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No. 10.

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT directs the publication of the following Annual Report on the working of the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st December, 1929.

General Post Office, Jamaica,
5th June, 1930.

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, 1929.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

2. The collections on account of the Postal and Telegraph Service amounted to £107,575 11s. 10d made up as under:—

				£	s.	d.
Postal	—	—	—	87,428	14	5
Telegraph	—	—	—	20,146	17	5
				<u>£107,575</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>

3. The following amounts were also collected by the Department:—

				£	s.	d.
Import Duty	—	—	—	47,093	4	9
Judicial Stamps	—	—	—	8,121	17	0
Impressed Stamps, etc.	—	—	—	1,250	4	11
Quinine	—	—	—	358	5	4
				<u>£56,823</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>

The total net collections were therefore, £164,399 3s. 10d. or £7,223 in excess of the collections for 1928.

4. The import duty collections were £216 in excess of similar collections last year. Five years ago the import duty collected was £39,926 or £7,167 less than the amount collected during the year under review.

5. The collections on account of Resident Magistrates Court fees by means of stamps were £741 in excess of the previous year's transactions.

6. The Revenue collections during the year under review as compared with 1928 are set out below:—

	1928.		1929.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Postage	68,697	7 11	73,974	11 11½
Commission on Money Orders	158	16 8	179	14 8
Local Commission on British Postal Orders	720	17 1	759	19 7
Miscellaneous	12,934	12 8½	12,514	8 2½
Telegraph	18,880	5 9½	20,146	17 5
	<u>£101,392</u>	<u>0 2½</u>	<u>£107,575</u>	<u>11 10</u>

7. The amount collected for rent of private Telephone lines was £1,096 11s. 5d., or £97 more than the collections in 1928.

8. The increase of £6,183 in the total receipts for the year as compared with the previous year is very satisfactory and is one of the indications of the Colony's progress.

9. The increases have been principally under Postage, (£5,277), and Telegraph, (£1,266), the two main sources of Revenue in the Department.

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

	£	s.	d.
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	292	9	3
Rent of Private Letter Bags	77	17	6
Public Call Telephones	3	1	0
Fines and Miscellaneous Receipts	58	18	9½
Delivery Fee on C.O.D. Parcels	432	5	0
Customs Clearance Fee on Parcels	3,915	0	9
Trade Charges Commission	167	9	1
Value found in Unclaimed Dead Letters	23	16	10½
Discount on Stamps purchased	1	14	7
Money Order Account United States of America—Credit in settlement of balances	1,662	13	2
Share of Postage on U.K. Parcels	3,078	7	11
Credits on account Parcels Post Exchange, United States of America	2,772	6	4
Sale of Post Office Handbook	5	6	9
Registration fees paid by Government Savings Bank	23	1	2
	<u>£12,514</u>	<u>8 2½</u>	

11. £1,680 would have been collected for Official Telegrams transmitted during the year if such telegrams were not sent free of charge. The amount for 1928 would have been £1,395.

12. The amount that would have been collected for postage on official correspondence, which is sent through the post free of charge, is estimated at £3,000.

13. The above amounts together with a sum of £1,096 collected for rent of private telephone lines when added to the total net collections shown in paragraph 2, brings the total collection up to a sum of £113,351, the largest amount of Revenue earned by the Department since it passed over to local control in 1860.

14. The Revenue and Expenditure at intervals of ten years during the last thirty years are shown in the returns which follows:—

	1898-99.	1908-09.	1918-19.	1929.
	£	£	£	£
Postage	21,439	32,210	46,248	73,975
Commission on Money Orders	392	654	257	180
Commission on Postal Orders	594	742	818	760
Miscellaneous	126	969	3,086	12,514
Telegraph	6,101	6,220	10,242	20,146
	<u>£28,652</u>	<u>£40,795</u>	<u>£60,651</u>	<u>£107,575</u>

Expenditure.

	£	£	£	£
Personal Emoluments	14,879	16,663	24,627	53,918
Mail Conveyance	15,730	11,096	18,391	27,413
Services	6,721	5,539	7,021	15,020
Maintenance of Telegraph lines, etc.	1,331	934	2,354	7,529
	<u>£38,661</u>	<u>£34,232</u>	<u>£52,393</u>	<u>£103,880</u>

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

	Expenditure. 1928.			Expenditure. 1929.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments	52,757	5	5	53,918	6	1
Mail Conveyance	27,025	3	4	27,412	18	8
Services	12,721	8	0	15,020	12	11
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	663	5	11	961	10	7
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	£93,167	2	8	£97,313	8	3
Telegraph line constructions and maintenance by Public Works Department	7,363	7	2	6,567	9	5
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	£100,530	9	10	£103,880	17	8

16. The net increase of £3,350 is made up as follows:—

Personal Emoluments £1,161

Services £2,299. There was a decrease under Telegraph Line Construction.

17. The increases under Personal Emoluments and Services are due to the extension of the Postal System and the consequent increase in payment to new employees, and for larger supplies of material, etc.

District Post Offices.

18. Six District Post Offices were established during the year as follows:—

Names of Offices.	Parish.	Date of Opening.
Trout Hall	Clarendon	2nd September, 1929
Dalvey	St. Thomas	9th September, 1929
Cavaliers	St. Andrew	16th September, 1929
Rose Hall	St. Elizabeth	7th November, 1929
Cornwall Mountain	Westmoreland	11th November, 1929
Whitfield Pen	St. Andrew	27th November, 1929

19. The total number of District Post Offices is now 252; ten years ago the number was 202. Fifty new Offices have therefore been established in the last ten years. A number of applications for additional new Offices are still receiving consideration.

20. The Woodford Post Office (St. Andrew) was temporarily and unavoidably closed on the 28th May, 1929 and re-opened on 17th September, 1929.

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

196 Offices inspected once.

37 Offices inspected twice.

13 Offices inspected three times.

5 Offices inspected four times.

1 Office inspected five times.

The inspections on the whole were satisfactory.

Circulation of Correspondence.

22. The following is the usual return of the number of registered and insured articles, and an estimate of the number of ordinary letters and post cards which were handled during the year under review.

	1928.			1929.		
	Inland Service.	International Service.		Inland Service.	International Service.	
		Recd.	Dispd.		Recd.	Dispd.
Letters, Ordinary	9,085,790	4,200,000	1,460,290	10,662,489	4,155,300	1,469,800
do. Official	1,235,600	2,500	2,070	1,300,000	2,400	2,120
do. Regd.	560,213	136,121	107,379	725,762	127,500	102,250
Post Cards	280,000	95,000	161,418	412,850	94,000	154,480
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,161,603	4,433,621	1,731,157	13,101,101	4,379,200	1,728,650
Letters, Insured—No. .. .. .	..	49	31	..	44	38
Value .. .. .	..	£2,000	£939 11s.	..	£1,825	£1,177
Overseas Exchanges: Dispatches .. .. .	..	3,013	1,840	..	3,042	2,050
Mail Steamers .. .. .	..	481	506	..	630	558

23. The foregoing return exhibits the number of letters and post cards of all kinds which circulated through the Jamaica Post Office, the total being 19,200,000.

24. The total number of registered letters handled was 955,512 all of which have been duly accounted for.

On 17th June, 1929, a house to house delivery of correspondence by Letter Carrier was started from the Jones Pen Post Office (Lower St. Andrew) and has had the effect of relieving the congestion at the Post Office as well as affording a necessary convenience to a very thickly populated district.

25. The number of Oversea mail Exchanges received and despatched exceeded by 29 and 210 respectively the number dealt with during the previous year.

26. Mails were conveyed abroad by the steamers of the United Fruit Company, Elders & Fyffes, Ltd., the Jamaica Direct Fruit Line, Ltd., the Atlantic Fruit Company, the Canadian National Steamships and several other Steamship Lines, the amount paid to the agents being £4,718 or £527 more than last year.

Mails for the Cayman Islands were exchanged with regularity by contract motor boat "Cimboco" and schooners plying between Jamaica and the Islands.

The exchange with the Turks and Caicos Islands direct is dependent on private enterprise and such opportunities were few. Letter mail exchanges were however maintained regularly via New York.

27. The usual payment to Great Britain and the United States of America, based on statistics for mails in transit through those Countries, amounted to £628.

28. The letter mail exchanges with Great Britain were conducted via the United States as well as by the direct opportunities offered by the ships of the Jamaica Direct Fruit Line and Elders and Fyffes, Ltd. The care with which the despatches are made via the United States has resulted in the frequent receipt of the mails in 13 days and has justified the statement made in paragraph 31 of the report for 1928, 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.

29. The cost of the conveyance of mails within the Colony was £22,066 or £767 less than in 1928. This has been possible on account of certain mail contracts having expired during the year and new contracts being made at a lower rate.

30. Five new Mail Services were established as a result of the opening of new Post Offices.

31. All the principal mail routes are now served by motor conveyances which link up with the trains, and there is therefore an accelerated service to the principal Post Offices in the Island. There are several Offices between 60 and 120 miles from Kingston receiving 9 and 12 mails per week from Kingston.

32. The mail contractors, and the services performed under the control of the Public Works Department; have been efficient.

RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

33. The following are the particulars of unclaimed mail matter handled by the Department during the year.

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to United Kingdom	3,985	151
Letters returned to Other Countries	12,204	175
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous	22,703	16,038
Newspapers returned to Publishers	379	..
Letters returned to writers in the Island	71,078	18,013

34. 7,801 packets were found to contain value amounting to £1,982 3s. 5d. Each packet was duly posted to the writer.

MONEY ORDERS.

35. During the year under review 2,458 Money Orders for the amount of £6,294 were issued to places abroad; during the previous year the issues were 2,109 for £5,520, so that there was an increase in 1929 of 349 in the number of orders issued. Most of these orders were drawn on the United States of America, the numbers being 1,612 in 1929 and 1,440 in 1928.

36. The number of orders paid in Jamaica was 21,936 for £90,949 as against 26,478 for £80,845 in 1928. This gives a decrease of 4,542 in the number of orders, but an increase of £10,104 in the amount paid. Here again, most of the orders were from the United States of America; the numbers and amounts being 19,696 for £81,792 in 1929, as against 24,565 for £76,523 in 1928.

37. 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.

38. There was an increase in the transactions with the United Kingdom in so far as the orders issued in Jamaica are concerned. In 1929, the number of such orders was 709 for the amount of £2,516, whilst in 1928, the number was 590 for the amount of £2,533. There was an increase in the number of orders issued in the United Kingdom and paid here. In 1929 the number was 443 for £1,536 as against 320 for £1,861 in 1928.

39. There was also an increase in the number of orders issued on Canada, the figures being 95 for £287 in 1929, and 45 for £222 in 1928. There was, also, an increase in the number of orders paid here. The number for 1929 was 728 for £1,588 and for 1928, 714 for £1,856.

40. There was an increase in the number of orders issued by Turks Island and Cayman Islands on the United States of America during the year under review. In 1929 the number was 2,288 for £16,500,

and in 1928 the number was 1,795 for £13,969. 1,080 orders for £5,323 of American origin were paid in those Islands during 1929. In 1928 the figures were 950 for £4,887.

41. During the early part of the year under review the issue and payment of Money Orders was undertaken at the Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay and Montego Bay Post Offices. This work is now being entirely performed by this Department as all the Parochial Treasuries have been closed.

POSTAL ORDERS.

42. The total number of Postal Orders sold during the year amounted to 280,535, as against 265,183 for the previous year; an increase of 15,372.

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

Local Commission on Orders above 2/6	£261 7 8
Allowance of the London Post Office at rate of £1 on every 1,000 sold and paid	514 9 1
	<u>£775 16 9</u>

The amount so brought to account in 1928 was £716 18s. being £58 18s. 9d. less than in 1929.

PARCELS POST—IMPORTATIONS.

44. The total number of parcels imported into the Island during the year was 160,852, as against 166,029 in 1928; a decrease of 5,177.

45. The declared value of the parcels received in 1929 amounted to £280,917 12s. 10d., as against £287,241 14s. 9d. in 1928, a decrease of £6,324 1s. 11d. The duty assessed on the parcels was £45,030 2s. in 1929, and £46,131 8s. 4d. in 1928; a decrease of £1,101 6s. 4d.

46. The postage on these parcels which accrued to Jamaica was £7,632 5s. 2d. for 1929 as against £7,056 13s. 10d. for 1928, an increase of £575 11s. 4d.

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

Year.	No. of of Parcels.	Declared Value.			Duty assessed.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1929	60,620	170,663	11	6	24,769	0	3
1928	65,770	183,645	4	11	27,263	0	4

a decrease of 5,150 in the number of parcels; £2,981 13s. 5d. in the declared value, and £2,494 0s. 1d. in the amount of duty assessed.

48. 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.
1929	90,745	97,363	18	2	18,282	9	6
1928	91,919	94,409	8	10	17,372	13	0

a decrease of 1,174 in the number of parcels; an increase of £2,954 9s. 4d., in the declared value, and an increase of £909 16s. 6d. in the amount of duty assessed.

49. There was an increase of 338 in the number of parcels received from Colon and the Canal Zone. For 1929 the number was 4,594 valued at £3,010, whilst in 1928 the number was 4,256 valued at £2,423.

50. There was an increase in the importations from Canada, the figures being 3,919 parcels for 1929 and 3,315 for 1928.

51. Since the early part of the year the notices issued by this Department along with parcels to be delivered within the delivery area of Kingston are left at the addressees' residences when the parcels cannot be delivered. Hitherto these notices were brought back to the Office and re-issued by post. This change has worked with advantage both to the addressee and the Department.

52. A large number of parcels were being received from the United States of America in a damaged condition, for the reason that the postmen were not preparing the parcels in such a manner as to withstand the treatment to which such articles are necessarily subjected. Accordingly representations were made to the Postal Administration of the United States of America, and it is gratifying to be able to report that there has been a marked improvement in this respect.

EXPORTATIONS.

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

Year.	No.	Declared Value.
1929	34,313	£20,043
1928	33,045	22,660

an increase of 1,268 in the number of parcels but a decrease of £2,535 in the declared value.

54. The largest number of these parcels was for the United States of America (17,045 for 1929 as against 17,355 for 1928) the next largest number was for Great Britain (7,881 for 1929 as against 7,615 for 1928). There was an increase in the number of parcels sent to Canada, the figures being 1,934 for 1929 and 1,459 for 1928.

55. The postage which accrued to Jamaica in respect of the total number of parcels despatched was £2,072 15s. 11d. for 1929, and £1,942 19s. 10d. for 1928.

56. There was a decrease in the number of packets received by Letter Post and detained for Customs examination. In 1929 the number was 17,876, while in 1928 the number was 18,632; a decrease of 746. The Import Duty collected on these packets amounted to £1,181 7s. 8d. for 1929, and £1,322 14s. 9d. for 1928.

57. The number of parcels sent to the Island in regard to which the declared value of the contents was below the cost was the same in 1929 as in 1928, viz. 1,221. Of these 4 were seized by the Customs Authorities and the remainder (1,217) were released after the imposition of fines amounting to £259 10s.

58. 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.
1929 ..	18,229	36,554	13	5	432	5	0
1928 ..	17,343	32,868	19	4	383	6	3

an increase of 886 in the number of parcels, £3,685 14s. 1d. in the Trade Charges, and £48 18s. 9d. in the amount of fees collected.

59. There was a decrease in the transactions connected with Insured Parcels received and despatched. The number received in 1928 was 5,610 with a total declared value of £26,683 0s. 6d.; whilst the number for 1929 was 5,584 with a total declared value of £23,966 5s. 2d. There was, however, an increase in the number of such parcels despatched from the Island: 527 in 1929 as against 466 in 1928, with total declared values of £2,939 19s. 5d., and £2,733 15s. 4d., respectively.

60. Since the 1st of October, 1929, parcels weighing up to 22 lbs. each have been accepted for Bermuda. Previously the maximum limit of weight was 11 lbs.

LOCAL PARCELS.

61. The following is a return of local parcels received for delivery in Kingston and for country delivery. The decrease on the local transactions is 4,139.

Year.	No. of parcels for Kingston Delivery.	No. of parcels for Country Delivery.
1927 ..	24,103	123,832
1928 ..	22,550	120,258
1929 ..	23,742	114,927
Total 1928 ..	142,808	
Total 1929 ..	138,669	
Decrease ..	4,139	

TELEGRAPHS.

62. The number of Telegraph and Telephone Stations in existence at the end of the year was 160, an increase of 5 in the number in existence at the end of 1928. The following Offices were converted from telephone to telegraph stations.

Williamsfield on 6th May, 1929.

Frankfield on 28th May, 1929.

Gayle on 25th August, 1929.

The following telegraph offices were converted into telephone stations:—

Shooters Hill on 6th May, 1929.

Port Royal on 1st June, 1929.

Five Telephone Offices were opened during the year. The number of Telegraph and Telephone Offices at the end of the year was as follows:—

Telegraph ..	61
Telephone ..	99
	<u>160</u>

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.
Lime Hall	St. Ann	22nd February, 1929
Lodge	ditto	5th March, 1929
James Hill	Clarendon	23rd March, 1929
Windward Road	Kingston	15th April, 1929
Trout Hall	Clarendon	2nd September, 1929

63. The total number of ordinary telegrams sent during the year was 339,822 as against 329,802 during the previous year. The revenue which accrued to the Department from these messages was £21,243 as against £18,890 in 1928, an increase of £2,353.

64. As regards Official Telegrams handled by the Department these numbered 40,320 for the year, as against 27,894 for 1928, an increase of 12,426.

65. 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 M.C.C. 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.

66. 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.

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

Direct West India Cable Co.	£3,781 12 6
West India and Panama Telegraph Co.	580 19 5

In the former case the amount for 1928 was £3,199 4s. 1d. (an increase of £582 8s. 5d.) and in the latter the amount was £869 14s. 1d. (a decrease of £288 14s. 8d.)

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

Miscellaneous.

69. Street collecting Letter Boxes were erected at the following sites on the dates stated.

Four Roads near Camperdown (St. Andrew) on 14th February, 1929.

Mary Brown's Corner, Constant Spring Road (St. Andrew) on the 14th February, 1929.

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

Glengoffe	St. Catherine	7th January, 1929
Lottery	St. James	17th May, 1929
Lambs River	Westmoreland	23rd May, 1929
Windward Road	St. Andrew	2nd August, 1929
Lluidas Vale	St. Catherine	5th November, 1929

71. The total number now conducted in Post Offices is 95 and the transactions continue to be satisfactory.

72. Another sum of £5,000 for building and improving Post Offices was voted by the Legislative Council and during the year the construction and improving of six Post Offices was carried out by the Public Works Department. The Post Office at Montego Bay was remodelled and additional accommodation and conveniences provided for the Staff and Public. There is very much more to be done in this direction and it is hoped that it will always be found expedient to vote a sum annually for this purpose until all the unsuitable buildings in which Post Offices are conducted are replaced.

73. I regret to record the infidelity on the part of two members of the Kingston Staff in responsible positions, one being an Officer of long service who pleaded guilty to a charge of defalcation and has been duly punished.

74. The Staff in Kingston and at Country Stations have performed the duties required of them in a loyal and cheerful manner.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. FLETCHER,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
Kingston.