

C.S.O.—11820/24.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
17th July, 1924.

THE ACTING 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 the 31st of December, 1923.

By command,  
CHAS. W. DOORLY,  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office,  
Jamaica, 23rd June, 1924.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the Report on the transactions of the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st December, 1923, being the fifty-sixth in sequence.

## 2. Receipts are as follows:—

Postal	..	£69,935	15	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Telegraph	..	17,115	12	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	£87,051 7 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Import Duty	..	44,685	5	5	
Judicial Stamps	..	6,209	18	0	
Impressed Stamps, etc.	..	1,123	16	0	
Quinine	..	433	2	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	52,452 2 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total	..				139,503 9 11 $\frac{1}{2}$

3. Of the above total, £52,452, which does not represent Postal Revenue, has been transferred through the Treasury to the accounts of the various Departments which account for it.

4. The Import duty collected through the Parcels Post System continues to soar and is £1,975 in excess of similar collections in 1922.

5. The various heads of Postal Revenue are shown in comparison with the previous year hereunder:—

	1922.	1923.
Postage	£65,672 15 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	£64,524 11 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Commission on Money Order	261 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 13 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Local Commission on British Postal Orders	608 1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	745 10 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Miscellaneous	4,520 3 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	4,552 0 10
Telegraph	16,811 8 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	17,115 12 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	£87,873 9 1	£87,051 7 11 $\frac{1}{4}$

6. The decrease of £822 in the collections as shown above occurs in the Postage Account principally and is due mainly to the reduction in the inland rate of postage which took place in August 1923. There was a falling off in the Commission on Money Orders with an almost corresponding increase in the Commission on British Postal Orders, while the telegraph receipts have recovered the difference between the collections of 1921 and 1922.

7. The value of the official or free telegrams sent during the year is £1,388 6s. 9d., and if this amount is added to the cash collections on account of Telegraph and a comparison made with the similar collections of 1922, the increase is £440.

8. The following return of collections is exhibited for the purpose of showing the growth of the Department in twenty years.

	1902-03.	1912-13.	1923.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Postages	26,234 0 0	40,993 0 0	64,524 11 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Commission on Money Orders	539 0 0	364 0 0	113 13 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Commission on Postal Orders	698 0 0	1,156 0 0	745 10 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Miscellaneous	112 0 0	583 0 0	4,552 0 10
Telegraph	5,522 0 0	8,125 0 0	17,115 12 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	33,105 0 0	51,221 0 0	87,051 7 11 $\frac{1}{4}$



## EXPENDITURE COMPARED WITH ESTIMATES.

9. A comparison of the Expenditure with the Estimates for the year under report as well as the expenditure for the previous year (1922) is given hereunder:

	Expenditure 1922.			Expenditure 1923.			Estimates 1923.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments ..	49,991	15	4	51,142	10	8½	51,040	0	0
Mail Conveyance ..	31,448	5	6	28,315	1	0	32,302	0	0
Services ..	13,425	2	2	13,346	16	5½	11,352	0	0
Telegraph Maintenance by Dept.	938	5	10	478	0	9	700	0	0
	95,803	8	10	93,282	8	11½	95,394	0	0
Telegraph Line Construction and Maintenance by Public Works Department	3,731	19	7	6,652	13	3	9,430	0	0
	99,535	8	5	99,935	2	2½	104,824	0	0

10. The actual expenditure was less by £4,889 than the amount provided on the Estimates; this is due to savings effected under the item "Mail Conveyance" and to the construction of the telephone lines authorised not being completed.

## POSTAL MISCELLANEOUS.

11. Hereunder are details of the various items of miscellaneous receipts:

	£	s.	d.
Rent of Private Letter Boxes ..	208	9	0
Do do Bags ..	57	1	0
Public Call Telephones ..	3	8	6
Fines ..	8	13	10
Delivery Fee C. O. D. Parcels ..	264	6	0
War Tax on Parcels from abroad ..	2,065	12	3
Value found in Unclaimed Dead Letters ..	9	18	0
Passengers Fares ..	999	8	1
Discount on Stamps purchased ..	3	3	3½
Money Order Account difference in the settlement of balances ..	883	7	3
Miscellaneous ..	98	13	7½
	£4,552	0	10

## DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

12. The following Post Offices were established during the year:—

Parish.	Name.	Date opened.
Manchester	Harmons	19th Jan., 1923.
St. Ann	Epworth	22nd Feb., 1923.
St. Catherine	Bellas Gate	4th Aug., 1923.
Manchester	Banana Ground	5th Aug., 1923.
St. Elizabeth	Munro College	7th Aug., 1923.

The total number of District Post Offices is now 238.

13. The Post Offices at Grange Lane in St. Catherine was closed on 31st July, 1923.

The Post Office at Alligator Pond in Manchester was temporarily closed on 6th April, 1923, and re-opened on 27th April, 1923.

## CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

14. A return of the registered and ordinary letter mail which passed through the Department during the year is given hereunder:—

	Outwards.		Inwards.	
	1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.
Inland Mails—				
Ordinary Letters:				
Public ..	2,291,866	2,409,400	3,205,451	3,110,400
Official ..	375,787	440,700	402,200	401,150
Post Cards ..	108,496	11,000	70,213	67,200
By vessels, not contract:				
U.K. and United States of America—				
Ordinary Letters ..	917,711	1,007,669	1,799,608	1,700,650
Post Cards ..	78,974	73,704	55,237	56,100
Other Countries—				
Ordinary Letters ..	500,076	486,748	899,066	950,400
Post Cards ..	5,761	4,739	4,516	4,200
	4,278,671	4,433,960	6,290,100	6,436,291



	Outwards.		Inwards.	
	1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.
Registered Letters for delivery in Kingston—				
Local .. ..	..	..	109,532	115,619
Foreign .. ..	..	..	40,861	46,758
Official .. ..	..	..	51,585	52,198
Registered Letters for delivery in the Country—				
Local .. ..	..	..	139,223	151,623
Foreign .. ..	..	..	69,438	85,405
Registered Letters for despatch—				
Oversea .. ..	..	..	101,028	116,000
At District Post Offices—				
Ordinary Letters .. ..	..	..	1,357,654	1,073,411
Post Cards .. ..	..	..	115,284	124,106
Registered Letters .. ..	..	..	162,472	198,326
			<u>2,147,077</u>	<u>1,963,446</u>

15. The registered mail matter shows a steady increase and may be regarded as evidence of the confidence in the system. All letters containing value should be registered and when postal orders are used as a means of remittance the name of the payee as well as the office at which payment is desired should be filled in, and the counterfoils of the Postal Orders be preserved.

16. Packets containing money, jewellery, or other value should be registered and prepaid at letter rate; any packet found in the mail to contain value but not registered will be liable to a surcharge equal to double the registration fee.

17. Posters are advised to place remittances in the envelopes themselves and to seal the envelopes carefully. Several cases in which the non-receipt of part or the entire money contents of registered letters were reported have revealed on investigation the fact that the agents of the writers of the letters had abstracted the remittance or had never enclosed it.

18. An extraordinary case worthy of record occurred during the year; a well known city firm entrusted to an employee five letters for registration containing large negotiable remittances; they were duly posted and one was reported to have been received minus its money contents; enquiry disclosed the fact that the employee had not posted one of the registered letters but had substituted one of his own make up but without any value; suspicion rested on the Post Office employees until the guilty party confessed.

19. A street collecting Letter Box has been erected at the corner of Church and Tower Streets; this brings the total number of such boxes in Kingston and St. Andrew up to 43.

#### INSURED LETTERS.

20. The number of insured letters received and despatched during 1923 in comparison with 1922 is given below:—

Year.	No.	Received Declared Value.	No.	Despatched Declared Value.
1922	40	£638 15s. 0d.	35	£980 12s. 4d.
1923	38	486 0s. 0d.	50	889 0s. 0d.

#### RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

21. The following is a return of the number of articles which found their way to the Dead Letter Office and were duly disposed of:—

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to United Kingdom	3,506	80
Do do Other Countries	12,660	122
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous not having been found .. ..	18,506	20,778
Newspapers returned to publishers .. ..	500	..
Letters returned to writers in the island	55,905	17,139

22. A number of letters dealt with in the Returned Letter Office are found to contain value, these are duly registered on being forwarded to the writer, in many cases they come back through the post as unclaimed and their money contents are eventually passed to the account of Postal Revenue. There are three omissions in the above transaction which should be guarded against, viz:

- Failure to register originally letters containing value;
- Failure to address the letters carefully in order to ensure delivery;
- Failure on the part of the writer to give a complete address in the event of the letter having to be returned.



## MAIL CONVEYANCE—OCEAN.

23. The number of mails received from and despatched to places abroad is shown in the following return:—

	OUTWARDS.				INWARDS.			
	1922.		1923.		1922.		1923.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
<i>Kingston—</i> Non-contract ..	532	1,763	555	1,731	671	2,066	669	2,188
<i>Outports—</i> Non-contracts ..	..	51	..	62	..	118	..	128
	532	1,763	555	1,731	671	2,066	669	2,188

24. The above mails were conveyed to and from Jamaica principally by the steamers of the United Fruit Company, Elders and Fyffes, the Atlantic Fruit Company, Windward Island Line, Canadian Government Merchant Marine.

25. The following is the amount paid for the outward conveyance:—

Ship Letter Gratuities	£3,499 3s. 8d.
Transit Rate paid to other Countries	903 11s. 2d.
	£4,402 14s. 10d.

and is £1,193 less than a similar payment for 1922.

## MAIL CONVEYANCE—INLAND.

26. The Inland Mail Conveyance has been performed by the Public Works Department and the several mail Contractors in a satisfactory manner at a cost of £23,912; this amount is less by £1,940 than in the year 1922.

27. The service by Motor Conveyance from Montego Bay to Green Island to which reference was made in the 38th paragraph of the report for 1922, was inaugurated on the 1st November, 1923.

## MONEY ORDERS.

28. The number of Orders issued and paid in connection with the exchange between the United Kingdom, the United States of America and this colony is shown below, in comparison with similar transactions in 1922; the bulk of the Money Order transactions was with these two countries.

## UNITED KINGDOM.

Year	No.	Jamaica Issue.	Payable in Jamaica.	
		Amount.	No.	Amount.
1922	748	£3,049 3s. 1d.	490	£2,000 16s. 10d.
1923	712	£2,693 17s. 7d.	419	£1,729 1s. 10d.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

1922	566	£1,293 15s. 11d.	6,727	£15,925 17s. 6d.
1923	1,066	£1,908 12s. 3d.	11,405	£32,937 1s. 10d.

29. The public have not been slow to take advantage of the change in the conduct of the exchange with the United States of America referred to in the 40th paragraph of the Report of 1922; this is reflected more particularly in the increase both in the number and the amount of orders issued in the United States for payment here.

30. No Telegraph Money Orders were issued during the year, while 13 orders, representing £260 4s., were paid,



## POSTAL ORDERS.

31. Below is given a return of the Postal Orders issued during the year, in comparison with a similar return for 1922:—

1922.				1923.			
Denomination.	No.	Face Value.	Commission.	Denomination.	No.	Face Value.	Commission.
£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
0 0 6	7,485	187 2 6	31 3 9	0 0 6	11,130	278 5 0	46 7 6
0 1 0	23,972	1,198 12 0	99 17 8	0 1 0	31,945	1,597 5 0	133 2 1
0 1 6	18,145	1,360 17 6	75 12 1	0 1 6	19,980	1,498 10 0	83 5 0
0 2 0	30,146	3,014 12 0	125 12 2	0 2 0	33,955	3,395 10 0	141 9 7
0 2 6	20,830	2,603 15 0	86 15 10	0 2 6	23,295	2,911 17 6	97 1 3
0 3 0	19,275	2,891 5 0	120 9 4½	0 3 0	27,035	4,055 5 0	164 19 4½
0 3 6	8,820	1,543 10 0	55 2 6	0 3 6	11,430	2,000 5 0	71 8 9
0 4 0	29,305	5,861 0 0	183 3 1½	0 4 0	33,880	6,776 0 0	211 15 0
0 4 6	9,950	2,238 15 0	62 3 9	0 4 6	12,280	2,763 0 0	76 15 0
0 5 0	23,450	5,862 10 0	146 11 3	0 5 0	21,915	5,478 15 0	136 19 4½
0 7 6	5,101	1,912 17 6	42 10 2	0 7 6	5,845	2,191 17 6	48 14 2
0 8 0	12,352	4,940 16 0	128 13 4	0 8 0	14,915	5,966 0 0	155 7 3½
0 10 0	19,402	9,701 0 0	202 2 1	0 10 0	21,640	10,820 0 0	225 8 4
1 0 0	10,496	10,496 0 0	196 16 0	1 0 0	10,080	10,080 0 0	189 0 0
Total	238,729	53,812 12 6	1,556 13 1	Total	279,325	59,812 10 0	1,785 12 8½

32. The number and value of Postal Orders sold was 276,262 and £59,332 10s. 6d. respectively, which is £39,415 and £6,344 15s., respectively, in excess of the year 1922, an indication of a revival of the use of the Postal Order as a means of remittance locally and to the United Kingdom, etc.

33. The following Commission, etc., accrued from the sale of Postal Orders:—

Local Commission on orders above 2/6	£268 17 5
Allowance of the London Post Office at the rate of £1 on every 1,000 Orders sold and paid	462 13 3
	£731 10 8

34. The value of Postal Orders paid during the year is given hereunder:—

At the G. P. O. Kingston	£18,810 13 9
At the Treasury Kingston	1,889 6 9
At District Post Offices and Parochial Treasuries	15,334 16 1
	£36,034 16 7

35. The above total is £1,360 2s. 5d. more than similar payments during 1922.

## PARCELS POST.

36. The popularity of the Parcels Post System as a means of small importation by individual members of the public and of large quantities of merchandise by merchants is demonstrated in the increase of the year's transactions over those for the year 1922 as set out below:—

Year.	No. of Parcels.	Declared Value.	Duty Assessed.
1922	139,864	£254,418	£42,489
1923	157,646	274,987	43,576

37. The principal Countries with regard to which there were increases or decreases in the number of parcels imported as compared with the previous year are:—

	Parcels.
United Kingdom	Increase 11,460
United States of America	Increase 6,650
Canada	Decrease 272
West Indian Islands	Decrease 98

38. It is pleasing to record that the repairs and furnishing of the Grace Building were completed during the year and the building occupied by the Parcels Post Branch on the 23th November, 1923. This has been a great relief and has resulted in the expeditious handling of the great volume of parcels received.

39. The effect of the removal of the Parcels Post Branch has been to give increased space to the Circulation Branch; this branch has been re-organised and the Subscribers' private Letter Boxes have been removed to the front of the building where they are more accessible.

40. The number of parcels despatched to the United Kingdom, United States of America, etc., was 27,244 with an estimated value of £21,178; similar figures for the year 1922 are 25,673 and £20,263 respectively.



41. Packets passing through the registered and ordinary letter mail and detained on the suspicion that they contained dutiable articles numbered 19,875, and the duty collected on these amounted to £1,504 17s. 4d; this amount would have been lost to the revenue had it not been for the vigilance of Post Office Officials.

42. Four hundred and twenty-four parcels passing through the regular channel were detained as the declared values by the senders were not satisfactory; of these, 164 were seized and 260 released with fines totalling £29 5s. 5d.

43. The following is a return of Cash on Delivery and insured parcels received and despatched during the year 1923 as compared with the year 1922:—

Insured Parcels			Cash on Delivery Parcels		
Received.			Received.		
Year.	No.	Amount.	No.	Trade Charges.	Fees.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1922	6,101	33,064 5 11	11,258	24,664 9 6	262 18 0
1923	5,632	44,280 12 5	10,761	21,021 0 7	264 6 0
Despatched.			Despatched.		
1922	477	6,075 14 3	Nil		
1923	447	5,622 0 11			

#### LOCAL PARCELS.

44. The number of parcels posted in Kingston for delivery in the country towns and received from those towns for delivery in Kingston is shown in the following return; in both cases there has been a falling off in comparison with the year 1922:—

Year	No. of Parcels for Kingston Delivery.	No. of Parcels for Country Delivery.
1922	23,233	126,091
1923	22,132	120,211

#### TELEGRAPHS.

45. The number and value of telegrams handled during the year are as follows:—

Ordinary telegrams 293,041, value £17,115 12s. 2½d.

Official telegrams 33,312 value £1,388 6s. 9d.

numerically there was a decrease of 128,058 in the ordinary telegrams, but the collections on account were £304 in excess of the previous year.

46. The following Telephone Stations were opened:—

Parish.	Name.	Date.
St. James	Catadupa	28 March, 1923
St. Catherine	Guanaboa Vale	21 Dec. "
do	Watermount	21 " "
do	Point Hill	21 " "

47. The number of Offices of Communication throughout the Island at the close of the year was 134, comprised as follows:—

Telegraph	62
Telephone	46
Phantaphone	26
	134

48. There are four Railway Offices in direct communication with the Post Office Telegraphs, and in addition there are 39 Railway Offices at which messages are received.

49. The new Telegraph Trunk Line between Kingston and Dry Harbour is under construction and should be completed by the middle of 1924. This line will help to relieve congestion and give a quicker service to intermediate Offices as far west as Montego Bay.

50. Seventeen new Telephone Offices have been authorised, and the lines were under construction during the year.

51. Collections by the Department on behalf of the Cable Companies were:—

Direct West India Cable Co.	£2,187 9 3
West India and Panama Telegraph Co.	457 8 4

52. The exodus of trained Telegraph Operators to the United States of America, previously referred to in these reports, has not ceased and as a result the efficiency of the Department in this branch has been impaired and it is sometimes difficult to fill vacancies with Operators of any experience.

53. The satisfactory performance by the Staff of their duties is hereby recorded.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ELLIS WOLFE,

Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,  
Kingston.