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No. 22.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
19th July, 1880.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Annual Report on the Post Office Department for the year 1878-79.

By command,

EDWARD NEWTON,
Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office, 30th June, 1880.

No. 224.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the Twelfth Annual Report on the Post Office Department, being that for the financial year ended 30th September, 1879.

REVENUE.

2. The following is a Comparative Statement of the cash collections during the three years ended 30th September last:—

Year.	Postages.			Commission on Money Orders.			Miscellaneous.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1876-77	14,536	18	1	269	5	5	92	3	0	14,898	6	6
1877-78	13,880	4	11	239	8	8	325	1	0	14,444	14	7
1878-79	13,599	12	5½	279	10	7	343	3	10	14,222	6	10½

3. It will be observed that in the item of "Postages" the cash collections have decreased; the cause of this decrease is explained in the next paragraph, to which I have subjoined an Approximate Analytical Statement of that item.

4. Under the head of "Miscellaneous" there is an increase which has been caused by the large amount of fines which, I regret to say, it became necessary to impose on certain Mail Contractors in order to secure, if possible, greater punctuality in the conveyance of the mails.

5. An increase will also be found under the head of Commissions on "Money Orders," which is explained in its proper place.

6. As stated in the foregoing paragraph, I subjoin an Approximate Analytical Statement of the cash collections on account of "Postages" during the financial year under report, as compared with the collections of the two preceding years ended 30th September, 1878:—

Year.	Packet Postages.						Inland Postages.	Total Postages.				
	To Credit of United Kingdom.			To Credit of Jamaica.								
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.	
1876-77	2,584	7	7½	1,773	10	0	10,179	0	5½	14,536	18	1
1877-78	1,491	2	2	1,720	2	10	10,668	19	11	13,880	4	11
1878-79	1,170	12	9¼	1,886	0	6½	10,542	19	1¾	13,599	12	5½

7. The decrease which will be noticed in the item of Postages to the credit of the United Kingdom is to be attributed to the further reduction of the rates of postage from Jamaica to all other Union Countries, which was made by the Imperial Government on the execution of a new Postal Treaty at Paris on the 1st June, 1878, and which took effect on the 1st April, 1879, such reduced rates being as follows:—

Letters	...	4d per ½ ounce.
Post-Cards	...	1½d each.
Commercial Papers not exceeding 4 ounces	...	2½d each
Commercial Papers exceeding 4 ounces	...	1d per 2 ounces.
Books, other Printed Papers and Patterns of Merchandise	...	1d per 2 ounces.

8. This further reduction in the rates of postage will necessitate a re-assessment of the amount which it has been arranged shall be contributed by this Colony, on account of the loss sustained by the Imperial Government on the admission of Jamaica and certain other West India Colonies, into the Universal Postal Union on the 1st April, 1877.

9. To meet this contribution the sum of £2,000 has been provided in the Annual Estimates; but up to the end of the year under review the Imperial Government had not rendered its claim, and consequently payment has not been made.

10. The increase in the item of "Packet Postages" to the credit of Jamaica is, in part, attributable to increased postal facilities with the United States and, in part, to the change of system under the Postal Union, by which Jamaica retains certain postages which it formerly yielded to the Imperial Government for Sea-conveyance, which is now paid by the Colony in accordance with the "Sea-transit Rates" fixed by the Postal Union Treaty.

11. There has been a decrease in the collections on account of Inland Postages; which decrease is more clearly shewn in the Numerical Return of the estimated number of letters which passed through the Post Office during the year.

CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

12. The following are the results of the Estimates which have been taken of the number of letters passing through the Post Office during the year:—

Head Office, Kingston.	OUTWARDS.			INWARDS.		
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1878-79.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1878-79.
INLAND MAILS.						
Ordinary Letters:—						
Public	340,000	366,800	315,000	220,000	234,600	194,700
Official	25,300	36,200	32,800	36,500	37,400	27,400
Post Cards	3,200	4,900	6,000	2,800	3,100	3,100
Registered Letters:—						
Public	12,125	6,000	7,634	17,391	18,300	16,000
Official	7,256	8,800	7,421	5,897	6,100	6,211
OCEAN MAILS.						
United Kingdom:—						
Ordinary Letters	96,300	97,000	100,500	98,000	104,000	106,300
Post Cards	264	360	652	156	280	435
United States of America:						
Ordinary Letters	12,900	15,200	20,800	15,200	17,400	22,800
Post Cards	39	40	111	...	...	50
Intercolonial:—						
Ordinary Letters	28,700	24,900	25,700	27,600	26,400	23,300
Post Cards	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ship Mails:—						
Ordinary Letters	1,300	2,300	927	4,800	5,200	6,606
Registered Letters	2,083	2,000	2,311	1,833	2,300	3,018
Total Head Office	529,467	564,500	519,856	430,177	455,080	409,920

Between District Offices there passed letters, other than those to or from Kingston, as under:—

District Offices.	1876-77	1877-78.	1878-79.
Ordinary Letters	311,000	303,000	282,400
Post Cards	5,000	6,300	5,928
Registered Letters	9,700	13,300	12,800
Total	325,700	322,600	301,128

13. I would here explain that in analysing approximately the cash collections on account of postages it can never be possible entirely to eliminate from the item of Inland Postages, either the amount of Inland Postage which is charged in certain cases on Foreign Correspondence, or the Sea-postage on correspondence addressed to some Union Countries, and in respect of which it has not been necessary to keep any account; and for this reason, therefore, the stated amount under the head of "Inland Postages" does not shew a decrease proportionate to that exhibited by the estimated Numerical Return.

14. The decrease in the number of Letters which passed through the Post during the year must, I submit, be attributed to the wave of trade-depression which passed over every Country and from which this Island did not escape; and also to the heavy rains which prevailed during the year to the further detriment of business, and, as a consequence, to the Postal Revenue,

15. While the number of Registered Letters despatched from Kingston has increased the number received, as well as the number which passed between District Offices, has decreased. This decrease in the number of remittances to the City, as well as of those between the Country Districts, may, I think be fairly accepted as a further indication of the stagnation of trade before referred to.

OCEAN MAILS.

16. The number of Vessels which conveyed Contract Packet and Ship Mails to and from Kingston and the Outports was as under:—

	OUTWARDS.			INWARDS.		
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1878-79.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1878-79.
KINGSTON.						
Under Contract	108	117	130	121	132	149
Non-Contract	31	44	50	117	111	113
OUTPORTS.						
Non-Contract	...	...	...	22	26	28

MONEY ORDERS.

17. The transactions of the Money Order Branch compare as under with those of the two preceding years:—

	1876-77.			1877-78.			1878-79.					
	No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.				
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Jamaica Issue payable in the United Kingdom	3341	19,904	9	3	2964	15,936	6	0	3342	16,222	14	7
United Kingdom Issue payable in Jamaica.	297	1,115	7	1	338	1,245	3	3	323	1,115	8	8
Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica	...	269	5	5	...	239	8	8	...	279	10	7

18. The increase shewn over last year's issue in the number and amount of Orders drawn on the United Kingdom, and in the amount of Commissions accruing to Jamaica, is to be attributed to the more equitable Scale of Commission which came into force on the 1st April, 1878, and was referred to in the twelfth paragraph of my Report for that year. From the amount of Commissions accruing to Jamaica should be deducted the sum of £111 15s. being $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. charged by the Imperial Government for remittances on Money Order Account through its Treasury Chest here.

EXPENDITURE.

19. The Expenditure for the year as compared with the two preceding years is as under :—

Year.	Head Office.			District Offices.			Mail Conveyance.						Miscellaneous.			Total.		
							Inland.			Ocean.								
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
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
1877-78 ...	3,615	0	5	1,978	16	1	6,567	3	8	1,654	4	5	1,073	15	1	14,888	19	8
1878-79 ...	3,812	1	2	2,008	12	0	6,739	4	5	1,627	11	7	1,072	19	2	15,260	17	4

20. The total increase over the preceding year's expenditure is £371 17s. 8d. The chief items of increase are to be found under salaries at Head Office, and Inland Mail Conveyance. The increase under the former head is the result of the Annual Incremental System, and under the latter of the establishment, on the 4th November, 1878, of a Mail Coach Line between Old Harbour and Mandeville which, with the ordinary Tri-weekly Post, establishes daily Mail Communication between Mandeville and the intermediate Post Offices.

21. Under the head of Ocean Mail Conveyance there has been a further decrease in the proportion of Sea-postages payable by this Colony to the United Kingdom, consequent on the reduction of postages under the new Postal Treaty referred to in paragraph 7.

22. This decrease, which amounts to £335 3s. 5d., is not wholly apparent in the above Comparative Statement, because the sum of £1627 11s. 7d. for Ocean Mail Conveyance includes the sum of £340, being one month's subsidy to Messrs. McDowell, Hankey & Co., under the contract with the Atlas Steamship Company for fortnightly steam communication with New York, and which amount appears for the first time in the expenditure of this Department, the payments hitherto having been made direct from the Treasury.

DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

23. On the 13th March, 1879, a District Post Office was established at the Wesleyan High School at York Castle, in the Parish of St. Ann, for the convenience of the teachers and pupils there, as well as of persons resident in the neighbourhood. The maintenance of this Office does not at present entail any expenditure as the duties of District Postmaster, and the mail service from Claremont, are performed at the cost of the School.

MAIL CONVEYANCE.

24. In compliance with the prayer of a memorial from the merchants and other residents at Port Maria, the mails for that place, which were formerly transmitted via St. Ann's Bay, were, from and after the 1st September last, sent via Annotto Bay.

25. On the same date the conveyance of the mails between Four Paths and Chapelton over the Parochial Road was discontinued, in consequence of that road being impassable during wet weather, and the mail service between May Pen and Chapelton, over the Main Road, substituted therefor.

MAIL COACH.

26. The Mail Coach Service to which I referred in the twentieth paragraph of my last year's Report, as having commenced between Old Harbour and Mandeville on the 4th November, 1878, has, I am glad to be able to say, continued to work satisfactorily and with the most commendable regularity.

27. That this is so and that the vehicles (built in America) provided by the Contractor, Mr. A. W. Heron, for the service are all that can be desired may be gathered from the fact, that in no case has there been any complaint of discomfort or otherwise. On the contrary passengers have repeatedly expressed their sense of the comfort they had experienced while travelling in the Coaches.

28. The earnings on account of Passengers and Freight by Mail Coach were as follows :—

Passengers	£378	0	0
Freight	22	0	6
	£400	0	6

which has been placed to the credit of the Contractor.

RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

29. The work performed in the Returned Letter Branch was as under :—

Letters.	Paid.	Unpaid.
Returned to the United Kingdom ...	574	885
Reposted to Writers resident in Kingston ...	1,932	1,053
Reposted to Writers resident in the Country ...	3,854	3,209
Destroyed being illegible or anonymous ...	211	536
Destroyed Writers not found ...	763	1,426
Newspapers returned to Publishers ...	1,945	...

30. Of the postage on the above the sum of £52 7s. 7½d. was written off as irrecoverable. There were 62 unclaimed letters, which were ascertained to contain value to the amount of £157 11s. 11d., and which were duly registered and re-posted to the respective Writers.

INLAND TELEGRAPHS.

31. A Law authorising the establishment of an Inland Telegraph System was passed on 30th January, 1879, and whilst the Director of Roads was entrusted with the erection and maintenance of all Telegraph Lines, the management of the Department was connected as in England, with that of the Post Office.

32. An experienced Telegraph Clerk having been selected to fill the appointment of Superintendent, the next step was the formation of a School for training Candidates for employment as Telegraph Operators.

33. The opportunity was availed of for providing employment, sadly needed, for educated women; and, I am proud to say that the experiment, new to Jamaica, has succeeded admirably. I have no difficulty in finding Candidates for the respective Stations, and very few of those who joined the School have failed to secure from the Superintendent (who took charge of the School) a certificate of efficiency. That certificate, in the case of Candidates for Country Stations, entitles the holder to a bonus of ten pounds, the payment of which the Governor was pleased to approve, in consideration of the expenses to which Country Candidates are necessarily exposed in coming to and residing in Kingston whilst under instruction.

34. I am glad to say that the bonus has enabled me, in many instances, to serve persons who could not otherwise have taken advantage of the new sphere of duty offered to women in Jamaica.

35. The Telegraph Department is worked on the system that experience had proved to be successful in England, and although the Line was not opened until after the expiration of the financial period under report, I may be permitted to remark that the system has proved equally successful in Jamaica.

36. The rate of charge approved is one shilling for twenty words, and threepence for each five words or group of not more than five words thereafter. All charges are to be paid for by stamps specially provided for the Telegraph Service.

37. The expenditure on account of Postal Telegraphs during the year amounted to £268 2s 6d. viz:—

Salary of Superintendent	...	£125	0	0
Miscellaneous	...	143	2	6
		<hr/>		
		£268	2	6

The item of "Miscellaneous" includes bonuses to Operators on attaining proficiency, office furniture, travelling charges and school materials.

38. In my next Annual Report I hope to be able to include an interesting and satisfactory account of this *new* and *useful* branch of the Postal Service in Jamaica.

MISCELLANEOUS.

39. During the year a set of American "Lock Boxes" has been imported and placed within the Circulation Branch for the greater convenience of Subscribers. Each of these boxes is supplied with duplicate keys which are kept by the Subscriber, so that the letters, &c., may be removed at will; indeed they may be removed as rapidly as they are assorted. This is obviously an increased postal facility which is fully appreciated by those it was intended should be benefited.

40. I have to express my regret at the extraordinary delay in submitting the foregoing Report, and can only plead in extenuation that the work (interesting as it has been), of organising the new Department of Inland Telegraphs entrusted to my care, added to the incessant labour necessary to keep the Post Office in some measure abreast of the public need, imposed a task which I could not have performed had it not been for the able and unwearying assistance rendered by the Chief Clerk of this Department.

41. I submit herewith the usual Annual Returns.

I have, &c.,
(Signed.)

FRED. SULLIVAN.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Kingston.

STATEMENT shewing the Transactions of the Returned Letter Branch of the General Post Office for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1879.

Total of Letters returned to the United Kingdom, &c.			Letters reposted to Writers resident in Kingston.			Letters reposted to Writers resident in the Country.			Total of Letters returned 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.
No.	No.	Amount.	No.	No.	Amount.	No.	No.	Amount.	No.	No.	Amount.	No.	No.	Amount.	No.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.
574	885	14 13 2½	1932	1053	16 18 4	3854	3209	54 15 2	5786	4262	71 13 6	211	536	8 2 3	763	1426	23 0 9½

Inland Postage not recoverable on Letters returned to the United Kingdom, &c.	Inland Postage for Redirection 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.
Amount.	Amount.	Amount.	Paid.	Unpaid.		No.	Amount.	TOTAL NUMBER DEALT WITH. Letters: Packet 1,459. Inland 13,046. <hr/> 14,505. NEWSPAPERS: Inland ... 1,945.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	No.	No.	Amount.	No.	£ s. d.	
17 6 4	3 18 3	52 7 7½	1945	...	... ..	62	157 11 11	

FRED. SULLIVAN, Postmaster for Jamaica.

SEPT. 23, 1880.]

SUPPLEMENT TO THE JAMAICA GAZETTE.

STATEMENT showing the Transactions of the Money Order Branch of the General Post Office for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1879.

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.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Amount.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
3,342	16,222 14 7	... ..	3 18 0	323	1,115 8 8	322	1,125 0 7	3 10 0	430 10 0

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.	Amount of Premium paid on Remittances to United Kingdom.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
162 10 1	267 19 11	11 3 2	0 7 6	279 10 7	279 10 7	111 15 0

FRED. SULLIVAN,

Postmaster for Jamaica.