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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 the 31st December, 1930.

General Post Office, Jamaica,
28th May, 1931.

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, 1930.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

2. The collections on account of the Postal and Telegraph Service amounted to £109,729 0s. 2½d. made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Postal	89,398	5	3½
Telegraph	20,330	14	11½
	£109,729	0	2½

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

	£	s.	d.
Import Duty	47,490	12	0
Judicial Stamps	8,404	17	9
Impressed Stamps, etc.	1,218	3	6½
Quinine	334	3	6½
	£57,447	16	10

4. The total net collections were, therefore: £167,176 17s. 0½d. or £2,777 13s. 2½d. in excess of the collections for 1929, and is evidence that the trade depression has not affected the Post Office up to the end of the year.

5. The Import Duty collections were £397 in excess of similar collections last year. In 1920 the Import Duty collected was £21,977 or £25,513 less than the amount collected during the year under review; an illustration of the rapid expansion of the foreign parcels post system in ten years.

6. The collections on account of Resident Magistrates' Court fees by means of Judicial Stamps were £283 in excess of the previous year's transactions. These stamps are sold at all Post Offices contiguous to Court Stations.

7. The Revenue collections during the year as compared with 1929 are set out below:—

	1929.			1930.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postage	73,974	11	11½	75,028	16	0½
Commission on Money Orders	179	14	8	159	0	8½
Local Commission on British Postal Orders	759	19	7	777	8	2½
Miscellaneous	12,514	8	2½	13,433	0	3½
Telegraph	20,146	17	5	20,330	14	11½
	<u>£107,575</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>£109,729</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2½</u>

8. The amount collected for rent of private telephone lines was £801 3s. 6d.

9. The increase of £1,723 in the total receipts for the year as compared with the previous year is, I submit, satisfactory having regard to the fact that there has been a general trade depression during the year under review.

10. The increases have been principally under Postage and Telegraph the main sources of Revenue in the Department.

11. Details of the sum of £13,433 0s. 3½d. shown under "Miscellaneous" are given hereunder:—

	£	s.	d.
Rent of Letter Boxes	318	4	3
Rent of Private Letter Bags	75	9	1
Public Call Telephones	2	10	3
Fines and Miscellaneous Receipts	1,192	14	1½
Delivery Fee on C.O.D. Parcels	451	4	6
Customs Clearance Fee on Parcels	3,918	5	6
Trade Charges Commission	199	14	9
Value found in Unclaimed Dead Letters	44	9	11½
Money Order Account United States of America—credit in settlement of balances	988	9	11
Share of postage on U.K. Parcels	3,244	16	1
Credits on Account Parcels Post Exchange, United States of America	2,940	8	2
Sale of Post Office Guides and advertisements	29	19	3
Registration fees paid by Government Savings Bank	16	14	6
	<u>£13,433</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3½</u>

12. Official telegrams, if paid for, would have yielded £1,566 7s. 10d. or £114 less than the previous year.

13. The estimated amount for postage on official correspondence is £3,000.

14. The above amounts together with the sum of £801 collected for rent of private telephone lines, if added to the total net collections shown at paragraph 2, bring the total collections up to £115,096 and is the largest amount of Revenue earned in the history of the Jamaica Post Office.

15. The Revenue and Expenditure at intervals of ten years from 1899-1900, are shown in the return which follows:—

The increase in Revenue during the period of thirty years is over 30%:—

	1899-1900.	1909-10.	1919-20.	1930.
	£	£	£	£
Postage	20,125	33,362	63,461	75,029
Commission on Money Orders	379	424	804	159
Commission on Postal Orders	635	989	898	777
Miscellaneous	157	865	14,390	13,433
Telegraph	5,630	6,769	15,034	20,331
	<u>£26,926</u>	<u>£42,409</u>	<u>£94,587</u>	<u>£109,729</u>

Expenditure.

	£	£	£	£
Personal Emoluments	13,847	17,906	31,818	57,716
Mail Conveyance	17,386	12,410	21,130	26,710
Services	5,015	5,718	9,897	13,950
Maintenance of Telegraph Lines, etc.	1,324	930	594	9,321
	<u>£37,572</u>	<u>£36,964</u>	<u>£63,439</u>	<u>£106,697</u>

16. The expenditure for the year in comparison with that for the previous year is shown hereunder:—

	Expenditure. 1929.			Expenditure. 1930.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments	53,918	6	1	57,715	16	1
Mail Conveyance	27,412	18	8	26,710	14	0
Services	15,020	12	11	13,949	16	0
Telegraph Maintenance by Department	961	10	7	849	4	11
	£97,313	8	3	£99,225	11	0
Telegraph line constructions and maintenance by Public Works Department	6,567	9	5	7,471	19	1
	£103,880	17	8	£106,697	10	1

17. The net increase of £2,817 is principally under Personal Emoluments and Telegraph Line construction and maintenance by Public Works Department while there have been decreases under Mail Conveyance and Services.

18. The increase under Personal Emoluments is due to effect having been given to the recommendations of the Salaries Commission.

DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

19. Twelve new District Post Offices were established during the year as follows:—

Name of Offices.	Parish.	Date of opening.
Sunning Hill	St Thomas	1st April, 1930
Sligoville	St. Catherine	7th July, 1930
Wakefield	Trelawny	14th July, 1930
Cessnock	Hanover	24th July, 1930
Maryland	do.	25th July, 1930
Friendship	Westmoreland	30th July, 1930
Leamington	do.	2nd August, 1930
Cave	do.	1st August, 1930
Moravia	Manchester	4th August, 1930
Richmond Park	Clarendon	5th August, 1930
Harmons	Manchester	6th August, 1930
Kalorama	St. Andrew	1st September, 1930

20. The total number of District Post Offices is now 264 or an average of nearly 19 to the Parish. Applications for new Offices are still being received and considered.

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

- 210 Offices inspected once.
- 35 Offices inspected twice.
- 15 Offices inspected three times.
- 3 Offices inspected four times.
- 2 Offices inspected five times.

As a result of these inspections six District Postmistresses were suspended for irregularities.

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:—

	1929.			1930.		
	Inland Service.	International Service.		Inland Service.	International Service.	
		Recd.	Dispd.		Recd.	Dispd.
Letters, Ordinary	10,662,489	4,155,300	1,469,800	10,565,123	4,190,000	1,493,700
Do. Official	1,300,000	2,400	2,120	1,500,000	2,150	2,200
Do. Registered	725,762	127,500	102,250	774,019	120,666	106,993
Post Cards	412,850	94,000	154,480	418,085	94,800	162,050
	13,101,101	4,379,200	1,728,650	13,257,227	4,407,616	1,764,943
Letters, Insured—No. .. .. .	..	44	38	..	50	22
Value .. .. .	..	£1,825	£1,177	..	£1,904 6s.	£1,050 7s.
Overseas Exchange: Dispatches .. .. .	..	3,042	2,050	..	2,933	2,209
Mail Steamers .. .. .	..	630	558	..	786	500

Air Mail Service.

	Recd.	Dispd.
Overseas Exchanges ..	53	112
No. of Letters ..	15,000	12,000

23. The total number of letters and Post Cards of all kinds which circulated through the Jamaica Post Office was 19,450,000 which is 250,000 more than the total for 1929.

24. The total number of registered articles handled was 1,001,768 which is 46,166 more than the total for 1929. All the articles were duly accounted for.

25. The number of Overseas mail exchanges received was 2,933 and 2,209 were despatched; 109 less were received and 159 more despatched than in 1929.

26. Mails were conveyed abroad by the Steamers of the United Fruit Company, Elders and Fyffes, Limited, The Jamaica Direct Fruit Line, Limited, The Atlantic Fruit Company, the Canadian National Steamships and several other Steamship lines, the amount paid for Mail Conveyance abroad being £5,267 or £549 more than last year.

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

28. Full advantage was taken of available opportunities for the exchange of mails with the Turks and Caicos Islands direct, and letters etc., were forwarded regularly via New York.

29. Letter mail exchanges were conducted with Great Britain not only by the direct opportunities offered by the Steamers of the Jamaica Direct Fruit Line and Elders and Fyffes, Limited; but also via the United States, with satisfactory results.

AIR MAILS.

30. The first Air Mail service to Jamaica arrived here from Miami (U.S.A.) on the 3rd December, 1930, in one of the planes of Pan American Airways Incorporated who are Official Air Mail Carriers of the United States of America. Two bags containing some 4,767 letters were received.

The Caribbean Airways, Limited, were appointed Official Air Mail Carriers from Jamaica as from 10th December, 1930, and the first air mail was despatched from Jamaica on that date in one of their planes to Santiago de-Cuba. The number of letters despatched being 366.

31. On the same date by arrangement with Pan American Airways Incorporated air mails were despatched to the United States via Miami and to Cristobal as under.

Destination.	No. of letters.
United States of America	3,186
Canada	455
Great Britain and Continent of Europe	1,019
Other places via Miami	637
Cristobal and Panama	528

32. Regular bi-weekly services have been maintained since and the number of exchanges and of letters to 31st December, 1930 are shown in the foregoing return.

33. The service has been appreciated as is evidenced from the fact that the numerical exchange has been maintained with slight diminution to 31st March, 1931.

34. It is possible to receive a reply to a letter forwarded to New York by air mail within five days and letters forwarded to England by air mail via America will reach their destination in nine days if it is made with one of the fast trans-Atlantic liners.

MAIL CONVEYANCE—INLAND.

35. The cost of the transport of mails within the Colony was £21,443 or £623 less than in 1929. This was due to new Contracts being made at lower rates.

36. The new mail Services were established by the Public Works Department as a result of the opening of new Post Offices.

37. The motor mail service between Balaclava and Malvern (St. Elizabeth) was continued to Southfield from 1st February, 1930, thus affording the Southern part of St. Elizabeth an accelerated postal service from Kingston.

38. On the 19th May, 1930, a daily mail service was resumed between Bull Bay and Llandewey.

39. The services performed by mail Contractors and under the supervision of the Public Works Department have both been efficient. In the latter case the service is performed at a minimum cost, because the mail Couriers are employed by the several Superintendents of Public Works, and are under their direct control. This system could only be replaced by Contracts with private individuals which would be expensive and unsatisfactory.

RETURN LETTER BRANCH.

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

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to United Kingdom	3,700	162
Letters returned to other Countries	17,729	1,296
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous	35,491	12,297
Letters returned to writers in the Island	81,222	13,490

8,454 packets were found to contain value amounting to £185 5s. 11½d. Each packet was duly returned to the writer.

MONEY ORDERS.

41. During the year under review 3,236 Money Orders, of a total value of £6,772 were issued to places abroad; during the previous year 2,458 of a total value, £6,294, were issued. There was therefore an increase of 778 in the number of orders issued during 1930. Most of these orders were drawn on the United States of America, the numbers being 2,252 in 1930, and 1,612 in 1929.

42. The number of orders paid in Jamaica was 23,317 of a total value of £92,255 as against 21,936, of a total value of £90,949 in 1929. This gives an increase of 1,381 in the number of orders and an increase of £1,306 in the amount paid. Here again, most of the orders were from the United States of America; the numbers and amounts being 21,014 for £83,227 in 1930, as against 19,696 for £81,792 in 1929.

43. 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.

44. There was an increase in the transactions with the United Kingdom in so far as the orders issued in Jamaica are concerned. In 1930, the number of such orders was 803 of a total value of £2,297, whilst in 1929, the number was 709 of a total value of £2,516. There was an increase in the number of orders issued in the United Kingdom and paid here. In 1930, the number was 485 of a total value of £1,598 as against 443 of a total value of £1,536 in 1929.

45. There was also an increase in the number of orders issued on Canada, the figures being 107 for a total value of £119 in 1930, and 95 of a total value of £287 in 1929. There was a decrease in the number of orders paid here. The number for 1930, was 702 of a total value of £1,032 and for 1929, 728 of a total value of £1,588.

46. 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 1930, the number was 2,603 of a total value of £16,924, whilst in 1929 the number was 2,288 of a total value of £16,500. 1,154 orders of a total value of £6,781 of American origin were paid in those Islands during 1930. In 1929 the figures were 1,080 of a total value of £5,323.

POSTAL ORDERS.

47. The total number of Postal Orders sold during the year amounted to 284,974, as against 280,535 for the previous year; an increase of 3,439.

48 The Commissions brought to account as Revenue were:		
Local Commission on Orders above 2/6	.. .. .	£267 1 2
Allowance of the London Post Office at rate of £1 on every 1,000 sold and paid	.. .. .	525 11 0
		£792 12 2

The amount so brought to account in 1929, was £775 16s. 9d. being £16 14s. 6d. less than in 1930.

PARCELS POST—IMPORTATIONS.

49 The total number of parcels imported into the Island during the year was 160,356, as against 160,852 in 1929; a decrease of 496.

50. The declared value of the parcels received in 1930, amounted to £278,476 1s. 5d., as against £280,917 12s. 10d. in 1929, a decrease of £2,441 11s. 5d. The duty assessed on the parcels was £45,332 10s. 5d. in 1930, and £45,030 2s. 0d. in 1929; an increase of £302 8s. 5d.

51. The postage on these parcels which accrued to Jamaica was £7,443 6s. 2d. for 1930, as against £7,632 5s. 2d. for 1929, a decrease of £188 19s. 0d.

52. The Importations from the United Kingdom were as follows:—

Year.	No. of Parcels	Declared Value.			Duty Assessed.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1930	61,921	169,925	17	5	24,845	14	3
1929	60,620	170,663	11	6	24,769	0	3

and increase of 1,301 in the number of parcels; a decrease of £737 14s. 1d. in the declared value, and an increase of £76 14s. 0d. in the amount of duty assessed.

53. 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.
1930	88,354	93,489	8	6	18,082	15	10
1929	90,745	97,363	18	2	18,282	9	6

a decrease of 2,391 in the number of parcels; £3,874 9s. 8d. in the declared value, and £199 13s. 8d. in the amount of duty assessed.

54. There was an increase of 293 in the number of parcels received from Colon and the Canal Zone. For 1930, the number was 4,887 valued at £4,163, whilst in 1929, the number was 4,594, valued at £3,010.

55. There was an increase in the importations from Canada, the figures being 4,095 parcels for 1930, and 3,919 for 1929.

EXPORTATIONS.

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

Year.	No.	Declared Value.
1930	33,124	£20,484
1929	34,313	20,043

a decrease of 1,182 in the number of parcels but an increase of £1,189 in the declared value.

57. The largest number of these parcels was for the United States of America (15,990 for 1930 as against 17,045 for 1929) the next largest number was for Great Britain (7,918 for 1930 as against 7,881 for 1929). There was an increase in the number of parcels sent to Canada, the figures being 1,994 for 1930, and 1934 for 1929.

58. The postage which accrued to Jamaica in respect of the total number of parcels despatched was £2,433 9s. 6d. for 1930, and £2,072 15s. 11d. for 1929.

59. There was an increase in the number of packets received by Letter Post and detained for Customs examination. In 1930 the number was 18,752, while in 1929 the number was 17,876. The Import Duty collected on these packets amounted to £1,201 12s. 5d for 1930 and £1,181 7s. 6d. for 1929.

60. The number of parcels sent to the Island in regard to which the declared value of the contents was below the cost was 771 as against 1,221 in 1929. All the parcels were released after the imposition of fines amounting to £150 19s. 5d.

61. 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.
1930	20,076	41,295	9	3	621	16	0
1929	18,229	36,554	13	5	432	5	0

an increase of 1,847 in the number of parcels, £4,740 15s. 10d., in the Trade Charges, and £159 11s. 0d. in the amount of fees collected.

62. There was a decrease in the transactions connected with Insured Parcels received and despatched. The number received in 1929 was 5,584 with a total declared value of £23,966 5s. 2d; whilst the number for 1930 was 5,062 with a total declared value of £22,883 10s. 4d. There was also a decrease in the number of such parcels despatched from the Island: 453 in 1930 as against 527 in 1929, with total declared values of £1,870 6s. 4d. and £2,939 19s. 5d. respectively.

63. Since the 15th July, 1930, parcels weighing up to 20 lbs. each have been accepted for Canada. Previously the maximum limit of weight was 15 lbs.

Since the 22nd of December, 1930 cigars and cigarettes may be accepted for transmission by Parcels Post to the United States of America under certain conditions. Prior to that date these articles were prohibited by a weight regulation through the post to that country.

LOCAL PARCELS.

64. The following is a return of local parcels received for delivery in Kingston and for country delivery. The increase on the local transactions is 8,300.

Year.	No. of parcels for Kingston Delivery.	No. of parcels for Country Delivery.
1928	22,550	120,258
1929	23,742	114,927
1930	22,599	124,370
Total 1930	146,969	
Total 1929	138,669	
Increase	8,300	

65. Since the 1st of October, 1930, all parcels posted to persons resident in the Island must bear the name and address of the sender on the outside of the parcel. This requirement enables the Department to deal more expeditiously with parcels which are undelivered. It also ensures the return of all such parcels to the poster. Prior to this requirement many of the parcels gave no indication as to who had posted them and therefore they could not be returned.

TELEGRAPHS.

66. The number of Telegraph and Telephone Stations in existence at the end of the year was 169, an increase of 9 in the number in existence at the end of 1929.

The following Offices were converted from telephone to telegraph stations.

Port Royal on 1st March, 1930.

Guy's Hill on 1st December, 1930.

The following telegraph offices were converted into telephone stations:—

Gayle on 1st December, 1930.

Gordon Town on 1st November, 1930.

Nine 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	108
	169

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.
Sawyers	Trelawny	4th February, 1930
Smithville	Clarendon	12th February, 1930
Pratville	Manchester	11th March, 1930
Devon	Manchester	12th March, 1930
Enfield	St. Mary	14th March, 1930
Wakefield	Trelawny	14th March, 1930
Liguanea	St. Andrew	5th November, 1930
Craighead	Clarendon	4th December, 1930
Long Bay	Portland	22nd December, 1930

67. The total number of ordinary telegrams sent during the year was 357,960 as against 339,822 during the previous year. The revenue which accrued to the Department from these messages was £21,143 as against £21,243 in 1929, a decrease of £100.

68. As regards Official Telegrams handled by the Department these numbered 37,584 for the year, as against 40,320 for 1929, a decrease of 2,736.

69. The Branch also issued Weather Reports during the hurricane season and supplied for transmission abroad, or reproduction in the newspapers, temperature readings during the winter months.

70. 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.

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

Direct West India Cable Co.	£3,591 9 4
West India & Panama Telegraph Co.	453 16 10

In the former case the amount for 1929 was £3,781 12s. 6d. (a decrease of £190 3s. 2d.) and in the latter the amount was £580 12s. 5d. (a decrease of £127 2s. 7d.).

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

MISCELLANEOUS.

73. A Street collecting Letter Box was erected at the corner of Greenwich Road and New Lincoln Road in St. Andrew, on 6th August, 1930.

74. Three collecting boxes were also erected in Spanish Town (St. Catherine), in August, 1930, and have been appreciated.

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

Cave Valley	St. Ann	1st May 1930
Great Valley	Hanover	17th May, 1930
Negril	Westmoreland	20th May, 1930
Walderston	Manchester	2nd June 1930
Spring Hill	Portland	21st October, 1930

76. The total number of Banks now conducted in Post Offices is 100 and the transactions are satisfactory.

77. A sum of £3,000 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 Sav-la-Mar was completely repaired and additional office accommodation provided. Additional accommodation was also provided at Christiana, Enfield and Duncans while new premises were built at Liguanea and Guy's Hill.

Certain sites have been procured and are held pending funds being available for building.

78. The Staff in Kingston and at Country Stations have performed their duties in a satisfactory and loyal manner.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. FLETCHER,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
Kingston.