inaugurated in Montego Bay on 8th May, 1918.

A street collecting Letter Box was erected on the Molynes Road, St. Andrew on 25th April, 1918.

## CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

21. The following return is an analysis of the estimated pieces of mail matter which have passed through the Kingston and District Post Offices:—No estimate is taken of second class mail matter, that is, newspaper, etc., and these are therefore not included in the return.

22. There is an increase in the estimated total number of the inward correspondence and a slight falling off in the outward, the former I attribute to the continued migration of all classes of the inhabitants to Cuba and the United States of America, as well as to the home writing of the members of the Jamaica War Contingent.

23. Foreign registered letters for delivery in Kingston and country have increased nearly 11,000, and is due to the similar reason given above, the greatest increase being perceptible from Cuba, since there is no Money Order Exchange in existence yet between that Republic and this Colony.

24. There is a considerable reduction in the number of letters alleged missing through the post, and I am proud to record that a large percentage of these are traced. I am also glad to state that the public are at last acting on the oft-repeated advice given to retain the counterfoil of a Postal Order sent through the post and to fill in the name of the Payee and Office of payment in the Postal Order. Many Postal Orders have been traced as a result of the senders being able to furnish me with the number.

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
Inland Mails—						
Ordinary Letters—						
Public	2,469,465	2,444,771	2,110,160	2,949,074	3,008,054	2,918,043
Official	314,556	308,265	307,501	372,529	379,979	368,582
Post Cards	280,452	89,648	105,500	272,356	71,812	69,658
By vessels, not contract—						
U.K. and United States of America—						
Ordinary Letters	649,176	643,893	659,675	1,260,057	1,191,960	1,346,382
Post Cards	54,534	38,740	30,026	45,460	44,967	53,180
Other Countries—						
Ordinary Letters	349,066	362,531	395,986	292,036	396,000	472,383
Post Cards	2,343	2,236	2,011	3,890	4,680	3,168
Registered Letters, oversea						
Total	4,119,592	3,890,084	3,610,859	5,195,402	5,097,452	5,231,396

## Registered letters for delivery in Kingston—

	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
Local	66,702	62,519	64,165
Foreign	24,364	23,706	25,045
Official	33,020	33,003	30,996
Registered letters for delivery in the country—			
Local	21,257	24,004	25,819
Foreign	51,620	51,376	60,739
Registered letters for despatch—			
Oversea	23,518	40,865	37,428

## At District Post Offices—

	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
Ordinary letters	1,070,449	2,066,181	1,286,620
Post Cards	357,162	93,057	75,859
Registered letters	107,009	502,996	103,000
Total	2,134,620	2,662,234	1,465,479



25. A return of the Insured Letters received and despatched is given in comparison with the two preceding years.

26. The System as is shewn in the return does not appear to find favour with the public.

Year.		No.	Declared Value.			No.	Declared Value.		
			£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1916-17	—					28	315	13	3
1917-18	13		443	15	0	27	483	11	10
1918-19	10		752	17	6	21	126	14	7

#### RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

27. Below is the usual return of letters, etc., passing through the Dead Letter Office.

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to United Kingdom	7,769	19
" " Other Countries	7,175	2,468
" " Writers in the Island	43,567	21,319
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous, writers not having been found	17,922	16,027
Newspapers returned to publishers	234	—

28. The above return shows I submit that the staff in this Branch is kept busy handling this class of mail matter,—the letters returned to writers in the Island are less than last year, but there can still be a reduction if as I said in my last Annual Report, care is exercised by the posters in addressing a letter before posting it. The frequency with which obvious errors are observed by the Post Office Staff and corrected makes me think that the idea is to get the letter in the postbox anyhow and the Post Office will do the rest.

29. Such an address as James Brown "Fernleigh," St. Andrew, is insufficient, as a post office for delivery is not named, and it leaves the Post Office employe, sometimes a new hand, to guess what P.O. in St. Andrew it should be sent to,—frequently such a letter does not get delivered.

30. I again entreat correspondents to give the fullest address possible on all pieces of mail matter sent through the post and by this means help the Sorting Clerk and expedite the delivery of the missive.

#### MAIL CONVEYANCE—OCEAN.

31. The number of mails exchanged and the number of vessels which conveyed these mails are shown in the following return.

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1916-17.		1917-18.		1918-19.		1916-17.		1917-18.		1918-19.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
Kingston—												
Non-contract	388	1,718	350	1,479	426	1,436	427	2,105	349	1,574	345	1,28
Outports—												
Non-contract	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	388	1,718	350	1,479	426	1,436	427	2,105	349	1,574	345	1,283

32. The frequency with which mails were exchanged abroad before the outbreak of war, has not yet been restored as shipping facilities have not considerably improved since the cessation of hostilities.

33. Two mails only were intransit through this Colony during the year.

34. The Mail Exchange with the outside world was maintained by such steamers of the United Fruit Co., Elders & Fyffe, the Atlantic Fruit Co. and the Harrison Line as were available. The faster boats of the United Fruit Co. having been withdrawn, at several periods during the year, the mails from America were 7 and 8 days intransit,—conditions are gradually improving as the boats are released and resuming their original time-table.

35. I am glad to be able to record that not any mails were lost for Jamaica as a result of enemy action during the period to 11th November, 1918, when the Armistice was signed.

36. The cost to the Colony for its ocean Mail Service is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Ship Letter Gratuities	2,435	8	9
Sea & Territorial Transit Rates paid to other countries	1,359	2	6
	3,774	11	3



## MAIL CONVEYANCE—INLAND.

37. The Inland Mail Service has been maintained at a cost of £14,596 7s. 3d. or £834 4s. 8½d. in excess of the previous year. The continued increased cost of material resulting in higher charges by the Public Works Department and the continuance of reasonable additions to Contractors' subsidies, is the explanation.

38. There have not been any interruptions to the mail services except from causes beyond control, and I bear testimony to the satisfactory performance by the Public Works Department and the several Contractors.

## MONEY ORDERS.

39. The usual comparative return of the Exchange of Money Orders with the United Kingdom and other Countries is appended.

40. In my Annual Report for the year preceding this one I called attention to the fact that there was a substantial decrease in the orders issued in Jamaica and payable in the United Kingdom, there has not been any sign of recovery yet, the decrease as compared with last year is £654. The orders issued in the United Kingdom and payable here is however £1,552, in excess of the previous year.

41. The orders issued in the United States and Canal Zone again shew increase to the amount of £9,019 and is due to the number of Jamaicans now in the United States.

42. A Money Order Exchange with Cuba would be a welcome facility to the number of natives of this Colony now in Cuba,—every effort has been and is still being made to conclude an Agreement for such an Exchange.

43. The number of Telegraph Money Orders received during the year is 29, aggregating £608, the number issued being 3, for £40.

44. The Money Order Exchange with the United States and Canal Zone is conducted at a fixed rate of Exchange under the Convention, which is \$4.87 to the £1 sterling and does not vary in either country as a result of the fluctuation of the marketable exchange. To regulate and prevent the abuse of the Money Order Exchange a careful watch is kept on the daily fluctuation and the rate of Commission is varied to meet it.

45. This explanation is given to the frequent queries received with regard to the payment of Money Orders in sterling and the varying commission charged.

## POSTAL ORDERS.

46. A Return of the various denominations of Postal Orders issued is hereunder:—

1917-18.				1918-19.			
Denomination.	No.	Face Value.	Commission.	Denomination.	No.	Face Value.	Commission.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
6d.	8,765	219 2 6	18 5 2½	6d.	8,030	200 15 0	16 14 7
1/	27,645	1,382 5 0	57 11 10½	1/	27,235	1,361 15 0	56 14 9½
1 6	18,690	1,401 15 0	38 18 9	1 6	17,920	1,344 0 0	37 6 8
2/	33,200	3,320 0 0	69 3 4	2/	33,700	3,370 0 0	70 4 2
2 6	21,305	2,663 2 6	44 7 8½	2 6	23,760	2,970 0 0	49 10 0
3/	19,550	2,932 10 0	81 9 2	3/	19,180	2,877 0 0	79 18 4
3 6	9,105	1,593 7 6	37 18 9	3 6	7,245	1,267 17 6	30 3 9
4/	26,165	5,233 0 0	109 0 5	4/	26,685	5,337 0 0	111 3 9
4 6	11,240	2,529 0 0	46 16 8	4 6	11,855	2,667 7 6	49 7 11
5/	36,245	9,061 5 0	151 0 5	5/	32,830	8,207 10 0	136 15 10
7 6	5,495	2,060 12 6	34 6 10½	7 6	5,875	2,203 2 6	36 14 4½
8/	11,985	4,794 0 0	99 17 6	8/	12,625	5,050 0 0	105 4 2
10/	30,805	15,402 10 0	256 14 2	10/	32,110	16,055 0 0	267 11 8
20/	7,065	7,065 0 0	117 15 0	20/	7,105	7,105 0 0	118 8 4
Total ...	267,260	59,657 10 0	1,163 5 10	Total ...	266,155	60,016 7 6	1,165 18 4

47. Postal Orders actually sold amount to £61,188 18s. 6d. the number being 270,956, and is £1,637 19s. 6d. in excess of the similar sales in 1917-18, this is a pleasing record as it is another indication of the revival of trade.

48. The following comparison of sales is interesting in that a steady decrease is recorded since the beginning of the war and is now relieved by an increase due without doubt to the more normal times since November, 1918.

1913-14	...	£77,305 6 0
1914-15	...	74,331 3 6
1915-16	...	68,012 2 0
1916-17	...	65,638 11 6
1917-18	...	59,480 19 0
1918-19	...	61,188 18 6



49. The commission collected on the sale of these British Postal Orders is £1,188 10s. 8d. the net amount accruing to the Colony is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Local Commission on orders above 2 6 value	275	5	5½
Allowance by the London P.O. at the rate of £1 on every 1,000 orders sold and paid	541	7	0
Orders not claimed by payees within six years from the end of the year in which issued			nil
	816	12	5½

50. The value of Postal Orders paid in the Colony is £67,125 14s. 9d., and the number 270,394, this is shown below in comparison with the two year preceding.

	1916-17.	1917-18	1918-19.
	£	£	£
At the G.P.O., Kingston	8,083	8,095	9,457
At the Treasury do	29,425	28,468	29,835
At District Post Offices and Parochial Treasuries	21,553	23,649	27,833
	59,061	60,212	67,125

51. The number and amount of Postal Orders paid is the largest on record since the introduction of the British Postal Orders in 1912 in substitution for Local Postal Orders.

#### PARCELS POST.

52. Attached to this report is a comparative return with the two preceding years of the Parcels Post business.

53. A reference to that return discloses an increase of 3,545 in the number of parcels despatched as compared with the year 1917-18.

54. The increase in the parcels received is accounted for in the importation from the United Kingdom and United States of America, and is due no doubt to the gradual revival of trade as a result of the signing of the Armistice.

55. Similarly the increase in the despatches is confined to the United Kingdom and United States, the Jippi Jappa hat industry being responsible to a considerable extent for the increased exportation to the United Kingdom, and in the case of the United States the straw basket industry supplies the articles which are now being exported in appreciable quantities.

56. The import duty actually collected and transferred to the Revenue Department is £10,340 14s. 4d. and is the largest on record. I cannot refrain from remarking that among the credits due to this Department and not shown in its accounts, is one for collecting the above sum and placing it to the credit of another Department without any re-imbursement whatever of the expense entailed in the collection.

57. Packets, letters and otherwise, containing articles liable to Customs Duty continue to find their way through the ordinary and registered letter post, these are all detained and the benefit to the import duty for the year is £450 15s. 2d.

58. Penalties for undervaluation amounted to £2 12s. 6d., and I take this opportunity to point out that undervaluation of the contents of parcels imported by Parcels Post renders the parcel liable to seizure, fines are only imposed when it is an obvious error.

59. There has been an improvement in the opportunities for despatch of parcels abroad generally, and the reference made in paragraph 60 of my report for 1917-18 with regard to monthly despatches to the other British West India Islands via Halifax has materialised.

60. A return for three years of the Insured and Cash on Delivery Parcels is hereunder. There is marked improvement in the Insured parcels received and despatched.

#### Insured Parcels.

#### Cash on Delivery Parcels.

Received.				Received.							
Year.	No.	Amount.			No.	Trade Charges.		Fees.			
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1916-17	1,296	5,953	10	6	2,956	4,065	1	2	73	18	0
1917-18	799	4,114	5	9	1,490	2,525	0	9	32	1	0
1918-19	851	5,041	17	9	1,196	2,350	1	3	25	6	6

Despatched.				Despatched.				
	No.	£ s. d.						
1916-17	146	826	5	11				
1917-18	202	796	18	6		Nil		
1918-19	443	7,372	16	4				



61. The Cash on Delivery System continues to receive patronage, but I am afraid the frequency with which parcels are returned for want of being claimed within the prescribed time does not tend to induce merchants to export their goods under the System.

62. Three pence War Tax imposed on parcels post packets containing dutiable matter yielded £539 5s. 3d.

63. The undernoted Offices with which telegraphic communication could be had, existed at the close of the year,—

Telegraph	..	59
Telephone	..	33
Phantaphone	..	17

a total of 109, and in addition there are 39 Railway Telegraph Offices available.

64. Green Island Telegraph Office in the Parish of Hanover was converted into a Phantaphone Station on the 4th April, 1918.

65. I again record an increase in the number of messages sent and received as compared with the previous year, this increase is appreciable since it is 24,112 and like the Postal increase is evidence of the growing recovery of the Colony's condition. The revival of the produce trade due to the better transport facilities offered since the cessation of hostilities is reflected in the increase of telegrams.

66. The undernoted amounts were collected on behalf of the Cable Companies and duly paid to them.

Direct Cable Co.	£2,030 4s. 0d
West India & Panama Cable Co.	301 15s. 6d.

In the case of the former there is a decrease of £513, and in the latter an increase of £81, on comparison with the previous year's transactions. A temporary dislocation of the Direct Cable Co's. lines during the period under review, no doubt accounts for the drop in the collection on account of that Company.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

67. During the riots which occurred in the Vere District of Clarendon in July 1918, a technical officer of this Department accompanied the late Acting Inspector General of Police to Alley, and placed the Alley telephone Station in direct telegraphic communication with Kingston,—this was essential under existing circumstances.

68. In recording my appreciation of the work of the Staff I desire to record particularly the self-sacrificing spirit which was displayed by the entire Staff in Kingston and at District Post Offices during the Influenza Epidemic—16th October, 1918, to 18th November, 1918,—this being the period at which its presence was felt amongst the Staff. In Kingston it was with the greatest difficulty, that the several Branches were conducted, as for several days there were as many as 30 employee all told, absent. At District Stations the cheerfulness with which large Stations worked for days short handed, is the secret whereby it was not necessary to close a single telegraph office during the period.

69. I cannot therefore too highly record my admiration of the loyalty of those who were not stricken with the malady, and who stuck to duty during long hours in order to keep the Department going. I desire to record the fact also that those who took ill returned to duty at the earliest possible moment.

70. During the latter part of the year under review, the Department has lost several of its competent telegraphists who have left the Island for the better field of employment which offers in Canada, and the United States of America,—the School in Kingston has been kept busy training hands to fill the vacancies thus created, but as it takes some time for a young woman to become a competent telegraphist, I am afraid the efficiency of the Department will suffer to some extent.

71. On the 1st April 1918, Miss O. A. Grant who joined the Telegraph Service on 22nd October, 1880, and was for many years the Senior Resident Telegraph Clerk in Kingston, retired on a well merited pension. Miss Grant was a model clerk, her experience was invaluable to the Department, and her devotion to duty won the admiration of the entire Staff, her place cannot be easily filled.

72. While not germane to this report, I desire to record the retirement of Messrs. Duff and Hart on 11th July, 1917, and 16th September, 1917, two technical officers of the Department who had 39 and 37 years service respectively. The loss of the services of these officers to the Department is felt as they carried with them experience practically from the establishment of the Island Telegraph, both officers were loyal, efficient and untiring in their zeal in connection with the branch of the Department where there is so much scope for it. I hope Miss Grant and themselves will enjoy for some time their Pensions.

73. The usual returns are attached.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ELLIS WOLFE,  
Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Honourable,  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Kingston.