



# Supplement to the Jamaica Gazette.

VOL. LXIX.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1926.

No. 17.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication of the following Annual Report on the working of the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st December, 1925.

General Post Office,  
Jamaica, 17th June, 1926.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report upon the operations of the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st December, 1925.

## I. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

2 The amount collected for Postal and Telegraph purposes was £98,614 19s. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. made up as follows:—

Postal .. .. .	£81,970 14 7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Telegraph .. .. .	16,644 4 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
	£98,614 19 3 $\frac{3}{4}$

Other collections made by the Department, which are not postal revenue, amount to £48,264 3s. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d, and are made up as follows:—

Import Duty .. .. .	£40,686 16 9
Judicial Stamps .. .. .	6,021 8 6
Impressed Stamps, etc. .. .. .	1,053 7 0
Quinine .. .. .	502 11 0 $\frac{3}{4}$

	48,264 3 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
making the total collections of the Department	146,879 2 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
as against the total of the previous year of	131,901 2 7 $\frac{1}{2}$

or an increase of .. .. . £14,978 0 0

This increase is divided up amongst all of the above items, the largest being under Postal Revenue. The Import Duty collections, which had been on the decrease, are now gradually increasing.



3. The following are the collections under the various items of Postal and Telegraph Revenue for 1924 and 1925.

	1924.			1925.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postage .. ..	60,095	15	0½	63,377	6	3½
Commission on Money Orders ..	106	10	6½	123	18	4½
Local Commission on British Postal Orders ..	638	14	6½	637	15	7
Miscellaneous .. ..	7,924	16	7	17,831	14	4
Telegraph .. ..	15,818	6	10½	16,644	4	8½
	84,584	3	7	98,614	19	3½

As will be seen, there is a total increase in last year's collections of £14,030 15s. 8½d. All the items show an increase, except Local Commission on British Postal Orders, which shows a slight decrease.

An increase of £3,282 0s. 0d. under "Postage" and of £825 0s. 0d. under "Telegraph" will be observed. These are very welcome increases as these items may be regarded as the pulse of the Department's collections, and they indicate that there was a slight revival in trade. The presence of a large number of visitors (tourists, etc.) to the Island also has a bearing on these two items of revenue.

The item "Miscellaneous" under which there is a large increase of £9,907 calls for comment.

Nearly 50% of the increase is due to an accumulation of this Colony's share of United Kingdom postage on parcels which had not been transferred for a few years from the Account in which it was duly claimed to Postal Revenue Account. The somewhat similar Account with the United States which was introduced for the first time last year yielded £4,137 during the year under review. The details of this item may be of interest and are given hereunder:—

	£	s.	d.
Rent of Private Letter Boxes .. ..	243	12	0
do. do. Bags .. ..	49	9	6
Public Call Telephones .. ..	3	11	7
Fines .. ..	6	14	3
Delivery Fee Cash on Delivery Parcels .. ..	356	11	6
War Tax on Parcels from abroad .. ..	3,891	19	6
Trade Charges Commission .. ..	117	3	10
Credits on account Parcels Post Exchange United States of America ..	4,137	12	7
Sale of Post Office Handbook .. ..	1	14	3
Value found in unclaimed dead letters .. ..	35	9	2
Share of postage on U. K. parcels (1916-1925) .. ..	8,215	15	6
Discount on Stamps purchased .. ..	1	4	3
Money Order Account United States America—Credit in settlement of balances .. ..	768	16	1
Miscellaneous .. ..	2	0	4
	17,831	14	4

4. The value of Official telegrams despatched during the year is £1,245 and is less by £124 than the previous year, due, no doubt, to the revision and curtailment of the free list and the exercise of greater vigilance on the part of members of the Telegraph Branch.

5. The amount collected for rent of private telephone lines was £635 18s. 9d. and may be regarded as an adjunct to the telegraph receipts.

6. The value of free Official postage is estimated at £3,000 per annum.

7. The Collections of the Department in periods of ten years are given hereunder and the figures illustrate in one way how the Department has grown.

The increase is £70,653 between 1895 and 1925:—

	1894-95.	1904-05	1914-15.	1925.
	£	£	£	£
Postage .. ..	20,974	26,539	38,790	63,377
Commission on Money Orders ..	400	597	1,628	124
Commission on Postal Orders ..	450	657	..	638
Miscellaneous .. ..	229	862	1,069	17,832
Telegraph .. ..	5,909	4,792	8,255	16,644
	27,962	33,447	49,742	98,615



8. Hereunder is given the Expenditure for the year under review as compared with the year 1924. There is a decrease of £5,738 which is due to savings having been effected under each heading through strict economy. The Estimates were £96,874; savings surrendered, therefore, amounted to £2,078.

		Expenditure 1925.			Expenditure 1924.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments	..	50,849	7	2	51,739	7	1
Mail Conveyance	..	28,328	9	0	30,221	18	4
Services	..	11,216	11	10½	12,160	7	1½
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	..	657	15	6	686	9	5
		91,122	3	6½	94,808	1	11½
Telegraph line constructions and main- tenance by Public Works Department		3,673	19	9	5,726	9	7
		94,796	3	3½	100,534	11	6½

9. A return of the principal items of Expenditure in periods of ten years from 1894-95 to 1925 is shown hereunder:—

	1894-95.	1904-05.	1914-15.	1925.
	£	£	£	£
Personal Emoluments	13,039	15,369	24,946	50,849
Mail Conveyance	13,448	11,290	18,358	28,398
Services	5,787	3,934	6,543	11,217
Maintenance of Telegraph Line, etc.	1,630	1,132	2,804	4,332
	33,904	31,725	52,651	94,796

10. When the expenditure is compared with the receipts for the same year, given under paragraph 7, it will be found that the expenditure has gone up almost in proportion to the receipts but this is inevitable in such a large Department rendering so much service to the public.

11. The Child Welfare Stamps were again on sale to the public during the months of November December and January, and the amount handed over to the Child Saving League as the result of what was realised from the sale of these Stamps at ½d. each above their face value during the past three years is as follows:—

1923	..	£79	0s.	10d.
1924	..	70	4	7
1925	..	57	8	4

## II. DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

12. A new Post Office was established at Pembroke Hall in the parish of St. Mary on 25th August, 1925, and the Post Office and Telephone Station at Bensonton in the parish of St. Ann was re-opened as a Post Office only on the following day.

The Post Office at Inverness in St. Ann was closed on 18th March but was re-opened on 4th June.

The Post Office at Fairy Hill in Portland was temporarily closed on 15th Jan., but was also re-opened on 24th March.

13. The following Post Offices were closed during the year:—

Milk River Bath	Clarendon	2nd Feb., 1925
Fort William	Westmoreland	10th " "
Jericho	Hanover	14th " "
Hill Top	St. Elizabeth	13th June "
Wait-a-Bit	Trelawny	18th June "
Elim	St. Elizabeth	2nd Nov. "

14. At the end of 1924 there were 236 Post Offices in existence after deducting the six which were definitely closed during the year, and adding the new one opened at Pembroke Hall, the number stands at 231 at the end of 1925.

15. There are many applications on hand for the establishment of new Post Offices in various parts of the Island, but in view of the present economic condition of the Colony it has not been found practicable to add to the list of Post Offices.

16. On 10th November, the Offices between Shooters Hill (Kendal) and Browns Town were linked up by a Motor Mail and Passenger Service. This has had the effect of providing the Offices with a Mail from Kingston not later than 6 p.m. and the Passenger Service provided has been much appreciated in the districts served.

The Travelling Supervisor paid his usual annual inspection visit to each Post Office with satisfactory results.



## III. CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

17. The return given below gives an accurate count of registered articles and ordinary letters, etc., which passed through the Department during the years 1924 and 1925.

There is an increase in the volume of mail matter handled as compared with the previous year.

	Outwards.		Inwards.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
Inland Mails—				
Ordinary Letters:				
Public .. .. .	2,350,600	2,204,060	3,157,925	3,036,400
Official .. .. .	408,243	510,150	401,675	555,000
Post Cards .. .. .	59,748	48,400	68,706	70,700
By vessels, not contract:				
U.K. and United States of America—				
Ordinary Letters .. .. .	921,916	923,573	2,063,540	2,280,500
Post Cards .. .. .	88,393	100,732	60,100	85,800
Other Countries—				
Ordinary Letters .. .. .	496,884	510,446	742,174	925,400
Post Cards .. .. .	4,911	6,371	3,960	5,500
	<u>4,330,695</u>	<u>4,303,732</u>	<u>6,498,080</u>	<u>7,009,300</u>
Registered Letters for delivery in Kingston—			1924.	1925.
Local .. .. .			115,929	117,890
Foreign .. .. .			48,199	49,990
Official .. .. .			55,420	57,114
Registered Letters for delivery in the Country—				
Local .. .. .			159,195	160,970
Foreign .. .. .			92,170	94,670
Registered Letters for despatch—				
Oversea .. .. .			89,263	90,606
At District Post Offices—				
Ordinary Letters .. .. .			2,067,585	2,070,159
Post Cards .. .. .			92,482	121,225
Registered Letters .. .. .			121,390	185,302
			<u>2,841,633</u>	<u>2,947,926</u>

18. The Insured Letters received and despatched during the year is shown in the following return.

Year.	No. Received.	Declared Value.	No. Despatched.	Declared Value.
1924	44	£538 10 0	61	£736 0 0
1925	58	900 0 0	69	927 10 0

## IV. RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

19 Only a very small percentage of the mail matter dealt with and delivered found its way back to the Return Letter Branch for various reasons. These are classified as follows:—

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to United Kingdom .. .. .	3,252	71
do. do. Other Countries .. .. .	12,773	294
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous, not having been found .. .. .	37,079	20,516
Newspapers returned to publishers .. .. .	200	
Letters returned to writers in the Island .. .. .	60,296	29,395

20. Value represented by Cheques, Drafts and Currency to the extent of £3,838 12s. 6d. was found in 9,987 packets and duly returned to the writers.



## V. MAIL CONVEYANCE—OCEAN.

21. In the following return is given the number of inward and outward foreign mails.

	OUTWARDS.				INWARDS.			
	1924.		1925.		1924.		1925.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
Kingston—Non-contract	519	1,463	537	1,642	623	2,247	873	2,650
Outports—Non-contract	..	52	..	52	..	117	..	96
	519	1,515	537	1,694	623	2,364	873	2,746

22. There are marked increases in the Consignment of mails inwards and outwards. These mails were conveyed to and from Jamaica principally by the same line of Steamers as in previous years, viz:—The United Fruit Company, Elders & Fyffes, Ltd., The Atlantic Fruit Company, Ltd., and the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Ltd. The cost of the conveyance of mails abroad was £24 less than in 1924.

## VI. MAIL CONVEYANCE—INLAND.

23. The cost of the Inland Motor, Mule Van, and Foot Courier Service was £23,804 or £2,723 less than the cost in 1924. This economy has been effected by the transfer of the main Northside Motor Services from the Public Works Department to a Contractor, competition having the effect of producing a creditable Service at a reasonable figure. The cost of the Eastern Motor Service from Kingston to Port Antonio was also reduced as the result of a new Contract, the former one having expired during the year.

## VII. MONEY ORDERS.

24. The Money Orders issued in Jamaica during the year number 1,665, having a face value of £6,090. The issues on Jamaica were 16,692, of the face value of £50,140.

25. The transactions with the United Kingdom and the United States of America are disclosed in the following comparative return which shows an increase over similar transactions during the preceding year.

## United Kingdom:—

		Jamaica Issue.		Payable in Jamaica.	
Year.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
1924 ..	666	£2,586 9 4	425	£1,551 2 9	
1925 ..	591	4,308 5 2	444	1,570 10 0	

## United States of America:—

1924 ..	928	£1,491 7 2	13,681	£40,397 14 7
1925 ..	994	1,333 13 1	15,223	44,810 10 3

## VIII. POSTAL ORDERS.

26. The numbers, denominations, etc., of Postal Orders issued for sale during the years 1924 and 1925 are shown in the following return:—

1924.				1925.			
Denomina- tion.	No.	Face Value.	Commission.	Denomina- tion.	No.	Face Value.	Commission.
£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
0 0 6	8,585	214 12 6	35 15 5	0 0 6	16,525	413 2 6	68 17 1
0 1 0	126,790	1,339 10 0	111 12 6	0 1 0	28,775	1,438 15 0	119 17 11
0 1 6	18,260	1,369 10 0	76 1 8	0 1 6	18,980	1,423 10 0	79 1 8
0 2 0	31,200	3,120 0 0	130 0 0	0 2 0	34,030	3 403 0 0	141 15 10
0 2 6	21,794	2,724 5 0	90 16 2	0 2 6	22,740	2 842 10 0	94 15 0
0 3 0	22,750	3,412 10 0	142 3 9	0 3 0	23,090	3,463 10 0	144 6 3
0 3 6	9,570	1,674 15 0	59 16 3	0 3 6	9,650	1,688 15 0	60 6 3
0 4 0	21,455	4,291 0 0	134 1 10½	0 4 0	21,765	4,353 0 0	136 0 7½
0 4 6	8,710	1,959 15 0	54 8 9	0 4 6	8,235	1,852 17 6	51 9 4½
0 5 0	22,145	5,536 5 0	138 8 1½	0 5 0	21,925	5,481 5 0	137 0 7½
0 7 6	4,145	1,554 7 6	34 10 10	0 7 6	4,185	1,569 7 6	34 17 6
0 8 0	8,855	3,542 0 0	92 4 9½	0 8 0	8,585	3,434 0 0	89 8 6½
0 10 0	15,060	7,530 0 0	156 17 6	0 10 0	16,010	8,005 0 0	166 15 5
1 0 0	8,935	8,935 0 0	167 10 7½	1 0 0	8,405	8,405 0 0	157 11 10½
Total ..	228,254	47,203 10 0	1,424 8 3	Total ..	242,900	47,773 12 6	1,482 3 11½



27. The number and face value of Postal Orders actually sold were:—

	No.	Amount.
1924	229,788	£47,406 2 0
1925	243,999	48,328 18 0

As will be seen there is a slight increase in the number of Orders sold and the face value, and this may be regarded as an indication of a revival of trade.

28. The Commission accruing from the sales were:—

Local Commission on Orders above 2/6	£202 19 11
Allowance of the London Post Office at the rate of £1 on every 1,000 Orders sold and paid	450 14 11
	653 14 10

29. The value of Postal Orders paid at the different centres were as under:—

	£	s.	d.
At the General Post Office, Kingston	21,870	18	1
At the Treasury, Kingston	1,275	3	10
At District Post Offices and Parochial Treasuries	14,909	4	2
	38,055	6	1

#### IX. PARCELS POST.

30. The importations and exportations through the Parcels Post Branch for the year 1924 and 1925 were as follows:—

<i>Received.</i>			
Year	No.	Declared Value.	Duty Assessed.
1924	146,385	£258,276	£29,176 17 8
1925	155,278	249,754	40,268 2 5
<i>Despatched.</i>			
1924	29,728	£20,648	
1925	32,590	20,662	

31. The postage accruing to the Colony from the Parcels Post Service during the year was £5,772 14s. or £297 more than it was in the previous year.

32. It will be observed that there was an increase in the number of parcels imported and that the duty assessed was £1,000 more than in 1924. This increase in the importation is an appreciable one, as it is not due to any temporary inflation, such as the Coupon System referred to in the 25th paragraph of my report for 1924, but to the steady and continued use of the Parcels Post by Merchants for the importation of Merchandise coming within the limitation of weight and Cubic measurements.

33. As the declared value of the importations was £8,523 less than in 1924, it might not be clear why the duty assessed was less, seeing that the majority of the importations are Merchandise the duty on which is 20% and 15% Ad Valorem. The explanation lies in the fact that in 1924 a large quantity of British Treasury Notes was imported into the Colony which were declared at face value and admitted duty free.

34. The transactions with the principal Countries is shown in the following return:—

<i>Received.</i>			<i>Despatched.</i>	
Country.	No. of Parcels.	Declared Value.	No. of Parcels.	Declared Value.
United Kingdom	59,202	£154,333	8,075	£11,000
United States of America	85,648	85,837	17,926	4,351
Dominion of Canada	4,802	6,004	1,707	656

35. It is satisfactory to note that while numerically the importations from the United States of America exceed by over 26,000 those from the United Kingdom the declared value of the importations from the United Kingdom is £68,496 more than that from the United States.

36. The total number of parcels exported was 32,590 with a declared value of £20,662. The number exceeds the 1924 figure by 2,862.

37. The number of packets received by the Letter Post and detained for Customs examination was 18,502 and the duty collected on the contents of these packets was £1,136.

38. The practice of importing articles with their values declared below cost continues and during the year 729 such parcels were detained. Of these, 13 were seized by the Customs Authorities and 716 were released after fines had been inflicted amounting to £113 6s. 2d. These transactions are in the majority of cases private ones, that is; members of Jamaica families abroad send goods to relatives here, the advice is proffered that care should be taken to declare the correct or invoice value of all importations.



39. The following is a return of the number of parcels received on the "Cash on Delivery" system and Insured Parcels received and despatched during the year.

Insured Parcels Received.			Cash on Delivery Parcels Received.		
Year.	No.	Amount.	No.	Trade Charges.	Fees.
1924	5,504	£49,766 4 9	12,466	21,660 8 2	£287 6 6
1925	5,687	24,955 2 10	15,886	27,348 19 6	356 11 6
Despatched.			Despatched.		
1924	408	£2,117 12 11		Nil	
1925	276	3,820 7 10			

40. As will be observed there was an increase of over 3,000 in the number of "Cash on Delivery Parcels" received during 1925 as compared with the year 1924. Importers under this System continue to give the Department a great deal of trouble and unnecessary correspondence. Requests are constantly made which cannot be granted and the only concessions which are allowed are those clearly stated in the printed notice sent to each importer on the receipt of a Cash on Delivery Parcel.

This medium is used to impress upon all, especially the regular importers of parcels under this System, that the conditions must be strictly adhered to and to invite their co-operation by strictly complying with those conditions in future so as to obviate unnecessary delay and correspondence.

#### LOCAL PARCELS.

41. The return furnished hereunder shews that there was an increase of over 5,000 in the number of local parcels posted.

Year.	No. of Parcels for Kingston Delivery.	No. of Parcels for Country Delivery.
1924	20,371	118,438
1925	21,757	122,259

#### X. TELEGRAPHS.

42. The number of Telegraph and Telephone offices in existence at the close of the year under review was 143 as against 150 at the close of 1924.

The former number is made up as follows:—

Telegraph	61
Telephone	58
Phantophone	24

In addition to these there are 39 Railway Stations at which messages are accepted.

43. As foreshadowed in the 43rd paragraph of my last report seven Telephone Stations were closed during the year, as the business they were doing did not warrant their being continued.

These are:—

Name of Office.	Parish.	Date closed.
Milk River Bath	Clarendon	3rd February, 1925
Jericho	Hanover	14th " "
Anchovy	St. James	16th " "
Lime Hall	St. Ann	13th March, "
Benson-ton	do.	13th " "
Laughlands	do.	12th " "
Elim	St. Elizabeth	2nd Novr. "

44. Whitehouse Telephone Station was closed on the 10th of February, 1925, but was re-opened under guarantee on the 12th of June. Runaway Bay in the parish of St. Ann was converted from a Telegraph to a Phantophone Office on the 12th of March, 1925.

45. Below is given a return of the number of telegrams, and their value sent during the years 1924 and 1925. The figures show that there was an increase of 28,229 in the number of telegrams and £2,039 in the receipts. To a large extent, this increase is due to fluctuation in produce prices abroad, causing local agents to use the wires extensively to keep country buyers abreast of the latest quotations. The wires were also largely used by agents and dealers to make quotations and solicit orders for flour and other imported food-stuffs.

The use of the wires for the above purposes is indication of trade development and every effort is made to give a speedy service in order to encourage the traffic. On the other hand the use of the wires in connection with the banana trade has declined during the past two years. The standardization of banana prices seems to furnish the reason for this as Country Agents do not require as hitherto, frequent instructions.



The decrease of 9,890 in Official telegrams is due to the revision of the free list and to the help given by Heads of Departments and others in sending telegrams only when it is absolutely necessary to do so.

1924.					
Ordinary telegrams	..	283,855	Value	..	£15,853
O.H.M.S. do.	..	32,880	Value	..	1,369
1925.					
Ordinary telegrams	..	312,084	Value	..	17,892
O.H.M.S. do.	..	22,984	Value	..	1,245

46. The new telegraph line between Kingston and Dry Harbour, referred to in paragraph 45 of the report of this Department for 1924, was completed during the year, and has considerably relieved the pressure on the Western traffic, and has reduced delays to an appreciable extent.

47. The number of telegrams handled, and the receipts from this Service are in excess of any previous period of the life of the Telegraph Service and this may be attributed to the fact that firms and individuals are realising the importance of transacting business as speedily as possible, and the Telegraph Service affords them facilities in this direction. The better maintenance of the line has enabled the Department to give a more prompt and accurate service.

48. During the year this Department collected on behalf of the Cable Companies the following amounts:—

Direct West India Cable Company	..	..	..	£2,689	14	3
West India & Panama Telegraph Company	..	..	..	661	13	9

This gives an increase of £721 over similar collections for the previous year. The courtesies extended to the Department by the Superintendents of both of the above Companies are hereby acknowledged.

49. It is a pleasure to record that the Staff both in Kingston and at the District Stations were attentive to, and painstaking in, their duties during the year.

50. Mr. Ellis Wolfe, who had been Postmaster for Jamaica since March, 1915, retired from the Public Service on pension on the 30th of June, 1925. He took up his residence in the United States of America, and it is with regret that I have to record his death on the 9th of October, 1925.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. FLETCHER,  
Postmaster for Jamaica.