



S U P P L E M E N T
T O T H E

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Colonial Secretary's Office, 22nd March, 1878.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Annual Report on the Post Office Department for the year 1876-77.

By command,

E. N. WALKER,
Acting Colonial Secretary

THE POSTMASTER FOR JAMAICA TO THE
ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

General Post Office, 4th March, 1878.

No. 64.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the Tenth Annual

Report on the Post Office Department, being that for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1877.

2. The Cash Collection for the year amounted to £14,898 6s. 6d, being less than those for the preceding year (which, as reported at the time, were increased by a special payment of £506 4s 2d received on account of gratuities on Ship Letters carried by the Atlas Line of Contract Steamers between Jamaica and New York.)

3. The Collections for the year, as compared with those of the three preceding years, are as under:—

Year.	Postage.			Commission on Money Orders.			Miscellaneous.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
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
1875-76	14,856	6	2½	281	13	7	613	16	9½	15,751	16	7
1876-77	14,536	18	1	269	5	5	92	3	0	14,898	6	6

4. I have to offer the following remarks with reference to the transactions of the year under report.

REVENUE.

5. Under the head of Postages, the apparent decrease is the effect of the action of the General Postal Union, under which the Packet postage

from Jamaica to all Countries included in that Union was reduced to an uniform rate of Sixpence per single Letter of half an ounce, if prepaid; if not pre-paid, Ninepence. The postage on other Mail matter being as under:—

Post Cards, 3d. each; Newspapers, 1d. each, if

not exceeding four ounces. Other printed papers and patterns, 2d. per two ounces.

6. The Postal Union referred to was formed (as noted in the last paragraph but one of my last Annual report) by Treaty signed at Berne on 9th October, 1874, between Great Britain and certain other Countries, for the formation of a single Postal Territory for the reciprocal exchange of Correspondence between their respective Post Offices; and Jamaica was admitted thereto on the 1st April, 1877.

7. At that date the General Postal Union consisted of the following Countries:—Austro-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, (including Iceland and the Faroe Islands), Egypt, France, (including Algeria and French Colonies,) Germany, Great Britain, and the following British Colonies:—Bermuda, British Guiana, Ceylon, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Labuan, Malta, Mauritius, Straits Settle-

ments, Trinidad, Greece, India (including Aden and British Burmah), Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, (including Madeira and the Azores), Romania, Russia, (including Finland), Servia, Spain, (including the Baleario Islands, the Canary Islands, Possessions on North Coast of Africa, and Postal Establishments upon Western Coast of Morocco), Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States of America.

8. Between 1st April and 30th September, 1877, the following Countries were admitted:—Brazil, Danish Colonies of Greenland, and of St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John, W. I.; Ionian Islands, Japan, Netherland Colonies, Persia, Spanish Colonies of Cuba and Porto Rico, W. I.

9. The following Comparative Statement will shew more clearly the effect of the Postal Union on the receipts for Packet postages, and at the same time the steady growth of the Revenue obtained from Inland Correspondence:—

Year.	PACKET POSTAGES.			INLAND. Postages.	TOTAL. Postages.
	To Credit of United Kingdom.	To Credit of Jamaica.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1873-74	3,524 4 8½	1,866 15 2¼	8,629 13 11	14,020 13 9½	
1874-75	3,538 13 3¼	1,912 11 2¾	8,856 6 5	14,307 10 11	
1875-76	3,529 4 3	2,004 2 7½	9,322 19 4	14,856 6 2½	
1876-77	2,584 7 7½	1,773 10 0	10,179 0 5½	14,536 18 1	

10. Simultaneously with the introduction of Post Cards on 1st April, 1877, under Postal Union arrangements, the Government was pleased to authorise the use of Post Cards within the Colony at the following rates:—

For a Post Card posted for Town or Office delivery—One Half-penny.

For a Post Card to be conveyed any distance within the Colony—One penny.

11. That the Post Card system, Inland, has not been ill appreciated may, I think, be gathered from the fact recorded in the Numerical Return to

be hereafter more fully referred to, that Post Cards to the number of 11,000 passed through the Post between 1st April and 30th September, 1877.

12. The issue of small Bills of Exchange by the Colonial Bank continues to limit the Money Order transactions as pointed out in the last Report.

EXPENDITURE.

13. The cash expenditure of the Post Office as shewn by its records was £15,844 4s. 5d. as against £16,730 10s. 9d. in the preceding year, as follows:—

Year.	Head Office.	District Offices.	Mail Conveyance.		Miscellaneous.	Total.
			Inland.	Ocean.		
1875-76	3,414 16 3	1,827 8 11	6,455 0 2	3,652 3 5	1,381 2 0	16,730.10 9
1876-77	3,475 19 11	2,095 18 10	6,522 0 8	2,786 2 4	964 2 8	15,844 4 5

14. The increase under the head of District Post Offices was in part owing to a change in the mode of paying the salaries of District Postmasters which caused thirteen months payments to appear within the year; and in part to an increase in certain of the salaries themselves.

15. The decrease under the head of Conveyance of Ocean Mails (being the proportion accruing to the United Kingdom as its share of the postages on correspondence carried by steamers under contract with the Imperial Government) is attributable to the reduction of postages under the postal Union, which have affected that proportion.

16. On the other hand one condition attached to the admission of Jamaica within the general

Postal Union was that this colony should bear one half of the additional loss which under the existing Mail arrangements would be entailed on the Imperial Post Offices by the proposed reduced rates of postage.

17. An annual vote of £2000 to meet such deficiency has been passed by the Governor in Legislative Council, but until this date no account has been rendered by the Imperial Post Office and no payment has been made.

MONEY ORDERS.

18. The transactions of the Money Order Branch compare as under with those for the preceding year:—

	1875-76.		1876-77.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
Jamaica Issue payable in the United Kingdom	3367	£ 21,644 s. 8 d.	3341	£ 19,904 s. 9 d.
United Kingdom Issue payable in Jamaica	220	881 3 8	297	1,115 7 1
Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica	--	281 13 7	--	269 5 5

CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

19. The Estimates taken of the number of letters passing through the Post Office during the year, gave the following results as compared with those for the preceding year—

	OUTWARDS.		INWARDS.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
HEAD OFFICE, KINGSTON.				
INLAND MAILS.				
ORDINARY LETTERS.				
Public	£313,400	340,000	201,200	220,000
Official	23,900	25,300	30,900	36,500
REGISTERED LETTERS.				
Public	10,667	12,125	20,419	17,391
Official	5,682	7,256	4,397	5,897
Post Cards	--	3,200	--	2,800
	353,659	387,881	256,916	282,588
OCEAN MAILS.				
ORDINARY LETTERS.				
United Kingdom	92,000	96,300	96,000	98,800
Post Cards	--	264	--	156
United States	11,300	12,900	13,500	15,200
Post Cards	--	39	--	--
Inter-Colonial	26,500	28,700	29,400	27,600
Ships	3,900	1,300	7,100	4,800
Registered Letters	1,753	2,083	1,956	1,833
	489,112	529,467	404,872	430,977
Total Head Office				

DISTRICT OFFICES.

20. Between District Offices there passed other than Letters to or from Kingston.—

	Outwards.		Inwards.	
	1875-76.		1876-77.	
Ordinary Letters	296,700	311,000		
Registered Letters	8,500	9,700		
Post Cards	.....	5,000		
	305,200	325,700		

The item of Registered Letters was erroneously stated in the Report for 1875-76, but has now been corrected, 23,000 (as therein set down,) represented the total number received and dispatched at District Offices instead of only the number received for delivery, as in the case of ordinary letters.

OCEAN MAILS.

21. The Vessels carrying Ocean Mails were as under, as compared with the preceding year:—

	Outwards.		Inwards.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
KINGSTON.				
Under Contract	115	108	128	121
Not under Contract	51	31	130	117
OUT-PORTS.				
Under Contract	..	..	..	..
Not under Contract	..	..	22	26

RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

22. The work done in the Returned Letter Branch was as under:—

	Paid.		Unpaid.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
LETTERS.				
Returned to United Kingdom	675	993	1,565	829
Reposted to Writers resident in Kingston	1,936	2,696	743	811
Reposted to Writers resident in the Country	3,561	4,421	2,550	3,520
Destroyed, being illegible or anonymous	449	537	625	1,030
Destroyed, Writers not having been found	1,304	1,058	1,529	1,859
NEWSPAPERS.				
Returned to Publishers within the Island	1,362	1,644	88	221

Upon the above there had to be written off in 1876-77, as irrecoverable, the sum of £55 15s 6d. on Letters, and 17s 10d on Newspapers. Amongst the unclaimed Letters not registered were 56, which were found to contain value to the amount of £557 9s. 5d. These were carefully returned to their respective writers.

DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

23. There were not any new Post Offices opened during the year.

MAIL CONVEYANCE.

24. The Contract number of Miles travelled during the year was, with Ordinary Mails, 275,282, Packet Expresses, 35,472, Total 310,754. Each

Post day involves the conveyance of Mails over a distance of 1,666 miles.

25. The usual Returns in connection with the transactions of the year under remark are herewith transmitted.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

FRED. SULLIVAN.

The Honorable

The Acting Colonial Secretary,
Kingston.

STATEMENT shewing the Transactions of the Money Order Branch of the General Post Office, for the Financial Year ending 30th September, 1877.

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.
3341	19,904 9 3	....	25 0 0	297	1,115 7 1	290	1,110 0 1	15 6 0	458	1	6

C O M M I S S I O N A C C O U N T.

Proportion of Jamaica Commission, placed to the 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.
200 12 4	257 9 2	11 5 3	0 11 0	269 5 5	269 5 5

(Signed)

FRED. SULLIVAN, Postmaster for Jamaica.

STATEMENT showing the Transactions of Returned Letter Branch of the General Post Office for the Financial year ending 30th September, 1877.

Total of Letters 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.			Returned Letters destroyed being unclaimed by writers.		
Paid.		Unpaid.	Paid.		Unpaid.	Paid.		Unpaid.	Paid.		Unpaid.	Paid.		Unpaid.	Paid.		Unpaid.
Number.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Number.	Amount.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.
993	819	24 14 8	2696	811	13 11 3½	4421	3520	59 18 5	7117	4331	73 9 8½	537	1030	15 3 7	1058	1859	28 0 5

Inland Postage not recoverable on Letters returned to the 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 with value and reposted to writers.		REMARKS.
Amount.	Amount.	Amount.	Paid.	Unpaid.		Number.	Amount.	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Number.	Number.	Amount.			
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
11 6 10½	1 4 8	55 15 6	1644	221	... 17 10	56	557 9 5	Total number dealt with. Letters. Packet 1,822 Inland 15,988—17,810 Newspapers. Inland 1,863

(Signed)

FRED. SULLIVAN, Postmaster for Jamaica.

