

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
12th March, 1873.

THE GOVERNOR directs that there be published, for general information, the following Annual Report on the transactions of the Post Office for the year 1871-72

By command, EDW. E. RUSHWORTH,  
Colonial Secretary.

No. 133.

General Post Office,  
28th February, 1873.

SIR,  
I have the honor to submit the Fifth Annual Report on the Post Office Department, being that for the Financial Year 1871-72.

#### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

##### REVENUE.

The Cash Collections during the period under review amounted to £13,823 18s. 6d. being slightly in excess of those in the preceding year, as shown by the following comparative statement:

Financial Year..	Postages.			Commissions on Money Orders.			Miscellaneous.			Total.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1870-71	13,063	11	0	407	4	2	158	0	11	13,628	16	1
1871-72	13,077	19	7	459	18	2	286	0	9	13,823	18	6

##### POSTAGES.

Upon correspondence conveyed by direct contract steamer between New York and Jamaica the estimated amount of sea and inland postage was £429 7s. 8d. in 1871-72, and the sum of £175 11s. 3d. was received as gratuity paid thereon by the United States' Government, as against Postages £223 6s. 7d. gratuity £75 16s. 1d. in the preceding year. It must be remarked however that the service under this head in 1870-71 was only for eight months. The proportion of Postage on packet correspondence payable to the United Kingdom amounted to £3448 12s. the corresponding item in 1870-71 having been £3145 8s.

On 1st January, 1872, the rate of postage on an inland letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight was reduced from 3d. to 2d. if prepaid the two penny weight having before been restricted to letters carried a distance not exceeding thirty miles. The postage rate on a letter intended for the delivery of the Post Office at which it was posted was left however at one penny. But in all cases where such rate of postage shall not have been duly prepaid it was ordered (under the provisions of the twelfth section of the Post Office Law No. 18 of 1868), that the addressee of such letter or newspaper, or in case of his refusal to receive the same, or if he cannot be found, the sender thereof shall pay the postage, or deficient postage thereon, with an addition of a sum equal to the full ordinary rate of

postage. In other words, that an unpaid or insufficiently prepaid letter, newspaper, &c. is chargeable with double rates of postage, less the value of the stamps, if any, which have been placed thereon.

A reference to the Revenue Collections of the Post Office for the year, as stated at the commencement of this Report, will show that the result of the said alteration of system has been satisfactory.

With slight exception the deduction to be made from gross collections on account of packet and ship letter postages remains as in previous years, the bulk of the Revenue being derivable from correspondence circulating within the Colony.

##### MONEY ORDERS.

The Money Orders payable in the United Kingdom, issued during the year, were five thousand three hundred and fifty-five in number, and of a total value of £39,027 2s. 5d.

The issue of the United Kingdom, payable in Jamaica, amounted to £833 8s. 10d. and numbered two hundred and thirty. The sum of £459 18s. 2d. was passed to the credit of Jamaica on Money Order Commission Account.

##### EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year, as shown by the Office



Records, was £13,687 19s. 10d. being £845 16s. 4½d. in excess of that stated as for the preceding year.

Such increase is to be found in the following items :

United Kingdom Remittance	£303 4 0
Supervisor of District Post Offices	289 15 8
Conveyance of Mails	120 16 10
Poundage or Discount on Stamps sold	138 15 11
	£852 12 5

The first item, being for collections made on Packet Correspondence on account of the Imperial Post Office, is covered by a corresponding increase on the Revenue side of the Account.

The appointment of Supervisor of District Offices was much required; and although now made for the first time since the Department has been under the control of the Colonial Government, formerly existed under the title of Surveyor of Post Offices.

The increase in the cost of Mail conveyance was in part occasioned by increased rates of payment made on contract lines already existing, and in part by the establishment of a new Post Office at Little London, in the Parish of Westmoreland.

The item of poundage on stamps sold now appears for the first time in the Statement of Cash Expenditure. Formerly the poundage or discount of one per cent allowed to District Postmasters to cover losses which might occur in the sale of stamps, was not paid in cash, but was entered up on the Credit side of the Account with each District Office, and therefore appeared in the Annual Statement under the head of Drawback Entries. In 1870-71 the sum of £76 0s. 1½d. so appeared, and, for the purpose of comparison, should now be added to the Cash Expenditure stated for that year.

Under an instruction which took effect as of 6th November, 1871, all postal collections at District Offices are now lodged in the respective Parochial Treasuries, and payments to District Postmasters are made by drafts on the Treasury. The amount of poundage paid to District Postmasters during 1871-72 was £82 19s. 5d. to which the sum of £55 16s. 6d. has to be added on account of the discount of five per cent allowed by the Commissioner of Stamps to Vendors of Postages Stamps on purchases made by them at his office under the arrangements elsewhere referred to.

### HOUSE DELIVERY OF LETTERS.

Simultaneously with the establishment of a prepaid system of inland correspondence in January, 1872, it became practicable to extend the house delivery of Letters, &c. in Kingston, which had hitherto been confined to matter received by the Daily Mails from Port Royal, Gordon Town, Spanish Town, and Old Harbour, to all inward correspondence, both packet and island. I am happy in being able to report, that with but slight exception incident to the commencement of a new system, the plan has worked satisfactorily. The staff of permanent Letter Carriers had however to be increased, and for the packet correspondence supplemented by the employment of Letter Carriers for that special service.

Until the public had become accustomed to the prepaid system it was necessary, in order to avoid undue delay, to retain in office the unpaid island correspondence until the afternoon delivery, such correspondence being however delivered intermediately if applied for at the Office. But the morning delivery was, as soon as possible, made to include all letters, &c. both paid and unpaid then in Office, except such as Merchants, &c. being subscribers for private Letter Boxes, desired

to obtain by personal application at the Post Office window, and also correspondence addressed to transient persons and others whose proper address could not be ascertained. The proportion of the latter class has been very considerably reduced by a plan under which applicants have from time to time recorded their addresses at the Office for the purpose of having their letters delivered by Letter Carriers.

The Record kept shows nine hundred and thirty-three additional addresses so obtained.

Registered Letters are still delivered at the Office, but a colored printed card is presented by Letter Carrier to each person for whom there is a Registered Letter in Office, so that the necessary special application may be made.

### STREET LETTER BOXES.

As the public do not avail themselves to any extent of the Pillar Letter Boxes in Kingston it has not been found expedient as yet to add to the number already established. One of such Letter Boxes has however been removed from Highholborn Street to the New Market for the convenience of persons resident in the vicinity of Kingston, whose servants are thus enabled to post their Letters whilst at the Market.

### LETTER BOXES, GENERAL POST OFFICE.

To facilitate the operations of the Department, separate boxes have been established at the General Post Office for the reception of packet and inland correspondence. The notice to the public on the Packet Letter Box is painted in red, and on the Inland Letter Box in blue, letters. An improvement which has worked beneficially. The desired object, namely the enabling of an illiterate messenger to distinguish between such boxes having been attained by the distinctive coloring.

### VALENTINES.

There were one thousand three hundred and seventy Valentines, noticed in transit through the General Post Office on and about the 14th February, 1872, being about two hundred less than the previous year.

### REGISTERED LETTERS.

The number of registered Letters received at and despatched from the General Post Office during the year, was:—

Packet	3,198
Inland	20,553
	23,751

dealt with at the General Post Office.

The Public generally still show a very lamentable disregard for the system of Registration of Letters containing value—a system which enables the Department to trace such Registered matter in its passage through the Post Office, and to fix the blame of miscarriage, should it occur, upon the offending party.

The Department is not seldom called on for information in respect to the delivery of Remittance Letters, which have not been acknowledged in due course. When such letters have been registered the task is an easy one, and the evidence obtained is of much importance to all concerned. In the case of a letter which has not been registered by the poster, there is no such evidence obtainable. No trace of such a letter in the Post Office can of necessity exist, unless it shall have been impounded and compulsorily registered under the provisions of the Post Office Law, 1868. The anxious, and but too frequently unsatisfactory investigation consequent on the miscarriage of an unregistered letter, would of itself be good ground for insisting on the registration of every letter containing value, but a far



greater evil exists, namely, the temptation placed before each person into whose hands such letter falls.

The Registration of a letter enables the writer to prove not only the delivery but the posting of it. Inquiry into miscarriage has more than once resulted in admission, on the part of the writer, that the letter which had been supposed to have been lost in the Post Office had in fact, through some neglect or accident, never been posted at all.

One case (and not the only one of its kind), may be instanced as an example of culpable carelessness in the posting of a value letter, viz.: A roll of Colonial Bank Notes, posted for transmission as a Book Packet, in a cover open at the ends. Such contents being of course at the mercy of each person through whose hands the packet passed.

### RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

The records kept in the Returned Letter Branch shew, that during the year there were returned to the United Kingdom, and to places abroad, as unclaimed or refused, one thousand seven hundred and forty-nine letters, &c. out of which one thousand and ninety-five were unpaid to the extent of £25 2s. 11d. Out of four thousand five hundred and four newspapers returned in like manner there were three thousand four hundred and ninety one unpaid, upon which £13 5s. 1d. had been charged for collection. These latter were American Papers received *via* St. Thomas. These amounts would, in due course, be credited to Jamaica in the accounts with the Imperial Post Office.

Of Inland Letters refused or unclaimed,  
2955 were reposted to writers resident in Kingston.  
5761 in the Country.

8716 total of Inland Letters reposted to writers.

Of Unclaimed Letters opened in the Return Letter Branch, there were two thousand nine hundred and forty-six, which had to be destroyed in consequence either of being anonymous, or of having been illegibly signed. And of Returned Letters, which had been reposted from the Office to the address of the respective writers, three thousand five hundred and eighty-nine were returned again into Office, the writers not having been found. All but a small proportion of the letters passing through the Returned Letter Branch bear unmistakable evidence of having been the production of illiterate persons, and are addressed to persons of the same class.

The total loss to the Revenue on Unclaimed Letters amounted to £84 0s. 3d.

On newspapers £3 16s. 7d.

Among the Unclaimed or Refused Letters ninety-eight which had not been registered were discovered to have valuable contents to the aggregate amount of £271 5s. These Value Letters were returned to the respective writers as registered, but without charge, in order that the Department might be clear of further responsibility in respect of them.

### DISTRIBUTORS OF REVENUE STAMPS.

For the greater convenience of the public the Governor has been pleased to direct that each District Postmaster shall also be a Distributor of Revenue Stamps, not being Postage Stamps, at a remuneration of five per cent on the amount of Stamps sold.

The scheme however did not come into full operation during the Financial Year under remark.

### VENDORS OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

In addition to the several District Postmasters, whose duty it is to keep themselves, by application to the Head Office, always fully supplied with Postage

Labels for the accommodation of the Public, the appointment of persons, approved by the Collector General of Revenues, has also been authorized for the sale of Postage Stamps.

A discount of five per cent is allowed on each transaction exceeding ten shillings in value. Such vendors were supplied by the Stamp Commissioner with Postage Stamps to the extent of £1184 3s. 3d. during the year.

### ENGLISH MAIL PACKET SERVICE.

Commencing in March, 1872, the Time Table of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was altered so as to enable one outward and one homeward bound contract vessel in each month on its voyage between England and St. Thomas to touch at Barbadoes. Under that arrangement the first Steamer in each month having to touch at Barbadoes, is due at Kingston, Jamaica, on the 5th (or 6th, if previous month had thirty days) at 8 A. M.; the second is due at 8 A. M. on the 20th. The first homeward bound vessel is timed to leave Kingston at 7 A. M. on the 10th (or 11th, if previous month had thirty days), and the departure of the second Steamer, which has to touch at Barbadoes, is fixed at four P. M. on the 24th. The Return Packet expresses from the country have had to be regulated accordingly.

### UNITED STATES' MAIL PACKET SERVICE.

The arrangements between the Pacific Mail Steam Ship Company and the Government of Jamaica for the conveyance of a monthly mail between New York and Kingston, Jamaica, to and fro, ceased on the 10th August, 1872, with the return of the Steamer *Rising Star* from Colon. The Contract for similar service with Messrs Leech, Harrison, and Forwood of Liverpool, was entered upon on the 22nd August, on which day the *S. S. St. Thomas* was despatched from Kingston for New York.

Under the present contract the duration of voyage each way is stated at one hundred and fifty six hours, or six and a half days, and the fourth Thursday of each month, between two and four P. M. is fixed on as the date and time of departure from Kingston, the Governor having authority to vary such date of despatch from time to time, as he may think fit.

### HONDURAS MAIL PACKET SERVICE.

In 1872 the Colonial Government of British Honduras entered into a contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the conveyance of a monthly Mail to and fro between Belize, Honduras, and Kingston, Jamaica. The first vessel under such contract left Jamaica on the 6th April.

Correspondence for British Honduras had for some time previously been forwarded by way of the United States at an increased cost to the sender of ten cents per single rate letter.

### MAIL COACHES.

In order to relieve the ordinary Letter Mail of the weight of Government Papers, and for the convenience of the public in the transmission of parcels whose individual weight is in excess of the amount which may be legally transmitted by post, his Excellency the Governor has been pleased to approve of a scheme under which the Mail matter in question can be carried, and provision at the same time be made for the conveyance of passengers. The Crown Agents have accordingly been instructed to obtain and forward to this Department two Mail Carriages, constructed to carry three passengers and two hundred and fifty lbs. of freight. Upon their arrival the experiment will be tried on the Northside Line, one complete trip being



made between Kingston and Montego Bay each week. For the convenience of travellers the Service will be performed during day light, a stage being made at St. Ann's Bay each way.

Should the experiment succeed the scheme is capable of more general application.

As a Mail will be exchanged between Kingston and each place called at, the plan involves the establishment of a fourth Post per week with such Stations.

The Mail Carriages are expected at the commencement of 1873.

**RETURNS.**

The usual Financial and other Returns are herewith submitted. Among them will be found one which is not without interest, being that which shows, in a Comparative Form, the Collections on Postage Account at the Head Office in Kingston, and at the several District Post Offices during the years 1867-68 and 1871-72. The former year was the last of the Bi-weekly system of Posts, the Rate of Postage being threepence, and was also the year on the Collections of which the Governor based the Schedule of Salaries now payable to District Postmasters.

During the latter year the prepaid two-penny Rate of Postage commenced, the tri-weekly Mail being in full operation.

In addition to the Collections as stated, Postage Stamps were obtained for sale by authorized vendors resident at the undermentioned places, in 1871-72:—

Kingston	£932	10	0
Black River	24	3	0
Clarendon	41	0	0
Linstead	12	11	0
Lucea	86	4	3
Plantain Garden River	37	15	0
	<hr/>		
	£1134	3	3

Less Discount allowed at five per cent. 55 16 6

Net Revenue £1078 6 9

The Revenues of the respective Post Offices at those places should be supplemented to the extent stated for purpose of comparison with the Collections during the year 1867-68.

I have, &c.

FRED. SULLIVAN, Postmaster for Jamaica.



RETURN shewing the Gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office Department during the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1872.

R E V E N U E.		E X P E N D I T U R E.	
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Unpaid Postages Collected at District Offices, including Surcharges.....	2,023 2 10	<b>SALARIES</b>	
Unpaid Postages from the United Kingdom.....	242 9 2½	Salary of Postmaster for Jamaica .....	600 0 0
Unpaid Postages on Ship Letters.....	298 11 8	Salaries of Clerks .....	1,787 17 2
Unpaid Postages from Foreign Places.....	353 7 2	Allowance for Assistance .....	129 4 0
Unpaid Postages Collected at the General Post Office on Inland Correspondence	575 1 6	Wages of Messengers and Office Woman .....	371 9 3
Redirected Packet Letters.....	33 9 9½	Salaries of District Postmasters .....	1,415 17 9
Stamps Sold by the Department.....	9,149 1 8	Travelling Supervisor's Salary and Allowance .....	289 15 8
Stamps Sold by the Stamp Commissioner.....	1,134 3 3	<b>CONVEYANCE OF MAILS.</b>	
Rent of Subscribers' Boxes.....	76 2 6	By Contractors .....	5,033 12 0
Commission on Money Orders.....	459 18 2	Special Expresses .....	62 7 0
Fees for Detention of Packet Letters in Kingston.....	19 2 6	Ship Letter Gratuities .....	42 15 4
Fine Account.....	44 17 5	Proportion of Postage due to the United Kingdom .....	3,448 12 0
Gratuity Paid by the United States' Government upon Letters conveyed between Jamaica and New York by the Vessels of the Pacific Mail Steam Ship Company.....	175 11 3	<b>SERVICES.</b>	
Miscellaneous Receipts.....	2 16 10	Making Mail Bags .....	9 1 6
		Repairing Mail Bags .....	1 5 0
		Candle and Oil Account .....	5 19 6
		Stationery .....	16 18 0
		Advertising .....	28 8 6
		Pistol and Yard Cleaner .....	5 12 8
		Allowance to Officers for Services performed out of Office Hours .....	58 5 5
		Messengers' Uniforms .....	24 6 9
		Repairs to Couriers Clocks .....	3 9 6
		Water Supply at the General Post Office .....	3 4 0
		Travelling Charges .....	138 5 9
		House Delivery of Letters in the Halfway Tree District of St. Andrew .....	1 7 0
		Contingencies .....	39 9 5
		Clocks imported for District Post Offices .....	12 5 3
		Pillar Letter Box, imported from New-York .....	4 0 0
		Extra Letter Carriers employed on the arrival of Packet, and other Foreign Mails .....	14 13 6
		Poundage on Stamps sold by the District Postmasters and at the General Post Office .....	82 19 5
		Discount on Stamps sold by the Stamp Commissioner .....	55 16 6
			13,687 19 10
		<b>DRAWBACK ENTRIES.</b>	
		Redirected Letters .....	372 9 6
		Unclaimed Letters sent through Returned Letter Branch .....	228 19 3½
		Packet Redirected and Dead Letter Account .....	33 9 9½
		Governor's Postage Account .....	19 18 0
		Postage Stamps transmitted to Foreign Countries .....	0 9 4
			£14,343 3 9
	£14,587 15 9		

General Post Office, 28th February, 1873

FRED. SULLIVAN, Postmaster for Jamaica.



*STATEMENT showing the Transactions of the Money Order Branch of the General Post Office, Jamaica, for the Financial Year ending 30th September, 1872.*

JAMAICA ISSUE.					UNITED KINGDOM ISSUE.					COMMISSION ACCOUNT.											
Payable in United Kingdom.			Void Order Account.		Payable in Jamaica.		Paid in Jamaica.		Void Order Account.	Total Commissions Collected on Orders in Jamaica on the United Kingdom.											
Number.	Amount.		Forfeited to Revenue	Repaid to Remitter.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Amount.												
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.								
5355	39,027	2	5		22	0	0	230	833	8	10	208	753	18	3	10	10	0	842	3	6
Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to Credit of the United Kingdom.			Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to Credit of Jamaica.			Proportion of Commission on United Kingdom Issue to Credit of Jamaica.			Additional Credit to Jamaica being Commission on Transfer of Orders.			Total Amount to be carried to Revenue on Commission Account.			Actual Amount paid to Credit of Revenue on Commission Account during the Period.						
£. s. d.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.						
390 19 4			451 4 2			7 14 0			1 0 0			459 18 2			459 18 2						

*STATEMENT showing the Transactions of the Returned Letter Branch of the General Post Office, Jamaica, for the Financial Year ending 30th Sept. 1872.*

Total of Letters returned to United Kingdom, &c.			Total of Newspapers Returned to United Kingdom, &c			Letters Re-posted to Writers Resident in Kingston.			Letters Re-posted to Writers Resident in the Country.			Total of Letters Re-posted to Writers in Jamaica.			Letters destroyed being Anonymous or with illegible Signatures		
Paid.		Unpaid.	Paid.		Unpaid.	Paid.		Unpaid.	Paid.		Unpaid.	Paid.		Unpaid.	Paid.		Unpaid.
No.	No.	Amount.	No.	No.	Amount.	No.	No.	Amount.	No.	No.	Amount.	No.	No.	Amount.	No.	No.	Amount.
654	1095	£25 2 11	1013	3491	£13 5 1	1230	1725	£23 12 3	1802	3939	£59 15 8	3032	5684	£83 7 11	646	2300	£29 11 9

Returned Letters Destroyed being unclaimed by Writers.			Inland Postage not recoverable on Letters Returned to United Kingdom, &c.		Inland Postage for Re-direction, not recoverable from Writers in Jamaica.		Total Loss to Revenue on Letters.		Total Loss on Newspapers Returned to Publishers as Unclaimed or Refused Postage, irrecoverable.			No. and Amount of Contents of Unclaimed Letters, not Registered but found to contain Value, and Re-posted to Writers.	
Paid.		Unpaid.	Amount.		Amount.		Amount.		Paid.		Unpaid.	No. Amount.	
No.	No.	Amount.	Amount.		Amount.		Amount.		No.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
793	2796	£36 9 3	£15 15 7		£2 3 8		£84 0 3		1000	222	£3 15 7	98	£271 5 0



COMPARATIVE RETURN of Postages Collected upon Packet and Inland Correspondence at the Head Office, Kingston, and the several District Post Offices, during the Financial Years ended on the 30th September, 1868, and 1872, respectively.

Post Office.	Amount.			Post Office.	Amount.		
	1867-68.		1871-72.		1867-68.		1871-72.
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
a. Kingston	3160	13	1	Malvern	139	12	11
Alexandria	40	12	5	Manchioneal	73	11	3
Annotto Bay	195	1	6	Mandeville	357	14	7
Bath	66	10	3	May Hill	86	13	6
a. Black River	351	16	10	Mile Gully	57	10	2
Bluefields	22	1	2	Moneague	77	1	6
Brown's Town	115	5	3	Montego Bay	648	4	10
Buff Bay	101	5	6	Morant Bay	214	0	4
Chapelton	189	4	6	New Market (b.)	.....		
Claremont	86	14	0	Newport	89	10	1
a. Clarendon	140	17	0	Ocho Rios	85	1	0
b. Clark's Town	.....			Old Harbour	151	3	11
Dry Harbour	66	10	4	Pear Tree Grove	22	13	9
Duncans	131	11	8	Plam. Gar. River (a.)	161	11	4
Falmouth	620	15	0	Port Antonio	233	19	2
Flint River	34	1	0	Port Maria	218	11	0
Gayle	67	18	1	Port Morant	81	4	6
Golden Spring	21	18	3	Port Royal	101	15	9
Gordon Town	87	14	5	Porus	78	0	9
Goshen	68	12	3	Ramble	100	19	3
Grange Hill	61	0	3	Richmond	21	14	0
Green Island	46	12	10	Rio Bueno	43	9	3
c. High Gate	17	15	5	St. David's	36	8	6
Hope Bay	37	15	3	St. Ann's Bay	351	12	6
b. Lacovia	.....			Salt Gut	26	5	0
Linstead	167	2	7	Savanna-la-Mar	420	9	3
Lilliput	59	18	2	Siloah (b.)	.....		
d. Little London	.....			Spanish Town	461	18	6
b. Little River	.....			Stewart Town	40	4	3
a. Lucea	200	10	0	Vere	202	15	0

NOTES.

SUMMARY.

- a. To 1871-72 add for Comparison Collections by Stamp Vendors (see Summary)
- b. Not open in 1867-68
- d. Opened on 22<sup>d</sup> April, 1872
- c. Not open in 1871-7

Total of Postage Collections 1867-68  
 Collections 1871-72 :  
 By Post Office  
 .. Stamp Vendors at  
     Kingston           886 9 0  
     Black River        23 0 0  
     Clarendon          38 19 0  
     Linstead           11 18 6  
     Lucea               82 3 0  
     P. G. River         35 17 3

£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
			10,743	12	10
			11,999	13	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
			1078	6	9
			13,077	19	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

Total of Postage Collections 1871-72 £ 13,077 19 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

General Post Office, February 28, 1873.

FRED. SULLIVAN, Postmaster for Jamaica.