



Supplement to the Jamaica Gazette.

NEW SERIES—VOL. IX.

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1886.

No. 20.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 15th March, 1886.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Report of the Postmaster for Jamaica for the year, 1884-85.

By command,

E. N. WALKER, Colonial Secretary.

No. 41.

General Post Office, 22nd February, 1886.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the eighteenth Annual Report of this Department, being that for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1885.

REVENUE.

2. Compared with the two years preceding the Cash Receipts which amounted to £20,964 13s. 5½d., give the following results:—

Year.	Postages.			Commissions on Money Orders.			Telegraphs.			Miscellaneous.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1882-83	14,855	15	5½	203	1	9¼	3,767	10	6½	237	7	2	19,063	14	11¼
1883-84	16,231	15	10¾	250	6	9	4,508	16	10	386	7	0	21,377	6	5¾
1884-85	16,115	7	11¾	280	12	0	4,248	6	11¾	320	6	6	20,964	13	5¼

3. It will be observed that the collections of the year under report are less by the sum of £412 13s. 0½d., than those of 1883-84, thus:

DECREASE.		
Postages	...	£116 7 11
Telegraphs	...	260 9 10½
Miscellaneous	...	66 0 6
		<hr/> 442 18 3½
INCREASE.		
Commissions on Money Orders	...	30 5 3
		<hr/> £412 13 0½

4. The Cash Receipts however exceed those of 1882-83 by the sum of £1,900 18s. 6d.

5. I subjoin the usual approximate analysis of the item of "Postages."

Year.	Packet Postages.		Inland Postages.	Total.
	To credit of United Kingdom.	To credit of Jamaica.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1882-83	627 13 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	3,647 14 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	10,580 7 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	14,855 15 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
1883-84	685 12 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,322 10 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	11,223 13 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	16,231 15 10 $\frac{3}{4}$
1884-85	722 9 6	4,226 8 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	11,166 10 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	16,115 7 11 $\frac{3}{4}$

6. The net decrease of £116 7s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$., as disclosed by the above approximate analysis under "Postages" may be stated thus:—

DECREASE.		
Packet Postages to credit of Jamaica	...	£96 2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Inland Postages	...	57 2 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
		<hr/>
		153 5 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
INCREASE.		
Packet Postages to credit of the United Kingdom		36 17 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
		<hr/>
		£116 7 11 $\frac{1}{4}$

7. The falling off under the head of Packet Postages to the credit of Jamaica is to a great extent a result of the revolution in the United States of Colombia, during which the exodus of laborers hence to Colon lessened, while a large number of persons returned to Jamaica after the destruction of Colon by fire, the Post Office at that place, with its contents, being amongst the buildings burnt.

8. As a consequence, the correspondence exchanged between Jamaica and the United States of Colombia was diminished; in support of which I would point out that during 1883-84 the number of letters despatched to that Republic was 82,088 with postage to the value of £1,380 2s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., while during the year under review the number was 75,806, to the value of £1,251 10s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

9. The slight decrease of £57 2s. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the item of Inland Postages does not appear to call for any comment.

10. The increase of £36 17s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., in Postages to the credit of the United Kingdom is due to the Fortnightly Mail Service under the new Contract which took effect during the year between the Imperial Post Office and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and under which there will be twenty-six Steamers per annum instead of twenty-four as under the old Contract. During the year under review there were 25 Packets from England as against 24 during 1883-84.

11. The sum of £2,957 has also been paid to the Imperial Post Office, through the Crown Agents for the Colonies as Postal Union Contribution towards the loss sustained by the United Kingdom during the year ended 31st December, 1884.

12. A further sum of £286 17s., was placed to the credit of the Imperial Post Office in the account between this Department and the General Post Office, London, in settlement of the Sea and Territorial Transit Rates on correspondence which was despatched hence to certain countries of the Postal Union by British Packets between the 1st January, 1882, and the 31st December, 1884.

13. The Payments hitherto made to the Imperial Post Office as Postal Union Contribution, represents this Colony's proportion of one half of the additional loss which was sustained by the Imperial Exchequer, consequent on the admission of Jamaica into the Postal Union; but as a result of the new Contract between the Imperial Post Office and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, it has been decided that the Colonies shall bear a proportionate share, not merely of such increased loss, but of the whole loss which arises from the cost of carrying Mails between the United Kingdom and the West Indies. Under this arrangement the estimated annual proportion payable by Jamaica was fixed at £4,489, and it has been settled that of this amount £3,000 shall be chargeable against the Vote for Post Office expenditure, the balance of £1,489 being met out of the Vote for "Miscellaneous."

14. I may remark that since the end of the Financial Year the amount annually required of Jamaica has been reduced by the sum of £326, in consequence of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company having, at the request of the Imperial Post Office, reduced the amount of the total subsidy from £95,500 to £90,000.

15. The sum of £135 2s. 6d., was also paid to the United States Post Office and £19 9s. 1d., to the French Post Office for Sea and Territorial Transit Rates to the 31st December, 1884.

16. The increase of £30 5s. 3d in respect of Commissions on Money Orders will be found on turning to paragraph 40, when the details of the Money Order Transactions appear and are dealt with, to have been the result of the larger transactions which have taken place during the year under review with the United Kingdom, the United States and the Dominion of Canada, particularly with regard to Orders drawn by Jamaica and payable in those Countries.

17. The receipts under the head of "Miscellaneous" are made up of the following:—

Fines	...			
Rent of Private Letter Boxes at Montego Bay, Falmouth, Port Antonio and Kingston	...	£143	4	9
Conveyance of Private Letter Bags	...	94	1	3
Ten per cent. Commission on Mail Coach transactions	...	18	18	0
		64	2	6
		<hr/>		
		£320	6	6

18. Of the amount collected in respect of Fines the sum of £141 12s. 9d., represents the deductions from the Pay of Mail Contractors for delays and other breaches of Contract.

19. The total amount of Postage, Labels and Post-cards disposed of during the year by the Department is £13,318 6s. 5d., of which the sum of £37 5s. 10d. is in respect of Penny Savings Deposits, and has been transferred in due course to the credit of the Government Savings Bank.

20. The Stamp Commissioner sold to authorised Vendors, at 5 per cent. discount, Postage Stamps to the value of £2,319 making the total amount of Stamps sold on account of Postages £15,600 0s. 7d.

21. Postage Stamps amounting to £316 18s. 8d. were purchased at the Head Office, Kingston, from the Public at the rate of 2½ per cent. discount, the amount realised, £8 6s. 4d., being placed to the credit of the Revenue under the head of "Postages."

22. In the 13th paragraph of my last Annual Report, I recorded the fact that his Excellency the Governor in Privy Council had been pleased to approve of a reduction in the rates of Postage on letters between Kingston, Up-Park Camp, Gordon Town, Cold Spring, Halfway-Tree, Spanish Town, Old Harbour and Port Royal, being places in daily communication with Kingston, and I am glad now to be able to record that such reduction has in no wise affected the receipts at those Offices, a result which has justified my recommending to Government the extension of such reduced rates of Postage to the places which have been brought into daily mail communication with Kingston by the completion of the Railway Lines to Porus and to Ewarton respectively.

23. The following is an estimate of the number of Letters and Post-cards which have been received at and despatched from the several Post Offices during the year as compared with similar estimates taken during the year ended 30th September, 1883 and 1884 respectively:—

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
<i>Head Office, Kingston—Inland Mails.</i>						
<i>Ordinary Letters—</i>						
Public	293,400	339,300	356,500	240,600	242,200	254,000
Official	53,400	49,500	59,300	44,000	34,000	39,200
Post Cards	14,100	16,000	13,100	3,000	3,900	5,500
<i>Registered Letters—</i>						
Public	6,332	7,584	7,081	16,896	19,216	18,475
Official	11,700	10,892	11,218	11,621	9,410	9,450
<i>Ocean Mails—By Vessels under Contract.</i>						
<i>United Kingdom—</i>						
Ordinary Letters	109,900	111,800	113,400	135,700	142,400	140,000
Post Cards	937	1,612	1,225	750	829	1,045
<i>United States of America—</i>						
Ordinary Letters	38,500	35,000	6,439	32,600	25,000	3,544
Post Cards	500	524	87	350	242	35
<i>Intercolonial—</i>						
Ordinary Letters	61,600	79,600	82,088	69,900	107,900	101,076
Post Cards	30	16	1	73	31	69
<i>By Vessels not under Contract—</i>						
Ship Letters	3,933	25,680	53,796	1,522	11,120	37,021
Post Cards	...	...	672	...	...	343
<i>Registered Letters—</i>						
Packet and Ship	3,559	3,933	4,439	3,706	4,119	4,490
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	597,891	681,441	709,346	560,718	600,368	614,248

The estimated number of Letters and Post Cards exchanged between District Post Offices not including Correspondence to or from Kingston was as under :—

				1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
Ordinary Letters	...	...		455,800	458,000	456,000
Post Cards	...	...		9,542	10,744	9,282
Registered Letters	...	...		9,900	10,805	9,543
				475,242	480,349	474,825

24. It will be gathered from the above that there has been an increase over 1883-84 in the number of Letters, Inland and Packet, dealt with at the Head Office, while there has been a slight falling off in the number exchanged between District Offices.

25. Since the determination of the Contract with the Atlas Steam Ship Company the conveyance of Mails between this Office and the United States has been performed by Vessels not under Contract : thus it is that in the foregoing numerical statement there appears a decrease in the number of Letters exchanged by Contract Vessels between Jamaica and the United States—such Letters having been included in the number of Letters received and despatched by Vessels not under Contract. The number of Letters exchanged between Jamaica and New York during 1884-85 by all classes of Vessels is as under :—

Despatched	...	...	45,839
Received	...	...	39,521

26. The number of Vessels which conveyed Mails to and from Jamaica during the year under review compare with similar services during the two years preceding as under :—

	OUTWARDS.						INWARDS.						
	1882-83.		1883-84.		1884-85.		1882-83.		1883-84.		1884-85.		
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	
<i>Kingston—</i>													
Contract	...	135	927	231	1,048	76	793	217	1,169	258	1,175	90	859
Non-contract	...	33	58	15	66	130	292	101	101	92	96	166	275
<i>Outports—</i>													
Contract	...	13	13	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Non-contract	...	13	13	.	.	38	46	18	18	20	20	30	30

27. The Mail Service between Jamaica and the United States has been maintained principally by means of the Steamers of the Atlas Company and those of Messrs. J. E. Kerr & Co., the Mails despatched by the latter Line being sent overland to meet the Vessels at the port of departure which has heretofore been Port Maria.

28. On the 1st July last the new Contract between the Imperial Post Office and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for a Fortnightly Mail Service in lieu of the former Bi-monthly Service took effect.

29. Under the new Contract the steamers leave Southampton every alternate Thursday and are due at Jamaica on each alternate Monday, the first despatch from Southampton under the new contract was on Thursday 2nd July last. The Homeward-bound steamers are timed to leave this island on each alternate Wednesday at 4 p.m.; the first despatch from Jamaica under the new contract was on Wednesday the 8th July last.

30. This alteration in the arrival and departure of the Royal Mail Packets rendered necessary a complete re-arrangement of the Packet Express Time Table in this Island.

31. The effect of the Time Table approved by the Imperial Post Office under the new contract has been to lessen materially the time which was allowed under the old contract for replying to correspondence by return Packet; and were the steamers to arrive at this port at the contract time, *i. e.* on the morning of each alternate Monday the inconvenience would be considerable to persons resident in the interior of the island, who in some cases would have only a few hours for replying by return Packet to correspondence while in others they would not be able to reply at all, as was shown in the abstract Time Table of the arrival at and despatch from some of the principal Post Offices in the Island of the

Packet Express Mails which I published for general information on the 30th June last; but as the steamers do, as a rule for the convenience of the Company arrive on the mornings of Sundays, the inconvenience has not been experienced to the full extent.

32. When the Packet arrives on the mornings of Sunday the mails for the Northside and Southside of the Island are despatched within five hours after the arrival of the steamer, by special mail trains and arrive at Montego Bay and Savanna-la-Mar respectively early on Monday morning.

33. The number of Mails which were exchanged by other Countries through the medium of the Jamaica Post Office is 1,401.

34. The United States Post Office now makes use of this Office as intermediary for the despatch of its Mails for the United States of Colombia and the South Pacific, which are forwarded via Colon, and by each Mail from the United States a large number of Mail Bags is received. The number of Transit Mails so received from the United States during the months of August and September last was 378.

INLAND MAIL CONVEYANCE.

35. On the completion of the Railway Extension to Porus and to Ewarton on the 2nd March and 17th August last respectively, the conveyance of the Southside and of the Northside Mails, which was formerly effected by Mail Carts by road, was transferred to the Railway.

36. This transfer has resulted beneficially to Correspondents at Savanna-la-Mar and Montego Bay who now have ample time for replying to correspondence from Kingston and intermediate offices by return of post. Formerly there was only a short time for replying at Montego Bay, while Savanna-la-Mar could not reply at all by the return of post.

37. Under the rearranged Time Table the Mails are despatched from Kingston by the last Train at 4.15 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays arriving at Montego Bay at 9.15 a.m., and at Savanna-la-Mar at 10.15 a.m. on Wednesdays, Fridays and Mondays. The return Mails leave Montego Bay and Savanna-la-Mar on the same days at 3 p.m., and 2 p.m. respectively, and are timed to arrive at Ewarton and at Porus so as to connect with the first train which is due in Kingston at 9.15 a.m. on Thursdays, Saturdays and Tuesdays.

38. Between the date of the opening of the Porus Extension and that of the Ewarton Line the time allowed at Montego Bay for replying to correspondence was necessarily curtailed as a result of the later despatch, viz: 4.15 p.m., instead of 3 p.m. of the Northside Mail by train from Kingston to Spanish Town whence they were conveyed by road.

39. On the representation of parties interested the Mail Service between Alley and Milk River was discontinued on the 1st July last, and a Mail Service between Four Paths and Milk River was substituted therefor:—

MONEY ORDERS.

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

Between Jamaica and the United Kingdom.

	1882-83.			1883-84.			1884-85.					
	No.	Amount.			No.	Amount.			No.	Amount.		
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Jamaica Issue payable in United Kingdom ...	4,289	21,968	6	3	5,526	32,426	13	1	6,153	36,721	10	2
United Kingdom Issue payable in Jamaica ...	410	1,348	1	4	504	1,511	9	5	535	1,498	1	2
Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica ...	.	315	16	4½	.	412	19	10	.	456	5	11

41. The above exhibits an increase over the previous year of 627 in the number and of £4,294 17s. 1d. in the amount of Money Orders drawn by Jamaica on the United Kingdom, while the issue of Jamaica on the United Kingdom shew an increase of 31 in the number and a decrease of £13 8s. 3d. in amount.

42. The sum of £258 15s. 0d. was paid at the rate of ½ per cent. to the Imperial Post Office for Money Order Remittances through the Treasury Chest in this Island, which being deducted from the Commission accruing to Jamaica, viz:—£456 5s. 11d. leaves the net amount of £197 10s. 11d. which has been carried to the credit of the revenue.

43. The amount of orders forfeited to the revenue is £2 19s. 0d. while orders to the amount of £10 3s. 9d. were repaid to the remitters.

44. On the 1st August, 1885, a system of "Through Money Order Exchange" with certain Foreign Countries and British Colonies transacting Money Order business with the United Kingdom took effect. The following is a list of such Countries and Colonies which has been duly advertised:—

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Belgium
Denmark
Dutch East Indies
Egypt
German Empire
Holland
Switzerland

Iceland
Italy
Japan
Norway
Portugal
Sweden.

BRITISH INDIA,

including the Agencies of the Indian Post Office at

Aden
Bagdad
Bunder Abbas
Bushire
BusrahGuadar
Jask
Linga
Muscat
Zanzibar.

BRITISH COLONIES.

Australia :

New South Wales
Queensland
South Australia
Tasmania
VictoriaWestern Australia
Bermuda
Ceylon
Falkland Islands
Hong Kong.

including the Agencies of the Hong Kong Post Office at

Amoy
Canton
Foo-Chow
HankowHoihow
Ningho
Shanghai
Swatow.

Malta.

Newfoundland.

New Zealand.

South and West Africa :

Cape Colony
Gambia
Gold Coast
LagosMaurituis
Natal
St. Helena
Seychalles
Sierra Leone.

Cyprus and North Borneo.

45. Through Money Orders are exchanged by the intermediary of the General Post Office, London, which deducts from the amount of each order issued a sum equal to one-third of the original Commission to cover the cost of transmission beyond the United Kingdom.

46. On the same date, 1st August last, it was announced that Money Orders could be exchanged via the United Kingdom with Constantinople, Gibraltar and Smyrna: the rate of Commission on Orders drawn in Jamaica on those places being the same as that to the United Kingdom.

47. The Gibraltar Post Office has ceased since the date of the above referred to announcement to be under the control of the Imperial Government, therefore Money Orders to and from that place are now subject to the conditions of the "Through Money Order" System.

Between Jamaica and the United States.

	1882-83.		1883-84.		1884-85	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Jamaica Issue payable in the United States ...	978	£ s. d. 4,936 17 6	1,519	£ s. d. 8,748 3 0	1,664	£ s. d. 10,997 14 8
United States Issue payable in Jamaica ...	143	536 6 0	164	710 5 11	152	486 3 5
Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica ...	.	91 13 6	.	148 12 7	.	170 3 11

48. There has been an increase over 1883-84 of 145 in the number and of £2,249 11s. 8d., in the amount of Orders drawn by Jamaica on the United States during the year under review, while the Orders drawn by the United States on this Island are less by 12 in number and by £224 2s. 6d., in amount.

49. The total amount which accrued to Jamaica on United States Commission Account is £170 3s. 11d., out of which was paid to the Island Treasurer the sum of £105 15s. 5d., at the rate of 1 per cent. for Bills on the Crown Agents for the Colonies in adjustment of the balances due to the United States on Money Orders Account, the net profit to this Island was, therefore, £64 8s. 6d.

50. Of the Money Orders drawn on the United States the sum of £21 6s. 2d., was repaid to Remitters in this Island.

Between Jamaica and the Dominion of Canada.

	1882-83.		1883-84.		1884-85.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Jamaica Issue payable in Canada ...	30	£ s. d. 216 13 7	134	£ s. d. 844 8 1	207	£ s. d. 1,373 9 6
Canadian Issue payable in Jamaica ...	4	15 16 5	34	204 15 9	38	114 14 3
Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica ...	.	3 5 10	.	16 7 6	.	24 18 10

51. It will be perceived that there has been an increase over last year's transactions in the number and amount of Orders drawn on the Dominion of Canada, while there has been a slight falling off in the contrary direction.

52. It is necessary that I should point out that the transactions of the year 1882-83 as above stated have reference only to three months of that year, as the Money Order Exchange with Canada only came into operation on the 1st July, 1883.

53. The balances due to the Dominion were also remitted by means of Bills on the Crown Agents for the Colonies for which the Island Treasurer was paid the sum of £12 13s. 1d. at the rate of 1 per cent.—deducting this amount from the total accrued commissions, viz: £24 18s. 10d., it results that the net profit to the Jamaica Revenue was £12 5s. 9d.

Between Jamaica and British Guiana.

	1882-83.		1883-84.		1884-85.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s d.		£ s d.		£ s d.
Jamaica Issue payable in British Guiana	2	4 10 0	6	20 15 1	15	24 0 4
British Guiana Issue payable in Jamaica	38	122 5 0	53	216 18 6	47	143 13 4
Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica	.	0 13 0	.	1 3 9	.	1 3 0

54. A review of the three years' Money Order transactions between British Guiana and this Colony, as shewn in the foregoing statement, I submit justifies the conclusion that the Money Order business between the two places is not likely to attain to any considerable proportions.

55. It will be observed that the drafts of British Guiana on Jamaica were and have always been in excess of the drafts of this Colony in British Guiana, shewing that the exchange of money is in the contrary direction to that with the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

56. The entire amount of commissions was placed to credit of revenue, there not being any charges for remittances which are made in cash.

Between Jamaica and Barbados.

	1882-83.		1883-84.		1884-85.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s d.		£ s d.		£ s d.
Jamaica Issue payable in Barbados	9	18 14 3	36	142 13 4	50	157 13 6
Barbados Issue payable in Jamaica	4	8 14 4	46	114 7 4	37	81 9 9
Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica	.	0 6 5	.	0 15 4	.	2 11 6

57. In the above statement the transactions of 1882-83 only relate to the three months ended 30th September, 1883, the Money Order exchange between Jamaica and Barbados having come into operation on the 1st July of that year.

58. As in the case of the Colony of British Guiana the Money Order business between the two places, i.e., Barbados and Jamaica, has not been very extensive; but it will be noticed that there has been a slight increase in the number and amount of Orders despatched hence, while there has been a falling off in the number and amount of those received from Barbados for payment.

59. The total accrued commissions of £2 2s. 7d., have been placed to the credit of the Revenue, the remittances in settlement of balances having been made by means of cash.

60. Arrangements which came into operation on 1st October last, were concluded during the year with the Treasury for the issue and payment of Money Orders to and from places abroad, at the several Parochial Treasuries in this Island. Formerly Foreign Money Orders could only be obtained and be paid at the General Post Office, Kingston.

EXPENDITURE.

61. The following is an abstract of the expenditure during the year under review as compared with that of the preceding two years :—

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.		Services.	Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1882-83	4 112 8 4	2,004 0 0	7,162 2 4	1,009 12 10	1,379 6 1½	15,667 9 7½
1883-84	4,212 2 2	2,076 1 4	7,046 14 0	820 8 1	1,210 5 4	15,365 10 11
1884-85	4,273 14 11	2,108 18 8	6,973 7 8	1,209 8 4	1,174 2 5½	15,739 12 0½

62. The above comparison shows that the expenditure of 1884-85 was in excess of that during the year 1883-84 by the sum of £374 1s. 1½d. thus :—

INCREASE.		
Salaries, Head Office	...	£61 12 9
" District Offices	...	32 17 4
Ocean Mail Conveyance	...	389 0 3
		<u>483 10 4</u>
DECREASE.		
Inland Mail Conveyance	£73 6 4	
Services	36 2 10½	109 9 2½
		<u>£374 1 1½</u>

63. The increase under salaries at the Head Office is the result of the annual incremental system, while that under the head of salaries at District Offices is attributed to the fact that in the year under report payment in respect of the salaries of the Offices at "Laughlands" and "Up Park Camp" were for the whole year, while the payments during 1883-84 when the Offices were opened, were for a portion of that year only. A personal allowance to the Telegraph Clerk at Port Morant, formerly paid out of "Services" has also been paid out of "Salaries." The amount is chargeable against the Post Office Vote, because, for the convenience of correspondents the Post Office at Port Morant has not been removed to "Bowden" at which site in Port Morant the Telegraph Station is maintained therefore the Telegraph Clerk cannot, as in other cases, also hold the Office of Postmistress.

64. The excess under "Ocean Mail Conveyance" is for the most part the result of the payment during the year to the United Kingdom and to the United States of the amounts respectively due for Sea and Teritorial Transit Rates during the two years ended 31st December, 1884.

65. The decrease in respect of Inland Mail Conveyance has resulted from the transfer to the Railway of the Mail Conveyance of the Northside and Southside Mails which, prior to the extension of the Lines to Porus and to Ewarton were conveyed at a larger cost by road. As the transfer was only effected during a portion of the year under review the saving is not so apparent as it will be during the current year 1885-86.

66. The decrease under the head of Services is accounted for thus :—

DECREASE.		
Twine and Wax	...	£13 1 4
Furniture	...	3 1 6
Manufacture of Postage Stamps	...	64 8 11
Special Mail Services	...	59 13 8
Commission on sale of Stamps	...	12 13 0
		<u>£152 18 5</u>
INCREASE.		
Contingencies	...	£18 4 6½
Making and Repairing Mail Bags	...	7 14 3
Travelling Charges	...	17 4 9
Allowance to Officers for Services performed out of Office hours	...	5 18 8
Rent	...	48 6 8
Dated Stamps	...	19 6 8
		<u>116 15 6½</u>
		<u>£36 2 10½</u>

67. The total expenditure of £15,739 12s. 0½d. as shewn above does not include the payment to the United Kingdom of £2,957 (already referred to in the 11th paragraph of this report) for Postal

Union Contribution, and if such expenditure be compared with the cash receipts stated under "Revenue" at £16,716 6s. 5½d., it will be seen that such receipts exceed the expenditure by the sum of £976 14s. 5½d. which amount would have appeared as a surplus could the Post Office have been relieved of the Postal Union Contribution in question.

68. Payments were also made by the Department to the Atlas Company as under :—

Steam Communication with the United States	...	£435 17 6
Steam Communication round the Island	...	1,833 6 8

but the amounts are not included in the expenditure of the Post Office which is only required to administer the respective votes.

69. The payment of £435 17s 6d. was in respect of services completed during the months of October and November, 1884, the Contract with the Atlas Company having been determined with the completion of the voyage from Jamaica on the 25th of the latter month. The payment of £1,833 6s. 8d. was in respect of 11 months subsidy—the subsidy for the 12th month not being paid within the period of the financial year under report.

MAIL COACHES.

70. The earnings of the Mail Coaches which have been placed to the credit of the Contractor after deducting ten per cent. for the remuneration of the District Postmasters at Booking Stations and for the service performed at the Head Office, Kingston, were as under :—

Services.	Passengers' Fares.		Parcels.		Total.	
	1883-84.	1884-85.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1883-84.	1884-85.
<i>Southside.</i>						
Kingston, Mandeville and Savanna-la-Mar	£ s. d. 446 12 6	£ s. d. 480 3 6	£ s. d. 90 2 0	£ s. d. 97 3 3	£ s. d. 536 14 6	£ s. d. 577 6 9
<i>Northside.</i>						
Kingston, St. Ann's Bay and Montego Bay	£ s. d. 844 17 9	£ s. d. 823 10 0	£ s. d. 130 17 3	£ s. d. 136 15 0	£ s. d. 975 5 0	£ s. d. 960 5 0
	1,291 10 3	1,303 13 6	229 9 3	233 18 3	1,511 19 6	1,537 11 9

71. The above comparison with the receipts of the preceding year shows that there has been in the case of the Service between Kingston, Mandeville and Savanna-la-Mar an increase as under :—

Passengers' Fares	...	£33 11 0
Parcels	...	7 1 3

40 12 3

while in the case of the Service between Kingston, Saint Ann's Bay and Montego Bay there has been a falling off in Passengers' Fares of £21 7s. 9d., and an increase in the amount collected for Parcels of £6 7s. 9d.

72. On the completion of the Railway Extension to Porus and to Ewarton on the 2nd March last and on the 17th August last, respectively, the arrangements, to which I referred in the 58th paragraph of my last Annual Report as having been concluded with Mr. A. W. Douet for the extension of the Mail Coach Services to Savanna-la-Mar and Montego Bay respectively, were given effect to.

73. The Contractor is responsible for the conveyance of the Mails and Parcels to and from Kingston and the Railway Termini at Porus and Ewarton.

74. This extension of the Mail Coach Services not only affords to the Public increased facilities for travelling and for the transmission of Parcels, but it has also increased the Postal Communication between Kingston and the several places at which the Coaches call.

RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

75. The following are the transactions of the Returned Letter Branch during the year :—

Class of Correspondence.	No. of Paid.	No. of Unpaid.
Letters returned to the United Kingdom	560	89
Letters returned to Postal Union Countries	2,747	522
Letters re-posted to writers in Kingston	2,842	701
Letters re-posted to writers in Country	5,917	1,777
Letters destroyed, writers not found	2,314	1,811
Letters destroyed, addresses being illegible or anonymous	1,681	1,089
Newspapers returned to Publishers	3,125	6

76. The loss to the Revenue on account of Postage on unclaimed, &c., correspondence was £72 3s. 8½d.

77. Unclaimed Letters to the number of 170 were found to contain value to the amount of £256 10s. and were duly re-posted to writers.

TELEGRAPHS

78. The gross receipts of the Telegraph Branch, as shewn by the amount of Stamps sold compare with the two years preceding as follows:—

	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stamps sold	3,712 5 0	4,597 7 9	4,241 8 9
Additional charge on Books containing Message Forms	4 1 3	4 12 9	3 18 9
Cash collected subsequent to Fire of 11th December, 1882, in absence of Stamps	60 17 10	...	...
	3,777 4 1	4,512 0 6	4,245 7 6

79. The receipts, it will be noticed, are less by the sum of £266 13s. than those of 1883-84, although they are in excess by the sum of £468 3s. 5d. of those of 1882-83.

80. The number of Messages sent and received is 76,886 as against 80,544 for the previous year being a decrease of 3,658

81. I attribute this falling off in Telegraph business to the depression of the Fruit Trade, but I am glad to learn that the Fruit Trade is now showing considerable signs of improvement, and if such be the case a corresponding improvement in Telegraph business may be anticipated during 1885-86.

82. The expenditure on account of "Telegraphs" during the year was as follows compared with that for the year 1882-83 and 1883-84.

	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	2,143 18 9	2,304 12 9	2,493 3 8
Wages	382 19 3½	430 17 1	461 15 9
Services	1,182 9 4½	988 17 9	981 7 9½
	3,709 7 5	3,724 7 7	3,936 7 2½

83. The increase of £211 19s. 7½d. over 1883-84 has occurred under the following heads:—

INCREASE.		
Salaries	...	£188 10 11
Wages	...	30 18 8
		£219 9 7
DECREASE.		
Services	...	7 9 11½
		£211 19 7½

84. Of the increase of £188 10s. 11d. in Salaries the sum of £31 13s. 4d. is in respect of the annual increment to the Salaries of the Superintendent of Telegraphs and his two Assistants, and the sum of £156 17s. 7d. is in respect of the Salaries of Operators and was principally due to the addition to the Salaries of the Operators at the Head Station, Kingston, to the appointments of Assistant Operators at Port Antonio and Port Maria, and to the establishment of Offices at Up-park Camp, Clarendon, Oracabessa and New Port during the preceding year in which only a portion of the Annual Salaries attaching to the offices were paid, while the expenditure of the year under report includes Salaries for the whole year, which similarly explains the increase in Wages.

85. The small increase of £7 9s. 11½d., under services does not, I submit call for any special explanation, the details of the expenditure under this head will be found in the Return shewing the gross revenue and expenditure which is appended to this Report.

86. By an arrangement between this Department and the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, approved by Government, and which took effect on the 24th August last, Foreign Telegrams are transmitted from and received for delivery at the several Telegraph Stations in this Island, the Inland-rate being paid in addition to the Foreign rate as well as any Portage charges. The convenience has been appreciated by the public.

87. On the 3rd December, 1884, a temporary Office was established at Cumberland Pen on the occasion of the Agricultural Show there and 21 messages were sent from the Station.

MISCELLANEOUS.

88. At the instance of the Postmaster General of the United Kingdom, and with the approval of His Excellency the Governor, arrangements have been concluded during the year under review for the

establishment of a Parcel Post Exchange between the United Kingdom and Jamaica, and it was announced on the 7th September last that such exchange would commence on the 1st October last on which date the system was inaugurated.

89. The Post Offices at which Parcels may be despatched from and be delivered at, are, in view of the limited means of conveyance at present at the disposal of the Post Office and on general grounds of economy, confined to those in places called at either by the Railway, the Coastal Steamer or Mail Coaches, but, so soon as it is evident that the Parcel Post will be self-supporting it will be my duty to recommend an extension of the system.

90. The rate per pound for Parcels has been fixed at 9d., of which the United Kingdom claims 5½d. for sea and inland conveyance.

91. For such Parcels by Coach the contractor has accepted as a tentative measure a reduced payment of 2d. per pound for their conveyance; but so soon as sufficient information has been collected a fixed annual payment will be arranged for.

92. The Parcels by Railway and the Coastal Steamer are conveyed free of charge for the present; and I would take this opportunity of expressing my due sense of the liberality of the Atlas Company, who through their Agent in this Island offered to convey Parcels in connection with the Foreign Parcel Post without charge until sufficient data can be obtained upon which a fair rate of remuneration to all carriers for the service in question may be based.

93. The dimensions of a Parcel have been limited to 2 feet greatest length and 4 feet greatest girth. This limit has been fixed in accordance with the carrying capacity of the Mail Coaches, but it may be possible to adopt the measurements proposed by the Imperial Post Office, i.e. 3 feet 6 inches length and 2 feet 6 inches girth or 6 feet length and girth combined. Although I would remark that the limits of length and girth, at present in force, are in keeping with those insisted on by Germany and Belgium, as well as those which have existed for years in connection with the Parcel Post between Great Britain and India by means of the "P. and O." Steamers.

94. I am aware that in a report of this kind it is not usual to record any transactions which do not come within the period of the year being reported on; but I would respectfully ask to be allowed to subjoin as being interesting to the public a short statement of the Parcel Post transactions during the first quarter of its inauguration being that ended 31st December, 1885.

FROM ENGLAND.

Number of Consignments.	No. of Parcels.	Amount of Import duty collected.			Postage accruing to Jamaica.			Declared Value of Parcels.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
5	529	38	2	6	19	9	8	537	9	11

FROM JAMAICA.

Number of Consignments.	No of Parcels.	Postage accruing to Jamaica			Declared Value of Parcels.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
6	205	5	10	10	260	12	1

95. I am glad to be able to record that the sanction of the Government was obtained to the expenditure during the current year 1885-86 of a sum to cover the cost of a further supply of private letter boxes which have recently arrived from America. The increase in the number of box-holders which will result from this extension of the private letter box system enables this department to reduce the annual subscription from £2 2s. to 12s.; and it is hoped that as a further result of such increase in the number of boxes, the delivery by Letter Carrier of correspondence in the business portion of the city may be so lessened as to admit of the delivery in the upper portion of the city being extended so as to include "Kingston Gardens" and other places similarly situated.

96. The name of the May Hill Post Office was altered to that of "Spar Tree" on the 2nd March last.

97. The Flint River Post Office at "Sandy Bay" was removed on the 1st April last to its former site, i.e., Flint River proper.

98. Packets to the number of 504, contained in the Mails from the United Kingdom, the United States and other places were detained for inspection by the Customs Authorities and were found to contain dutiable articles to the value of £401 16s. 2d., and duty to the amount of £54 17s. 2d. was collected thereon.

99. The usual Annual Returns are herewith; and in conclusion I would explain that a press of work has delayed the earlier completion of this Report, which I regret.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

FRED. SULLIVAN.

Return shewing the Gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office Department during the Financial Year ending 30th September, 1885.

POST OFFICE:		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	SALARIES:		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received at District Post Offices		641	8	9				Salary of Postmaster for Jamaica	...	800	0	0			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received at the General Post Office		114	0	10				Salaries of Clerks	...	2,600	3	3			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from the United Kingdom		105	9	5				Wages of Sorters, Letter Carriers, &c.	...	615	9	8			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from British Possessions and Foreign Countries		238	9	4½				Wages of Auxiliary Letter Carriers	...	78	0	0			
Postages on Unpaid Ship Letters		27	18	5				Packet Newspaper Sorters	...	154	2	0			
Stamps sold by the Department	£13,318	6	5					Salaries of District Postmasters	...	2,096	18	8			
Less amount sold on account of Savings Bank Deposits		37	5	10				Wages of Messenger conveying Mails between General Post Office and Railway Station	...	26	0	0			
		13,281	0	7				Wages of Messenger conveying Mails between Spanish Town Post Office and Railway	...	12	0	0			
Stamps sold by the Stamp Commissioner		2,319	0	0				COMMISSIONS ON SALE OF STAMPS:					6,382	13	7
Rent of Private Letter Boxes		94	1	3				Poundage on Stamps sold by the Department	...	131	4	7			
Fees for conveyance of Private Letter Bags		18	18	0				Discount on Stamps sold by the Stamp Commissioner	...	114	14	6			
Commissions on Money Orders	£657	14	10					CONVEYANCE OF MAILS:					245	19	1
Less Premium on Remittances:—								Contractors	...	6,966	3	8			
United Kingdom	£258	15	0					Special Mail Services	...	40	8	9			
United States	106	9	10					Packet Mail Services	...	7	4	0			
Canada	11	18	0	377	2	10		Transit Rates payable to Postal Union Countries other than the United Kingdom	...	154	11	7			
		280	12	0				Proportion of Postage placed to credit of the United Kingdom	...	952	2	6			
Fees for detention of Country Letters per Packet for delivery in Kingston		23	6	0				Ship Letter Gratuities	...	102	14	3			
Fine Account		143	4	9				SERVICES:					8,223	4	9
								Contingencies	...	124	16	2½			
Carried forward		£17,287	9	4½				Letter Carriers' Uniforms	...	67	17	6			
								Water Supply	...	3	12	0			
								Lighting Account	...	7	11	4			
								Advertising	...	55	8	0			
								Mail Bags and Wrappers	...	43	4	10			
								Travelling Charges	...	40	3	9			
								Allowance for Services out of office hours	...	154	13	9			
								Rent of Post Offices	...	220	8	4			
								Twine and Wax	...	46	10	3			
								Manufacture of Stamps, &c.	...	104	2	0			
								Date Stamps and Type	...	19	6	8			
													887	14	7½
													£15,739	12	0½

Statement showing the Transactions of the Money Order Branch of the General Post Office, Jamaica, with the United Kingdom for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1885.

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.				
No.	Amount.	Forfeited to Revenue.	Repaid to Remitter.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Amount.	Amount.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
6,153	36,721 10 2	2 19 0	10 3 7	535	1,498 1 2	497	1,427 19 7	1 19 6	633 1 0				
Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of the United Kingdom.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Commission on United Kingdom issue placed to credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Additional credit to Jamaica being Commission on Transfer of Orders.	£ s. d.	Total amount which accrued to Jamaica Commission Account.	£ s. d.	Actual amount paid to credit of Revenue on Commission Account during the period.	£ s. d.	Amount of Premiums paid on Remittances to the United Kingdom.	£ s. d.
	183 19 10		448 19 8		7 4 9		0 1 6		456 5 11		197 10 11		258 15 0

Statement showing the Transactions of the Money Order Branch of the General Post Office, Jamaica, with the United States for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1885.

JAMAICA ISSUE.				UNITED STATES ISSUE.					COMMISSION ACCOUNT.				
Payable in the United States.		Void Order Account.		Payable in Jamaica.		Paid in Jamaica.		Void Order Account.	Total Commissions collected on Orders issued in Jamaica on U. S. A.				
No.	Amount.	Forfeited to Revenue.	Repaid to Remitter.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Amount.	Amount.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
1,664	10,997 14 8	...	21 6 2	152	486 3 5	138	457 2 6	...	249 14 0				
Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of the United States.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Commission on United States issue placed to credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Additional credit to Jamaica being Commission on Transfer of Orders.	£ s. d.	Total amount which accrued to Jamaica Commission Account.	£ s. d.	Actual amount paid to credit of Revenue on Commission Account during the period.	£ s. d.	Amount of Premiums paid on Remittances to the United States of America.	£ s. d.
	82 18 2		166 15 10		3 8 1		...		170 3 11		64 8 6		105 15 5

Statement showing the Transactions of the Money Order Branch of the General Post Office, Jamaica, with the Dominion of Canada for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1885.

JAMAICA ISSUE.				CANADA ISSUE.					COMMISSION ACCOUNT.				
Payable in Canada.		Void Order Account.		Payable in Jamaica.		Paid in Jamaica.		Void Order Account.	Total Commissions collected on Orders issued in Jamaica on Canada.				
No.	Amount.	Forfeited to Revenue.	Repaid to Remitter.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Amount.	Amount.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
207	1,373 9 6	...	...	38	114 14 3	38	114 14 3	...	31 5 0		
Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of the Dominion of Canada.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Commission on Canada issue placed to credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Additional credit to Jamaica being Commission on Transfer of Orders.	£ s. d.	Total amount which accrued to Jamaica on Commission Account.	£ s. d.	Actual amount paid to credit of Revenue on Commission Account during the period.	£ s. d.	Amount of Premiums paid on Remittances to the Dominion of Canada.	£ s. d.
	6 17 8		24 7 4		0 11 6		...		24 18 10		12 5 9		12 13 1

Statement showing the Transactions of the Money Order Branch of the General Post Office, Jamaica, with British Guiana for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1885.

JAMAICA ISSUE.				BRITISH GUIANA ISSUE.					COMMISSION ACCOUNT.				
Payable in British Guiana.		Void Order Account.		Payable in Jamaica.		Paid in Jamaica.		Void Order Account.	Total Commissions collected on Orders issued in Jamaica on British Guiana.				
No.	Amount.	Forfeited to Revenue.	Repaid to Remitter.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Amount.	Amount.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
15	24 0 4	...	...	47	143 13 4	50	144 10 0	...	0 12 0		
Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of British Guiana.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Jamaica Commissions placed to credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Commission on British Guiana issue placed to credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Additional credit to Jamaica being Commission on Transfer of Orders.	£ s. d.	Total amount which accrued to Jamaica Commission Account.	£ s. d.	Actual amount paid to credit of Revenue on Commission Account during the period.	£ s. d.	Amount of Premiums paid on Remittances to British Guiana.	£ s. d.
	0 2 5		0 9 7		0 14 5		...		1 3 0		1 3 0		...

Statement of the Transactions of the Money Order Branch of the General Post Office, Jamaica, with Barbados for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1885.

JAMAICA ISSUE.				BARBADOS ISSUE.					COMMISSION ACCOUNT.				
Payable in Barbados.		Void Order Account.		Payable in Jamaica.		Paid in Jamaica.		Void Order Account.	Total Commissions collected on Orders issued in Jamaica on Barbados.				
No.	Amount.	Forfeited to Revenue.	Repaid to Remitter.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Amount.	Amount.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
50	157 13 6	...	...	37	81 9 9	36	76 9 9	...	2 11 6		
Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of Barbados.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Commission on Barbados issue placed to credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Additional credit to Jamaica being Commission on Transfer of Orders.	£ s. d.	Total amount which accrued to Jamaica Commission Account.	£ s. d.	Actual amount paid to credit of Revenue on Commission Account during the period.	£ s. d.	Amount of Premiums paid on Remittances to Barbados.	£ s. d.
	0 17 1		1 14 5		0 8 2		...		2 2 7		2 2 7		...

FRED. SULLIVAN, Postmaster for Jamaica.

