

Supplement to the

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1923.

No. 17.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Jamaica,

4th July, 1923.

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 December, 1922.

By Command,

H. BRYAN,

Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office.

14th June, 1923.

I have the honour to submit the fifty-fifth report on the transactions of the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st December, 1922.

2. The Gross Receipts are as under:—

Postal Telegraph	::	£ 71,062 16,811	8. 0 8	d. 3½ 9½	£ 87,873	s. 9	d. 1
Import Duty Judicial Stamps Impressed Stamps, etc.		42,710 6,349 1,136	0	6			
Quinine	**	477	6		50,673	13	5
Total	44				£138,547	2	6

Over £50,000 of these collections have been transferred through the Books of the Colony to the respective Departments which account for them.

 The Import Duty Account is £9,755 in excess of the similar collections in 1921 and is the best evidence of the continued growth of importation, principally from the United Kingdom and the United States, by means of the parcels post. Nearly 50% of the parcels from the United Kingdom are for persons in Trade, this bears out the previous statement that the rate for parcels post is cheaper than freight to the Merchant for certain articles of trade. I am, however, of opinion that it was never the original intention that the system should have developed competition nor was it ever thought that the trade would have taken such advantage of it.

4. A comparison of the various heads of Postal and Telegraph receipts for the two years ended 31st

December, 1922, is hereunder:

			1921.		19			
Postage Commission on M Local Commission		1.	£ 69,901 299		d. 2 ¹ / ₄ 1	£ 65,672 261		d. 17 3½
Postal Orders Miscellaneous Telegraph	···	**	535 7,699 17,173	14		608 4,520 16,811	1 3 8	$\frac{4\frac{1}{5}}{5\frac{1}{4}}$ $\frac{9\frac{1}{2}}{9\frac{1}{2}}$
			95,609	11	62	87,873	9	1

5. There is a decrease of £7,736 in the collections for the year under review as compared with the year preceding, this falling off is principally under the head of "Postage," the item "Miscellaneous" being also a heavy sufferer and is due to the fact that the credit hitherto reaped on the adjustment of the United States Money Order Balances is gradually disappearing.

6. The Telegraph receipts are only £362 less than the year 1921 which is an indication that the popularity which the system has been gaining since 1919 is not fulling off to any appreciable extent.

lection, a large official service the value of which is £1,252 and the single lines are continually put to great test in an effort to give an expeditious service. The necessity for duplex trunk lines is very much felt. There is, in addition to the volume of transmission over the lines represented by the above col-

8. The following return is interesting inasmuch as it discloses at a glance the stride the Department has made in 20 years:-

	and the second		190	-02	2.	191	1-12	2.	19	922.	8
Postage Commission on Commission on Miscellaneous Telegraph			£ 22,336 446 615 113 5,010	0 0 0	d. 0 0 0 0	£ 39,487 651 891 584 7,109	0 0 0	d. 0 0 0 0	£ 55,672 261 608 4,520 16,811	0 1 3	13 45 5 4 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 4 5
			28,520	0	0	48,722	0	0	87,873	9	1

9. Expenditure compared with Estimate.

The following is a comparison of the Expenditure for the year under report with the Estimates.

Expenditure. Estimate.

	realization	and the		2,30,144	and the	7
	£	8.	d.	£	8.	d.
Personal Emoluments	49,991	15	4	49,529	0	0
Mail Conveyance	31,448	- 5	6	29,055	0	0
Service	13,425	2	2	16,238	0	0
Telegraph Maintenance by Dept.	938	5	10	700	0	0
Telegraph line construction and Main-	95,803	8	10	89,522	0	0
tenance by Public Works Dept.	3,731	19	7	3,784	0	0
	99,535	8	5	93,306	0	0

10. Comparative Expenditure for two years, is given hereunder and shows an increase of £584 over the year 1921:

	1921.		19			
Personal Emoluments Mail Conveyances Other Charges Telegraph Maintenance by Depart-	50,536 27,424 16,481	10-11-12	$0 \\ 11\frac{1}{2}$	£ 49,991 31,448 13,425	5	
men ²	936	8	6	938	5	10
Telegraph line construction and	95,378	4	7	95,803	8	10
Maintenance by P.W.D	3,573	0	0	3,731	19	7
	£98,951	4	7	£99,535	8	5

RETROSPECT EXPENDITURE.

11. The following figures show the expenditure under the principal heads from 1901-02 in breaks of ten years to 1922.

			1901-02		1911-	12.	192	2.	
Personal Emoluments Service Maintenance Telegraph Lines Mail Conveyance	**	* 4 Y + 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	5,915 0 1,237 0	d. 0 0 0	£ s. 19,792 0 6,040 0 1,306 0 15,328 0	0	49,991 13,425 938 31,448	-	4 2 10
			33,915 0	0	42,466 0	0	95,803	8 1	10

POSTAL MISCELLANEOUS.

12. The Miscellaneous items of Revenue are summarised thus:-

Rent of Private Letter Boxes 220 7 Do do Bags 53 7 Public call telephones 3 10 Surplus cash 0 4 Fines 13 5 Delivery Fee C.O.D. Parcels 253 8 War Tax on parcels from abroad 1,853 1 Value found in Unclaimed Dead Letters 15 0	d.
Do do Bags 53 7 Public call telephones 3 10 Surplus cash 0 4 Fines 13 5 Delivery Fee C.O.D. Parcels 253 8 War Tax on parcels from abroad 1,853 1	0
Surplus cash 0 4 Fines 13 5 Delivery Fee C.O.D. Parcels 253 8 War Tax on parcels from abroad 1,853 1	6
Fines	2
Delivery Fee C.O.D. Parcels	3
War Tax on parcels from abroad 1,853 1	2
	0
Value found in Unclaimed Dead Letters 15 0	9 0* 8
)3
Passenger Fares collected	5
Discount on stamps purchased 0 16	5
Money Order Account—difference in the Settlement of	5
balances	1
Miscellaneous	1
4,520 3	51

DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

- 13. Demands for the opening of new Post Offices throughout the Island continue to be received. The greatest care, however, must be exercised in the consideration of the requests, for, while it is admitted postal facilities should not be withheld, there is a growing tendency to make the request for the personal convenience of a few rather than having before one's eye the "greatest good for the greatest number."
 - 14. Three Post Offices have been established during the year as under.

Parish.	Name.	Date opened.
Kingston	Direct Cable	1st July, 1922
St. Mary St. Elizabeth	Union Hill Elim	27th July, 1922 3rd November, 1922

This brings the total number of District Post Offices up to 234.

15. Savings Banks were established at eight post offices as noted hereunder during the year:-

Annotto Bay	124	100	13th June, 1922
Brown's Town	35		14th "
Guy's Hill	100	2007	13th "
Hector's River -			12th "
Highgate	132		13th "
Maggotty			4th November
Old Harbour		1.4	19th June, 1922
Stony Hill			19th " 1922

- 16. The total number of Post Offices at which Savings Banks are conducted is now forty three.
- 17. The Post Office at Dallas in St. Andrew was temporarily closed on 15th April, 1922 and reopened on 29th April, 1922, and the Post Office at Hill Top in St. Elizabeth was closed on 9th September, 1922 and re-opened on 18th September, 1922.
- 18. The Hartlands Post Office in St. Catherine hitherto conducted at the Railway Station was removed to the Village on 31st January, 1922, where it is of greater service to the residents.
- The Post Office "Belvedere" in St. Andrew ceased on 1st February, 1922, to be known by that name and is called "Red Hills."

CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

20. Below is the usual return disclosing the volume of mail matter, i.e. letters ordinary and registered which have passed through the Department during the year under report.

			Outw	ards.	Inw	- Transport		
		1921.		1922.	1921.	1922.		
Inland Mails—				-				
Ordinary Letters:								
Public	200	2,555,645		2,291,866	3,225,189	3,205,451		
Official	- 33	466,768		375,787	424,847	402,200		
Post Cards	- 1/4	10,116		108,496	67,223	70,213		
By vessels, not contrac	6.0	40,770		Andrew Arter		1,000,000		
U.K. & United State America—								
Ordinary Letters		892,317		917,711	1,855,136	1,799,608		
Post Cards		126,606		78,974	54,544	55,237		
Other Countries—		(6,10)			- State of			
Ordinary Letters	941	683,588		500.076	958,500	899,066		
Post Cards		4,969		5,761	3,545	4,516		
		4,838,009		4,278,671	6,588,984	6,436,291		
Registered Letters for o	leliver	v in Kingste	on-			THE RESERVE		
Local			100	1.0	104,501	109,532		
Foreign		- 500	100		39,752	40,861		
Official		200	1200		48,417	51,585		
Registered Letters for o	leliver	v in the Cor	untry	/		10.00		
Local					137,663	139,223		
Foreign		15	150		79,165	69,438		
Registered Letters for o	lespate	h-						
Oversea	acabases				72,965	101.028		
At District Post Offices		914		**	1 11/100			
Ordinary Letters					1,883,470	1,357,654		
Post Cards			*3	4.5	77,106	115,284		
Registered Letters		7.4	13.0	***	139,608	162,472		
negistered retters		++	+++	4.6	100,000	102,112		
					2,582,647	2,147,077		

21. A scrutiny of the foregoing return shows that there has been considerable increase in the use of the registration system by the public; this is very gratifying to the Department which has for years

urged that all letters containing value passing through the post should be registered.

22. The number of letters containing value, alleged to be posted and reported by the addressee as not received are in a very small proportion to the volume of mail matter handled, but one and all are again advised to register such letters and thus remove the temptation before posting, during course of transmission through the post and after delivery. The Department sells a registration envelope which only costs a farthing over and above the postage and registration fee and it is recommended that these envelopes should be used as they give an advantage of a claim for compensation within certain limits in accordance with the fee paid, should the letter get lost in course of transmission. A Post Office Handbook is issued yearly by the Department and will be found useful by all who have much to do with the Post Office; it costs the modest sum of threepence.

23. Many instances of reported missing letters could be recounted which Departmental enquiry has revealed were either never posted or miscarried after delivery. I will, however, limit my record to the

following in connection with a registered letter.

The addressee reported its receipt in apparent good order, but without the advised money contents—Departmental enquiry showed that everything was in order so far, and suspicions were aroused that the act had been committed before posting. The Police were asked to enquire into the details of posting and it was disclosed that the sender of the letter had asked another party to write the letter for him and the amount was enclosed in the presence of both parties and the letter taken by the owner himself to the Post Office but on the way he abstracted the amount and posted the letter. There was himself to the Post Office but on the way he abstracted the amount and posted the letter.

not any one rost of punishing the perpetrator of such a foul act.

24. It is not claimed that the Department is always free of dishonest employees, for with such a large number, a black sheep may get in now and then but the public are asked to bear in mind that there is opportunity always before posting and after delivery for a letter to miscarry—the Post Office alone should not enter into the thought of the poster or addressee when miscarriage takes place.

 Letters frequently suffer temporary delay in the post because they have not been fully prepaid, and the addressees in many instances are not anxious to receive a short paid letter. Frequently such letters reported missing have been restored. Senders should take care to prepay fully; it is cheaper and more expeditious.

26. It is desirable to remove the impression in the minds of many that there is a reduced postage rate for a letter in an unscaled envelope. This is entirely wrong such an article when observed is scaled

and surcharged.

INSURED LETTERS.

27. The number of Insured Letters received and despatched is shown in the following return. The system is not extensively used and this may be interpreted as confidence in the registration system.

			Received.	134	Despatched.
Year.		No.	Declared Value.	No.	Declared Value.
1921	 	37	£ s. d. 567 0 0	30	£ s. d. 821 0 0
1922	 	40	638 15 0	35	980 12 4

RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

28. An analysis of the mail matter dealt with in the Return Letter Branch is hereunder:-

		Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to United Kingdom		2,162	128
Do do other countries		10,840	452
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous	s writers.		
not having been found		22,248	30,314
Newspapers returned to publishers		201	
Letters returned to writers in the Island	**	50,564	16,550

29. Letters find their way to the Return Letter Branch for various reasons, but principally because sufficient care is not exercised by the writer in addressing the envelope and frequently a request is made to trace a letter reported missing which eventually is returned to the writer through this branch owing to an incorrect address. It is of the greatest help to post office employees that letters should be distinctly addressed; the destination should be very prominently and clearly written. All who send letters through the post should pay attention to these details.

MAIL CONVEYANCE—OCEAN.

30. The following return gives particulars of mails despatched and received from abroad during each of the last two years.

		OUTWARD	18.			Inwa	LRDS.	
	1921.		1922.		1921.		1922.	
	Vessels	Mails.	Vessels	Mails	Vessels	Mails	Vessels	Mails.
Kingston— Non-contract	 50	1,427	532	1,763	602	2,099	671	2,066
Outports— Non-contracts	 in n		**	51	-2	4.9	500	118
-	503	1,427	532	1,763	602	2,099	671	2,066

^{31.} There are not any contracts with Steamship Companies for the conveyance of mails abroad. Our mail exchange is entirely dependent on the ships of the various companies doing business with the Island. This gives the Colony a service which is satisfactory so far as frequency of exchange goes (but I have often considered how awkward it would be if for any reason there were a temporary suspension of any of the Steamship lines now operating between the United States and Jamaica, to say nothing of the one line of an almost regular weekly service between Avonmouth (England) and Jamaica.)

32. The debit to the accounts for Ocean Mail Conveyance is as under:-Ship Letter Gratuities £4,120 9 10 1,475 6 8

Transit Rate paid to other countries

£5,595 16 6

33. The above amount is £432 more than was paid in the year 1921 and is another instance of the continued expansion of the Postal Service.

MAIL CONVEYANCE-INLAND.

- 34. The cost of the Inland Mail Conveyance has been £25,853 or £3,591 more than the preceding year and is due to renewals in connection with the Motor Mail Service and new services in consequence of the establishment of new Post Offices.
- 35. The Ewarton and Montego Bay trunk service and the St. Ann's Bay to Richmond branch continued as motor services performed by the Public Works Department, Passenger accommodation was provided in the case of the latter at 4d, per mile from the 28th August, 1922.
- 36. The services on the Southside and East of the Island have been performed by contractors in a satisfactory manner.

37. The continued expansion of the Parcels Post is at all times demanding increased transport and the day is not far distant when several of the services now performed by foot carriers must be replaced by mule or motor conveyance.

38. The towns of Lucea and Green Island have been served by a mule conveyance from Montego Bay and this was replaced during the year by the contractor, at no increased cost with a motor convey-ance. Provision has been made in the estimates for 1923-24 for a continuation of the Northside trunk motor service, which now stops at Montego Bay, to Lucca and Green Island.

MONEY ORDERS.

39. In the case of the Exchange with the United Kingdom there has been an increase of 80 in the

number of orders issued compared with the year 1921, but no increase in the amount.

40. There is, however, a recovery in the issues on the United States in numbers and amounts and . is due to the fact that since 1st November, 1922 the rate of Exchange (which used to be conducted at \$4.87 to the £1 Sterling plus the Commission and which varied so that the combination produced result just slightly higher than the prevailing bank rate) has by mutual arrangement with the United States, and the amendment of the Convention, been altered so that the rate of Exchange now varies and the commission charged stationary—the existing rate as I write and which applies in the United States as well as here, is for selling purposes \$4.50 to the £1 and for eashing \$1.70 to the £1.

41. The number of Telegraph Money Orders received was 13, representing £304, 2s. 7d. the

issues being 2 with a total of £40.

POSTAL ORDERS.

42. Postal Orders issued to the several district Post Offices and Kingston are shewn in detail comparison with the previous year in the following return.

1921.				1922.					
Denon nation	200111	No.	Face Value.	Commission.	Denomi- nation.	No.	Face Value.	Commission	
£ s. 0 0 0 0 1 0 2 0 2 0 3 0 4 0 4 0 5 0 7 0 8 0 10	d. 6 0 6 0 6 0 6 0 6 0 0 0	5,235 19,145 13,061 22,930 13,479 14,800 5,525 17,225 6,340 19,955 3,000 7,575 15,770	£ s. d. 130 17 6 957 5 0 979 11 6 2,293 0 0 1,684 17 6 2,221 7 0 966 17 6 3,445 0 0 1,426 10 0 4,988 15 0 1,125 0 0 3,030 0 0 7,885 0 0	21 16 3 79 15 5 54 8 5 95 0 10 56 3 3 92 1 1 ¹ / ₂ 34 10 7 ¹ / ₂ 107 13 1 ¹ / ₂ 39 12 6 124 14 4 ¹ / ₂ 25 0 0 78 18 1 ¹ / ₂	£ s. d. 0 0 6 0 1 0 0 1 6 0 2 0 0 2 6 0 3 0 0 3 6 0 4 0 0 4 6 0 5 0 0 7 6 0 8 0 0 10 0	7,485 23,972 18,145 30,146 20,830 19,275 8,820 29,305 9,950 23,450 5,101 12,352 19,402	£ s. d. 187 2 6 1,198 12 0 1,360 17 6 3,014 12 0 2,603 15 0 2,891 5 0 1,543 10 0 5,861 0 0 2,238 15 0 5,862 10 0 1,912 17 6 4,940 16 0 9,701 0 0	£ s. d. 31 3 9 99 17 8 75 12 1 125 12 2 86 15 10 120 9 4 55 2 6 183 3 1 62 3 9 146 11 3 42 10 2 128 13 4 202 2 1	
1 0	0	9,373	9,373 0 0		1 0 0	10,496	10,496 0 0 53,812 12 6	1,556 13 1	

The value of the orders sold is £52,987 15s. 6d. the number being 236,847 and is in excess of

the similar transactions of 1921 by £11,116–10/ and 55,845 respectively.

44. The above recovery of the sale of Postal Orders is due to a great extent to a Coupon System of an English firm in connection with the sale of their goods which calls for remittance by Postal Orders and whose sales are reflected in the number of parcels per parcel post from the firm in question.

45. The following is what may be regarded as the profits resulting from the sale of British Postal Orders in the Colony

Local Commission on Orders above 2.6 Allowance of the London P.O. at the rate of £1 on every 1,000 orders sold and paid	£246 405		
	£652	0	51
46. Postal Orders paid are as under: At the G.P.O., Kingston At the Treasury, Kingston At District Post Offices and Parochial Treasuries	£ 7,948 12,743 13,982	19	5
	34,674	14	2

47. The above represents the value of Postal Orders received from other parts of the Empire for payment here as well as the value of the orders circulated throughout the Island and is £1,161 less than was paid in 1921. The 5/ and 10/ Treasury Notes are now largely used as a means for local remittance.

PARCELS POST.

48. The importation of Merchaudise, etc., through the Parcel Post from the United Kingdom and United States continues to show increase and is to a great extent an indication that it is still more profitable to do so than to purchase locally. The numerical increase in importation from all sources as compared with 1921 is 40,689,

49. The postage accruing to the Colony from this service under existing arrangements with the United Kingdom and Canada is £2,512 and is in excess of last year by £889. The declared value and as a result the duty assessed is £71,836 and £10,568 respectively more than the year 1921.

50. A comparison just here of similar transastions 20 years ago will fully illustrate the enormous growth of the system.

E -	1	No. of Parcels Received.	Declared value.	Import duty. A wessed.
1901-02 1922	N	573 139,864	£17,794 254,418	£2,716 42,490

51. The above serves to illustrate if nothing else, the great need for increased accommodation for handling successfully the volume of parcels now pouring in through the parcel post and it is a comfort that the process of repairing and sub-dividing the Grace Building in order fully to accommodate this branch of the Department is in actual progress—it will undoubtedly bring relief to the present congested state of this branch of the Department.

52. The letter mail and ordinary sample post continue to be avenues through which the Public insist in bringing in dutiable articles into the Colony and Post Office Officials have therefore to detain all suspicious packets passing through, their efforts have been rewarded during the current year with the

collection of £1,422 16s, for import duty collected on the value of the contents of such packets,
53. The fines imposed on the addressees of such parcels as are detained on suspicion of being under valued amount to £26 13s. 7d while with many the attempt at fraud was so glaring that the parcels have

been seized by the Revenue Department and eventually sold.

54. The opportunity is taken of directing attention to the Customs Regulations which are at all Post Offices with regard to (a) articles sent away for repairs (b) articles exported on which drawback of duty is desired. Exporters continually ignore the fact that articles sent out the Colony for repairs and to be returned must be noted for identification by the Customs Authorities prior to exportation and that duty is payable on the cost of repairs hence it is necessary that the cost of repairs should be declared on the parcel on its return. Failure to observe these regulations result in delay in delivery of the parcel and the Department receives unmerited blame.

55. A large percentage of the public are of opinion that an article coming into the Colony in lieu of one of similar value exported is free of import duty. I desire to remove this impression and to point out that application must be made for drawback of the duty paid on the article to be exported prior to post-

ing and the article must be examined before despatch.

56. Frequently applications are received for compensation for damage to uninsured parcels—the damage is in all cases due to inferior packing of the contents of the parcel. Importers should impress on the senders of their parcels how essential it is to pack carefully, particularly fragile articles. The parcels post Exchange is conducted in Canvas bags and in many of the Steamers by which they are br ught the mails are stacked with cargo.

57. The return of Cash on Delivery and Insured Parcels given hereunder shows increases in the

parcels received under both systems. Insured Parcels.

Cash on Delivery Parcels

	Received.				Received.	
Year.	No.	Ame	ount.	No.	Trade Charges	Fees.
1922 1921	6,101 3,663	33,064	s. d. 5 11 0 0	11,258 9,197	£ s. d. 24,664 9 6 22,851 16 1	£ s. d. 262 18 0 229 18 6
	Despatched.				Despatched.	
1922.	477	6,075 1			Nil	

58. The attention of importers under the Cash on Delivery System is again directed to the fact that the time limit for holding a Cash on Delivery Parcel at their disposal, cannot be extended nor can payment on account of the charges be accepted. Frequent applications are made to send the parcel to the P.O. of the addressee before the charges are paid to me and it is desirable to point out that this will not be done. It had been hoped when the system was introduced that after it had been established it would have been possible to forward to District Post Offices Cash on Delivery Parcels for delivery on payment of charges to district Postmasters but the variety of subterfuges used by importers to gain time in connection with these parcels have not yet admitted of any change in the practice now in force.

LOCAL PARCELS.

59. Hereunder is a return for two years of Inland Parcels received and despatched. There is a falling off recorded in both directions. The rate of postage on Inland parcels was increased on 1st March, 1922 from 3d. to 4d. per lb.

Year.	No. Parcels received for delivery in Kingston.	No. parcels despatched to Dis- trict Post Offices.
1922	23,233	126,091
1921	27,024	128,625

TELEGRAPHS.

60. The number and value of Official Telegrams is 30,050 and £1,252 4s. 3½d. respectively. Ordinary prepaid Telegrams 321,100. Revenue £16,811 8s. 9½d., this represents an increase in telegrams over the previous year of 8,574.

61. New stations were opened during the year as under:-

Parish.	Name.	Date.
Kin gston St. Elizabeth St. Ann Do. Hanover St. Catherine	Direct Cable, Telegraph Elim, Telephone Laughlands, Phantaphone Lime Hall do Jericho, Telephone Harker's Hall, do	1st July, 1922 3rd November, 1922 7th January, 1922 do 1st February " 9th February "

The Phantaphone Station at Green Island in Hanover was made a Telephone Station on 29th March, 1922.

- 62. The Telegraph Office at Constant Spring Hotel was closed on 1st April, 1922.
- 63. The Wireless Station at Coleyville in Manchester was closed by the Admiralty during the year and the landline communication between that office and Kingston consequently suspended.
 - 64. The summary of offices is now as follows:-

	Total	42	160
Phantaphone	2.1	- 11	56
Telephone	++	**	42
Telegraph	1.5	389	62

Telegrams are also accepted at 39 Railway Telegraph Stations.

65. The following amounts were collected on behalf of the Cable Companies and duly paid over.

Direct Cable Company	ter.	10	£ 2,768	s. 4	375
West India and Panama Company	Telegrapi	a Cable	320	6	1

66. The Staff in Kingston and District Stations have performed their duties satisfactorily during the year under review.

I have the honour to be,

Sir.

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. FLETCHER, Acting Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Honourable, The Colonial Secretary, Kingston.