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No. 16.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 9th August, 1920.
THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Annual Report on the working of the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st March, 1920.

By command,

H. BRYAN, 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.

General Post Office, Jamaica,

21st, July, 1920.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the fifty-second Annual Report of the Postal and Telegraph Department being that for the financial year ended 31st March, 1920.

REVENUE COMPARED WITH ESTIMATES.

			£	s.	d.
Postal	..	..	79,553	4	2½
Telegraphs	...	..	15,033	19	6
			94,587	3	8½
Revised Estimates are :—					
Postal	...	..	75,800	0	0
Telegraphs	..	..	14,500	0	0
			90,300	0	0

2. The revised estimates are therefore as disclosed on comparison £4,287 below the actual receipts. The estimated yield of the War Tax on letters and parcels is £10,000 and if this is deducted from the above receipts and a comparison made with the collections for 1915-16 when the War Tax was not in force, the increase shown is £36,534 and is I submit highly satisfactory.

3. The usual return showing the various heads of collection for the year is furnished hereunder.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Postage	44,517 17 5½	46,248 7 1½	63,461 4 6½
Commission on Money Order	288 15 11	257 7 3	804 7 6
Local Com. on British Postal Orders	789 2 6½	817 15 10	898 1 9½
Miscellaneous	2,870 5 1½	3,086 5 8	14,389 10 4
Telegraph	8,811 8 7	10,241 7 10½	15,033 19 6
	57,277 9 7½	60,651 3 8½	94,587 3 8½

4. There is a marked increase in all the sub-heads the postage account is £17,213 in excess of the previous year, this account in itself is in excess of the entire collections of 1918-19 by the sum of £2,810.

5. The commission earned on the Money Order Exchange System is £547 in excess of the previous year and there is also a slight increase in the commission on Postal Orders.

6. The receipts on account of Telegraph Revenue is £4,792 in excess of the previous year, the record which I remarked on in the 5th paragraph of my report for 1918-19 had been established, is therefore broken and further testimony is added to mark the Colony's continued prosperity. These receipts on account of Telegraph Revenue are particularly interesting since they are a true representation of actual work performed, unlike the postage account which includes stamps sold to Collectors and which are never used postally—the increase therefore of nearly 50% of Revenue is also an increase of nearly 50% of work performed and that without any very appreciable increase of staff.

7. The increase under miscellaneous is £11,303 above the previous year and is due principally to increases in the items "War Tax on parcels", "Passenger Fares", and credits on account of payments in connection with the United States Money Order balances.

8. The entire collections are £33,936 in excess of the previous year and allowing an Estimate of say £10,000 for War Tax imposition, is £32,710 in excess of the similar receipts for 1913-14,—this I submit is a highly satisfactory transaction and illustrates the rapid expansion of the postal business in the Colony's march of progress.

9. A further addition to the Revenue receipts is the collection on account of rent of Private Telephone Lines which amount to £523 8s. 9d.

RETROSPECT.

10. The comparative Return hereunder, covering a period of twenty years, discloses an increase of 251%.

	1899-1900.	1909-10.	1919-20.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Postage	20,125 0 0	33,362 0 0	63,461 0 0
Commission on Money Orders	379 0 0	424 0 0	804 0 0
Commission on Postal Orders	635 0 0	989 0 0	898 0 0
Telegraph	5,130 0 0	6,769 8 0	15,034 0 0
Miscellaneous	157 0 0	865 0 0	14,390 0 0
	26,926 0 0	42,409 0 0	94,587 0 0

11. The receipts would be further enhanced were I to add the estimated value of the Official Correspondence carried free which is about £7,000.

EXPENDITURE COMPARED WITH ESTIMATES:

12. Below is given the actual expenditure and along side of it is the Estimates.

	Expenditure.	Estimate.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Personal Emoluments	31,817 10 2	25,533 8 11
Mail Conveyance	21,129 18 2	19,314 4 4
Services	9,897 9 6	6,262 18 0
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	594 8 4	425 0 0
	63,439 6 2	51,535 11 3
Telegraph Line Construction and Maintenance P.W.D.	2,171 5 2	2,513 10 0
	65,610 11 4	54,049 1 3

13. The excess is £11,561 10s 1d. and is principally due to the increases to salaries and wages granted to public employees during the year as a result of the report of the Select Committee the increased cost for Mail Conveyance and services generally.

COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Personal Emoluments	24,205 15 10½	24,627 4 2	31,817 10 2
Mail Conveyances	17,530 10 3½	18,390 18 6	21,129 18 2
Other Charges	6,061 6 8½	7,020 11 8½	9,897 9 6
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	477 16 9	488 15 4	594 8 4
Maintenance of Telegraph Line by Public Works Department	48,275 9 7½	50,527 9 8½	63,439 6 2
Construction of Telegraph Line by P. W. Department	2,367 4 11	1,844 8 1	2,171 5 2
	3 9 0	21 1 1	
	50,646 3 6½	53,392 18 10½	65,610 11 4

14. The increase as compared with the previous year is £12,217 12s. 6d. and is due to the large increased business which has been done resulting in extra services, etc., as well as the charges for articles necessary for the maintenance of the Department.

RETROSPECT OF EXPENDITURE.

15. Covering a period of twenty years in breaks of ten years is shown hereunder the expenditure on account of the Postal and Telegraph Service. The marked increase shewn on comparison is in keeping with the increased receipts.

	1899-1900.	1909-10.	1919-20.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Personal Emoluments	13,847 0 0	17,906 0 0	31,818 0 0
Services	5,015 0 0	5,718 0 0	9,897 0 0
Maintenance of Telegraph Lines	1,324 0 0	930 0 0	594 0 0
Mail Conveyance	17,386 0 0	12,410 0 0	21,130 0 0
	37,572 0 0	36,964 0 0	63,439 0 0

POSTAL MISCELLANEOUS.

16. Item of Receipts grouped under the head Miscellaneous are as under :—

	£ s. d.
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	176 5 6
Do. Do. Bags	44 7 3
Fines	9 4 0
Delivery Fees on C.O.D. Parcels	51 4 4
Public call Telephones	5 3 7
Surplus cash	1 6 4½
Miscellaneous	2 7 8½
Value found in Unclaimed Dead Letters	5 8 4½
Passengers fares collected	1,168 14 5
Discount on Stamps purchased	1 2 4½
War Tax on Parcels from abroad	821 19 3
Money Order Settlement, difference in Exchange	12,102 7 2
	14,389 10 4

17. The Passenger Fare Collections are £518 in excess of last year's.—the War Tax on Parcels show an increase of 282. The credit which accrues to the Department as a result of our Money Order Balances being used by the Government in the States, (the difference between the rate of settlement and the prevailing market rate), also shows an increase.

18. The following is a return of the Quinine, Impressed and Judicial Stamps sold at the several District Post Offices and in Kingston during the year.

	£	s.	d.
Quinine	400	6	8
Impressed Stamp, &c.	1,074	1	4
Judicial Stamps	4,127	9	3

19. The distribution of Quinine through District Post Offices has I submit been appreciated by the Public as is evidenced by the steady increase in its sale. The sale of Quinine at District Post Offices at a moderate charge is intended to benefit suffering humanity, particularly those of the poorer classes,—Quinine should not be bought for the purpose of retailing it at a profit as I have heard it has been, and I hope those who indulge in the practice will discontinue.

DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

20. Following is a List of the District Post Offices temporarily closed and re-opened during the year:—

	Closed	Re-opened.
Bensonton in the parish of St. Ann	17th May, '19	27th May, '19
Alston do. Clarendon	20th June, '19	4th July, '19
Long Bay do. Portland	29th Sept., '19	29th Nov., '19
Milk River do. Clarendon	26th Feb., '20	10th Mar., '20

21. A Post Office and Telegraph Station was re-established in the Myrtle Bank Hotel on 19th April, 1919.

22. The Post Office at Newcastle was removed on the 5th November, '19 from the premises known as "Cold Spring Cottage" to premises situate at a more suitable site immediately above the Military Parade Grounds.

23. During the year Savings Banks were established in the following Post Offices:—

Cross Roads	14th May, 1919
Golden Grove	23rd Feb., 1920
Richmond	25th Feb., 1920
Balsclava	25th Feb., 1920
Porus	26th Feb., 1920

and with those previously established, brings the number at the close of the year up to 7.

24. I am advised that these Banks are giving satisfactory results and the P.Ms. in charge of the stations are to be complimented on the ready manner in which they took up the extra duty at a small remuneration which will be increased in proportion to the business done.

CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

25. A study of the following return of ordinary and registered letter mail matter for local delivery and despatch as well as to and from abroad will show the increase in this class of mail there has been similar increase in the printed matter from abroad, but as no account is kept of these a return cannot be furnished.

26. The increase in the number of local registered letters for delivery in Kingston is 17,069 and of foreign registered letters is 8,853 a total increase of 25,922 the recording and delivery of these registered letters have to be carefully performed and although occasionally there has been a mis-delivery, I consider it redounds with credit to the Department that the correct delivery of these registered articles has been so satisfactory.

27. I am again pleased to record that the number of missing letters enquired for bears but a very small proportion to the volume of letter mail handled, in several cases letters reported missing have been traced either to imperfect addresses or to the fact that they miscarried before posting or after delivery, postal orders contained in some of these letters have been traced and often in consequence of these orders bearing erasures I have been able to secure restitution, this fact will, I hope, induce all who send postal orders through the post unregistered, to fill in the name of the payee and the office of payment before parting with the order.

28. Complaints have been recently made that the handing of Second Class mail matter from abroad is not as prompt as might be desired. I take this opportunity to make the statement that Second Class Mail is handled here simultaneously with the letter mail as far as this is possible with the staff available at the time of receipt and generally there is never more than 5 or 6 hours delay. When it is considered by restive individuals that the average number of bags of mails now being received weekly is 240 that the letter mail is placed on the street delivery between 2 and 3 hours after receipt and the printed matter mail is assorted for office delivery within 5 or 6 hours after, there should not be cause for complaint. I am advised in other countries second class matter is never ready for delivery until the day after receipt.

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
Inland Mails—						
Ordinary Letters—						
Public ..	2,444,771	2,110,100	2,215,665	3,008,054	2,918,043	3,163,943
Official ..	308,205	307,501	327,026	379,979	368,582	387,007
Post Cards ..	89,648	105,500	107,610	71,812	69,658	72,442
By vessels, not contract—						
U.K. and United States of America—						
Ordinary Letters ..	643,893	659,675	686,285	1,191,960	1,346,382	1,546,040
Post Cards ..	38,740	30,026	88,504	44,967	53,180	54,365
Other Countries—						
Ordinary Letters ..	362,531	395,986	657,794	396,000	472,383	825,349
Post Cards ..	2,236	2,011	4,797	4,680	3,168	2,964
Total	3,890,084	3,610,859	4,087,681	5,097,452	5,231,396	6,052,110

Registered letters for delivery in Kingston—

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
Local ..	62,519	64,165	81,234
Foreign ..	23,706	25,045	33,898
Official ..	33,003	30,996	41,658
* Registered letters for delivery in the country—			
Local ..	24,004	25,819	38,741
Foreign ..	51,376	60,739	92,578
Registered letters for despatch—			
Oversea ..	40,865	37,428	51,019
At District Post Offices—			
Ordinary letters ..	2,066,181	1,286,620	1,439,952
Post Cards ..	93,057	75,859	77,987
Registered letters ..	502,996	103,000	108,089
	2,662,234	1,465,479	1,626,028

29. The following is a return of the Insured Letters received and despatched for the past three years, there are slight increases in the number of letters received and despatched.

Year.	No.	Received.	No.	Despatched.
		Declared Value.		Declared Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1917-18	13	443 15 0	27	483 11 10
1918-19	10	752 17 6	21	126 14 7
1919-20	11	256 0 0	30	952 6 8

RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

30. Hereunder is a return of the letters, etc., which could not be delivered and were returned to the writers:—

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to the United Kingdom	4,721	375
do. do. other Countries	11,822	3,781
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous, writers not having been found	22,930	19,424
Letters returned to writers in the island	59,637	31,986
Newspapers returned to publishers	187	

31. There has been an increase in the number of letters, etc., handled, but this is only in keeping with the general increase of the Department.

32. The number of packets found to contain value was 7,735 the total amount of value being £2,132 11s. 0d.

MAIL CONVEYANCE—OCEAN.

33. Below is the usual return showing the number of mails received and despatched for abroad.

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1917-18.		1918-19.		1919-20.		1917-18.		1918-19.		1919-20.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
<i>Kingston—</i>												
Non-contract	350	1,479	426	1,436	494	1,602	349	1,574	345	1,283	494	1,602
<i>Outports—</i>												
Non-contract	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	350	1,479	426	1,436	494	1,602	349	1,574	345	1,283	494	1,602

34. There has been increase in the exchange of mails with the outside world and there is greater regularity of arrival and departure of the boats plying between the United Kingdom, the United States and Jamaica.

35. We have been dependent on the steamers of the United Fruit Company, the Atlantic Fruit Company and the Harrison Line for our Mail Exchanges. These Companies are not subsidised and are paid ship letter gratuity for mail conveyance, the opportunities are therefore not regular but fitful and the staff have frequently to make up mails for despatch at very short notice, which has more often than not been sought.

36. The cost for the service is as follows:—

Ship Letter Gratuities	£2,929 11s. 7d.
Sea and Territorial Transit Rates paid to other Countries	1,336 1 2
	£4,265 12s. 9d.

This is £491 in excess of the similar payment last year.

MAIL CONVEYANCE INLAND.

37. The cost of the Inland Mail Service has been £16,870 5s. 5d. and is £2,293 18s. 2d. in excess of the charges for last year, this is due to the advance in the price for labour and material.

38. The several services have been conducted throughout the year without any interruption and to this satisfactory result the Public Works Department have materially assisted as several of the Mail Services are under the control of that Department. The Contractors have also performed their duties in a satisfactory manner.

MONEY ORDERS.

39. Subjoined to this Report is a comparative Statement of the Exchange of Money Orders with the United Kingdom, United States of America, etc.

40. I am pleased to record that there is an improvement in the Jamaica issue of Money Orders on the United Kingdom, this to some extent being an indication of the revival of Trade with the Mother Country. The increase in issues is £2,166 over and above the previous year.

41. The payments made on account of Orders issued in the United States on Jamaica is £78,840 and is £4,645 in excess of similar payments in 1918-19. This excess is not as much as the comparison 1916-17 to 1918-19 transactions shew and is due to the fact that there has been during the last four months of the year under report, a considerable falling off in remittances by Money Order System,—the paper currency of the United States being used instead as owing to the varying commercial rate of exchange, the mode of remittances, although not as secure, is more profitable to the Payee in Jamaica.

42. I regret to record that a Money Order Exchange between Cuba and Jamaica has not yet materialized. The large quantity of registered letters received weekly from Cuba is an indication of the welcome the Money Order Exchange will be.

43. Only one Telegraph Money Order was issued in Jamaica while forty-three orders aggregating £856 14s. 3d. were advised for payment.

44. A Money Order is payable only to the individual named in the letter of Advice, provision is also made for one endorsement, a Money Order once paid, the Post Office is relieved of any further liability, the foregoing facts should be carefully noted by those doing Money Order business. Frequently Money Orders are presented signed and on enquiry of the Paying Officer before effecting payment, it has been discovered that the person presenting is not the Payee and that the Order has not been signed by the Payee.

POSTAL ORDERS.

45. Postal Orders issued for sale to the public are shown in detail in the following Returns:—

1918-19.				1919-20.			
Denomination.	No.	Face Value.	Commission.	Denomination.	No.	Face Value.	Commission.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
6d.	8,030	200 15 0	16 14 7	6d.	12,283	307 1 6	25 11 9½
1/	27,235	1,361 15 0	56 14 9½	1/	30,241	1,512 1 0	63 0 0½
1/6	17,920	1,344 0 0	37 6 8	1/6	23,285	1,746 7 6	48 10 2½
2/	33,700	3,370 0 0	70 4 2	2/	31,795	3,179 10 0	66 4 9½
2/6	23,760	2,970 0 0	49 10 0	2/6	30,394	3,799 5 0	63 6 5
3/	19,180	2,877 0 0	79 18 4	3/	22,520	3,378 0 0	93 16 8
3/6	7,245	1,267 17 6	30 3 9	3/6	10,980	1,921 10 0	45 15 0
4/	26,685	5,337 0 0	111 3 9	4/	29,430	5,886 0 0	120 12 6
4/6	11,855	2,667 7 6	49 7 11	4/6	16,364	3,681 18 0	68 3 8
5/	32,830	8,207 10 0	136 15 10	5/	38,174	9,543 10 0	159 1 2
7/6	5,875	2,203 2 6	36 14 4½	7/6	6,061	2,272 17 6	37 17 7½
8/	12,625	5,050 0 0	105 4 2	8/	15,505	6,202 0 0	129 4 2
10/	32,110	16,055 0 0	267 11 8	10/	32,279	16,639 10 0	277 6 6
20/	7,105	7,105 0 0	118 8 4	20/	8,729	8,729 0 0	145 9 8
Total	266,155	60,016 7 6	1,165 18 4	Total	309,040	68,798 10 6	1,346 0 2½

46. £67,271 10s. 6d. is the face value and 303,389 the number of Postal Orders actually sold during the year, the excess over last year's transactions is £6,082 and 32,433 respectively, this is proof if any were needed of the increasing popularity of the Postal Order as a means of remittance locally, to the United Kingdom and certain other British Colonies, etc., I cannot allow the opportunity to pass to congratulate those who use the Postal Orders of having taken the advice frequently given in these reports and also stuck up at all Post Offices, of filling in the name of Payee and Office of payment before parting with the order. I have frequently found this to be the rule now, rather than the exception and it has helped in many instances to detect stolen orders.

47. The Public should be cautious of negotiating Postal Orders which bear an erasure, they are frequently stolen orders, all such should be referred to this Office for investigation.

48. As illustrating the recover of Postal Order Sales the following return from 1913-14 is interesting and shows that the sales for the year under report are now only £10,000 behind those of 1913-14:—

	£	s.	d.
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	0
1919-20	67,271	10	6

49. £1,318 2s. 10½d. is the total commission collected from the sale of these Orders.—The Colony benefits as follows:—

Local Commission on Orders above 2/6 value	301 13 5
Allowance by the London P.O. at the rate of £1 on every 1,000 orders sold and paid	594 8 11
Orders not claimed by payees within six years from the end of the year in which issued	nil
	<u>896 2 4</u>

50. Postal Orders paid amount to £66,629 13s. 9d. and are shown in comparison with the two previous years hereunder:—

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	£	£	£
At the G.P.O., Kingston	8,095	9,457	9,114
At the Treasury do	28,468	29,835	30,587
At District Post Offices and Parochial Treasuries	23,649	27,833	26,928
	<u>60,212</u>	<u>67,125</u>	<u>66,629</u>

PARCELS POST.

51. The usual return disclosing the transactions of the Parcels Post is attached to this Report and shows an increase of 11,497 parcels received and a decrease of 2,288 parcels despatched on comparison with the year, 1918-19.

52. I am pleased to record that the increase in receipts on importations is principally from the United Kingdom and is an index that British made articles are again finding their way to the Colony.

53. The falling off in the number of parcels despatched is shown principally in the dispatches to the United Kingdom and is due to the return of the British West Indies Regiment since quite a number of parcels were posted addressed to members of the Regiment in 1918-19. The Parcels' Post is not now so extensively used for the exportation of the Jippi Jappa hats,—presume the question of freight accommodation is not so acute.

54. Duty collected and transferred to the Revenue Department is 21,977 10s. 7d. and is more than twice the amount handled for the year 1918-19. Every Post Office in the Island transacts Parcels' Post business and it is I submit a creditable record that such a number of parcels have been dealt with and such a large amount of duty collected without I am proud to say any loss in this Colony of a single parcel or any defalcation in connection with the duty. Ten years ago the duty collected was only £5,387 or one-fourth the collection now recorded.

55. The amount collected as a result of the watchfulness of Post Office employees and consequent detention of packets suspected to contain articles liable to duty passing through the post not through the proper channel of the Parcels' Post but as Letters and Ordinary packets, is £748 12s. 11d. and is £298 in excess of the previous year. Irritation is sometimes shown on account of the detention, but I would remind the public that the Parcels' Post is the only means for the importation of dutiable articles into the Colony and it is only courtesy extended to deliver dutiable packets, coming through any other source they may be returned to the Country of Origin.

56. Penalties inflicted under Custom Regulations on account of undervaluation of importation, amount to £11 18s. and is £9 5s. 6d. more than the previous year, this therefore indicates that this method of an attempt at cheating the revenue is on the increase and importers would do well to take care that the correct value of the contents of parcels is accurately declared since seizure of the parcel is also a penalty.

57. Insured parcels shew an increase in the number received of over 100% while there has been a considerable falling off in the number despatched, this being accounted for, for the reason given at paragraph 53 of this report.

Insured Parcels.

Year.	Received.		No.
	No.	Amount.	
		£ s. d.	
1917-18	799	4,114 5 9	1,490
1918-19	851	5,041 17 9	1,196
1919-20	1,735	12,119 10 7	2,402
	Despatched.		
	No.	Amount.	
		£ s. d.	
1917-18	202	796 18 6	
1918-19	443	7,372 16 4	
1919-20	151	1,480 9 5	

Cash on Delivery Parcels.

Received.		Fees.
Trade Charges.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1917-18	2,525 0 9	32 1 0
1918-19	2,350 1 3	25 6 6
1919-20	5,621 9 10	60 1 0
Despatched.		
1917-18		
1918-19		
1919-20		

58. A return of the Cash on Delivery Parcels received from the United Kingdom for the past three years is given hereunder and shews an increase:—

Year.	No. of Parcels.	Trade Charges.	Fees.
1917-18	1,490	£2,525	£32
1918-19	1,196	£2,350	£25
1919-20	2,402	£5,621	£60

59. The regulations for the conduct of the Cash on Delivery System have undergone some modification during the year, and as affecting those who do business under the system I remind them that a C.O.D. parcel is now only held at their disposal for 15, instead of 28 days and that no extension of this time will be considered. The full amount of the trade charge must always be sent to the Head Office, Kingston, before the parcel can be sent to its destination, remittances on account will not be accepted, but returned.

60. I furnish for the first time a return of the Inland Parcels handled in the Parcels Post Office, in this as in all other postal transactions the increase during the year under report is marked:—

Year.	No. of parcels received for delivery in Kingston.	No. of parcels despatched to District P.Os.
1917-18	13,263	71,587
1918-19	15,751	82,059
1919-20	19,745	102,105

TELEGRAPHS.

61. Hereunder is a return of Offices in Telegraphic Communication :—

Telegraph	..	61
Telephone	..	33
Phantaphone	..	17
Vibrator	..	1
		<hr/>
		112

and in addition there are 39 Railway Telegraph Offices.

62. An increase of 86,028 messages is the result of a comparison with the transactions of 1918-19 and 73,382 is the increase on comparison with the year 1913-14 when the war broke out. It is a reflection of the greatest credit to the staff of the Telegraph Operators past and present that such an enormous increase of traffic has been handled without any appreciable increase of staff.

63. The transactions of the Cable Companies through the Post Office Telegraphs is as follows :—

Direct Cable Co.	£3,268 13s. 0d.
West India & Panama Cable Co.	£356 14s. 5d.

these amounts have been duly paid over to the respective companies.

MISCELLANEOUS.

I cannot close this report without paying a special tribute to the residue of the original staff of telegraph operators who are still in the department. During the year there has been quite an exodus of trained telegraph clerks to the United States and the administration was sorely tried to maintain the stations; this has however been successfully accomplished with the loyal assistance of those referred to above who have worked hard and incessantly with unskilled help to maintain the traditions of the service. I admit that there have been vexations, errors and delays in transmission of telegrams, but those who have suffered and might again suffer, are asked to accept it as cheerfully as is possible owing to the circumstances explained, the world is in a state of unrest and telegraph clerks are not an exception, increased emoluments have not offered any attraction to those who have decided to go to the United States.

65. The system of teaching telegraphy at District Stations was adopted during the year and already its good results are being felt.

66. On the 22nd December, 1919, there was a partial strike of the subordinate staff in the General Post Office, Kingston, for about 3½ hours on the question of increased pay and I take this opportunity of acknowledging my gratitude to the clerical staff for the loyal way in which they assisted to maintain the exchange of mails during the very short but important hours to the department.

67. This report is one of a record of expansion in every branch of the department except the staff, and I desire to compliment the staff as a whole on the cheerful manner in which they have one and all accepted and performed extra work mechanically falling to them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ELLIS WOLFE,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
Kingston.