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No. 14.

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, 1928.

14th June, 1929.

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, 1928.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

2. The collections on account of the Postal and Telegraph Service amounted to £101,392 Os. 2½d. made up as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Postal	82,511	14	4 ³ / ₄
Telegraph	18,880	5	9 ¹ / ₂
	£101,392	0	2 ¹ / ₄

The following amounts were also collected by this Department:—

	£	s.	d.
Import Duty	46,877	0	2
Judicial Stamps	7,380	1	6
Impressed Stamps, etc.	1,151	5	0
Quinine	375	14	1
	£55,784	0	9

The total net collections of the Department are, therefore, £157,176 Os. 11¼d.

3. There has been no appreciable increase in the duty collected on importations through the Parcels Post, the excess over the previous year's collections being £538.

4. The collections on account of Judicial Stamps are £494 in excess of the previous year's transactions.

5. The amount collected on account of sales of Quinine was £375, or £27 less than during the year 1927.

6. The Revenue collections during the year under review as compared with 1927 are set out below:—

	1927.			1928.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postage	67,953	18	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	68,697	7	11
Commission on Money Orders ..	129	13	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	158	16	8
Local Commission on British Postal Orders	671	9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	720	17	1
Miscellaneous	10,880	14	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	12,934	12	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Telegraph	19,584	7	0	18,880	5	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<u>£99,220</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0$\frac{3}{4}$</u>	<u>£101,392</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2$\frac{1}{4}$</u>

7. The amount collected for rent of private telephone lines was £999 0s. 9d. which is £259 more than the collections during 1927.

8. The increase of £2,172 in the total receipts for the year under review as compared with the previous year may be regarded as one of the indications of the continued prosperity of the Colony.

9. The increase of £2,053 odd under the head "Miscellaneous" is in respect of collections on account of the following items: "Customs Clearance Fee on Parcels," "Share of postage on United Kingdom Parcels," "Credits on account Parcels Post Exchange United States of America" and "Money Order Account with United States of America credits on account of Settlement of balances." The first three items are in connection with the Parcels Post Exchanges.

10. Details of the receipts brought to account under "Miscellaneous" are given hereunder:

	£	s.	d.
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	272	15	3
Rent of Private Letter Bags	68	7	4
Public Call Telephones	4	0	10
Fines	5	17	0
Delivery Fee on C.O.D. Parcels	383	6	11
Customs Clearance Fee on Parcels	4,028	14	9
Trade Charges Commission	180	4	8
Value found in Unclaimed Dead Letters	25	11	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Discount on Stamps purchased	1	3	11
Money Order Account United States of America—Credit in settlement of balances	1,237	2	4
Share of postage on U.K. Parcels	3,241	4	6
Credits on account Parcels Post Exchange, United States of America	3,128	11	11
Sale of Post Office Handbook	3	10	9
Outstanding British Postal Orders	354	1	6
	<u>£12,934</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

11. The amount that would have been paid for Official Telegrams transmitted during the year if such telegrams were not sent free of charge is £1,394, £34 more than the similar figures for 1927.

12. The postage that would have been paid on Official Correspondence which is sent through the post free of charge is estimated at £3,000.

13. If the above amounts together with the sum of £999, which represents collections for rent of private telephone lines, were added to the receipts shown in paragraph 2, the total net collections would be £106,785.

14. The Revenue and Expenditure at intervals of ten years during the last thirty years are shown in the returns which follow. The figures are interesting as illustrating the expansion of the Postal Service of the Colony.

	1897-98.	1907-08.	1917-18.	1928.
	£	£	£	£
Postage	21,854	32,234	44,518	68,697
Commission on Money Orders	374	515	289	159
Commission on Postal Orders	574	734	789	721
Miscellaneous	82	890	2,870	12,935
Telegraph	5,086	6,489	8,811	18,880
	<u>27,970</u>	<u>40,862</u>	<u>57,277</u>	<u>101,392</u>

Expenditure.

	£	£	£	£
Personal Emoluments	14,797	15,937	24,206	52,757
Mail Conveyance	14,338	11,224	17,531	27,025
Services	6,183	5,473	6,061	12,722
Maintenance of Telegraph lines, etc.	1,643	832	2,848	8,026
	<u>36,961</u>	<u>33,466</u>	<u>50,646</u>	<u>100,530</u>

15. The Expenditure for the year 1928 is shewn hereunder in comparison with that for the previous year:

	Expenditure 1927.			Expenditure 1928.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments	51,585	15	1	52,757	5	5
Mail Conveyance	27,739	18	7	27,025	3	4
Services	12,001	5	2½	12,721	8	0
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	773	15	10	663	5	11
	92,100	14	8½	93,167	2	8
Telegraph line constructions and main- tenance by Public Works Department	4,552	6	4	7,363	7	2
	£96,653	1	0½	£100,530	9	10

16. The net increase of £3,877 is under Personal Emoluments (£1,172) and Telegraph Line Construction and Maintenance (£2,811). Increased payments under Personal Emoluments are due to the expansion of business. The construction of new lines in connection with the extension of the telegraph system and the re-construction of lines already in existence are the reasons for the increase under Telegraph line construction and maintenance.

District Post Offices.

17. Eight District Post Offices were established during the year as follows:

Names of Offices.	Parish.	Date of Opening.
Sawyers	Trelawny	20th June, 1928
Harewood	St. Catherine	26th June, 1928
Ginger Ridge ..	Clarendon	26th June, 1928
Lincoln ..	Manchester	28th July, 1928
Brighton ..	St. Elizabeth	31st July, 1928
Beeston Spring	Westmoreland	22nd Sept., 1928
Duan Vale ..	Trelawny	25th Sept., 1928
Salisbury ..	St. Ann	26th Sept., 1928

This brings the total number of offices up to 246. Requests for the establishment of additional District Post Offices are being met in accordance with the claims of the districts and as circumstances permit, care, however, has to be exercised in opening new District Post Offices as there is a tendency to exaggerate the necessity for the establishment of such offices. In cases where doubt exists as to whether Revenue will quadrate with Expenditure a guarantee from parties interested is requested.

18. The Post Office at Latium (St. James) was removed on the 31st October, 1928, to a district called Lottery.

19. The following Post Offices were temporarily and unavoidably closed and were re-opened on the dates stated.

John's Hall (St. James) closed 31st March, 1928.
Re-opened 2nd April 1928.
Union Hill (St. Mary) closed 24th, April, 1928.
Re-opened 25th June, 1928.

20. The Post Office at Carron Hall in St. Mary was entered by a burglar on the night of the 15th August, 1928, who requested the Postmistress to hand over the keys of the Post Office safe, and, on her refusing to do so, searched until he found them and took away ten registered letters and the cash stored therein. The P.M. behaved as well as could be expected in the circumstances.

21. Instructions were issued to all Post Offices to pay attention to the security of the entire premises at nights and several other attempts of burglary were frustrated.

22. The usual audit and inspection of District Post Offices by the Travelling Supervisor was conducted—the visits paid being as follows:—

188 offices inspected once.
33 offices inspected twice.
17 offices inspected three times.
6 offices inspected four times.
2 offices inspected six times.

The inspections on the whole proved satisfactory except in regard to one office, the P.M. of which did not prove faithful to her trust. As a result legal proceedings had to be taken against her; and she was duly convicted.

Circulation of Correspondence.

23. The following is a return of the number of registered and insured articles and an estimate of the number of ordinary letters and post cards which passed through the Department during the year under review.

	1927.			1928.		
	Inland.	International		Inland	International	
	Service.	Service.		Service.	Service.	
		Recd.	Dispd.		Recd.	Dispd.
Letters, Ordinary	9,060,850	3,952,000	1,443,895	9,085,790	4,200,000	1,460,290
do. Official	1,229,500	1,904	1,310	1,235,600	2,500	2,070
do. Regd.	558,840	131,672	104,189	560,213	136,121	107,379
Post Cards	259,480	85,860	145,978	280,000	95,000	161,418
.. ..	11,108,670	4,171,436	1,695,372	11,161,603	4,433,621	1,731,157
Letters, Insured—No. .. ..	..	70	72	..	49	31
Value .. ..	..	£1,740 6s.	£985 2s.	..	£2,000	£939 11s.
Overseas Exchanges: Dispatches .. ..	..	2,822	1,755	..	3,013	1,840
Mail Steamers .. ..	..	599	515	..	481	506

24. The business of the Department, in so far as letters are concerned is reflected in the foregoing return and there is an increase as compared with the previous year.

25. The number of registered letters handled is over 800,000 and the disposal of them has been duly recorded.

26. It is estimated that Letter Carriers in Kingston took out for delivery 2,241,876 letters, an increase of 157,040 over the previous year. This increase is not surprising considering the number of Jamaicans in the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba who continually write to their relatives here.

MAIL CONVEYANCE—OCEAN.

27. The number of Oversea Mail Exchanges received and despatched exceeded by 191 and 85, respectively, the numbers dealt with during the previous year.

28. The United Fruit Company, Elders & Fyffes Ltd., the Atlantic Fruit Company, the Canadian Government Merchant Marine and several other Steamship Lines transported the mails during the year and the amount paid to the Agents under the gratuity system was £3,564, or £313 less than during the year 1927.

29. The sum of £628 was paid to the Postal Authorities in Great Britain and the United States of America for mails in transit through those countries. This payment is based on statistics taken every five years.

30. Adverse comment was made during the year on

- (i) the delay in transmission of mails from Great Britain and Jamaica and
- (ii) the fact that such mails are not always sent by a direct route.

Opportunity is now taken to point out that during the year:—

- (a) A mail steamer left a British port for New York every Saturday. A mail conveyed by this boat (which sails, say on the 1st) is due at New York in time to connect with mails out of New York for Jamaica on Saturday (8th) due at Kingston on Friday (14th) or Saturday (15th) duration 14 days. In the event of failure to connect with the Saturday mail out of New York connection is practically certain to be made with the following Wednesday's (12th) mail, due at Kingston on Monday (17th).
- (b) Elders and Fyffe's steamer left Bristol, Monday (say 3rd) arrived at Kingston on Tuesday (18th), duration 15 days.
- (c) A mail steamer left a British port for New York every Wednesday. A mail conveyed by this boat (sailing, say, on the 5th) is due at New York in time to connect with the mail out of New York for Jamaica on Wednesday (12th) due at Kingston on Monday (17th), duration 12 days. In the event of failure to connect with the Wednesday mail out of New York, connection is practically certain to be made with the following Saturday's (16th) mail due at Kingston on Friday (21st) or Saturday (22nd).

The foregoing makes it clear that to hold over despatch described at (a) for Elders and Fyffe's despatch (b) would not expedite matters, even in the event of failure to make one connection in New York; while to hold over despatch described at (c) for the following Elders and Fyffe's despatch would be obviously out of the question.

31. In all the circumstances, therefore, public interest is best served under the existing despatches as specified above and it would be a distinct postal disadvantage to request any change and further as a result of my communication with the London Postal Authorities I am assured that opportunities both by the direct route and via New York are considered on their respective merits and the mails are sent by the quickest route available.

MAIL CONVEYANCE—INLAND.

32. Conveyance of the mails to and from the interior and in Kingston between the wharves, railway station and the several Post Offices in the suburbs is performed by motor and mule mail vans under contract with the Department and foot Couriers employed by the Public Works Department, the cost being £22,833, which is £317 more than the cost in 1927, the increase being due to the opening of new Post Offices.

33. In connection with the opening of new Post Offices reported at paragraph 17, seven new mail services were established.

34. The mail services were conducted without interruption during the year which in great measure is due to the efficient service of the Contractors, and also to the willing co-operation of the Public Works Department and the Railway.

RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

35. Mail matter reaching the Dead Letter Office during the year was disposed of as follows—

	Paid	Unpaid.
Letters returned to United Kingdom	3,561	106
Do. do. Other Countries	11,999	172
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous	21,870	15,722
Newspapers returned to Publishers	951	..
Letters returned to writers in the Island	69,144	18,127

36. 10,543 packets were found to contain value amounting to £1,588 9s. 3d. Each packet was posted under registered cover to the writer.

37. Comment is not infrequently made that there is delay in handling unclaimed or refused letters in the Dead Letter Office. The reply to this criticism is that such delay would be reduced to a minimum if the writers of letters would place their names and addresses on the back of each letter and that so as to avoid letters being sent to the Dead Letter Office, they should be addressed to the correct street, number and Post Office.

MONEY ORDERS.

38. During the year under review, 2,109 Money Orders for the amount of £5,520 were issued to places abroad; during the previous year the issues were 2,056 for £5,456, so that there was an increase in 1928 of 53 in the number of orders issued. Most of these orders were drawn on the United States of America, the numbers being 1,440 in 1928 and 1,350 in 1927.

39. The number of orders paid in Jamaica was 26,478 for £80,845 as against 24,406 for £72,655 in 1927. This gives an increase of 2,072 in the number of orders and £8,190 in the amount paid. Here again, most of the orders were from the United States of America; the numbers and amounts being 24,565 for £70,523 in 1928, as against 22,861 for £64,963 in 1927.

40. It will thus be seen that the transactions with the United States of America, are still on the increase. This is due, as stated in my last report, in the case of orders issued, to 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. As British Postal Orders are not negotiable in the United States of America, remittances cannot be made by this means.

41. There was a slight decrease in the transactions with the United Kingdom in so far as the orders issued in Jamaica are concerned. In 1928, the number of such orders was 590 for the amount of £2,533, whilst in 1927, the number was 605 for the amount of £2,681. On the other hand, there was a slight increase in the number of orders issued in the United Kingdom and paid here. In 1928, the number was 320 for £1,861 as against 301 for £1,775 in 1927.

42. There was also a slight decrease in the number of orders issued on Canada, the figures being 45 for £222 in 1928, and 49 for £177 in 1927. There was, however, an increase in the number of orders paid here. The number for 1928 was 714 for £1,856 and for 1927, 572 for £1,678.

43. The number of orders issued by Turks Island and Cayman Islands on the United States of America during the year under review was not as large as in the previous year. In 1928, the number was 1,795 for £13,969 and in 1927 the number was 1,960 for £15,660. 950 orders for £4,887 of American origin were paid in those Islands during 1928. In 1927, the figures were 915 for £5,199.

44. In connection with the Scheme for the abolition of Parochial Treasuries, it was decided that in future the issue and payment of Money Orders should be undertaken at the Post Office of the principal town of each parish. The transfer of the work was a gradual one and a start was made at the Spanish Town Office on the 30th of April. During the remaining eight months of the year eight other transfers were made, so that at the end of the year under review there were nine Post Offices at which Money Orders were being issued and paid. The transfer of the Money Order business to this Department has meant increased work and responsibility for each of the Postmistresses concerned, and I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the creditable manner in which these Postmistresses have performed the additional duties.

45. Commencing from the 1st of September, 1928, new rates of commission on Money Orders issued in Jamaica to places abroad were put into operation. Prior to that date there were three rates of Commission on Money Orders issued here, one being for orders drawn on the United Kingdom, Costa Rica and the Cayman Islands; one for orders drawn on the United States of America, Canada and the Canal Zone, and another for orders drawn on the West Indian Islands. Now there are only two rates, viz., one for the West Indian Islands, including the Cayman Islands, and another for all other places. In addition to this, instead of there being various rates according to a fixed graduated scale, there are now only two rates, viz., one rate for the first £1 or £2 as the case may be according to the place on which the order is drawn, and then a flat rate of twopence or threepence for each additional £ or fractional part thereof. The present rates of Commission afford a slight benefit to the remitter, as compared with the old rates, and they make for simplification in arriving at the amount of commission payable on an order.

POSTAL ORDERS.

46. The total number of Postal Orders issued for sale during the year amounted to 269,575, as against 263,699 for the previous year; an increase of 5,876. The actual sales amounted to 265,183 orders of the face value of £55,265 4s. 6d. The figures for 1927 were 260,576 orders of the face value of £52,932 6s. 0d. This gives an increase of 4,607 in the number of orders sold. The increase in the number of orders sold during 1928 is considerable as compared with the number sold during 1926 and 1927, the increase in the latter year over the former being 1,041, whilst, as stated above, 4,607 more orders were sold in 1928 than in 1927.

47. The Commissions brought to account as Revenue were:—

Local Commission on Orders above 2/6	..	..	£238	9	8
Allowance of the London Post Office at the rate of £1 on every 1,000 sold and paid	..	..	478	8	4
			£716	18	0

The amount so brought to account in 1927 was £695 13s. 11d. being £21 4s. 1d. less than in 1928.

48. Postal Orders of the value of £28,430 13s. 1d. were paid at the General Post Office, Kingston, as against £24,641 1s. 4d. for 1927; an increase of £3,789 11s. 9d. This is due mainly to the closing of the Parochial Treasuries, and the payment in Kingston of all Postal Orders lodged by Postmistresses with the Bank of Nova Scotia. As can readily be seen this has meant increased work and responsibility for the Clerk in Charge of the Postal Order work in Kingston, and it gives me a great deal of satisfaction to be able to state that she has coped with the increased work in a most able and efficient manner.

49. Postal Orders of the value of £12,139 13s. 9d. were paid at District Post Offices and Parochial Treasuries, as against £15,391 16s. 6d. in 1927. This decrease of £3,252 2s. 9d. is due to the same reason given in the preceding paragraph, viz., the closing of Parochial Treasuries.

50. It is most essential from the view-point of protection against fraud, that 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. This advice has been given often before, and as it is so important I feel that I should again repeat it.

PARCELS POST—IMPORTATIONS.

51. The total number of parcels imported into the Island during the year was 166,029 as against 159,630 in 1927; an increase of 6,399. The increase in 1927, over the figures for 1926 was 2,147, so that it can readily be seen that the importations through the Parcels Post are still on the increase.

52. The declared value of the parcels received in 1928 amounted to £287,241 14s. 9d., as against £284,247 9s. 3d. in 1927, an increase of £2,994 5s. 6d. The duty assessed on the parcels was £46,131 8s. 4d. in 1928 and £44,872 2s. 8d. in 1927; an increase of £1,259 5s. 8d.

53. The postage on these parcels which accrued to Jamaica was £7,056 13s. 10d. for 1928, as against £6,422 17s. 11d. for 1927, an increase of £633 15s. 11d.

54. The importations from the United Kingdom were as follows:—

Year.	No. of Parcels.	Declared Value.			Duty assessed.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1928	65,770	183,645	4	11	27,263	0	4
1927	60,919	180,114	1	10	26,684	11	3

an increase of 4,851 in the number of parcels; £3,531 3s. 1d. in the declared value and £578 9s. 1d. in the amount of duty assessed.

55. The figures in respect of the importations from the United States of America are as follows:—

Year.	No. of Parcels.	Declared Value.			Duty Assessed.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1928	91,919	94,409	8	10	17,372	13	0
1927	89,330	90,299	12	4	16,140	0	2

an increase of 2,589 in the number of parcels; £4,109 16s. 6d., in the declared value, and £1,232 12s. 10d. in the amount of duty assessed.

56. There was a decrease of 936 in the number of parcels received from Colon and the Canal Zone. For 1927, the number was 5,192 valued at £3,110, but in 1928 the number was 4,256 valued at £2,423.

57. There was also a slight decrease in the importations from Canada, the figures being 3,315 parcels for 1928 and 3,341 for 1927.

Exportations.

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

Year.	No.	Declared Value.
1928	33,045	£22,578
1927	33,852	22,660

a decrease of 807 in the number of parcels and of £82 in the declared value.

59. The largest number of these parcels was for the United States of America (17,355 for 1928 as against 17,002 for 1927); the next largest number was for Great Britain (7,615 for 1928 as against 8,785 for 1927). There was a decrease of 147 in the number of parcels sent to Canada, the figures being 1,459 for 1928 and 1,606 for 1927.

60. The postage which accrued to Jamaica in respect of the total number of parcels despatched was £1,942 19s. 10d. for 1928 and £2,160 14s. 8d. for 1927.

61. There was an increase in the number of packets received by Letter Post and detained for Customs examination. In 1927, the number was 18,013, while in 1928, the number was 18,632, an increase of 619. The Import Duty collected on these packets amounted to £1,322 14s. 9d. for 1928, and £1,216 16s. 10d. for 1927.

62. I am glad to be able to report a decrease in the number of parcels sent to the Island in regard to which the declared value of the contents was below the cost. In 1927, the number of such parcels was 1,887, of which 27 were seized by the Customs Authorities, and 1,860 were released after the imposition of fines amounting to £380 14s. 6d. During the year under review the number was only 1,221 (a decrease of 666) of which 15 were seized by the Customs Authorities and the remainder (1,206) were released after the imposition of fines amounting to £276 13s. 11d.

63. There was an increase in the number of "C.O.D." parcels received from Great Britain—the only country from which such parcels are received. The figures are as follows:—

Year.	No.	Trade Charges.	Fees.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1928 ..	17,343	32,868 19 4	383 6 3
1927 ..	16,918	32,409 6 6	380 16 3

an increase of 425 in the number of parcels; £459 12s. 10d. in the Trade Charges, and £2 10s. 0d. in the amount of fees collected.

64. There was also an increase in the transactions connected with Insured Parcels received and despatched. The number received in 1927 was 5,575, with a total declared value of £29,913 7s. 1d., whilst the number for 1928 was 5,610 with a total declared value of £26,683 0s. 6d., an increase of 35 in the number, but a decrease of £3,230 6s. 7d. in the declared value. The number of such parcels despatched from the Island was 466 in 1928 as against 374 in 1927, with total declared values of £2,733 16s. 1d. and £3,183 15s. 4d., respectively.

65. Since the 1st of September, 1928, parcels weighing up to 22 lbs. each have been accepted for British Guiana, and since the 1st of November, 1928, parcels weighing up to 20 lbs. each have been accepted for India. In both cases the maximum limit of weight was 11 lbs. previously.

LOCAL PARCELS.

66. The following is a return of local parcels received for delivery in Kingston and for Country delivery. The decrease on the total transactions is 5,127.

Year.	No. of parcels for Kingston Delivery.	No. of parcels for Country Delivery.
1926 ..	22,188	123,012
1927 ..	24,103	123,832
1928 ..	22,550	120,258
Total 1927	147,935	
Total 1928	..	142,808
Decrease	..	5,127

TELEGRAPHS.

67. The number of Telegraph and Telephone Stations in existence at the end of the year was 155 an increase of 11 on the number at the end of 1927. The number of Telegraph Offices remains the same, viz., 60, but 11 Telephone Offices were opened during the year, making a total of 95 such offices at the end

of the year. In addition there are 47 Railway Stations at which messages are accepted. The following is a list of the Telephone Stations opened:—

Office.	Parish.	Date of opening.
Springfield	St. Elizabeth	2nd January
Jones Pen	St. Andrew	1st June
Fairy Hill	Portland	12th June
Anchovy	St. James	18th June
Laughlands	St. Ann	14th September
Pear Tree Grove	St. Catherine	18th September
Duan Vale	Trelawny	25th September
Coleyville	Manchester	24th September
Lottery	St. James	31st October
Bamboo	St. Ann	21st November
Myersville	St. Elizabeth	7th December

68. The total number of ordinary telegrams sent during the year was 329,802 as against 334,818 during the previous year; a decrease of 5,016. The revenue which accrued to the Department from these messages was £18,890 as against £19,589 in 1927, a decrease of £699.

69. As regards Official Telegrams handled by the Department these numbered 27,894 for the year, as against 27,416 for 1927, an increase of 478.

70. 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.

71. 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.

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

Direct West India Cable Co.	..	£3,199 4 1
West India & Panama Telegraph Co.	..	869 14 1

In the former case the amount for 1927 was £3,102 4s. 2d (an increase of £96 19s. 11d.) and in the latter, the amount was £752 11s. 5d. (an increase of £117 2s. 8d.)

73. The courtesies extended to this Department by the Superintendents of both these Companies are hereby gratefully acknowledged.

Miscellaneous.

74. Street Collecting Letter Boxes were erected at the following sites on the dates stated:—

Jamaica Times Store, King Street	3rd October, 1928
Jubilee Market, West Queen Street	18th December, 1928

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

Yallahs	St. Thomas	16th April, 1928
Enfield	St. Mary	24th April, 1928
Springfield	St. Elizabeth	28th May, 1928
St. Margaret's Bay	Portland	22nd October, 1928
Whitehouse	Westmoreland	23rd November, 1928
Rock River	Clarendon	3rd December, 1928

The total number now conducted in Post Offices is eighty-nine and the transactions are, I am advised, satisfactory.

76. The Legislative Council voted a sum of £5,000 for building and improving Post Office premises. During the year the construction of eight Post Offices was started and nearly completed, and two of the larger Post Offices (Mandeville and Port Antonio) were remodelled, with the result that more comfort has accrued to the public and to the staff. It is hoped that the financial condition of the Colony will permit of similar votes in coming years so that it may be possible to replace such other buildings as are unsuitable for Post Office purposes.

77. I desire to express my appreciation to the staff both in Kingston and at Country Stations for the loyal and cheerful manner in which they have performed the duties required of them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. FLETCHER,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
Kingston.