



# Supplement to the Jamaica Gazette.

VOL. LXX.

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No. 13.

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, 1926.

General Post Office,  
Jamaica, 31st May, 1927

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following Report on the transactions of the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st December, 1926.

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

2. The collections on account of the Postal and Telegraph Services amounted to £93,442 12s. 11½d., made up as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Postal	75,435	4	13½
Telegraphs	18,007	8	9½
	93,442	12	11½

The following amounts which are not Postal Revenue were also collected by this Department:—

	£	s.	d.
Import Duty	44,379	12	5
Judicial Stamps	6,309	17	0
Impressed Stamps, etc.,	1,007	8	11
Quinine sold at Post Offices	416	18	7½
	52,113	16	11½

The Import Duty Account is £3,693 in excess of the year 1925.

3. The collections under the various items of Postal and Telegraph Revenue for the years 1925 and 1926 are shewn in the return which follows:—



	1925.			1926.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postage .. .. .	63,377	6	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	64,256	4	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Commission on Money Orders .. .. .	123	18	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	129	10	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Local Commission on British Postal Orders .. .. .	637	15	7	706	3	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Miscellaneous .. .. .	17,831	14	4	10,343	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Telegraph .. .. .	16,644	4	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	18,007	8	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	98,614	19	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	93,442	12	11 $\frac{1}{4}$

All the items shew an increase except "Miscellaneous" which discloses a decrease of £7,488; this is due to the fact pointed out in paragraph 3 of my report for 1925, viz.: that £8,215 15s. 6d., this Colony's share of United Kingdom postage on parcels accumulated between 1916 and 1925, was transferred then; the similar amount transferred for 1926 is £2,350, the difference, £5,861, fully accounting for the decrease in the total collections between the year 1925 and 1926.

The increases under "Postage" and "Telegraph" are £379 and £1,363, respectively; the former, although comparatively small, is evidence of the continued expansion of the advantages of the post; the latter is the financial indication of the increasing popularity of the Telegraph System.

The details of the item "Miscellaneous" are given hereunder:—

	£	s.	d.
Rent of Private Letter Boxes .. .. .	254	11	0
do. do. Bags .. .. .	67	12	6
Public Call Telephones .. .. .	3	7	7
Fines .. .. .	4	17	2
Delivery Fee Cash on Delivery Parcels .. .. .	385	14	6
Customs Clearance Fee on Parcels .. .. .	3,865	0	1
Trade Charges Commission .. .. .	149	8	11
Credits on account Parcels Post Exchange United States of America .. .. .	2,737	10	11
Sale of Post Office Handbook .. .. .	2	15	0
Value found in unclaimed dead letters .. .. .	2	6	
Share of postage on U. K. parcels (1916-1925) .. .. .	2,350	17	0
Discount on Stamps purchased .. .. .	1	12	2
Money Order Account United States America—Credit in settlement of balances .. .. .	518	19	6
Miscellaneous .. .. .	0	16	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
	10,343	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

4. The charges surrendered on account of official telegrams transmitted during the year is estimated at £1,600, and on account of official postage at £3,000.

5. The amount collected for rent of private telephone lines is £1,079 8s. 3d.

6. The following Return of Revenue in periods of ten years shows the steady growth of the Department. In the last ten years the Revenue has shown a phenomenal increase.

	1895-96.	1905-06.	1915-16.	1926.
	£	£	£	£
Postage .. .. .	22,489	29,594	37,698	64,256
Commission on Money Orders .. .. .	388	441	396	130
Commission on Postal Orders .. .. .	520	787	911	706
Miscellaneous .. .. .	173	614	980	10,343
Telegraph .. .. .	6,156	5,983	8,068	18,007
	29,726	37,419	48,053	93,442

7. A comparative return of the expenditure in periods of ten years is given below—the increase in expenditure is in proportion to the receipts.

	1895-26	1905-06	1915-16	1926.
	£	£	£	£
Personal Emoluments .. .. .	13,879	15,252	24,600	50,584
Mail Conveyance .. .. .	13,982	10,862	16,786	26,483
Services .. .. .	5,670	5,202	6,038	12,071
Maintenance of Telegraph Line, etc., .. .. .	2,170	799	2,567	4,554
	35,701	32,115	49,991	93,692

8. A comparison of the expenditure for the year under review with the previous year is given below and shows a decrease of £1,1 03.



	Expenditure 1925.			Expenditure 1926.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments .. ..	50,849	7	2	50,584	5	3
Mail Conveyance .. ..	28,398	9	0	26,483	2	4
Services .. ..	11,216	11	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	12,071	1	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	657	15	6	778	11	8
	91,122	3	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	89,917	0	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Telegraph line constructions and main- tenance by Public Works Department	3,673	19	9	3,775	11	9
	94,796	3	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	93,692	12	7 $\frac{1}{4}$

9. The decrease has taken place principally under "Mail Conveyance" and this without impairing the efficiency of the Mail Service.

10. Child Welfare Stamps which have been regularly sold since 1923 during the months of November, December and January were sold for the last time during the year under review as it has been decided that no more such stamps should be issued. The sum of £39 9s. 4d. realised by the sale of these stamps at  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each above their face value has been paid over to the Child Saving League. This brings the total amount realised by the venture and handed over to the Child Saving League to £246 2s. 3d.

#### DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

11. No new District Post Offices were established during the year and none were closed, so that the number remains the same, viz:—231.

12. The service to the Llandewey Post Office (St. Thomas) was converted from a daily to a tri-weekly one from the 19th of October. This was done in order to reduce the loss incurred in conducting that office.

13. The Mule Van Mail Service between Ipswich and Black River was discontinued from the 12th April, and a Motor Mail and Passenger Service between Maggotty and Black River via Lacovia and Middle Quarters inaugurated; the change has been much appreciated.

14. Each Post Office was inspected at least once by the Travelling Supervisor during the year, and his reports were on the whole satisfactory.

#### CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

15. Hereunder is a statement of the actual number of registered articles, and an estimate of the number of ordinary letters and post cards, which passed through the Department during the year. A similar return for 1925 is reproduced for the sake of comparison:—

	Outwards.		Inwards.	
	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.
Inland Mails:—				
Ordinary Letters:				
Public .. ..	2,204,060	2,575,350	3,086,400	3,979,500
Official .. ..	510,150	625,240	555,000	605,400
Post Cards .. ..	48,400	58,620	70,700	80,000
By vessels, not contract:				
U. K. and United States of America—				
Ordinary Letters .. ..	923,573	941,855	2,280,500	2,547,663
Post Cards .. ..	100,732	110,914	85,800	80,000
Other Countries—				
Ordinary Letters .. ..	510,446	490,832	925,400	1,314,200
Post Cards .. ..	6,371	7,392	5,500	6,340
	4,303,732	4,810,203	7,009,300	8,613,103
			1925.	1926.
Registered Letters for delivery in Kingston—				
Local .. ..			117,890	118,960
Foreign .. ..			49,990	48,760
Official .. ..			57,114	57,919
Registered Letters for delivery in the country—				
Local .. ..			160,970	158,786
Foreign .. ..			94,670	94,380
Registered Letters for despatch—				
Oversea .. ..			90,606	101,067
At District Post Offices—				
Ordinary Letters .. ..			2,070,159	2,396,779
Post Cards .. ..			121,225	123,137
Registered Letters .. ..			185,302	401,268
			2,947,926	3,501,056



16. The increase in the number of registered articles over those of the year 1925 is 553,130. This increase is no doubt due in some measure to the advice consistently given to the public to register letters containing value. The registered envelopes sold by the Department should always be used for registered letters.

17. The aggregate increase in ordinary letters and Post Cards is 2,110,274 as compared with the 1925 figure.

18. It is gratifying to be able to record that there has been no enquiry for a registered article which could not be satisfactorily accounted for. There have been very few representations that letters, containing value and posted without registration, had not been received.

19. The number of letters entrusted to Letter Carriers in Kingston for delivery is estimated at 1,660,438. A goodly number of these were returned to the Post Office in consequence of "insufficient" and "incorrect" addresses. It would expedite delivery considerably if greater care were taken to address letters not only to the correct street and number but also to the correct Post Office.

20. The delivery of letters is undertaken as far north as Camperdown on the Constant Spring Road—East, Matilda's Corner on the Hope, then West—Molynes and Lyndhurst Roads, this includes deliveries from the Kingston, Cross Roads and Halfway Tree Post Offices and mail matter should be clearly addressed to the Post Office from which it is desired that delivery should be effected.

21. With the continued expansion of lower St. Andrew and Eastern Kingston, there is a constant demand for an extension of street deliveries and this can only be met by the employment of more Letter Carriers on Bicycles and the provision of increased accommodation at the Post Offices concerned.

22. There has been a slight increase in the number of Insured letters received as disclosed in the following return. This system is not local.

Year.	No. Received.	Declared Value.			No. Despatched.	Declared Value.		
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1925	58	900	0	0	69	927	10	0
1926	60	1,655	4	0	67	841	0	1

#### RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

23. Hereunder are the particulars of mail matter which passed through the Returned Letter Branch.

24. Although the percentage of mail matter returned is small this could be further reduced if care were taken to address mail matter correctly before posting.

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to United Kingdom .. ..	5,657	123
do do Other Countries .. ..	11,519	154
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous, not having been found .. ..	29,381	20,471
Newspapers returned to publishers .. ..	200	
Letters returned to writers in the Island .. ..	57,160	18,619

25. The number of letters, etc., registered and unregistered found to contain value and duly returned was 7,485, and the total value of the contents £1,999 17s. 0½d.

#### MAIL CONVEYANCE—OCEAN.

26. The return hereunder shows the number of Outward and Inward mails to and from countries abroad during the year.

	OUTWARDS.				INWARDS.			
	1925.		1926.		1925.		1926.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
Kingston— Non-contract ..	537	1,642	495	1,639	873	2,650	615	2,862
Outports— Non-contract ..	..	52	..	45	..	96	..	172
	537	1,694	495	1,684	873	2,746	615	3,034

27. The cost of mail conveyance abroad was £4,067 and the service was rendered principally by the Steamers of the following lines:—

United Fruit Company, Elders and Fyffes, Ltd., The Atlantic Fruit Company, Ltd. and the Canadian Government Merchant Marine.



## MAIL CONVEYANCE—INLAND.

28. The following Mule Van Services were discontinued as from 31st December, 1926 —  
 Williamsfield and Cross Keys via Mandeville and Newport;  
 Williamsfield and Sav-la-Mar, Balaclava and Malvern via Santa Cruz;  
 Jackson Town and Ulster Spring. Motor Mail and Passenger Services were substituted in all cases except Jackson Town and Ulster Spring. Opportunity was taken to serve Ulster Spring from Balaclava and thus provide an expeditious mail service and a passenger conveyance from the Balaclava Railway Station at a reasonable rate—4d. a mile.

29. These improved methods in mail conveyance have been brought about at a very slight increase of cost and have been very much appreciated.

30. All the main routes of the Postal Service are now traversed by Motor Conveyances. This is an achievement which must be regarded with considerable satisfaction.

31. The cost of the Island Mail Conveyance was £22,415 as compared with £23,804 in 1925.

## MONEY ORDERS.

32. A summary of the figures for the past year shows that Jamaica issued 1,956 Orders for £4,816, and the issues against the Colony were 22,684 for £63,928. The figures for the year 1925 were—Issues, 1,665 for £6,090, and Payments 16,692 for £50,140. There has been a substantial increase in payments, viz., £13,788.

33. An analysis of the transactions with the United Kingdom and the United States of America in comparison with the years 1925 and 1926 is given hereunder:—

*United Kingdom.*

				Jamaica Issue.	Payable in Jamaica.			
Year.		No.		Amount.		No.		Amount.
1925	..	591	..	£4,308 5 2		444	..	£1,570 10 0
1926	..	596	..	2,502 4 7		468	..	1,613 11 6

*United States of America.*

1925 ..	994 ..	£1,333	13 1	15,223 ..	44,810	10 3
1926 ..	1,279 ..	1,856	3 9	21,092 ..	58,060	5 5

34. It will be noticed that the transactions with the United States of America are steadily increasing; this is due in the case of Issues to increased importations through the Parcels Post and in the case of payments to the number of Jamaicans now resident in that country, and who use the Money Order System for making remittances to their families and friends.

## POSTAL ORDERS.

35. The following Statement shows the number of each denomination of Postal Orders issued for sale during the last two years.

1925.				1926.			
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	16,525	413 2 6	68 17 1	0 0 6	11,585	289 12 6	48 5 5
0 1 0	28,775	1,438 15 0	119 17 11	0 1 0	29,920	1,496 0 0	124 13 4
0 1 6	18,980	1,423 10 0	79 1 8	0 1 6	21,440	1,608 0 0	89 6 8
0 2 0	34,030	3,403 0 0	141 15 10	0 2 0	36,445	3,644 10 0	151 17 1
0 2 6	22,740	2,842 10 0	94 15 0	0 2 6	25,195	3,149 7 6	104 19 7
0 3 0	23,090	3,463 10 0	144 6 3	0 3 0	25,120	3,768 0 0	157 0 0
0 3 6	9,650	1,688 15 0	60 6 3	0 3 6	11,950	2,091 5 0	74 13 9
0 4 0	21,765	4,353 0 0	136 0 7½	0 4 0	25,545	5,109 0 0	159 13 1½
0 4 6	8,235	1,852 17 6	51 9 4½	0 4 6	10,800	2,430 0 0	67 10 0
0 5 0	21,925	5,481 5 0	137 0 7½	0 5 0	20,905	5,226 5 0	130 13 1½
0 7 6	4,185	1,569 7 6	34 17 6	0 7 6	5,050	1,893 15 0	42 1 8
0 8 0	8,585	3,434 0 0	89 8 6½	0 8 0	10,450	4,180 0 0	108 17 1
0 10 0	16,010	8,005 0 0	166 15 5	0 10 0	18,170	9,085 0 0	189 5 5
1 0 0	8,405	8,405 0 0	157 11 10½	1 0 0	9,310	9,310 0 0	174 11 3
Total ..	242,900	47,773 12 6	1,482 3 11½	Total ..	261,885	53,280 15 0	1,623 7 6



36. The number and face value of Postal Orders actually sold during the year were:—

	No.	Amount.
1925 .. .. .	243,999	£48,328 18 0
1926 .. .. .	259,535	52,963 11 0

There has been an appreciable increase in the sales in comparison with the previous year.

37. The Commissions which have been duly brought to account as revenue, were:—

Local Commission on Orders above 2/6 .. .. .	£222 3 1
Allowance of the London Post Office at the rate of £1 on every 1,000 Orders sold and paid .. .. .	473 12 2
	£695 15 3

an increase of £42 over the previous year's Commissions.

38. The value of Postal Orders paid at the General Post Office, Kingston and at District Post Offices and Parochial Treasuries were as under:—

At the General Post Office, Kingston .. .. .	£24,687 10 5
At District Post Offices and Parochial Treasuries .. .. .	16,275 10 1
	£40,963 0 6

An increase of £2,908 on the figures for 1925. Postal Orders are no longer cashed at the Treasury, Kingston, but at the General Post Office.

39. The advice so often given is again tendered to retain the Counterfoil of the Postal Order, fill in the name of the person for whom it is intended and the name of the office at which payment is desired before parting with the order.

#### PARCELS POST.

40. Since the 1st of May, 1926, parcels weighing up to 22 lbs. may be exchanged with Great Britain and four of the West Indian Islands, viz., Trinidad, Antigua, Grenada and St. Vincent

41. It may be of interest to note that of the 62,511 parcels received from the United Kingdom, 1,815 weighed over 11 lbs. Despite the fact that there is now the possibility of combining two parcels which separately weigh over 11lb., the previous maximum, the number of parcels received from the United Kingdom during the year exceeded the number of the previous year by 3,309.

42. Importations and exportations through the Parcels Post Branch are still on the increase. The following figures relate to parcels received during the year under review as compared with the previous year:—

Year.	No.	Declared Value.	Duty Assessed.
1925 .. .. .	155,278	£249,754	£40,268 2 5
1926 .. .. .	157,483	269,392	42,216 11 8

As will be seen, there is an increase of 2,205 in the number of parcels and £19,638 in the Declared Value. The postage accruing to the Colony on these parcels was £5,920 18s. 3d. or £148 more than in the previous year.

43. The number and value of parcels despatched from the Island were as follows:—

Year.	No.	Declared Value.
1925 .. .. .	32,590	£20,662
1926 .. .. .	33,048	22,136

This gives an increase of 458 in the number of parcels and £1,474 in the Declared Value.

44. Postage to the extent of £1,837 13s. 3d. was paid on these parcels as against £1,609 4s. 11d. in 1925, or an increase of £228 8s. 4d. The transactions with the principal countries are shown in the following return:—

<i>Received.</i>			<i>Despatched.</i>	
Country.	No. of Parcels.	Declared Value.	No. of Parcels.	Declared Value.
United Kingdom	62,511	£170,165	8,359	£12,000
United States of America	84,522	85,561	17,325	4,427
Dominion of Canada	4,428	9,864	1,617	580

45. A fair amount of business is done with Colon and the Canal Zone as will be gathered from the fact that 5,049 parcels valued at £2,942 were received, and 1,437 parcels valued at £505 were despatched during the year.

46. The number of packets received by Letter Post and detained for Customs examination was 18,712. On these, Import Duty amounting to £1,261 was collected.

47. A large number of parcels with their values declared below cost still continue to be sent to this Island, despite the advice proffered in my last Report. During the year 1,397 such parcels were



detained; of these, 22 were seized by the Customs Authorities, and 1,375 were released after the imposition of fines amounting to £276 13s. 5d. These results are attributable to the care and vigilance exercised by the Officers of the Parcels Post Branch.

48. The transactions in connection with "C.O.D." and Insured Parcels received, also show a marked increase as compared with the previous year.

The following are the figures:—

Insured Parcels Received.			Cash on Delivery Parcels Received.		
Year.	No.	Amount.	No.	Trade Charges.	Fees.
1925	5,687	£24,955 2 10	15,886	£27,348 19 6	£356 11 6
1926	5,726	29,436 12 5	17,039	31,313 0 4	—
Despatched.			Despatched.		
1925	276	£3,620 7 10	Nil		
1926	399	2,508 11 10	—		

49. The Department again experienced a great deal of trouble, and had to conduct a large amount of unnecessary correspondence, owing to the fact that importers of "Cash on Delivery" parcels will not comply with the conditions which are clearly stated in the printed notice sent to each importer of a parcel under this System. Such a parcel can only be retained at Head Office for 15 days from the date of arrival, after which, if unclaimed, it is forthwith returned to the Office of Origin. This fact is emphasized because certain firms abroad represent that C.O.D. parcels are retained for a longer period before being returned. Again, importers by this system often remit a portion of the amount called for by the notice and either ask that the parcel be forwarded when the balance will be paid at their local Post Office or that further time be given to remit the balance.

50. I desire to take this opportunity again to impress upon all, especially upon those who are regular importers of parcels under this system, that none of the above requests can be granted, and that the conditions which are clearly stated in the printed notice must be strictly adhered to. I trust that I shall in future receive their co-operation, and that they will strictly comply with the conditions laid down and so obviate unnecessary delay and correspondence.

#### LOCAL PARCELS.

51. The number of local parcels posted during the year exceeded by 1,184 the number of the preceding year. The following are the actual figures:—

Year.	No. of Parcels for Kingston Delivery.	No. of Parcels for Country Delivery.
1924	20,371	118,438
1925	21,757	122,259
1926	22,188	123,012
Total	1926 145,200	
	1925 144,016	
Increase:	1,184	

#### TELEGRAPHS.

52. The number of Telegraph and Telephone Offices in existence at the end of the year under review remains the same as the previous year; viz.: 143. The Telephone Office at Browns Hall was closed on the 25th of May, and a similar office was opened at Pembroke Hall on the 11th of November. The total number of offices is divided as follows:—

Telegraph	61
Telephone	58
Phantophone	24
	143

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

53. The number of ordinary telegrams sent during the year was 315,549 as against 312,084 the previous year, an increase of 3,465. The revenue which accrued to the Department from this source was £18,007 as against £17,892 for 1925 an increase of £115.

54. During the year 29,544 Official Telegrams were despatched as compared with 22,984 in the previous year.

55. The possibility of a reduced week-end rate for telegrams and a special rate for Christmas and New Year messages was considered, but it has not been found practicable to introduce these concessions.



56. In addition to the transmission of O.H.M.S. and ordinary telegrams, the following services were performed.—

- (a) The issue of Weather reports during the hurricane season. On the receipt of each such report 50 warnings are sent out in Kingston and circulated to 143 District Offices who in turn issue approximately 600 notices.
- (b) During the Winter months temperature readings were supplied for transmission abroad for reproduction in the newspapers.
- (c) The issue of cricket news during the recent visit of the English Cricket Team to all of the District Offices for the information of the public. Usually two bulletins were issued each day, but on some days a third was issued.

57. Whilst we suffered the usual inevitable line interruptions during the year, I am pleased to be able to report that none of them was of a serious nature, and did not, as far as I am aware, cause any great inconvenience to the public.

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

Direct West India Cable Co.	£2,914 17 7
West India and Panama Telegraph Co.	760 10 3

Again, I have to acknowledge the courtesies extended to this Department by the Superintendents of both of these Companies.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

59. A comprehensive Post Office Guide is issued annually by the Department and sold in Kingston and the principal Post Offices in the Country at 3d. per copy. A copy should be in every office and in every home which uses the post to any extent, since a perusal of the information supplied and compliance therewith would help considerably in the handling of mail matter through the post. "Registered letters containing value" "Prepay mail matter fully" advice given on the cover of the Guide, is worthy of repetition here.

60. From the 24th March, 1926, magazines printed and published in Jamaica at intervals of not less than 30 days were authorised to go through the inland post at  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each, regardless of the weight, and provided that the Publishers duly registered the magazine at the General Post Office.

61. During the year seven Branches of the Government Savings Bank were opened at Post Offices as follows:—

- Carron Hall, St. Catherine, 27th October, 1926.
- Dry Harbour, St. Ann, 1st November, 1926.
- Grange Hill, Westmoreland, 22nd November, 1926.
- Pear Tree Grove, St. Catherine, 29th April, 1926.
- Retreat, St. Mary, 29th October, 1926.
- Seaforth, St. Thomas, 19th April, 1926.
- Williamsfield, Manchester, 14th May, 1926.

This brings the total number of Branches now being operated by the Post Office Department to seventy-five; indeed, there are no branches of the Government Savings Bank (outside Kingston) now conducted in buildings other than Post Offices.

62. A number of the buildings in which Post Offices are conducted throughout the Colony are not what might be regarded as very desirable, but for various reasons the Department must continue to conduct its business in these buildings and live in the expectation that the finances of the Colony will permit at an early date of a building programme for Post Offices.

63. In August, 1926, a street Collecting Letter Box was erected at the corner of Hope Road and Trafalgar Road.

64. I am pleased to place on record that the Staff of all Branches of the Department showed devotion to their duties during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) R. H. FLETCHER,

Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Kingston.