



COLONIAL REPORTS

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1951



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SIX SHILLINGS NET

(Printed in Jamaica).

At the end of the year, the Company is in the process of installing Community Receivers in various parts of Jamaica and Rediffusion Sets in Schools, both, as provided for in the Agreement between Government and the Company under which the latter carries out its broadcasting operations and obligations.

During the year the time reserved by Government on the air has remained the same—i.e. 15 minutes per night (9.15–9.30 p.m.), but three day-time periods of 15 minutes each have been added. However, as the new studios of Radio Jamaica are now in full operation, Government will exercise its rights under the License and will take over 10% of air time early in 1952.

Chapter XI: Communications

II. COMMUNICATIONS—SHIPPING

THE VOLUME of shipping remain at a high level during the year 1951. There is a regular passenger service between Jamaica and the United Kingdom, but none between Jamaica and Canada and Central America, travel to these places being mostly by air.

A regular Freight and Passenger Service is maintained between Jamaica and New Orleans, Curacao, Venezuelan ports and Trinidad.

Regular Freight Services are maintained between Jamaica and the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada and Australia.

CIVIL AVIATION

THE YEAR SHOWED an increase of approximately 4% in air services through the Customs Airports, Palisadoes and Montego Bay, which were utilised by all airlines operating between Jamaica and other countries. These Airports are under the control of the Director of Civil Aviation, (who is also Director General of Civil Aviation) for the British Caribbean Area.

During the year, eight scheduled commercial airline companies operated through the Colony. These were—

- British Overseas Airways Corporation
- British West Indian Airways, Limited
- Caribbean International Airways, Limited
- Trans-Canada Air Lines
- Pan American World Airways, Incorporated
- Chicago and Southern Air Lines, Incorporated
- K.L.M. (Royal Dutch Airlines)
- Avianca Airlines (an affiliate to Pan American World Airways, Inc.).

In addition to the foregoing scheduled operators, there were a number of non-scheduled airlines operating between the United States of America and South America which utilised the Palisadoes Airport. These were mainly American, Colombian and Venezuelan registered airlines. There were also a considerable number of private and military aircraft.

There were 3,692 flights by scheduled commercial aircraft, 1,441 flights by non-scheduled commercial aircraft, 1,491 flights by private and military aircraft—making a total of 6,624 flights through Palisadoes for the year.

In addition, there were 1,358 flights through the Montego Bay Airport, making a total of 7,982 flights into the island from various countries. This figure represents an increase of approximately 4% over the operations in 1950 and give some indication of the steady growth of air traffic through the island.

During the period 1st January to 31st October, there were 28,232 landing passengers, 32,444 embarking passengers and 2,348,760 lb. of freight.

In addition to the two main Airports in Jamaica, there are alighting areas at Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, the last mentioned, however, can only be used when the prevailing wind is from the south. Further, a small landing strip is being constructed in Turks Island, but it is, at present, usable by light aircraft. In South Caicos a landing strip is available to aircraft for purposes of emergency.

The Kingston Oceanic Air Traffic Control Centre and the Seventh Regional Notam Centre at Palisadoes, provided air traffic control services to all aircraft within or passing through the control area.

Air/ground, point-to-point and meteorological communication services for aircraft are provided by International Aeradio (Caribbean) Limited.

With the ever-increasing air traffic, it is apparent that Jamaica will have to improve her Airport facilities, and serious consideration is now being given to this matter.

RAILWAY

THE JAMAICA GOVERNMENT RAILWAY operates on $207\frac{1}{4}$ miles of line and traverses the Island in two main routes and three branch lines as under:—

Main Lines	Miles
Kingston to Montego Bay	112 $\frac{3}{4}$
Spanish Town to Port Antonio	63 $\frac{1}{4}$
Branch Lines	
May Pen Junction to Frankfield	23
Bog Walk to Linstead	3
May Pen to Fort Simonds	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
	207 $\frac{1}{4}$

Revenue for the calendar year ending 31st December, 1951, was approximately £356,599, and expenditure approximately £732,813.

The Railway suffered a serious setback as a result of the hurricane of August, 1951, which gravely affected banana transportation, in so much so that hopes for good revenue and tonnage for four of the best months of the year were shattered.

Notwithstanding this serious setback, however, total tonnage hauled for the calendar year was 5,000 tons more than for the period previous to the one under review—namely 352,000 as against 347,000 tons.

Passenger revenue continued to climb, the earnings from this source being £76,500 as against £65,000, an increase of £11,500—and yet fares are still on a pre-war basis of 1d. per mile 2nd class.

The order for the new diesel units, placed in September, 1948, has only been partially filled, as two of the powered units and trailers have arrived in the Island and will shortly be in service. These will provide a speedy deluxe service at reasonable rates.

Much new business has also followed from the activities of the Bauxite Companies, especially from the Jamaica Bauxite Ltd. which has located its alumina factory near the Railway main line at Kendal; as a result of a new spur siding large quantities of construction materials are now being delivered at this Company's factory site. When these companies are in full production the Railway stands to benefit tremendously from haulage of the manufactured products and fuel oil, soda ash, etc., for the processing thereof. Providing the major plan of the Aluminium Company matures the Railway should benefit from an increased haulage of 250,000 tons per annum, giving an approximate revenue of £130,000.

ISLAND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

A TOTAL of 17,136 motor vehicles were registered during the year ending 31st March, 1951.

While there is still an insufficiency of public passenger omnibuses in operation in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew, there is adequate transport between the urban and rural areas of the Island as 140 buses are now engaged in this service in addition to trucks and station waggons which are operated as Stage Carriages.

Parking is still the biggest problem in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew and until additional areas are made available for conversion into parking lots, the situation will not improve.

There were 2,516 accidents during the year ended 31st March, 1951, as a result of which 47 persons were killed and 1,507 injured.

POSTAL SERVICE

THERE ARE 311 Post Offices and 93 Postal Agencies in Jamaica, of which 249 are Telegraph and Telephone Stations, and 179 are Branches of the Government Savings Bank.

Money Order Service is limited to the Capital and important towns in each parish. Sixteen offices are in operation.

Mails are transported by the Jamaica Government Railway, Private Contractors, and the Public Works Department. The daily mileage covered is as follows:—

Jamaica Government Railway	..	604
<i>Private Contractors</i>		
By Motor Vans	1,322
By Boat	12
<i>Public Works Department</i>		
By Foot-couriers	2,184
By Animals	76
By Bicycle	9
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		4,207
		<hr/>

STEAMSHIP (OVERSEAS)

<u>Incoming Mails</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Elders & Fyffes Ltd.	Great Britain Europe, Asia, Africa	Weekly
Royal Mail Lines Ltd.	ditto	Irregular
Standard Fruit Company	ditto	Once per month
Jamaica Fruit & Shipping Co.	ditto	Twice per month
Alcoa Steamship Co. Inc.	British West Indies, U.S.A.	Fortnightly
Kirkconnel Brothers	Turks Islands	Monthly
Cayman Islands Motor Co.	Cayman Islands & British Honduras	Monthly
Canadian National Steamship Co.	Canada, Nassau, Bermuda	Fortnightly
<u>Outgoing Mails</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Elders & Fyffes Ltd.	Great Britain, Asia, Europe, Africa	Weekly
Royal Mail Lines, Ltd.	ditto	Irregular
Standard Fruit Co.	ditto	Once per month
Jamaica Fruit & Shipping Co.	ditto	Twice per month
Alcoa Steamship Co. Inc.	U.S.A., Nassau, Bermuda, Cuba, Haiti, Canada	Fortnightly
United Fruit Co.	ditto	Irregular

Outgoing Mails	Destination	Frequency
United Fruit Co.	Central & South America, Australasia, Costa Rica	Fortnightly
Alcoa Steamship Co. Inc.	British West Indies, Dutch West Indies	Fortnightly
Kirkconnel Brothers	Turks Islands	Monthly
Cayman Islands Motor Boat Co.	Cayman Islands, British Honduras, Rep. of Honduras	Monthly
Canadian National Steamship Co.	Canada	Fortnightly

AIR SERVICES

THE FOLLOWING Companies operate air services through Jamaica carrying mails.

P.A.A.	North and South America—daily. Central America—twice per week. Haiti, Puerto Rico, Dominican Rep. and French West Indies—daily.
K.L.M.	North America, Venezuela, Dutch West Indies and Dutch Guiana—five times per week.
B.W.I.A.	British West Indies and British Guiana—three times per week; Venezuela—twice per week; Puerto Rico and British Honduras—once per week.
B.O.A.C.	Europe via Nassau—twice per week. Europe via Nassau, Bermuda and Azores—twice per week. North America via Nassau—three times per week.
C.I.A.	Grand Cayman—a weekly service.
C & S.A.	Cuba and North America (Mid West States) via New Orleans—daily.

Telecommunications, Telegraph and Telephone Service.

The Government Post and Telegraphs System was inaugurated in 1879 with a complement of 47 offices. There are now 249 Telegraph and Telephone Stations. Wireless sets are in use at Kingston, Montego Bay, Savanna-la-Mar, St. Ann's Bay, Brown's Town and Malvern.

To augment the service, Teleprinter system was instituted on 21st December, 1948. Teleprinter machines are installed in Kingston, Myrtle Bank, Half-Way-Tree, Cross Roads, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Ocho Rios, Spanish Town, Port Antonio, May Pen, Mandeville, Christiana, Montego Bay, Falmouth, Whitesands Beach, Windward Road, Morant Bay, Golden Grove.

The charge for inland telegrams is 1/- for the first 12 words, and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges.

An all-night, Holiday and Sunday Telegram Service is provided on payment of graduated fees.

