

INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA.

JAMAICA IN 1896.

A HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION FOR INTENDING
SETTLERS AND OTHERS.



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PREFACE.

The present issue is a new edition of a work which appeared last year, under the title "Jamaica in 1895, a brief Handbook of Information about Jamaica." It was compiled with a view to giving, in a handy form, such particulars concerning the island as might prove of interest to intending settlers and others.

It is, for the most part, an epitome of the information contained in the "Handbook of Jamaica."

As it is mainly intended to impart information to those who are thinking of entering on an agricultural career, short notices have been included on the various articles of cultivation in the island : and thanks are due to those planters and penkeepers who have kindly supplied this information.

The attention of intending settlers is especially drawn to the Articled Pupil Scheme, particulars of which will be found at page 36.

Any corrections or suggestions for a future edition will be thankfully received by the Secretary of the Institute of Jamaica.

F. C.

Institute of Jamaica,
Kingston, Jamaica,
May, 1896.

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X. POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAMS,**POST AND MONEY ORDER.****(a.) FOREIGN.**

(1.) **POSTAL UNION.**—Jamaica is included in the Postal Union.

The rates of postage to places in the Universal Postal Union are as under:—

For a Letter per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.	For Post Cards.		For News- papers or other Printed Pa- pers per 2 ounces.	For Commer- cial Papers per 2 ounces.	For Patterns per 2 ounces.	Registra- tion Fe
	Single	Reply paid.				
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	1d.	2d.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. lowest charge. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. lowest charge. 1d.	2d.

(11.) **MAILS.**—Royal Mail Steamers convey mails *fortnightly*, between Jamaica and the United Kingdom, via Jaemel and Barbados:—

To Jamaica.—Leave Southampton every alternate Wednesday at 6 p.m. Arriving in Jamaica on the following Friday fortnight at 8 a.m.

From Jamaica.—Leave Kingston every alternate Tuesday at 2 p.m. Arriving at Southampton on the following Wednesday fortnight at 9 p.m.

The Return Packet Express Mails leave the Terminal Post Offices for Kingston every alternate Monday and are due in Kingston on the morning of Tuesday, the day of the departure of the Steamer.

The mails for Great Britain by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamers are made up at the General Post Office, Kingston, at the following hours:—

Registered letters, 9 a.m.; newspapers, 10 a.m.; ordinary letters, 11.30 a.m. Late letters may be posted at the General Post Office on payment of a fee of threepence up to 12 30 p.m.: on board the steamer until she leaves the wharf on payment of a fee of sixpence in stamps.

There is not any Contract Mail Service between Jamaica and the United States of America, although there are *frequent* opportunities for the exchange of mails in Kingston and at the outposts. The most *frequent* and *regular* opportunities in Kingston are by the steamers of the Atlas Company. The opportunities at the outposts are by the steamers of Messrs J. E. Kerr & Co. of Montego Bay and of the Boston Fruit Company at Port Antonio.

There is a monthly mail service between Jamaica, Halifax, Bermuda and Turks Island, by means of the Steamers of Messrs. Pickford and Black which arrive here about the 25th of each month and leave three days after. The steamers are subsidized by the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

(III.) **BOOK POST.**—Printed papers and commercial papers may be sent to any country of the Postal Union under the Book Post regulation.

It is forbidden to send through the post to any country of the Postal Union—

- 1st. Any letter or packet containing gold or silver bullion, pieces of money, jewellery or precious articles.
- 2nd. Any packet whatever containing articles liable to customs duty.
- 3rd. Any article of a nature likely to stain or injure the correspondence.

(IV.) PARCEL POST.—A Parcel Post Exchange—between Jamaica and the United Kingdom; certain places via the United Kingdom; British Colonies in the West Indies; and the United States of America—is now in operation.

Parcel mails for the United Kingdom and British Colonies in the West Indies are made up in Kingston on every alternate Monday for despatch by the Royal Mail Contract Line of Steamers—parcels being received up to 4 o'clock on that day.

Parcel mails for the United States are closed for despatch by each *direct* opportunity from the Port of Kingston.

Rate to Great Britain, 9d. per lb. Limit of weight to Great Britain and United States, &c. 11 lbs. Limit of size, greatest length 3 feet 6 in.: length and girth combined, 6 feet.

Rate to the United States and British West India Colonies 6d. per lb.

(V.) MONEY ORDERS.—Money Orders are issued at the head office, Kingston, and at the several parochial treasuries. Applications for money orders addressed either to the Postmaster for Jamaica or to a Parochial Treasurer are free of postage and registration fee.

The commission on money orders drawn on the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States are as under:—

For any sum not exceeding £2—0s. 9d.	Above £5 and not exceeding £7—2s. 3d.
Above £2 and not exceeding £5—1s. 6d.	Above £7 and not exceeding £10—3s. 0d.

The rate of exchange of money orders between the United States, Canada and Jamaica is \$4.87c. to the £.

The commission on money orders drawn on Barbados and British Guiana and the Leeward Islands are as under:—

For any sum not exceeding £2—0s. 6d.	Above £5 and not exceeding £7—1s. 6d.
Above £2 and not exceeding £5—1s. 0d.	Above £7 and not exceeding £10—2s. 0d.

No single order can be granted for more than ten pounds.

(VI.) REGISTRATION.—The poster of a registered article can obtain an acknowledgment of receipt from the addressee on payment in advance of a fee of 2d. in addition to postage and registration fee.

(b.) INLAND.

(I.) MAILS.—There are 127 Post Offices in the Island. There is a daily post between Kingston, Halfway Tree, Gordon Town, and Cold Spring, and between Kingston and Port Royal and between all places on the railway, and a tri-weekly to all other parts of the country. In Kingston there are ten street letter boxes which are cleared four times daily, and there is a delivery of letters four times a day on post days, and three times on other days.

The following are the existing Regulations with respect to Inland Postage :—

LETTERS.	POST-CARDS.				BOOK PACKETS.	PARCELS.	
For each Half-ounce or fractional part thereof.	Single.	Reply Paid.	Newspapers each.	Prices Current each.	For each two ounces or fractional part thereof.	For each two ounces or fractional part thereof.	Registration Fee.
One-penny.	Half-penny.	One-penny.	Half-penny.	Half-penny.	Half-penny.	One-penny.	Two pence.

Letters, newspapers, &c., which are wholly unpaid are liable to a surcharge equal to double the deficiency.

A book packet may not exceed 3 pounds in weight, nor two feet in length, nor 1 foot in depth or width, except it be intended for transmission by mail coach.

Parcels by mail coach will be carried, not exceeding 10lbs in weight or 1,000 cubic inches in size, at the rate of threepence per lb., or per 100 cubic inches, or fractional part thereof, it being at the option of the Post Office to elect under which scale the parcel is to be paid for. A parcel may not exceed two feet in length, or 1 foot in width or depth, nor may it contain anything likely to damage other parcels. The charge on parcels must be paid in advance, in cash, at the respective Local Post Offices or at the General Post Office.

- (II.) POSTAL ORDERS.—Postal Orders, payable in Kingston, or at any of the parochial treasuries, are issued for the following amounts :—

Amount	Commission.	Amount.	Commission.
Sixpence ...	Half-penny	Two Shillings & Sixpence	Half-penny
One Shilling ...	Half-penny	Five Shillings ...	One penny
One Shilling & Sixpence	Half-penny	Ten Shillings ...	Two-pence

TELEGRAPH.

- (a.) OCEAN.—Jamaica is connected with America and Great Britain by means of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company (London, 9 New Broad St. E.C.)

Tariffs from Jamaica to North America, Europe, &c., via Havanna.

	Per Word.		Per Word.
	s. d.		s. d.
United States, East of Mississippi	4 9½	Canada	5 0½
United States, West of Mississippi	5 2½	Key West	3 9
Nova Scotia	5 0½	Newfoundland	5 10½
New Brunswick	5 2½	Prince Edward's Island	5 6½
Cape Breton	5 7½	Great Britain, France and Germany	5 10
Vancouver Island		Italy	6 1½
British Columbia		Spain, via Fance & Marseilles	7 4
		All other Offices, via Eastern	7 5½

For Messages addressed to stations in the East Indies and South America, via England, and for all stations on the continent of Europe, the London rates are charged, plus the tariff from London to the place of destination.

Telegrams for stations in South America, via Panama, are forwarded by telegraph to Panama, from thence by the Central and South American Company's Cables to destination

- (b.) INLAND.—There are 67 telegraph stations in the island. The charge for telegrams throughout Jamaica is one shilling (1s) for the first twenty words and threepence (3d.) for every additional five words, *i.e.*, for every additional group of not more than five words, the names and addresses of the sender and receiver not being counted.

If the addressee reside within one mile of the terminal office the telegram is delivered by messenger without any additional charge; but if beyond that limit the following portorage fee must be prepaid:—

- a. If the whole distance be under three miles at a charge of sixpence (6d.) per mile, counting from boundary of the free delivery.
- b. If the distance be over three miles at a charge of one shilling (1s.) per mile, counting from the office.

Persons resident at a place to which the Island Telegraph Line has not yet been extended can benefit by its use on the following conditions:—

1. If the words "By Post" with the name of a telegraph station be written on a message it will be wired to such station and forwarded from thence to its postal address by first post.

2. If a letter marked "On Post Office Telegraph Business" be sent *by post* to the Telegraph Clerk at any station the message enclosed will be promptly forwarded *by wire* from such station. In this case the letter by post must be registered and the cost of the message enclosed in telegraph stamps or coin.

8. No charge will be made in either case for postage or registration.