



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The Jamaica Gazette.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1876.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
21st February, 1876.

THE GOVERNOR directs that there be published, for general information, the following Annual Report on the Transactions of the Post Office for the Year 1874-75.

By command,

EDW. E. RUSHWORTH,
Colonial Secretary.

THE POSTMASTER FOR JAMAICA TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

General Post Office, 21st January, 1876.

COPY.—No. 54.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the Eighth Annual Report on the Post Office Department, being that for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1875.

2. The Cash Collections during the year amounted to £14,858 6s. 5d. being £200 17s. 7d. in excess of the Collections of the previous year, and are also in excess of the Collections of the two preceding years, as shewn by the following Comparative Statement:—

Year.	Postages.			Commission on Money Orders.			Miscellaneous.			Total.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1871-72	13,077	19	7	459	18	2	286	0	9	13,823	18	6
1872-73	12,882	14	11	466	14	8	335	5	4	13,684	14	11
1873-74	14,020	13	9½	504	6	1	132	8	11½	14,657	8	10
1874-75	14,307	10	11	440	9	1	110	6	5	14,858	6	5

3. The gradual increase which has taken place yearly in the Collections of this Department, and which, I submit, is very satisfactory, is in a great measure to be attributed to the reduction, on 1st January, 1872, of the Island Rates of Postage, in the case of Letters, from 3d. per half ounce, paid or unpaid, to 2d. per half ounce, if prepaid; and in the case of Newspapers, from 1d. each, paid or unpaid, to ½d. each, if prepaid. Double the prepaid Rate of Postage being charged on all Letters or Papers posted unpaid, or insufficiently prepaid.

4. This reduction has not only had the effect of increasing the number of Letters passing through the Post by over one-third, but, as was expected, has also placed the Collection of Postages on a more satisfactory footing; for, prior to the 1st January, 1872, when the prepayment of Postage was optional, more than one half of the Correspondence was posted unpaid, and the collection of the Postage thereon was, to a great extent, a matter of chance, dependent on the probability of the

Letters, &c. being taken out by the Addressees, or, on the recovery of the Postage from the Posters, in the event of the Letters being unclaimed or refused. Thus a large amount of Correspondence, upon which the Department was practically unable to recover Postage, found its way into the Returned Letter Branch, and the result was a loss to the Revenue.

Now the Collection of the Postage upon Letters, &c. is more a matter of certainty, inasmuch as the greater portion of Correspondence posted is prepaid, the unpaid Letters posted being about one-seventh of the total number, and a greater number of Letters is therefore taken out of the Post Office and replied to. The Department consequently now gets paid for the carriage of Letters which formerly it had to convey without remuneration—the number of unpaid Letters received into the Returned Letter Branch being very materially lessened.

5. As a proof of the correctness of the foregoing remarks, I may state that during the year ended 30th

September, 1871, prior to the reduction of Postage referred to, the amount of Unpaid Correspondence received at the District Post Offices and the General Post Office, amounted to £5280 15s. 4d.—that during the year under Report, it only reached £1323 13s. 3d. and that the amount of Stamps sold during the year amounted to £12,823 19s. 4d. as against £7731 11s. 11d. for the year ended 30th September, 1871.

6. While the Department can thus point to increased Collections, it can, I would observe, also congratulate itself on increased usefulness to the Public, as it has been enabled to effect a better and more certain and speedy delivery of Correspondence, to the attainment of which end the system of the House Delivery of Correspondence in Kingston, by Letter Carriers, has greatly contributed. Such system of delivery, which, before 1872, was only partial, was generally established simultaneously with the commencement of the prepaid system and reduced postage on 1st January, 1872.

7. The Expenditure, as shewn by the Records, amounted to £16,067 16s. 3d. being £294 9s. 2d. in excess of that of the preceding year. The principal item of increase is to be found under the head of Conveyance of Mails, and is to be attributed to the establishment of New Mail Services in connection with the opening of new District Post Offices, and to increased Rate of payment in respect of Services already established—such increased Rate of payment having reference, not only to Contracts entered into for Services which expired during the year under report, but also to those which expired during the preceding year, and in respect of which a full year's payment at the increased Rate was not made, and did not appear in the Statement of the Transactions of the period.

8. The establishment of the District Post Offices also slightly increased the items of Salaries of District Postmasters, which was further increased by the promotion into higher classes of certain of the District Postmasters.

9. The transactions of the Money Order Department shew that the Money Orders issued in the Colony, and payable in the United Kingdom, amounted to £36,027 11s. 4d. and were four thousand nine hundred and ninety in number, the Money Orders issued in the United Kingdom, and payable in Jamaica, amounted to £956 13s. 3d. and number two hundred and fifty-eight. A comparison of these figures with those of the previous year will show, that while the amount of Money Orders issued in Jamaica has decreased to the extent of £7124 9s. 11d. the issue of the United Kingdom on Jamaica has increased to the extent of £93 1s. 8d. The total amount of Commissions collected on Orders issued in the island amounted to £790 16s. 6d. of which £440 18s. 1d. was placed to the Credit of Jamaica, including the sum of £8 17s. 5d. for Commissions on Orders issued in the United Kingdom. The amount of Orders from the United Kingdom, paid in the island, amounted to £940 7s. 10d. and were two hundred and forty-three in number. The amount of Money Orders repaid to Remitters was £10 14s. 7d.

10. An idea of the work performed in the Returned Letter Branch of the Department may be gathered from the following:

LETTERS.

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Reposted to Writers resident in Kingston	1711	754
Reposted to Writers resident in Country	3063	2500
Destroyed, being Anonymous, or illegible	180	365
Destroyed, Writers not having been found	932	1179

NEWSPAPERS.

Returned to Publishers as Un-claimed, or Refused

	Paid.	Unpaid.
	1266	413

The total loss to the Revenue on the above Letters was £32 8s. 10½d. Of the Letters opened in the Returned Letter Branch one hundred and twenty-five were found to contain value to the amount of £233 5s. 5d. Such Letters were duly Registered and Reposted to the Writers.

11. At the end of the year under review there were seventy-six District Post Offices in existence, being five more than were in existence at the end of the previous year, and nineteen more than the number in existence four years ago.

12. The undermentioned Post Offices were established during the year:—

On 1st February, 1875,	BALACLAVA, in the Parish of St. Elizabeth.
... ..	PEDRO, in the Parish of St. Ann.
On 14th August, 1875,	BULL BAY, in the Parish of St. Andrew.
.. ..	MAY PEN, in the Parish of Clarendon.
... ..	MEDINA, in the Parish of Manchester.
... ..	SOUTHFIELD, in the Parish of St. Elizabeth.

13. The Post Office at Lilliput was closed, as the opening of the Post Offices at Balacava and Medina, in the same District, rendered it no longer necessary.

14. The number of Registered Letters, Packet and Inland, received at and despatched from the General Post Office during the year, numbered 40,586, as under:—

	Despatched.	Received.
Ship Letters	123	58
Packet Letters	1,687	2,220
INLAND LETTERS.		
Official	5,878	1,177
Private	10,047	19,396
	<u>17,735</u>	<u>22,851</u>

15. The number of Registered Inland Private Letters, as shewn above, bears, I regret to say, but a small proportion to the number of Letters passing through the Post, and containing value. The public continue to evince a very great disregard of the protection afforded by the system of Registration, and prefer to run the risk of sending Letters, containing value, unregistered through the post. When the benefit of Registration is pointed out, the constant and common rejoinder, even from persons who might be expected to be better advised, is, that to Register a Letter is merely to draw attention to the fact that the Letter contains value, and that Registration therefore tends rather to increase the risk of the Letter being made away with, than to prevent it.

16. The answer to such an assertion is best given, by a reference to the number of Registered Letters, which has miscarried during the year, as compared with the number received and despatched, and I am glad to be able to report that only one Registered Letter miscarried. In this instance the party, a Postmaster's Assistant, who stole the Letter, was punished by imprisonment.

17. Whenever it is evident that a Letter passing through the Post contains value, it is impounded and charged with double Registration Fee of eight pence, but it is not always possible to ascertain the fact, and a good many value Letters consequently pass unnoticed.

18. The result of this neglect, on the part of the public, to avail themselves of the system of Registration is, that complaints are constantly made as to the non-receipt of unregistered Money Letters; and although every effort is made by the Department to trace such missing Letters, I cannot say that the enquiry in many cases is successful or satisfactory; and indeed it cannot be expected, as, unlike a Registered Letter, the Department is unable to trace it from hand to hand in its passage through the Post, should the loss have occurred in the Post Office, which I am not prepared to admit is always the case; indeed the result of enquiry has often tended to show that the Office is not responsible for the mis-carriage.

19. The Contract Packets arriving at this Port during the year were one hundred and one in number, and conveyed two hundred and thirty-four Mails. The number of Contract Vessels leaving, was one hundred, and the number of Mails conveyed by them was four hundred and forty-eight. In addition to such Contract Packets, one hundred and fifty-nine private Ships conveying Mails arrived here, and brought Mails to the number of one hundred and eighty, and by forty-nine private Ships leaving, ninety Mails were despatched. At the several Outports twenty-six Mails were received by twenty-six private Ships, but no Ship Mails were despatched from District Post Offices.

20. Of the number of Packet and Ship Mails so received and despatched, nineteen were received from, and twenty-one despatched for the United States by the steamers of the Atlas Steam Ship Company, the Contractors for Monthly Steam Communication between this Port and that of New York. The number of Letters received from America was eleven thousand nine hundred, the number despatched being eleven thousand one hundred.

21. With the renewal by the Imperial Government on 1st January, 1875, of the Contract held by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, a new Time Table came into force, under which the second Packet in the month is timed to leave this Port on the morning of the 25th of each month, instead of as formerly on the afternoon of the 24th. By these means the time allowed to Correspondents resident in the interior for replying to Letters by return of Packet has been extended, as the Packet Express Time Table has been amended, so that the Packet Mails which were timed to leave the District Offices in such time as to admit of their arrival at the General Post Office at nine a. m. on the 24th, are not now due until four p. m. on the 24th.

22. Under the new Time Table referred to, the outward bound Steamer leaving England on the 2nd of each month calls at the Ports of St. Thomas and Port-au-Prince. The Steamer leaving on the 17th touches at Barbados, St. Thomas, and Jacmel. The first Steamer leaving this Port in each month calls at Port-au-Prince and St. Thomas, and the second Steamer touches at Jacmel, St. Thomas, and Barbados.

23. For the convenience of strangers and others, a Letter Box was placed at the Chamber of Commerce on the 16th January, 1875. This Letter Box is cleared daily in common with the other Street Letter Boxes

and is also cleared when Ship and Packet Mails are being made up at the Post Office. There are now five Street Letter Boxes in existence.

24. New denominations of Postage Stamps of the value of 2s. and 5s. respectively were issued on the 17th August, 1875. The inconvenience of prepaying heavy Letters, requiring a large amount of Postage, by means of affixing a large number of labels now therefore no longer exists.

25. The number of Valentines which passed through the Post on or about the 14th February was seventeen hundred. The delivery of Valentines always greatly increases the work to be performed by the regular Staff of Letter Carriers, which has to be augmented by the employment of Auxiliary Letter Carriers.

26. The very severe rains which prevailed during the months of October and November, 1874, and which ended in a storm on the night of the 1st of the latter month, doing much damage to the roads throughout the island, caused a general irregularity in the conveyance of the Mails, but more particularly so in the case of the North Western Mails. The road between Spanish Town and Linstead was so destroyed by landslips and by the Rio Cobre which overflowed its banks, and which also destroyed the Flat Bridge, that the Mails had for some time to be conveyed on the heads of men through the Bowerwood, in the mountains of St. John. This necessitated a temporary alteration in the hour of despatch of the Northside Mails from Kingston. The original hour of despatch was however reverted to at the commencement of the year 1875.

27. During the night of the storm the Mail Cart, conveying the Mails between St. Ann's Bay and Montego Bay, was precipitated into the Llandoverly River; one of the Contractor's horses was drowned, but the Mails were recovered through the courage and presence of mind of the Courier and another man, who have been rewarded for their services. This is the only serious casualty which came under notice.

28. I may observe that some credit is due to the several Contractors for the manner in which they did the work during the trying circumstances consequent on the storm.

29. A strict examination of the parcels received from the United Kingdom has brought to light many cases in which articles liable to import duty have been forwarded by Post. In each case the matter has been brought under the notice of the Customs, and the duty collected. For instance—a Registered Sealed Packet from the United Kingdom to the Address of a Jeweller in this City, was detained by this Office on suspicion, and on the matter being inquired into by the Customs, it was found to contain jewellery to the extent of £70, upon which the Addressee had to pay the Import Duty.

30. In conclusion, I submit the usual Annual Returns.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. H. PEARCE,
Acting Postmaster for Jamaica.

STATEMENT SHEWING THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE RETURNED LETTER BRANCH OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, JAMAICA,
For the Financial Year ending 30th September, 1875.

Total of Letters Returned to United Kingdom, &c.			Total of Newspapers Returned to United Kingdom.			Letters Reposted to Writers Resident in Kingston.			Letters Reposted to Writers Resident in the Country.			Total of Letters Reposted 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.
586	1094	£24 8 8	552	749	£5 10 8	1711	754	£10 6 10½	3063	2500	£41 13 4	4774	3254	£52 0 2½	180	365	£6 0 10

Returned Letters Destroyed, being Unclaimed by Writers.			Inland Postage not Recoverable on Letters Returned to United Kingdom.	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.			Number and Amount of Contents of Unclaimed Letters not Registered, but found to contain Value, and Reposted to Writers.	REMARKS.
Paid.		Unpaid.				Paid.		Unpaid.		
No.	No.	Amount.	Amount.	Amount.	Amount.	No.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
962	1179	£19 7 4	£5 11 8½	£1 9 0	£32 8 10½	1266	413	£2 15 8	125	£233 5 5

GEO. W. PEARCE, Acting Postmaster for Jamaica.

STATEMENT SHEWING THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE MONEY ORDER BRANCH OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, JAMAICA

For the Financial Year ending 30th September, 1875.

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 Issued 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.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
4990	36,027 11 4		10 14 0	258	956 13 3	243	940 7 10	49 4 10	790 16 6

COMMISSION ACCOUNT.

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, placed 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.
359 13 10	431 11 8	8 17 5	0 9 0	440 18 1	440 18 1

GEO. W. PEARCE, Acting Postmaster for Jamaica.

March 9, 1876.]

SUPPLEMENT TO THE JAMAICA GAZETTE.

RETURN showing the Gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office Department during the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1875.

		£.	s.	d.			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received at District Post Offices	...	1,024	10	4	SALARIES—							
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received from the United Kingdom	...	203	2	7	Salary of Postmaster for Jamaica	..	609	0	0	£. s. d.		
Postage on Unpaid Ship Letters	544	17	1	Salaries of Clerks	...	1,981	3	6			
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received from Foreign Places	...	62	12	2	Allowance for Assistance	...	122	6	0			
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received at the General Post Office	...	299	2	11	Wages of Sorters, Letter Carriers, and Office Woman	..	479	12	2			
Redirected Packet Letters	15	15	4	Wages of Auxiliary Letter Carriers	...	33	9	6			
Stamps Sold by the Department	10,641	12	4½	Salaries of District Postmasters	...	1,687	9	4			
Stamps Sold by the Stamp Commissioner	2,182	7	0	Travelling Supervisor's Salary	...	224	3	4	5,128 3 10		
Rent of Subscribers' Boxes	88	7	6	CONVEYANCE OF MAILS—							
Commissions on Money Orders	440	9	1	By Contractors	6,356	0	1			
Fees for Detention of Packet Letters in Kingston	26	12	6	Special Expresses	90	6	6			
Fine Account	30	18	4	Ship Letter Gratuities	50	19	4			
Contents of Unclaimed Letters	7	3	11	Proportion of Packet Postages placed to Credit of the United Kingdom	...	3,508	0	2	10,005 6 1		
Miscellaneous	0	10	3	SERVICES—							
					Making and Repairing Mail Bags	36	15	9			
					Candle and Oil Account	7	9	3			
					Advertising	22	7	0			
					Yard Cleaner	4	8	0			
					Allowance to Officers for Services Performed out of Office Hours	...	125	11	11			
					Letter Carriers Uniforms	32	10	6			
					Repairs to Couriers Clocks	13	6	0			
					Water Supply at the General Post Office	4	0	0			
					Supervisor's Travelling Charges	252	0	0			
					Stores Imported through Agency of the General Post Office, London	...	71	4	1			
					Contingencies	75	9	6			
					Poundage on Stamps sold by District Postmasters, and at the General Post Office	102	5	0			
					Discount on Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	107	19	9			
					Wages of Acting Letter Carriers	6	4	0			
					Allowance to Letter Carrier at Spanish Town	10	10	0			
					Travelling Charges	62	5	7	934 6 4		
										16,067 16 3		
					DRAWBACK ENTRIES—							
					Redirected Letters	297	19	6½			
					Unclaimed Letters sent through Returned Letter Branch	167	19	3½			
					Redirected and Dead Packet Letters	15	15	4			
					Specimen Postage Stamps transmitted to Foreign Countries	4	8	10½	486 3 0½		
										£16,553 19 3½		
										£ 15,568 1 4½		

GEO. W. PEARCE, Acting Postmaster for Jamaica.