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No. 18

The ACTING GOVERNOR directs the publication of the following Annual Report on the working of the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st December, 1927.

General Post Office,
Jamaica, 20th June, 1928.

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, 1927.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

2. The collections on account of the Postal and Telegraph Service amounted to £99,220 3s. 0½d. made up as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Postal	79,635	16	0½
Telegraph	19,584	7	0
	<u>99,220</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0½</u>

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

	£	s.	d.
Import Duty	46,338	14	0
Judicial Stamps	6,886	1	6
Impressed Stamps, etc.	1,026	0	3½
Quinine	402	15	5½
	<u>54,653</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>3½</u>

The collections of the Department as above, amount to £153,873 14s. 4d.

3. The amount of duty collected on goods imported through the Parcels Post Branch is still on the increase, being nearly £2,000 in excess of the year 1926, which means that this mode of obtaining goods from abroad is being more widely used. The assessment of import duty, under a preferential tariff has been most satisfactorily performed by those responsible for carrying it out, and reflects credit on them. With a restricted Vote for the payment of overtime services the work in the Circulation branch as well as the Parcels Post branch has had to be performed under great pressure, particularly when mails arrive near to or after the official closing hours. Every effort has been made to give the public the best possible service, in the circumstances.

4. The amount realized from the sale of Judicial Stamps was £577 in excess of last year.

5. The Revenue Collections for the year under review and the previous year are shewn in the following return:—

	1926.			1927.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postage	64,256	4	11½	67,953	18	3½
Commission on Money Orders	129	10	3½	129	13	2½
Local Commission on British Postal Orders	706	3	6½	671	9	8½
Miscellaneous	10,343	5	4½	10,880	14	10½
Telegraph	18,007	8	9½	19,584	7	0
	93,442	12	11½	99,220	3	0½

6. The total increase in Postal and Telegraph Revenue compared with that for the year 1926, was £5,778, and this may be regarded as one of the indications of the Colony's prosperity during the year 1927.

7. The revenue received from Postage is £3,696 in excess of that for the year 1926, while the revenue received from Telegrams exceeds that of the previous year by £1,577. The increased use which is being made of the Telegraph system is very marked and is a further indication of the Colony's prosperity. Although there is a tendency now to use the telegraph more freely for what might be regarded as social purposes, yet, business telegrams, particularly in connection with the banana trade, form a large proportion of the total number of telegrams sent during the year.

8. Details of the revenue item "Miscellaneous" are given hereunder. The total is in excess of that for the previous year by £537. Increases occurred under, "Customs Clearance Fee on parcels," "Credits on Account of Parcel Post Exchange with the United States of America," and "Share of postage on United Kingdom parcels." These three items are indications of the continued expansion of the Parcels Post Service of the Colony.

	£	s.	d.
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	265	14	0
Rent of Private Letter Bags	69	10	3
Public Call Telephones	4	4	9½
Fines	10	2	1
Delivery Fee on C.O.D. Parcels	380	5	3
Customs Clearance Fee on Parcels	3,941	17	0
Trade Charges Commission	163	8	6
Value found in Unclaimed Dead Letters	12	18	4½
Discount on Stamps purchased	1	7	8½
Money Order Account United States of America—			
Credit in settlement of balances	588	15	5
Share of postage on U. K. Parcels	2,602	0	3
Credits on account Parcels Post Exchange,			
United States of America	2,807	18	3
Sale of Post Office Handbook	32	13	0
	£10,880	14	10½

9. The amount that would have been paid for Official Telegrams transmitted during the year if such telegrams were not sent free of charge is estimated at £1,360, whilst the postage that would have been paid on Official Correspondence (sent free through the post) is calculated at about £3,000.

10. The amount collected for rent of private telephone lines was £739 19s. 6d.

11. A Return of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Department for the last thirty years, in periods of ten years, is given hereunder, and illustrates the rapid expansion of the Department, particularly during the last ten years.

	<i>Revenue.</i>			
	1896-97.	1906-07	1916-17.	1927.
	£	£	£	£
Postage	23,331	31,384	47,127	67,954
Commission on Money Orders	414	531	1,196	130
Commission on Postal Orders	534	806		671
Miscellaneous	146	639	1,473	10,881
Telegraph	5,480	6,614	8,615	19,584
	<u>29,805</u>	<u>39,974</u>	<u>58,411</u>	<u>99,220</u>

	<i>Expenditure.</i>			
Personal Emoluments	7,875	15,490	24,798	51,586
Mail Conveyance	12,130	10,738	17,378	27,740
Services	5,318	5,164	6,234	12,001
Maintenance of Telegraph lines, etc.	1,974	802	2,806	5,326
	<u>27,297</u>	<u>32,194</u>	<u>51,216</u>	<u>96,653</u>

12. The Expenditure for the year under review is given below in comparison with that for the year 1926 and shows an increase of £2,960.

	Expenditure 1926.			Expenditure 1927.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments	50,584	5	3	51,585	15	1
Mail Conveyance	26,483	2	4	27,739	18	7
Services	12,071	1	7½	12,001	5	2½
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	778	11	8	773	15	10
	<u>89,917</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10½</u>	<u>92,100</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8½</u>
Telegraph line constructions and main- tenance by Public Works Department	3,775	11	9	4,552	6	4
	<u>93,692</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7½</u>	<u>96,653</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0½</u>

13. Increases occurred under Personal Emoluments (£1,000), Mail Conveyance (£1,256), and Telegraph line Construction and Maintenance (£767). The provision for train postmen and heavier charges against the vote for leave to District Postmistresses were the principal reasons for the increase under Personal Emoluments. A large payment in respect of the cost of mails in transit to Great Britain and the United States accounts principally for the increase under "Mail Conveyance," while the increased Expenditure for the maintenance of the telegraph lines was found to be necessary in order to obtain better efficiency.

District Post Offices.

14. Seven additional District Post Offices were established during the year as follows:—

Name of Office.	Parish.	Date of opening.
Blackstonedged	St. Ann	23rd June, 1927
Smithville	Clarendon	25th June, 1927
Beckford Kraal	ditto	27th June, 1927
Wait-a-Bit	Trelawny	28th June, 1927
Calderwood	St. Ann	16th July, 1927
Mount Horeb	St. James	26th July, 1927
Great Valley	Hanover	28th July, 1927

This brings the total number of offices at the end of the year up to 238.

15. A temporary Post Office, the transactions of which were limited to the Sale of Stamps and the receiving of letters, was opened at a building in Barry Street, Kingston, in connection with the Jamaica Philatelic Society's Exhibition from 21st to 26th February, 1927.

16. On the 28th of March the postal service on the trains, which had been withdrawn, was resumed. Messengers are placed on the outgoing and incoming Montego Bay and Port Antonio trains who sell Stamps, distribute to Post Offices the mail matter posted in collecting boxes on the trains and clear Letter Boxes erected at each railway stations on the lines.—Judging from the number of letters circulated through this medium it would appear that this service is of some benefit to the public.

17. The Post Office at Red Hills (St. Andrew) was temporarily and unavoidably closed on 3rd of January, but was re-opened on the 10th of May.

CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

18. The following return gives the actual number of registered articles and insured letters, and an estimate of the number of ordinary letters and post cards which passed through the Department during the year.

	1926.			1927.		
	Inland Service.	International Service.		Inland Service.	International Service.	
		Reed.	Dispd.		Reed.	Dispd.
Letters, Ordinary	8,951,629	3,860,003	1,431,437	9,060,850	3,952,000	1,443,895
do Official	1,230,640	1,860	1,250	1,229,500	1,904	1,310
do Regd.	536,933	143,140	101,067	558,840	131,672	104,189
Post Cards	261,757	86,340	118,306	259,480	85,860	145,978
	10,980,959	4,091,343	1,652,060	11,108,670	4,171,436	1,695,372
Letters, Insured—No. .. .. .	..	60	67	..	70	72
Value .. .. .	..	£1,655 4s	£841 0s. 1d	..	£1,740 6s.	£985 2s.
Overseas Exchanges: Dispatches .. .. .	..	3,034	1,684	..	2,822	1,755
Mail Steamers .. .. .	..	615	495	..	599	515

19. Reference to the return reveals the fact that there has been an increase in the Inland as well as in the International Service in comparison with the previous year.

20. All registered articles have been correctly accounted for and the number of missing ordinary letters for which enquiries were made was negligible.

21. It is estimated that the Letter Carriers in Kingston took out 2,084,836 letters for delivery, during the year, which exceeds the previous year's number by 424,398.

22. The letter delivery has been satisfactory, but there is still room for improvement on the part of the public in addressing correspondence. If more care were exercised in giving a complete and correct address on all letters sent through the post there would be far less delay and inconvenience to correspondents, to say nothing of a saving of unnecessary labour to the Staff of the Department.

23. An extension of the area within which letters are delivered in lower St. Andrew was made during the course of the year. Letters are now delivered as far north as Mary Brown's Corner on the Constant Spring Road, and deliveries are effected within the following districts which are situated to the West of the parish, viz:—Rousseau Road, New Lincoln Road, Golding Road, and Greenwich Road.

24. Within recent years many residential areas have been opened up in Lower St. Andrew. The result of this is that the need for extension of the house to house delivery in those parts of the parish becomes more pressing each year, and unless the Department is afforded the necessary Staff it will not be possible to cope with the situation in a satisfactory manner.

25. The number of Insured Letters handled during the year is given in the foregoing return and as will be seen there was an increase compared with the previous year.

MAIL CONVEYANCE—OCEAN.

26. The foregoing return gives the number of oversea Mail Exchanges for the year under review in comparison with the previous year. As will be seen the number of mails received was 212 less while there were 71 more despatches. There was also a decrease of 16 in the number of steamers which brought mails to Jamaica and an increase of 20 in the number which carried mails from Jamaica.

27. The amount paid to the Shipping Companies for the conveyance of mails from Jamaica was £3,877 and the sum of £1,347 was paid to the Postal Authorities of the United Kingdom and United States of America for mail in transit through those Countries.

28. The United Fruit Company, Elders & Fyffes, Ltd., the Atlantic Fruit Company and the Canadian Government Merchant Marine were the principal transporters of mail matter.

MAIL CONVEYANCE—INLAND.

29. The cost of the Inland Mail Conveyance was £22,516 which is only £101 in excess of the Expenditure in 1926 for the same purpose.

30. Seven new services were established in connection with the opening of new Post Offices reported at paragraph 14.

31. The various Services performed by the Public Works Department and Mail Contractors were carried out efficiently and promptly.

32. The mail Contractors report that there has been a considerable falling off in the patronage of the Motor Mail services by passengers due, in the main, to private enterprises which now supply motor conveyance for passengers from all parts of the Island to Kingston at a very cheap rate and are run during day light.

33. Particulars of mail matter which passed through the Returned Letter Branch are given in the following return:—

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to United Kingdom	4,497	96
do do Other Countries	19,697	188
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous	28,597	18,306
Newspapers returned to publishers	219	
Letters returned to writers in the Island	57,031	18,080

34. The number of registered and ordinary letters found to contain value and duly returned was 8,335, and the value of the contents £1,340 14s. 5d.

35. The number of letters returned to writers in the Island could be considerably reduced if more care were taken in addressing letters before posting them.

36. A large number of ordinary letters containing value find their way to the Returned Letter Branch, and it is therefore justifiable to assume that many letters containing value are being sent through the ordinary post while the system provided by the Department for the safe custody and delivery of such letters by registration is not being taken full advantage of.

37. The public would be well advised to accept the suggestion so often tendered to "Register all letters containing value." The system permits of such letters being easily traced, whereas for several reasons it is almost impracticable to trace an ordinary letter which goes astray.

MONEY ORDERS.

38. During the year under review, 2,056 Money Orders for the amount of £5,456 were issued to places abroad; during the previous year the issues were 1,956 for £4,816, so that there was an increase in 1927 of 100 in the number of orders issued. Most of these orders were drawn on the United States of America, the numbers being 1,350 in 1927 and 1,279 in 1926.

39. The number of orders paid in Jamaica was 24,406 for £72,655 as against 22,684 for £63,929 in 1926. This gives an increase of 1,722 in the number of orders, and £8,726 in the amount paid. Here again, most of the orders were from the United States of America; the numbers and amounts being 22,861 for £64,963 in 1927, as against 21,092 for £58,060 in 1926.

40. It will thus be seen that the transactions with the United States of America are still on the increase. In the case of the orders issued, the increase is due to the large importations from that country through the Parcels Post, and in the case of orders paid to the number of Jamaicans residing there who use the Money Order System for making remittances to their families and friends. It must be remembered that British Postal Orders are not negotiable in the United States of America, and therefore remittances cannot be made by this means.

41. The Orders issued on the United Kingdom were as follows:—

Year.	No.	Amount.
1927	605	£2,680 19 5
1926	596	2,502 4 7

The Orders paid were:—

Year.	No.	Amount.
1927	301	£1,775 4 8
1926	468	1,613 11 6

42. Not many orders are issued on Canada, the figures being 49 for £176 19s. 1d. in 1927, and 34 for £79 18s. 7d. in 1926. On the other hand, a large number of Orders issued in Canada are paid here. The number for 1927 was 572 for £1,677 13s. 6d. and for 1926, 575 for £1,048 1s. 5d.

43. It might be of interest to note that 1,960 Orders for £15,660 10s. 5d. were issued by Turks Islands and Cayman Islands on the United States of America, and that 915 Orders for £5,190 of American origin were paid in those islands during 1927.

POSTAL ORDERS.

44. The total number of Postal Orders issued for sale during the year amounted to 263,699 as against 261,885 for the previous year, an increase of £1,814. The actual sales amounted to 260,570 orders of the face value of £52,932 6s. The figures for 1926 were 259,535 Orders of the face value of £52,963 11s. This gives an increase of 1,041 in the number of Orders sold.

45. The increase in the number of Orders sold in 1927 compared with the number sold in 1926, is small when compared with the increase in 1926 over the number sold in 1925. The increase of 1926 over the figures of 1925, was 15,536, whereas the increase for 1927 compared with 1926 is only 1,041 as stated above. This is due, no doubt, to the more frequent use of 5s. and 10s. Treasury Notes as a means of remittance locally.

46. The Commissions brought to account as revenue were:—

Local Commission on Orders above 2/6	£228 2 2
Allowance of the London Post Office at the rate of £1 on every 1,000 sold and paid	467 11 9

£695 13 11

47. The amount is practically the same as last year, the figure for that year being £695 15s. 3d.

48. Postal Orders of the value of £24,641 1s. 4d. were paid at the General Post Office, Kingston, whilst Orders of the value of £15,391 16s. 6d. were paid at District Post Offices and Parochial Treasuries. The total value of such paid Orders amounted to £40,032 17s. 10d. as against £40,963 0s. 6d. for the previous year: a decrease of £931.

49. From the experience of the past I feel it incumbent upon me to repeat the advice so often given before. The purchaser of a Postal Order, should, before parting with the Order, fill in the name of the person to whom the amount is to be paid as well as the name of the office at which payment is desired. The Counterfoil of the Postal Order should be retained and on it should be filled in the particulars called for. Its production will facilitate enquiry if the Order should be lost.

50. A new form of Postal Order, slightly less than 7 inches in length including the counterfoil, was issued during the year by the British Post Office, and as a result placed in circulation here. The spaces for stamps, which can be affixed to increase the value of the Order by any amount up to 5d., have been reduced to two and no credit will be given for stamps in excess of this number affixed to Orders.

PARCELS POST.

51. The records of this Branch show that 7,822 parcels weighing between 11 lbs. and 22 lbs. were received from Great Britain during the year under review. This concession only became operative from the 1st of May, 1926, so that in order to make some kind of comparison one-third of the 1927 figures, viz., 2,607, should be added to the number of such parcels (1,815) received for the nine months of 1926; thus we get a total of 4,422, which gives an increase of 44% in the number of such parcels received during last year. As a result of the concession referred to there is a decrease of 1,592 in the total number of parcels received from Great Britain last year over that of the previous year, the figures being:—

1926	62,511
1927	60,919
	1,592

52. On the other hand, however, the total importations and exportations through the Parcels Post Branch are still on the increase as will be seen from the under mentioned figures:—

IMPORTATIONS.

Year.	No.	Declared Value.	Duty Assessed.
1926	157,483	£269,391 1 7	£42,216 11 8
1927	159,630	£284,247 9 3	£44,872 2 8

53. The increase in the number of parcels is 2,147, whilst the increase in the duty assessed is £2,655 11s. 0d.

54. The postage on these parcels which accrued to Jamaica was £6,422 17s. 11d. as against £5,920 18s. 3d. for 1926, an increase of £501 19s. 8d.

55. As far as importations from individual countries are concerned, other than Great Britain, in respect of which the figures are given above, the records show that the number of parcels received from the United States of America exceed the total of the previous year by 4,808, the actual figures being:—

Year.	No.	Declared Value.	Duty Assessed.
1926	84,522	£85,561 0 0	£14,584 0 0
1927	89,330	£90,300 0 0	£16,140 0 0

56. A fairly large number of parcels are received from Cuba and the Canal Zone. For 1927 the number was 5,192 valued at £3,110 as against 5,049 valued at £2,942 for the previous year.

57. The importations from Canada were less during 1927 than the previous year, the figures being 3,241 parcels for 1927, and 4,428 for 1926.

EXPORTATIONS.

58. The number and value of parcels despatched from the Island was:—

Year.	No.	Declared Value.
1926	33,048	£22,136
1927	33,852	£22,660

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59. The largest number of these parcels was for the United States of America (17,002 for 1927, as against 17,325 for 1926); the next largest number was for Great Britain (8,785 for 1927 as against 8,359 for 1926). The exportations to Canada were about the same for the two years, viz.: 1,606 for 1927, and 1,617 for 1926.

60. The postage which accrued to Jamaica in respect of the total number of parcels despatched was £2,160 14s. 8d. for 1927 and £1,837 13s. 3d. for 1926.

61. There was a decrease in the number of packets received by Letter Post and detained for Customs examination as compared with 1926. In that year the number of such packets was 18,712, while for 1927 the number was 18,013, a difference of 699. The Import Duty collected on these packets amounted to £1,260 19s. 11d. for 1926, and £1,216 16s. 10d. for 1927.

62. The number of parcels sent to the Island with their values declared below cost is still on the increase, and but for the care and vigilance exercised by the officers of this Branch many of these parcels might have passed through undetected. In 1926 the number of such parcels was 1,397, of which 22 were seized by the Customs Authorities, and 1,375 were released after the imposition of fines amounting to £276 13s. 5d. During the year under review the number increased to 1,887, (or 512 more than the previous year) of which 27 were seized by the Customs Authorities and the remainder of 1,860 were released after the imposition of fines amounting to £380 14s. 6d.

63. The number of "C.O.D." parcels received from Great Britain (the only country from which such parcels are received) was less during 1927 than the previous year. This is attributed to the recent concession of sending parcels weighing up to 22 lbs. since the Trade Charges are in excess by over £1,000.

The figures are:—

Year.	No.	Trade Charges.	Fees.
1926 ..	17,039	£31,313 0 4	£385 14 6
1927 ..	16,918	£32,409 6 6	£380 16 3

64. There is also a decrease in the transactions connected with Insured Parcels received and despatched. The number received in 1926 was 5,726 with a total declared value of £29,436 12s. 5d. whilst the number for 1927, was 5,575 with a total declared value of £29,913 7s. 1d. Here again the increase in the limit of weight for a single parcel is the cause of the decrease. The number of such parcels despatched from the Island was 374 in 1927 as against 399 in 1926, with total declared values of £3,183 15s. 4d. and £2,508 11s. 10d., respectively.

65. By the use of an amplified form of notice to importers of "Cash on Delivery" parcels since the beginning of the year under review, less difficulty has been experienced by the Department in obtaining compliance with the conditions under which such parcels are dealt with. There has been a marked decrease in the number of requests for such parcels to be detained beyond the fixed period of 15 days from the date of arrival as well as in the number of remittances of portions of the amount called for by the notice. There is, however, plenty of room for improvement in both of these directions and I desire to take advantage of this opportunity once more to impress upon all importers of parcels under this system the following four most important facts, viz.: (a) Such a parcel can only be retained at Head Office for 15 days from the date of arrival; (b) Such a parcel can only be forwarded for delivery upon the receipt at Head Office of the full amount called for by the notice; (c) A deposit of a portion of the amount called for by the notice cannot be accepted; (d) Only the exact amount called for by the notice should be remitted to Head Office; [returning change entails additional and unnecessary letter writing.] A strict compliance with the conditions laid down will save not only unnecessary delay and correspondence, but in many cases inconvenience and disappointment to the importer.

66. Another important matter might be referred to which has reference to goods sent away from the Island for exchange. The general belief appears to be that such goods on return are delivered free of duty, as the duty was paid on the original importation. Such, however, is not the case. The procedure is to grant a drawback of the duty paid on the original importation, but before that can be done the goods being returned must first be submitted for examination to a Customs Officer either in Kingston or at an out station nearest to the importer, or to the Parcels Post Branch. Care must be taken to retain the Customs declaration and duty label in respect of such importation as these must be attached to the application.

LOCAL PARCELS.

67. The following is a return of the local parcels received for delivery in Kingston and for Country Delivery. The increase on the total transaction is 2,735.

Year.	No. of Parcels for Kingston Delivery.	No. of Parcels for Country Delivery.
1925	21,797	122,259
1926	22,188	123,012
1927	24,103	123,832
Total 1927	—	147,935
Total 1926	—	145,200
Increase	..	2,735

TELEGRAPHS.

68. The Number of Telegraph and Telephone Stations in existence at the end of the year was 144, or an increase of one on the number at the end of 1926. This additional office is accounted for by the opening of Blackstonedged as a Phantaphone Office on the 16th of September, 1927. On the 24th

of May the Priestmans River office in Portland was converted from a Telegraph Office to a Phantophone Office. As a result of the above there is a slight change in the number of Telegraph and Phantophone Offices, the total number of offices being divided as follows:—

Telegraph	60	(61 last year)
Telephone	58	(same as last year)
Phantophone	26	(24 last year)

144

69. The 60 Telegraph Offices include four Railway Stations which are in direct communication with this Department, and in addition there are 39 Railway Stations at which messages are accepted.

70. The total number of ordinary telegrams sent during the year was 334,818 as against 315,549 the previous year, an increase of 19,269. It may be of interest to note that the increase for 1926 over 1925 was 3,465; so that the increase for 1927 is nearly six times that of the previous year. This gives some idea of the growth in the work of this Branch of the Department. The revenue which accrued to the Department from these messages was £19,589 as against £18,007 for 1926, an increase of £1,582. Here again the increase in the receipts from this source for 1926 over that of the previous year, was only £115.

71. As regards official telegrams handled by the Department these numbered 27,416 for the year, as against 29,544 for 1926; a decrease of 2,128.

72. Owing to the heavy rains which fell during the months of October and November the telegraph service had frequently to be in operation until late at night, and on one occasion on a Sunday, for the purpose of clearing up work and issuing Weather Warnings received from the Weather Bureau at Washington.

73. In addition to the transmission of O.H.M.S. and ordinary telegrams, the Branch also issued Weather Reports during the hurricane season; supplied for transmission abroad, or reproduction in the newspapers, temperature readings during the winter months; and issued cricket news during the visit of the English Cricket Team to all District Offices for the information of the public. I have every reason to believe that this latter service was appreciated by a large section of the community in the country parishes.

74. It is gratifying to be able to report that there were no serious line interruptions during the year, and, as far as I am aware, no great inconvenience was caused to the public by delays on this account.

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

Direct West India Cable Co.	..	£3,102 4 2
West India & Panama Telegraph Co.	..	752 11 5

In the former case the amount for 1926 was £2,914 17s. 7d., or an increase of £187 6s. 7d. and in the latter, the amount was £760 10s. 3d. a decrease of £7 18s. 10d.

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

MISCELLANEOUS.

76. In December, Street Collecting Letter Boxes were erected at the following sites in St. Andrew:—
Beechwood Avenue and Halfway Tree Road.
Pen Street and Rodney Street (Admiral Town)
Spanish Town Road and Old Pound Road.

77. In October, a registered letter envelope measuring 8" x 5" with an embossed stamp of the value of 3d. was put into circulation. These envelopes are sold at 4d. each, but envelopes of the size hitherto in circulation viz., 5½" x 3½" are still available at 3½d. each.

78. During the year branches of the Government Savings Bank were established at the following Post Offices:—

Blackstonedage, St. Ann, 28th April, 1927.
Claremont, St. Ann, 29th April, 1927.
Hopewell, Hanover, 13th May, 1927.
Malvern, St. Elizabeth, 23rd August, 1927.
Riversdale, St. Catherine, 26th October, 1927.
Bellas Gate, St. Catherine, 10th November, 1927.
Deeside, Trelawny, 17th November, 1927.
Mavis Bank, St. Andrew, 10th December, 1927.

This brings the total number of branches of the Savings Bank now conducted in Post Offices to eighty-three, and I am pleased to report that the transactions of these branches have been most satisfactory.

79. I desire to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation I have received from the members of the staff of all Branches of the Department which has helped to maintain a high standard of efficiency in the several Branches.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. FLETCHER,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
Kingston.