



# Supplement to the Jamaica Gazette.

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No. 13.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
20th July, 1921.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Annual Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records on the working of the Department for the year ended 31st December, 1920.

By command,

H. BRYAN,  
Colonial Secretary.

Island Record Office, Spanish Town.  
11th July, 1921.

To His Excellency the Governor.

May it please Your Excellency,

I have the honour to present a report of the transactions of the Island Record Office for the year ended 31st December last.

2. In the year under report 3,094 documents were received for registration, lodgment, or safe custody. Compared with the year 1919 there was an increase of 736 documents received. For the nine months from 1st April to 31st December, 1920, 2,435 documents were so received.

## STATEMENT I.

Year.	Conveyances, etc.	Leases, etc.	Mortgages, Bills of Sale, etc.	Patents.	Supreme Court Wills.	R. M. Court Wills.	Powers.	Accounts Current.	Crop Accounts.	Miscellane- ous.	Total.
1919 (year)	829	33	536	15	120	234	305	9	6	271	2,358
1920 April to Dec.	880	52	655	26	65	198	295	4	2	258	2,435
1920 (year)	1,105	60	795	27	98	267	392	6	2	342	3,094

3. There were 32 transactions under the Registration of Business Names Law 1918, namely:— Registrations 19, Change of Particulars registered 9, Cessation of Business 3, Miscellaneous 1, for which fees amounting to £5 19s. 6d. were received.

4. The revenue of the Department for the year 1920 for fees was £1,765 9s. 6d. being an increase of £534 16s. 6d. on that of the previous year. £342 15s. 0d. was collected for Stamp Duties. For the nine months April to December, 1920, the revenue was £1,396 4s. 3d. with £265 6s. 6d. for Stamp Duties. The following table affords a comparison with the year 1919 and shows the different heads under which the receipts were brought to account.

## STATEMENT II.

	1919.	April to Dec. 1920.	1920 (year).
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Recording Fees .. .. .	1,044 19 8	1,171 18 6	1,456 8 6
Expedition Fees .. .. .	43 0 0	82 0 0	105 0 0
Fees for Office Copies .. .. .	40 17 3	70 18 0	107 8 9
Fees for entering Satisfaction .. .. .	41 9 0	30 17 0	43 7 6
Search Fees .. .. .	31 13 0	35 5 0	45 13 6
Business Names Registrations .. .. .	28 11 6	3 14 6	5 19 6
Miscellaneous .. .. .	0 3 0	1 11 3	1 11 9
	1,230 13 0	1,396 4 3	1,765 9 6
• For stamps on Receipts .. .. .	224 14 0	235 12 0	298 8 0
For stamps on Office Copies .. .. .	18 7 6	29 14 6	44 7 0
	243 1 6	265 6 6	342 15 0

5. The cost of the upkeep of the Department for the year was as follows:—

## STATEMENT III.

	1920 (April to December.)	1920 (year.)
Staff Salaries and Grants-in-Aid .. .. .	704 11 0	882 13 8
Copyists .. .. .	309 6 1	388 9 1
Servants wages, Contingencies, etc. .. .. .	70 8 8	94 3 10
	1,084 5 9	1,365 6 7

6. The cost of Stationery, etc., and Record Books supplied through the Government Printing Office during the year amounted to £117 6s. 2d.

DAVID BALFOUR,

Deputy Keeper of the Records.

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

A. M. COLL,

Chief Justice and Keeper of the Records.  
12th July, 1921.



Colonial Secretary's Office,  
23rd July, 1921.

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, 1921.

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,  
11th July, 1921.

Sir,

In submitting the fifty-third Annual Report of the Postal and Telegraph Department being that for the financial year ended 31st March, 1921, I have the honour to direct attention to the fact that the gross receipts of the department are £143,928 18s. 6½d. The following deductions are made, the amounts being transferred to the respective departments on whose behalf they were collected.

Import Duty	..	..	£37,643	9	3
Judicial Stamps	..	..	5,713	19	0
Impressed Stamps, etc.	..	..	1,298	4	9
Quinine	..	..	463	6	11

The Revenue which accrues to the department is therefore £98,809 18s. 7½d. as above and is apportioned as under:—

Postal	..	..	£80,202	2	7½
Telegraph	..	..	18,607	16	0

The Revised Estimates being:—

Postal	..	..	£82,500	0	0
Telegraph	..	..	17,500	0	0

Total £100,000 0 0

Thirty-one per cent of the collections are therefore removed from the accounts of the department and it is noteworthy that the Department receives no financial help in its expenditure from the departments concerned. The growth of the Import Duty Account is phenomenal and calls for further comment under its special heading later on in this report.

The receipts fall short of the Revised Estimates by £1,190 but are in excess of the previous year by £4,223. These receipts have not however escaped the check which has, perhaps somewhat suddenly, been administered to all industries the world over by the gradual re-adjustment of manufactures, etc., etc. I had anticipated a larger return but for the fact just stated above.

The Return showing the various heads of receipts follows:—

	1918-19.			1919-20.			1920-21.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postage	46,248	7	1½	63,461	4	6½	68,109	12	3½
Commission on Money Order	257	7	3	804	7	6	350	12	0½
Local Commission on British Postal Orders	817	15	10	898	1	9½	604	13	5
Miscellaneous	3,086	5	8	14,389	10	4	11,137	4	11
Telegraph	10,241	7	10½	15,033	19	6	18,607	16	0
	£60,651	3	8½	£94,587	3	8½	£98,809	18	7½

The Postage and Telegraph Accounts have maintained and exceeded the high standard reached in 1919-20 but signs were not wanting during the last four months of the year that a falling off was gradually taking place, the Post and Telegraph Office like the revenue collecting department, except in a smaller degree, is an index of the ebb and flow of the Colony's prosperity.

Postage Account is £4,648 in excess of the previous year, and Telegraph Account is £3,574 also in excess.

The commission on Money Orders is £454 less than the similar receipts in 1919-20 and is due to the fact that the system is not being so much used to the United States of America.

The Commission on British Postal Orders has received a check with the introduction of Local Currency Notes and to this I attribute the decrease of £293.

The excess in the telegraph receipts over those of the previous year shows that the telegraph system now enjoys a popularity which it did not hitherto, and the single lines at the disposal of the department are frequently overloaded, the result being delay in transmission which gives rise to complaint, I express the hope that the day is not far off when direct lines to the north, north-east and south of the Island will be provided and thus have the present lines available for work to the intermediate stations only.

The above reason and that of frequent interruptions to the lines, no doubt due to the nature of a tropical country, have often to be given for delays, the public are loathe to accept the excuse for delays and errors in transmission and I hope that gradually these difficulties will be overcome.

Miscellaneous collections show a decrease of £3,252 5s. 5d. and is due principally to a smaller amount falling to credit in connection with the settlement of our quarterly balances with the United States.

#### RETROSPECT.

The following is an interesting return showing the Colony's postal progress during a period of 20 years.



To these receipts should be added for the purpose of showing the value of the work, performed free of charge, an estimate of say £7,000, for Official Correspondence.

	1900-01.	1910-11.	1920-21.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Postage .. .. .	21,124 0 0	36,588 0 0	68,109 12 5½
Commission on Money Orders .. .. .	384 0 0	615 0 0	350 12 0½
Commission Postal Orders .. .. .	617 0 0	831 0 0	604 13 5
Telegraph .. .. .	4,715 0 0	6,942 0 0	18,607 16 0
Miscellaneous .. .. .	87 0 0	937 0 0	11,137 4 11
	£26,927 0 0	£45,913 0 0	£98,809 18 7½

## EXPENDITURE COMPARED WITH ESTIMATES.

Hereunder is the actual expenditure in comparison with the estimates:—

	Expenditure.	Estimates.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Personal Emoluments .. .. .	48,576 14 10	43,485 0 0
Mail Conveyance .. .. .	28,327 7 0	25,061 0 0
Services .. .. .	14,237 5 11	8,441 0 0
Telegraph Maintenance by Department .. .. .	919 3 1	950 0 0
	92,060 10 10	77,937 0 0
Telegraph line construction & maintenance by P.W.D. .. .. .	4,294 4 1	5,747 0 0
	£96,354 14 11	£83,684 0 0

## COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE.

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Personal Emoluments .. .. .	24,027 4 2	31,817 10 2	48,576 14 10
Mail Conveyances .. .. .	18,390 18 6	21,129 18 2	28,327 7 0
Other Charges .. .. .	7,020 11 8½	9,897 9 6	14,237 5 11
Telegraph Maintenance by Department .. .. .	488 15 4	594 8 4	919 3 1
	£50,527 9 8½	£63,439 6 2	92,060 10 10
Maintenance of Telegraph line by P.W.D. .. .. .	1,844 8 1	2,171 5 2	4,294 4 1
Construction of Telegraph line by P.W. Dept. .. .. .	21 1 1		
	£53,392 18 10½	£65,610 11 4	£96,354 14 11

## RETROSPECT EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure of the department for a period of twenty years in breaks of ten years is shown in the following return:—

	1900-01.	1910-11.	1920-21.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Personal Emoluments .. .. .	8,872 0 0	18,623 0 0	48,576 14 10
Services .. .. .	3,171 0 0	6,148 0 0	14,237 5 11
Maintenance Telegraph lines .. .. .	1,166 0 0	982 0 0	4,294 4 1
Mail Conveyance .. .. .	11,018 0 0	16,583 0 0	28,327 7 0
	£24,227 0 0	£42,336 0 0	£95,435 11 10

## POSTAL MISCELLANEOUS.

The following items are grouped under the head miscellaneous:—

	£ s. d.
Rent of Private Letter Boxes .. .. .	215 9 0
Do. do Bags .. .. .	52 0 9
Fines .. .. .	8 4 6½
Delivery Fees on C.O.D. Parcels .. .. .	266 9 3
Public call Telephones .. .. .	2 13 10½
Surplus cash .. .. .	0 2 6
Miscellaneous .. .. .	5 17 1
Value found in unclaimed Dead Letters .. .. .	21 10 1
Passengers fares collected .. .. .	1,328 16 11
Discount on Stamps purchased .. .. .	2 14 2
War Tax on Parcels from abroad .. .. .	1,193 5 5
Money Order Account, difference in Exchange .. .. .	8,100 0 3
	£11,137 4 11

Passenger Fares collected and War Tax on parcels from abroad show increases while the amount credited on Money Order Account in connection with the settlement of balance with the United States shows a falling off.

Hereunder is the return of Quinine, Impressed and Judicial Stamps sold at Post Offices:—

Quinine	£463 6 11
Impressed Stamps, etc.	1,298 4 9
Judicial Stamps	5,713 19 0

#### DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

At the close of the year there were 223 Post Offices throughout the Island, twenty-one having been established during the year, which are hereunder recorded:—

Parish.	Name.	Date Opened.
St. Ann	Gibraltar	27th May, 1920
St. Andrew	Jones' Pen	1st July, 1920
Clarendon	Grantham	25th August, 1920
Manchester	Victoria Town	26th August, 1920
Do	Craighead	27th August, 1920
St. Elizabeth	Elderslie	30th August, 1920
Hanover	Askenish	4th September, 1920
Clarendon	Woodhall	18th September, 1920
Do	James Hill	25th October, 1920
St. Mary	Broadgate	3rd November, 1920
Do	Lucky Hill	6th December, 1920
St. James	John's Hall	10th December, 1920
Hanover	Jericho	15th December, 1920
St. Elizabeth	Hill Top	17th December, 1920
Clarendon	Milk River, Bath	21st December, 1920
St. Catherine	Old Harbour Bay	23rd December, 1920
St. Andrew	Mount James	28th December, 1920
St. Ann	Keith	11th January, 1921
Trelawny	Sherwood Content	13th January, 1921
Westmoreland	Fort William	22nd January, 1921
St. Andrew	Woodford	21st February, 1921

In all but two parishes new Post Offices have been opened and I do not think the public should have any cause to complain that postal facilities have not been liberally given during the year. Savings Banks were established in the following Post Offices during the year:—

Alexandria	23rd June, 1920
Adelphi	24th June, 1920
Bethel Town	21st January, 1921
Cross Keys	26th June, 1920
Cambridge	20th January, 1921
Christiana	22nd January, 1921
Catadupa	17th April, 1920
Frankfield	23rd June, 1920
Duncans	24th June, 1920
Darliston	25th June, 1920
Gayle	18th January, 1921
Hope Bay	17th January, 1921
Manchioncal	21st June, 1920
Moneague	22nd June, 1920
Mochó	24th January, 1921
Newcastle	11th June, 1920
Ocho Rios	19th January, 1921
Petersfield	25th June, 1920
Ramble	25th June, 1920
Riverside	20th January, 1921
Stewart Town	19th January, 1921
Southfield	21st January, 1921
Santa Cruz	22nd January, 1921
Smith's Village	22nd May, 1920
Trinity Ville	21st June, 1920
Troy	22nd January, 1921
Ulster Spring	23rd June, 1920
Walderston	24th January, 1921

The total number of Post Offices at which Savings Bank business is conducted is now 35 and the public are appreciating the facility.



## CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

The following is a return of the local and foreign ordinary and registered letters; etc., which have been handled during the year:—

The increase in the number of registered letters for delivery in the country is due principally to the large number of letters now being received from Cuba and to the increased number posted by Public Departments, principally the Income Tax Department.

The number of enquiries for missing letters through the post are few compared to the volume handled as disclosed in this return, in many instances the letter or packet has been traced, its temporary absence being due to an incorrect Post Office or street address, in the case of the latter I again entreat particular care for I am of opinion in many cases letters addressed to incorrect street numbers have been delivered and are never returned to the Post Office. Letters should also be carefully sealed and the correct postage placed thereon, many letters are observed to be posted open or only partially sealed and frequently in consequence of a Post Office Official failing to observe and officially seal such missives the insinuation has been that the article has been tampered with in the post. Full prepayment of correspondence insures prompt delivery and prevents irritation to the addressee. In Kingston private letter box holders suffer at the hands of their clerks or messengers clearing their boxes who do not pay prompt attention to unpaid notice slips and frequently the box holder complains of the delay in delivery.

The return hereunder:—

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
Inland Mails—						
Ordinary Letters—						
Public ..	2,110,100	2,215,665	2,304,289	2,918,043	3,163,943	3,227,221
Official ..	307,501	327,026	333,566	368,582	387,007	394,747
Post Cards ..	105,500	107,610	109,762	69,658	72,442	70,994
By vessels, not contract—						
U.K. and United States of America—						
Ordinary Letters	659,075	686,285	853,329	1,346,382	1,546,040	1,700,642
Post Cards ..	30,026	88,504	111,563	53,180	54,365	59,802
Other Countries—						
Ordinary Letters	395,986	657,794	858,839	472,383	825,349	907,349
Post Cards ..	2,011	4,797	6,809	3,168	2,964	31,642
Total	3,610,859	4,087,681	4,578,157	5,231,396	6,052,110	6,363,919

## Registered letters for delivery in Kingston—

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
Local ..	64,165	81,234	98,481
Foreign ..	25,045	33,898	42,207
Official ..	30,996	41,658	45,437

## Registered letters for delivery in the country—

Local ..	25,819	38,741	138,271
Foreign ..	60,739	92,578	99,015
Registered letters for despatch—			
Oversea ..	37,428	51,019	66,514
At District Post Offices—			
Ordinary letters	1,286,620	1,439,952	1,988,961
Post Cards	75,859	77,987	107,523
Registered letters	103,000	108,089	102,019
	1,465,479	1,626,028	2,748,428

The return, hereunder discloses the number and value of letters which have been insured during the past three years. The system does not enjoy much popularity.

Year.	No.	Received.			No.	Despatched.		
		Declared Value.				Declared Value.		
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1918-19	10	752	17	6	21	126	14	7
1919-20	11	256	0	0	30	952	6	8
1920-21	14	196	11	0	34	1,051	0	0



## RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

The quantity of Mail Matter which the Department failed to deliver and which was returned to the writers or otherwise disposed of is shown in the following return:—

	Paid	Unpaid.
Letters returned to United Kingdom	2,873	508
Do Do other countries	17,263	5,427
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous, writers not having been found	33,379	28,594
Newspapers returned to Publishers	206	
Letters returned to writers in the Island	67,867	33,869
The number of packets with value was 8,846, the amount being £2,873 4s. 4½d.		

## MAIL CONVEYANCE—OCEAN.

The return hereunder discloses the number of mails received and despatched abroad during the year and the number of vessels which conveyed them.

These show slight increases an indication that the ship building world is recovering from the loss the recent War inflicted on it.

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1918-19.		1919-20.		1920-21.		1918-19.		1919-20.		1920-21.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
Kingston—												
Non-contract	426	1,436	494	1,602	493	1,467	345	1,283	494	1,602	551	1,785
Outports—												
Non-contract	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	426	1,436	494	1,602	493	1,467	345	1,283	494	1,602	551	1,785

The steamers of the United Fruit Company, the Atlantic Fruit Company and the Caribbean Steam Ship Company have been responsible for our mail exchanges with the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Mails are exchanged with Cuba three, and sometimes four times per week by means of the several steamers now plying regularly between Jamaica and Santiago.

None of these conveyances are subsidised and the cost for payment as regulated by the Post Office Law is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Ship Letter Gratuities	3,202	16	4
Sea and Territorial transit rate paid to other Countries	1,844	2	11
	£5,046	19	3

## MAIL CONVEYANCE INLAND.

The inland mail services have been creditably performed by the Public Works Department and the several mail contractors, the cost being £22,780 7s. 9d. and is £5,910 2s. 4d. in excess of last year. The continued high charges for material as well as the increased cost of labour and the establishment of new services in connection with the opening of new post offices are the contributory factors to the increase.

## MONEY ORDERS.

The usual comparative statement of the exchange of money orders with the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, the British West Indies, etc. is attached.

There has been a falling off in remittances to the United Kingdom to the extent of £1,879 as compared to the previous year. A large percentage of these remittances are for goods imported per Parcels Post, and as there has been a large increase in the importations I conclude that remittances being larger are made through the bank.

In my last Annual Report I referred to the fact that there was an appreciable reduction in remittances to and from the United States, this falling off has continued in a very marked degree as is disclosed on reference to the figures and is due to the fact that the paper currency of the United States is being used instead, since owing to the fluctuating rate of exchange it is profitable to make remittances by this means.

There were not any Telegraph Money Orders issued here during the year. Twenty were received, aggregating £432.



## POSTAL ORDERS.

The following is a Return of Postal Orders issued for sale to the public during the year.

1919-20.				1920-21.			
Denomination:	No.	Face Value.	Commission.	Denomination.	No.	Face Value.	Commission.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
6d.	12,283	307 1 6	25 11 9½	6d.	6,505	162 12 6	24 11 5½
1/	30,241	1,512 1 0	63 0 0	1/	21,685	1,084 5 0	81 10 10
1/6	23,285	1,746 7 6	48 10 2½	1/6	14,590	1,094 5 0	55 2 3½
2/	31,795	3,179 10 0	66 4 9½	2/	26,190	2,619 0 0	97 10 2½
2/6	30,394	3,799 5 0	63 6 5	2/6	15,180	1,987 10 0	55 11 8
3/	22,520	3,378 0 0	93 16 8	3/	17,245	2,586 15 0	100 9 7
3/6	10,980	1,921 10 0	45 15 0	3/6	7,650	1,328 15 0	44 9 4½
4/	29,436	5,886 0 0	120 12 6	4/	20,405	4,081 0 0	118 8 11½
4/6	16,364	3,681 18 0	68 3 8	4/6	8,720	1,962 0 0	49 14 4½
5/	38,174	9,543 10 0	159 1 2	5/	24,615	6,153 15 0	142 0 10
7/6	6,061	2,272 17 6	37 17 7½	7/6	3,995	1,498 2 6	31 11 10½
8/	15,505	6,202 0 0	129 4 2	8/	9,355	3,742 0 0	93 2 3½
10/	32,279	16,639 10 0	277 6 6	10/	17,908	8,952 10 0	178 11 8
20/	8,729	8,729 0 0	145 9 8	20/	9,315	9,315 0 0	171 14 9½
Total	309,040	68,798 10 6	1,346 0 2½	Total	203,355	46,487 10 0	1,244 10 2½

The face value and the number of Postal Orders sold during the year is £46,745 18s. and 204,792 and is £20,525 12s. 6d. and 98,597 respectively less than the preceding year.

The popularity of the Postal Order as a means for local remittances has now been challenged by the local Currency Notes of 10/, 5/ and 2/6 values which were put into circulation during the year and this is the cause for the decrease in the sale of orders.

I take this opportunity of pointing out that the Currency Notes are not as safe a means of remittance as the Postal Orders since when a Currency Note is lost or stolen there is no means of identifying it, but in the case of the Postal Order so long as the ordinary precaution is taken of filling in the name of the payee, the office of payment and preserving the counterfoil, the chances of recovery are excellent. A complete record of paid Postal Orders is kept in the London Office and reference to that office has frequently assisted to clear a doubt cast on the Post Office.

The foregoing return at once illustrates in comparison with the similar return for the previous year, that the demand for Postal Orders is on the wane—the number and value of orders issued for sale being 105,685 and £22,311 respectively, less than in 1919-20.

The Commission accruing from the sale of Postal Orders is £1,242 19s. 5½d. the share which finds its way into our revenue collection is as follows:—

	£ s. d.
Local Commission on Orders above 2/6	210 4 3½
Allowance by the London P.O. at the rate of £1 on every 1,000 orders sold and paid	393 0 0
Orders not claimed by payees within 6 years from end of the year in which issued	Nil.
	<u>£603 4 3½</u>

The falling off in the Postal Orders sold is reflected in the return of paid Postal Orders as illustrated hereunder:—

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21
At the G.P.O., Kingston	£9,457	£9,114	£6,721
At the Treasury, Kingston	29,835	30,587	16,930
At District Post Offices and Parochial Treasuries	27,833	26,928	18,016
	<u>£67,125</u>	<u>£66,629</u>	<u>£41,667</u>



### PARCELS POST.

Reference to the Return of parcels received and despatched which is attached to this report discloses that there has been a considerable increase in the parcels received from the United Kingdom and the United States, in the former case the increase is over 100% and in the latter 25% on comparison with the previous year. This I submit is an indication that the public have found it to their advantage to import articles rather than purchase locally. It has also been observed that merchants are using the Parcels Post liberally for the importation of the finer articles of Haberdashery and I have from enquiries made elicited the information that it is more economical to do so, since the loss is nil and the delivery is quicker than by freight, this may be creditable but the Department has been sorely tried for space and staff to cope with the increase.

The total number of parcels despatched is 20,582 and is 33.1/3% more than the year 1919-20, the principal increase is shown in the despatch to the United Kingdom and United States.

The amount collected for import duty and transferred to the Revenue Department is £37,643 9s. 3d. and is £15,666 in excess of the previous year. The Revenue Department does not contribute anything towards the expenditure involved in the collection of such a large amount of Duty and the Department gets no credit beyond this record of fact. An addition of two clerks and one messenger has had to be made to the staff since November, 1920, and by a re-arrangement of the Circulation Branch as described under Miscellaneous. More space has been secured for handling this volume of parcel mail matter.

£1,180 16s. 7d. is the amount brought to account for duty of packets which were detained on suspicion and is £432 3s. 8d. more than the previous year. There would be greater satisfaction to all parties concerned if the Parcels Post and the Parcels Post only were used as the means for the importation of dutiable articles into the Colony.

Undervaluation of parcels per Parcels Post render them liable to seizure, but this penalty is mitigated in some instances and fines are imposed instead. £17 13s. 3d. was collected under this head during the year. When a parcel is seized it is sent to the King's Warehouse for disposal and this Department has no further control over it.

The following returns of insured and Cash on Delivery parcels show substantial increases:—

Insured Parcels.				Cash on Delivery Parcels.			
Received.				Received.			
Year.	No.	Amount.	No.	Trade Charges.	Fees.		
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
1918-19	851	5,041 17 9	1,196	2,350 1 3	25 6 6		
1919-20	1,735	12,119 10 7	2,402	5,621 9 10	60 1 0		
1920-21	4,970	25,769 19 2	7,047	17,235 12 3	151 9 6		
Despatched.				Despatched.			
1918-19	443	7,372 16 4		Nil.			
1919-20	151	1,480 9 5					
1920-21	387	2,058 6 2					

I desire to repeat for the benefit of those who use the Cash on Delivery system that I am unable—

- (1) To deliver on part payment only of the Trade Charges.
- (2) To retain a C.O.D. Parcel over the given period.
- (3) To send them to a District Post Office for delivery without having in the first instance received the cost for the charges. These are the principal applications which I receive and with which I cannot comply.

A return for three years of the parcels received from the interior for delivery in Kingston and posted in Kingston for delivery in the country is hereunder and illustrates that the growth of the Parcels Post system is not confined to the importations; a large quantity of Kingston merchants' goods finds its way into the interior through the channel of the Parcels Post.

Year.	No. of Parcels received for delivery in Kingston.	No. of Parcels despatched to District P.O.'s.
1918-19	15,751	82,059
1919-20	19,745	102,105
1920-21	31,641	118,645

### TELEGRAPHS.

The total number of Telegrams sent and received during the year is 330,783 and is 30,504 in excess of the similar business last year. Ten years ago, 1910-11, the traffic handled was 134,626 messages, the increase is therefore 196,157 and is a splendid illustration of the expansion of this branch of the service. The result of this enormous development is that the lines are too loaded and the staff at several stations insufficient. The remedy is a double line on the main routes and a corresponding increase of staff if the service is to be maintained in such a condition that messages will be transmitted with a minimum of delay.

It must not be lost sight of that telegraph operators are also postal clerks and frequently in the course of a day the post work causes a delay to the telegraph work, this is inevitable under existing conditions.



In 1903-04 when there were 73 telegraph stations in existence it was hinted that the further development of this service might be fitly met by a less expensive method, namely a telephone service, and the result is shown in the following return of the telegraphic communication existing at the close of the year under report.

Telegraph .. ..	62
Telephone .. ..	37
Phantophone .. ..	22
	<hr/> 121 <hr/>

There has therefore been a reduction of telegraph stations by 11, and the development of the telephone system is shown in the fact that 59 such stations have been established, the change has long since passed an experimental stage and is giving satisfaction—some representations have been made that the telephone system lacks the secrecy which the telegraph affords, but this can, and will be gradually remedied where necessary by placing the telephone in a secret cabinet where an inner room is not available.

The following is a list of telephone and phantophone stations opened during this year.

Hanover ..	Hopewell	Phantophone	28th July, 1920
St. Elizabeth ..	Middle Quarters	Do	22nd December, 1920
Clarendon ..	Grantham	Do	29th December, 1920
St. Elizabeth ..	Mountainside	Telephone	29th January, 1921
Clarendon ..	Milk River Bath	Do	10th February, 1921
Do ..	Hayes	Do	10th February, 1921
Manchester ..	Walderston	Phantophone	10th February, 1921
St. Mary ..	Hampstead	Do	12th March, 1921
Do ..	Belfield	Telephone	12th March, 1921

The Bernard Lodge Railway Station was available for the transmission of messages on the 15th May, 1920, this brings the total number of Railway Stations available to 40.

The total increase in the number of stations as compared with the previous year is ten.

The department collected and duly accounted for the undernoted amounts on behalf of the Cable Companies during the year:—

Direct Cable Company .. ..	£3,504 7s. 0d.
West India & Panama Cable Company .. ..	269 16 7

It is my pleasure to record that the best harmony exists between the companies and this department with the result that our business intercourse is conducted in a most satisfactory manner.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

In consequence of the abnormal development of the Parcels Post Branch, inland and foreign, more accommodation became necessary and in November, 1920 the lunch room of the subordinate staff on the ground floor was converted into the newspaper delivery branch, another lunch room being provided off the premises in the vicinity, and this permitted of more space being allotted to the Parcels Post Branch.

In my last Annual Report I paid a tribute to the residue of the original staff of telegraph operators still in the department and I now repeat this compliment, the year just closed has seen a further exodus of trained operators, thus testing to its uttermost the capacity of those who elected to continue in the service. Vacancies created have been filled numerically but not efficiently, and it has been due entirely to hurried training of candidates that the stations have been maintained. Gradually however these candidates are acquiring experience and with the better wage and other facilities offered I hope in the near future to have as efficient a telegraph staff as in the past.

Delays and errors in transmission of telegrams have not been as numerous and I appreciate the forbearing manner with which those members of the public who may have suffered, have accepted the conditions.

The business of the department has been much more than the previous year which I referred to as a record one and while there has been some temporary help given to the staff there has not been an increase in proportion to the growth of the department I have therefore to acknowledge the willingness with which the staff generally has accepted and performed under pressure the duties of their respective offices.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ELLIS WOLFE,  
Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Kingston.

P.S.—In future years the calendar year will be adopted.