

Supplement to the Jamaica Gazette.

NEW SERIES—VOL. X.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1887.

No. 12.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 29th March, 1887.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Annual Report of the Postmaster for Jamaica for the year ended 30th September, 1886.

By Command,

E. N. WALKER, Colonial Secretary.

No. 75.

SIR,

General Post Office, 21st March, 1887.

I have the honor to submit the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Post Office Department, being that for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1886.

REVENUE.

2. The Cash Collections during the year amounted to £20,255 8s. 1½d. and compare as under with the receipts of the two years preceding.

Year.	Postages.	Commissions on Money Orders.	Telegraphs.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1883-84	16,231 15 10½	250 6 9	4,508 16 10	386 7 0	21,377 6 5½
1884-85	16,115 7 11½	280 12 0	4,248 6 11½	320 6 6	20,964 13 5½
1885-86	15,681 4 8½	313 18 4	4,054 16 9	205 8 4	20,255 8 1½

3. The above comparison shows that there has been a decrease in the Collections of 1885-86 as compared with those of 1884-85 of the sum of £709 5s. 3¾d. thus:—

<i>Decrease.</i>			
Postages	...	...	£434 3 3¼
Telegraphs	...	...	193 10 2½
Miscellaneous	...	...	114 18 2
			742 11 7¾
<i>Increase.</i>			
Commissions on Money Orders	...	...	33 6 4
			£709 5 3¾

4. In subjoining the usual approximate analysis of the collections on account of "Postages" I would explain that I am unable, in consequence of an alteration which has been effected in the manner of accounting for "Packet Postages" between the United Kingdom and this Colony, to shew how much of the Postage collections is claimed by the Imperial Post Office.

5. Prior to the alteration referred to, the system was to account *monthly* for the Postages, a record of which was kept "mail by mail;" but now the general practice of the Universal Postal Union has been adopted by the Imperial Post Office, *i.e.*, an annual accounting on the basis of statistics taken in a given month during a period of two years, and the account between the Imperial Post Office and Jamaica has not yet been adjusted to the 30th September last.

Year.	PACKET POSTAGES.		Inland Postages.	Total.
	To credit of the United Kingdom.	To credit of Jamaica.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1883-84	685 12 4½	4,322 10 5½	11,223 13 0½	16,231 15 19½
1884-85	722 9 6	4,226 8 1½	11,166 10 4½	16,115 7 11½
1885-86	£4,623 17 0		11,057 7 2½	15,681 4 8½

6. The above approximate analysis shows that of the total decrease of £434 3s. 3½d. on last year's collections in the item of "Postages" the sum of £109 3s. 1½d. is under the head of "Inland Postages," while the sum of £325 0s. 1½d. is in respect of "Packet Postages;" and this decrease may, to some extent, be attributed to that depression in trade and agriculture which was so severely felt in this Colony during the year under review.

7. In connection with the falling off in the revenue from "Postages" I would also add that on the 1st May last the "scale of progression" on Inland Letters exceeding one ounce in weight was altered and made to be by the single rate of half an ounce rather than by the double rate of one ounce. This alteration was made under the terms of the "Post Office Law Amendment Law of 1886," which also altered the surcharges on wholly unpaid and insufficiently prepaid correspondence, to the extent of making any Inland Letter, Newspaper or Book-packet liable, if wholly unpaid, to double the ordinary rate of postage, and, if partially prepaid, to double the amount of the deficient postage.

8. Before the passing of this Law wholly unpaid and insufficiently prepaid correspondence were liable to a surcharge, which was equal to double the amount of the prepaid rate—the value of the stamps affixed to the insufficiently prepaid being credited.

9. The estimates which were taken prior to the decision to alter the "scale of progression" and the "surcharges" resulted in shewing that a probable loss of about £90 per annum might be anticipated to the Revenue in consequence; and it is, therefore, not unreasonable to suppose that such alterations have, to some slight extent, had an adverse effect upon the collections on account of "Inland Postages."

10. The collections which appear under the head of "Miscellaneous" are in respect of the following:—

Fines	...	£68 0 6
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	...	72 9 0
Conveyance of Private Letter Bags	...	18 18 0
Commissions on Mail Coach transactions	...	46 0 10
		£205 8 4

11. The item of £68 0s. 6d. represents, for the most part, the penalties imposed on Mail Contractors for delays, &c., in the conveyance of the Mails.

12. With regard to the rent of Private Letter Boxes I would remark that the further supply of Boxes, to which I referred in the 95th paragraph of my last Annual Report, having been received from the United States and erected in the Circulation Branch of the General Post Office, Kingston, it has been deemed expedient to reduce the annual rental of each Box from Two Guineas per annum to Twelve Shillings: a reduction which has been extended to the Private Letter Boxes at the Post Offices at Montego Bay, Falmouth and Port Antonio.

13. The effect of the increase in the number of Boxholders at the General Post Office which has, as was anticipated, resulted from the reduction of the annual rental, has been to enable this Department to extend the House Delivery by Letter Carriers to Kingston Gardens and other similarly situated suburban places.

14. Turning to the Return, herewith appended, of the Gross Receipts during 1885-86 it will be seen that of the total amount of Postage Labels and Post Cards disposed of during the year, *viz.*, £15,199 8s. 5½d., the sum of £12,557 18s. 5½d. was sold by the Post Office, of which the sum of £15 14s. was for the purpose of Penny Savings Bank Deposits, while the Commissioner of Stamps sold to authorised Vendors at 5 per cent. discount the sum of £2,641 10s., the total amount of discount being £132 2s. 3d.

15. At the Head Office, Kingston, Postage Stamps to the value of £346 19s. 4d were purchased from the Public, and the discount, £8 17s. 6½d., at the rate of 2½ per cent., carried to the credit of Revenue and is included under "Postages."

16. Before leaving the subject of Revenue I must not omit to record that, acting on my recommendation, to which I referred in the 22nd paragraph of my last Annual Report, His Honor Administering the Government, Major General S. M. Wiseman-Clarke, by and with the advice and consent of

the Privy Council, authorised the reduction from 2d. per half ounce to 1d. per half ounce in the rate of Postage on Letters exchanged between Linstead, Ewarton, May Pen, Four Paths and Porus and those places which were already enjoying the penny-postage under the Order in Council published on the 26th April 1884.

17. The following places are now within the penny-postage limit: Up Park Camp, Port Royal, Gordon Town, Cold Spring, Halfway-Tree, Old Harbour, May Pen, Four Paths, Porus, Spanish Town, Linstead, Ewarton and Kingston.

18. The estimated number of Letters and Post Cards which were received and despatched during the year at and from the several Post Offices compare with the estimates taken during 1884 and 1885 as under:—

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
<i>Head Office, Kingston—Inland Mails.</i>						
Ordinary Letters—						
Public	339,300	356,500	398,200	242,200	254,000	262,200
Official	49,500	59,300	55,500	34,000	39,200	40,700
Post Cards	16,000	13,100	15,400	3,900	5,500	5,300
Registered Letters—						
Public	7,584	7,081	6,954	19,216	18,475	18,294
Official	10,892	11,218	10,601	9,410	9,450	10,043
<i>Sea Mails—(By Vessels under Contract).</i>						
United Kingdom—						
Ordinary Letters	111,800	113,400	115,000	142,400	140,000	124,200
Post Cards	1,612	1,225	1,280	829	1,045	1,280
United States of America—						
Ordinary Letters	35,000	6,439	.	25,000	3,544	.
Post Cards	524	87	.	242	35	.
Inter-colonial—						
Ordinary Letters	79,600	82,088	45,800	107,900	101,076	120,200
Post Cards	16	1	102	31	63	65
<i>(By Vessels not under Contract.)</i>						
Letters	25,680	53,796	63,378	11,120	37,021	43,924
Post Cards	.	672	640	.	343	572
Registered Letters—Packet	3,933	4,439	4,318	4,119	4,490	5,285
	681,441	709,346	717,173	600,368	614,248	642,063

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

	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Ordinary Letters	458,000	456,000	442,500
Post Cards	10,744	9,282	11,803
Registered Letters	10,805	9,543	9,334
	480,349	474,825	463,637

19. The above comparison shows that while there has been an estimated increase in the Letters which were despatched from and received at the Head Office, Kingston, there has been a decrease in the number exchanged between District Offices.

20. The number of Letters and Post Cards exchanged between this Colony and the United States of America is included in the number received and despatched by "Vessels not under contract" to and from all places.

21. The number of Letters sent to and received from the United States during the year under review is as under:—

<i>Despatched.</i>		
Letters	...	33,766
Post Cards	...	636
<i>Received.</i>		
Letters	...	43,279
Post Cards	...	572

22. The large increase which will be observed under the head of Inter-colonial Letters received by Vessels under contract is in respect of Correspondence from the United States of Colombia, which con-

tinues to exchange a large number of Letters with this Island, as a result of the exodus of laborers hence to that Republic.

23. The number of Letters so exchanged during the year under review is as follows :—

Despatched	...	...	72,069
Received	...	...	97,942

24. The value of the Stamps affixed to such correspondence being £1,176 17s. 8d.

OCEAN MAILS.

25. The following is a comparative statement of the number of Vessels which conveyed Mails to and from this Island, during the years 1883-84, 1884-85 and 1885-86, respectively :—

	OUTWARDS.						INWARDS.						
	1883-84.		1884-85.		1885-86.		1883-84.		1884-85.		1885-86.		
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	
<i>Kingston—</i>													
Contract	...	231	1,048	76	793	73	717	258	1,175	90	859	80	886
Non-contract	...	15	66	130	292	107	251	92	96	166	275	160	314
<i>Outports—</i>													
Contract
Non-contract	38	46	10	48	20	20	30	30	20	20

26. The number of Mails which were exchanged via Jamaica by other Countries is 3,245, and consisted principally of Mails from the United States Post Office for the United States of Colombia and the South Pacific, which were forwarded hence via Colon.

27. The Steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have continued during the year to arrive at this Port from England on Sunday mornings rather than on the mornings of Monday—the contract time—there having been only four occasions on which the English Mail Steamers did not arrive on Sunday.

28. The Staff of the Office has, therefore, in addition to the arduous duties of the week been employed on twenty-two Sundays out of the fifty-two in the year; and I deem it proper here to bear testimony to the punctual attendance, as well as to the cheerful performance of their duties by the entire Staff on those occasions.

29. The Mail Service between Halifax, Bermuda and Jamaica, which had been maintained by the Steamers of Mr. Cunard, under contract with the Imperial Government, was determined on the 30th June last, and those Steamers have, therefore, since that date ceased to call at this Port.

30. The Steamers of the "Compagnie General Transatlantique" have also ceased to call at this Port during the year. They conveyed Mails under Contract with the French Post Office, and their withdrawal has lessened the number of opportunities for communicating with Cuba, Hayti, St. Thomas and Europe.

INLAND MAIL CONVEYANCE.

31. The Floods which occurred in the months of December, 1885, and June, 1886, caused irregularities in the conveyance of the Mails to and from the Northside and Southside of the Island in consequence of the serious damage which the Railway lines sustained.

32. The interruption to regular Mail Conveyance resulting from the floods in December, 1885, was only temporary and did not entail serious inconvenience upon correspondents; but that caused by the floods of June, 1886, continued, in the case of the Southside Mails, from 10th June until the 16th August last when Railway Traffic between Old Harbour and Porus was resumed, and in the case of the Northside Mails until the 7th September when traffic by rail to Ewarton was resumed.

33. During the periods in question the Northside and Southside Mails had of necessity to leave Kingston at noon, to the serious inconvenience of Correspondents in Kingston who were unable to reply by return of post.

34. The Daily Mail Services between Kingston and the Offices on the Railway Line between Old Harbour and Porus and Spanish Town and Ewarton, respectively, were altogether suspended during the same periods.

35. It is but right that I should add that the Post Office received every assistance from the Manager of the Jamaica Railway during the trying circumstances resulting from the Floods in maintaining postal communication with the North and Southsides of the Island, and he undertook the conveyance of the Southside Mails between Old Harbour and Porus by "Lorry;" but Mr. Mackinnon was unable to make similar provision for the regular conveyance of the Northside Mails to Ewarton, therefore, a temporary Mail Service between Spanish Town and Ewarton was maintained at a reasonable cost.

36. An incident of the severity of the Flood of December, 1885, on the Northside of the Island was that the Packet Express Mails from that part of the Country, which were due in Kingston on the morning of Wednesday the 25th instant, failed to connect with the outward bound Steamer "Medway," which left on the morning of Thursday the 26th. The mails arrived in time however to be forwarded by the Cunard Steamer "Beta" which left on the morning of Friday, so that the inconvenience which might otherwise have been caused to Correspondents was obviated.

37. On the 8th September last the Mail Service between Montego Bay and Ramble was re-arranged to the extent of including Chester Castle Post Office (which was formerly served by a Branch Post from Ramble) in the line of Post between Montego Bay and Ramble, and of excluding Copse Post Office from such main line and serving it by a Branch foot-post from Chester Castle. The alteration was made with a view to expediting the delivery of Correspondence from Kingston, &c., at Chester Castle.

MONEY ORDERS.

38. The following are the transactions of the Money Order Branch during the year under review, as compared with those of the two years' preceding:—

Between Jamaica and the United Kingdom.

	1883-84.		1884-85.		1885-86.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Jamaica Issue payable in United Kingdom ...	5,526	32,426 13 1	6,153	36,721 10 2	7,509	43,509 2 5
United Kingdom Issue payable in Jamaica ...	504	1,511 9 5	535	1,498 1 2	603	1,662 5 3
Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica ...	...	412 19 10	...	456 5 11	...	546 6 6

39. It will be seen that there has been an increase of 1,356 in the number and of £6,787 12s. 3d. in the amount of Money Orders drawn by the Colony on the United Kingdom and Countries via the United Kingdom, as well as an increase of 68 in the number and of £164 4s. 1d. in the amount of drafts by the Mother Country on Jamaica.

40. Of the total number and amount of drafts on the United Kingdom, etc., *i.e.*, 7,509 and £43,509 2s. 5d., the sum of £16,449 9s. 2d. represents the amount and 2,587 the number of Orders drawn at the several Parochial Treasuries—the issue and payment of Foreign Money Orders at the Parochial Treasuries having been authorized by His Excellency the Governor and commenced on the 1st October, 1885; and, as shown by the above figures, has resulted in great convenience to the public.

41. Of the United Kingdom Orders payable in Jamaica the sum of £124 18s. 2d. was paid by Parochial Treasurers.

42. The premium, at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., for monthly remittances on Money Order Account through the Imperial Treasury Chest in this Colony amounts to £303 15s., which being deducted from the total sum of £456 5s. 11d., which accrued to Jamaica for commissions, gives the net result of £197 10s. 11d. placed to the credit of the Revenue.

43. The amount of Orders repaid to Remitters in this Island is £3 7s.

Between Jamaica and the United States.

	1883-84.		1884-85.		1885-86.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Jamaica Issue payable in United States ...	1,519	8,748 3 0	1,664	10,997 14 8	1,682	10,342 17 5
United States Issue payable in Jamaica ...	164	710 5 11	152	486 3 5	188	603 1 10
Portion of Commission accruing to Jamaica ...	...	148 12 7	...	170 3 11	...	165 9 9

44. Of the number and amount of Orders drawn on the United States the Parochial Treasurers issued 452 Orders to the amount of £2,239 16s. 9d. and paid £71 15s. 7d. of the United States Issue on Jamaica.

45. The Orders drawn by Jamaica on the United States exceed those of the preceding year by 18 in number, while in amount they are less by the sum of £654 17s. 3d. The United States drafts on Jamaica shew an increase of 68 in number and of £164 4s. 1d. in amount.

46. The total amount of Commissions which accrued to Jamaica on its transactions with the United States in the matter of Money Orders is £165 9s. 9d., from which the sum of £97 18s. 8d. was paid to the Island Treasurer for his Bills on the Crown Agents to the Colonies for remittance to the United

States in payment of the quarterly balances: the net amount of Commission to credit of Jamaica in respect of United States Commission account is £67 11s. 1d.

47. Orders on the United States to the amount of £33 were repaid in this Island at the request of the Remitters.

Between Jamaica and the Dominion of Canada.

	1883-84.		1884-85.		1885-86.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Jamaica Issue payable in Canada ...	134	£ s. d. 844 8 1	207	£ s. d. 1,373 9 6	319	£ s. d. 2,372 7 6
Canadian Issue payable in Jamaica ...	34	204 15 9	38	114 14 3	43	228 14 3
Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica ...	.	16 7 6	.	24 18 10	.	40 1 7

48. Of the total number and amount of the Orders drawn on Canada 94 and £653 17s. 11d. respectively were issued at the Parochial Treasuries, which also paid 10 Orders to the total amount of £61 13s. 8d. of the issue of the Dominion.

49. There has been it will be noticed an increase of 112 in the number and of £998 18s. in the amount of Orders drawn by Jamaica on Canada; and that the drafts of the Dominion on this Colony also exceed those of last year by the sum of £114 in amount and by five in number.

50. The total amount of Commissions which accrued to Jamaica in respect of Orders exchanged between Canada and Jamaica is £40 1s. 7d., out of which the Island Treasurer received the sum of £21 3s. 4d. as premium at the rate of 1 per cent. on remittances to Canada by means of his Bills on the Crown Agents for the Colonies, the net amount placed to credit of Revenue being £18 18s. 3d.

Between Jamaica and British Guiana.

	1883-84.		1884-85.		1885-86.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Jamaica Issue payable in British Guiana ...	6	£ s. d. 29 15 1	15	£ s. d. 24 0 4	16	£ s. d. 60 12 6
British Guiana Issue payable in Jamaica ...	53	216 18 6	47	143 13 4	57	146 15 6
Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica ...	.	1 3 9	.	1 3 0	.	1 9 5

51. It will be gathered from the above that the Money Order business transacted annually with British Guiana continues to be small. The orders issued on that Colony during the year under review were more in amount by the sum of £36 12s. 2d. than the issues of 1884-85, while there was an increase of one in number. The issues of British Guiana on Jamaica were less by £2 17s. 10d. in amount while the number was in excess by 10.

52. The Commission which accrued to Jamaica is £1 9s. 5d.

Between Jamaica and Barbados.

	1883-84.		1884-85.		1885-86.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Jamaica Issue payable in Barbados ...	36	£ s. d. 142 13 4	50	£ s. d. 157 13 6	63	£ s. d. 100 17 10
Barbados Issue payable in Jamaica ...	46	114 7 4	37	81 9 9	63	154 14 7
Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica ...	.	15 4	.	2 11 6	.	2 14 5

53. As compared with the exchange during 1883-84 the orders issued on Barbados show an excess of 13 in number and a decrease of £56 15s. 8d. in amount, while the issues of Barbados payable in Jamaica exhibit an increase in number and amount respectively of 25 and £73 4s. 10d.

54. The credit to the Revenue on Money Order Commission Account with Barbados is £2 14s. 5d.

55. On the 1st January, 1886, the Leeward Islands were admitted into the Inter-colonial Money Order Exchange and the business transacted between those places and Jamaica was as under, the Commission to credit of the Revenue being 7s. 2d. :—

	No.	Amount.
Jamaica Issue payable in Leeward Islands ...	10	£ s. d. 30 8 0
Leeward Island Issue payable in Jamaica ...	8	16 13 1

EXPENDITURE.

56. I subjoin an Abstract of the Expenditure of the year under review as compared with that of the two years preceding :—

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.		Services	Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.		
1883-84	£ s. d. 4,212 2 2	£ s. d. 2,076 1 4	£ s. d. 7,046 14 0	£ s. d. 820 8 1	£ s. d. 1,210 5 4	£ s. d. 15,365 10 11
1884-85	4,273 14 11	2,108 18 8	6,973 7 8	1,300 8 4	1,174 2 5½	15,739 12 0½
1885-86	4,280 9 0	2,108 9 7	6,925 11 6	1,067 5 7	1,509 15 7½	15,891 11 3½

57. The expenditure of 1885-86 is in excess of the expenditure of the year 1884-85 by the sum of £151 19s. 3d. thus :—

	<i>Increase.</i>	
Salaries, Head Office	...	£6 14 1
Services	...	335 13 2
		<u>342 7 3</u>
	<i>Decrease.</i>	
Salaries District Officers	£0 9 1	
Inland Mail Conveyance	47 16 2	
Ocean Mail Conveyances	142 2 9	190 8 0
Net increase	...	<u>£151 19 3</u>

58. The increase under Salaries at the Head Office, Kingston, is the result of the annual incremental system, which would have caused a greater increase but for certain changes in the Staff of Second and Third Class Clerks.

59. The decrease under Mail Conveyance is the result of the transmission by Train of the Northside and Southside Mails which were formerly conveyed by the road, and in this connection I would remark that the total expenditure for mail conveyance includes the sum of £171 1s. 2d. which was paid to the Railway for the Special Mail Trains on Sundays from Kingston to Porus and Ewarton respectively, for the conveyance of the Northside and Southside Packet Express Mails.

60. A larger decrease in respect of Inland Mail Conveyance would have appeared had not the Department to provide for the maintenance of the Mail Service, both Ordinary and by Mail Coach, during the suspension of Railway traffic between Spanish Town and Ewarton.

61. The increase of £335 13s. 2d. under Services is explained thus :—

	<i>Increase.</i>	
Commission on sale of Stamps	...	£ 9 9 1½
Contingencies	...	102 6 10½
Making and repairing Mail Bags	...	5 1 1
Travelling charges	...	6 1 4½
Allowance to Officers for services performed out of office hours	...	110 13 3
Twine and Wax	...	6 9 8
Manufacture of Postage Stamps	...	79 4 2
Further supply of Private Letter Boxes at G.P.O., Kingston	...	58 15 8
		<u>£378 2 0</u>
	<i>Decrease.</i>	
Special Mail Services	...	£ 0 1 3
Rent	...	30 3 4
Dated Stamps and Type	...	12 4 3
Net Increase	...	<u>£335 13 2</u>

62. The increase under "Contingencies" consists principally of advertising and other incidental expenses attendant upon the starting of the Parcel Post, while the increase of £110 13s. 3d. on account of allowance to Officers for services performed out of office hours has been caused by the arrival on Sundays of the Packets from England, as well as of Messrs. J. E. Kerr & Co's. Steamers from the United States.

63. Although, as already stated in the 4th paragraph of this Report, it is not possible to say who much of the Postages collected in Jamaica is claimed by the United Kingdom, I would point out that the expenditure of £1,067 5s. 7d. above stated for Ocean Mail conveyance includes the sum of £860 7s. 1d., which was remitted to the Imperial Post Office on Postage Account, of which the sum of £110 7s. 1d. was in respect of the balance due to 30th September, 1885, under the old system of accounting monthly; and £750, the estimated share of the current year's collections, such estimate being based on the payments of the year 1884-85.

64. The sum of £306 3s. was also claimed by, and credited to, the Imperial Post Office for Sea and Territorial Transit rates on Correspondence forwarded hence by British Contract Packets to places other than the United Kingdom.

65. Similar payments were also made to the following Countries:—

United States	...	...	£48 3 3
France	...	...	28 1 2
Spain	...	...	2 18 6
Canada	...	...	2 4 6
			£81 17 5

66. In addition to the total expenditure for Ocean Mail conveyance £3,000 of the annual payment of £4,163 to the Imperial Post Office for Jamaica's proportion of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's Subsidy is charged against this Department, and will be found on turning to the details of the gross revenue and expenditure, herewith, charged under the head of "Postal Union Contribution." The balance of £1,163 is charged against "Miscellaneous" in the Public Accounts as pointed out in the 13th paragraph of my last Annual Report.

67. It must, I submit, also be borne in mind, in considering Post Office expenditure with revenue, that a large amount of official correspondence is conveyed *free of charge* by the Post Office.

68. The sum of £2,000 was paid through this Department to the Atlas Company for Steam Communication round the Island during the year under review.

NEW DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

69. A District Post Office was established at "Darliston" in the St. John's District of the Parish of Westmoreland on the 13th March, 1886, the Mail Service being maintained by a branch foot post from Petersfield.

MAIL COACHES.

70. In addition to the Mail Coach Services in existence at the commencement of the Financial Year between Kingston, Mandeville and Savanna-la-Mar, and Kingston, St. Ann's Bay and Montego Bay, the following Services have, by permission of this Department, been established by Mail Contractors in connection with their Mail Services, viz:—Kingston and Annotto Bay on the 1st October, 1885, Proprietor, Mr. A. W. Douet; Montego Bay and Lucea on the 29th March, 1886, Proprietor, Mr. G. L. P. Corinaldi; Kingston and Manchioneal on the 30th March, 1886, Proprietor, Mr. A. C. James. This Service has since been extended to Port Antonio.

71. The three new Services in question have been undertaken without any further payment from this Office, which merely acts as Agent for the respective Proprietors in the booking of Passengers and Parcels, for which 10 per cent. of the collections is claimed.

72. Thus increased facilities have been afforded to the public who may now reach by Mail Coach any town or place situated on the main line of post, and were evidence needed of the extent to which such increased facilities have been appreciated, not only for passenger traffic but for the transmission of parcels, it is to be found in the following statement of the earnings of the several Lines of Coach during the Financial Year under review:—

Lines of Coach.	Passengers' Fares.		Parcels.		Total.	
	1884-85.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Kingston, Mandeville and Sav-la-Mar	£ 480 3 6	£ 373 10 6	£ 97 3 3	£ 124 12 3	£ 577 6 9	£ 498 2 9
Kingston, St. Ann's Bay and Montego Bay	823 10 0	756 3 0	136 15 0	239 8 9	960 5 0	995 11 9
Kingston and Annotto Bay	...	93 3 0	...	7 11 3	...	100 14 3
Montego Bay and Lucea	...	14 8 6	...	3 12 0	...	18 0 6
Kingston and Manchioneal	...	102 3 0	...	18 0 9	...	120 3 9
	£ 1,303 13 6	1,339 8 0	233 18 3	393 5 0	1,537 11 9	1,732 13 0

73. The amount of earnings in each case has been paid to the Proprietors of the Coaches after deducting 10 per cent. for booking Passengers and Parcels as well as the cost of printing the necessary Forms and Books, &c.

74. During the suspension of Railway traffic between the months of June and September last temporary Mail Coach Services were established by the Proprietor, Mr. A. W. Douet of the Northside and Southside Mail Coaches, between Old Harbour and Porus and Spanish Town and Ewarton respectively.

RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

75. The Correspondence dealt with in the Returned Letter Branch during the year is as under:—

	Païd.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to the United Kingdom ...	641	125
Letters returned to Postal Union Countries ...	3,267	703
Letters reposted to writers in Kingston ...	1,873	566
Letters reposted to writers in Country ...	3,316	1,600
Letters destroyed, writers not found ...	1,348	873
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous ...	453	375
Newspapers returned to Publishers ...	1,627	11

76. The amount of Postage which has been written off as irrecoverable in respect of unclaimed, &c., Correspondence is £42 5s. 8½d.

77. The number of Letters which were found to contain value to the amount of £229 14s. 9½d. was 228. They have been registered and reposted to the writers in due course.

TELEGRAPHS.

78. The following is a Comparative Statement of the gross receipts, as shewn by the amount of Stamps sold, of the Telegraph Branch during the years ended 30th September, 1884, 1885 and 1886 respectively:

	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stamps sold ...	4,507 7 9	4,241 8 9	4,050 2 6
Additional charge on Books containing Message Forms ...	4 12 9	3 18 9	5 6 9
	4,512 0 6	4,245 7 6	4,055 9 3

79. The above comparison shews that the gross receipts of the year under review are below the average collections of the two years preceding, and that there has been a decrease of £189 18s. 3d. on the collections of the year 1884-85.

80. In the 81st paragraph of my last Annual Report I attributed the falling off in Telegraph Revenue which occurred in 1883-84 to the depression in the Fruit Trade, and stated that an improvement in telegraph business might be anticipated during 1885-86, as I had heard that the Fruit Trade was then, at the time I wrote, showing considerable signs of improvement, but I regret to find that such anticipation has not been realised; and I attribute this not only to the general depression of trade but to the fact that the fruit industry was materially affected by the continuous heavy rains and storms which prevailed during the year, and which culminated in the Cyclone of the 19th August last. I trust, however, that I may be in the happy position at the close of the current Financial Year, 1886-87, of being able to record an improvement under the head of "Telegraphs."

81. Viewing Telegraph Revenue with the amount of Expenditure for *Working Expenses* it will be noticed that the former exceeds the latter by the sum of £227 3s. 10d which, I am aware, is but a small contribution to the amount required by the Public Works Department for the maintenance of the 524 miles of Telegraph Lines, the estimated cost of maintenance being £1,523 11s. 3d. But it must not be lost sight of that Telegraphic Communication is of great convenience and of considerable importance to persons engaged in Trade and Commerce, as well as to private individuals and to the Government; and I do not think that I am saying too much when I express the conviction that the Fruit Trade could not have reached its present state of development but for the existence of the Telegraph System, and that there has been a considerable saving of time and money to all parties engaged in business, as well as to the Government. I, therefore, respectfully submit that, while it certainly would be most desirable that the Telegraphs should be self-supporting, the cash receipts should not *alone* be taken as the measure of its usefulness and success, but that allowance should be made for the unseen credits above pointed out and which it is not possible to estimate.

82. In addition to the usual Return of Messages exchanged between District Stations during the year I enclose a Return showing the total number of the Messages sent and received during the year as compared with the work done during 1884-85, and the probable cause of increase or decrease at each Station, which Return I submit will be found useful and interesting.

83. The number of Messages sent and received is 73,622 as against 76,886 for the year 1884-85, being a decrease of 3,264.

84. The following is a statement of the Expenditure on account of the Working Expenses of the Telegraph Branch during the year 1885-86, as compared with similar Expenditure during 1883-84 and 1885:—

	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries ...	2,304 12 9	2,493 3 8	2,504 15 6
Wages ...	420 17 1	461 15 9	467 10 3
Services ...	988 17 9	981 7 9½	855 19 8
	£3,724 7 7	3,936 7 2½	3,828 5 5

85. The Expenditure on account of Telegraphs during 1885-86 is less by the sum of £111 1s. 9½d. than that of the preceding year 1884 and 1885, which decrease is to be found under the following heads:—

	<i>Decrease.</i>		
Services ...	...	£125 8 1½	
	<i>Increase.</i>		
Salaries ...	...	£11 11 10	
Wages ...	...	5 14 6	17 6 4
			£108 1 9½

86. The increase under the head of "Salaries" is the result of the annual increments to the salaries of the Assistants to the Superintendent of Telegraphs, while that under "Wages" is consequent on the establishment of Stations at Ewarton and Yallahs, respectively, as will be referred to hereafter.

87. The decrease under Services will be found on turning to the Return of Gross Expenditure to have occurred in the item of Travelling Charges and in the cost of Telegraph Instruments and Stores.

88. Under the arrangement referred to in the 86th paragraph of my last Annual Report, between this Department and the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, the sum of £1,291 1s. 8d. was collected at the several Inland Telegraph Stations for Telegrams to places beyond sea, and was paid through the Island Treasurer to the Clerk in Charge of that Company. The value of the Messages sent, I submit, shows that the convenience is appreciated.

89. The following Telegraph Stations were opened during the year:—

"Ewarton" on the 12th February, 1886.

"Yallahs" on the 26th May, 1886.

On the completion of the Railway to Ewarton the establishment of a Telegraph Station there became a necessity for the public convenience. The opening of the Station was delayed somewhat after the completion of the Railway because of the difficulty experienced in obtaining suitable premises.

90. The establishment of the Station at Yallahs was recommended, not only because of the very great convenience of which it is to this Department in regulating the Mail conveyance on the Windward line in times of flood; but also, from reliable information received, with a view to the development of the Fruit Trade in that District.

91. The Floods and Storms of 1885-86 caused occasional interruptions on the several sections of the line, the most serious interruption being after the Floods in June, 1886. But on each occasion the damage was as speedily repaired as circumstances would permit. I here take this opportunity of recording the thanks of this Department to Mr. Arambarry, the Clerk in Charge of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, who when engaged in repairing the lines of his own Company on the Eastern section between Kingston and Plantain Garden River rendered material assistance, at my request, in restoring communication on the Post Office line.

MISCELLANEOUS.

92. A Parcel Post Exchange between the United Kingdom and this Colony came into force on the 1st October, 1885, and has since then been extended to certain places via the United Kingdom, the names of which have been duly advertised from time to time as admitted to the Exchange.

93. An Inter-Colonial Parcel Post Exchange also came into operation during the year and took effect between Jamaica and the Colonies mentioned below on the dates stated:—

Barbados ..	23rd August, 1886.
British Guiana ..	1st September, "
Trinidad ..	1st " "

94. The rate of postage on parcels to and from the United Kingdom has been fixed at 9d. per pound, of which the Imperial Post Office claims 5½d. per pound for sea conveyance. The limit of weight was, in the first instance, fixed at 7 lbs., but was on the 1st June last increased to 11 lbs. The limit of size is two feet length and four feet girth.

95. Parcels addressed to places via the United Kingdom must be prepaid an additional rate to that chargeable on parcels for the United Kingdom, and are subject to conditions as to limit of size and weight, etc., which have been duly advertised.

96. The Inter-Colonial Parcel Post rate of postage is 6d. per pound, of which the United Kingdom claims the sum of 2d. for sea conveyance, each Colony retaining the balance of the postage on parcels

despatched. The conditions as to limit of size and weight are the same as those which govern the exchange of parcels with the United Kingdom.

97. Prior to the 1st May last parcels could not be opened for examination of their contents for the assessment of the import duty unless the Addressee was present or was represented by an Agent, and the duty was payable only in Kingston; but on that date the "Post Office Law Amendment Law of 1886," "to make special provision with regard to the collection of Customs' duties payable on parcels coming by the Post from places beyond sea and to amend the Post Office Law of 1883," came into force, and under its terms any parcel may be opened at the Post Office for the purpose of assessing the import duty.

98. The Post Office was at the same time constituted a Queen's Warehouse for the purposes of the Parcel Post, under the terms of the Customs' Consolidation Law, by which arrangement this Department has been enabled to transmit for delivery, after payment of the duty, all parcels addressed to Post Offices at which Parcel Post business is transacted.

99. The parcels in Kingston are delivered by Letter Carrier if they be addressed to persons resident within the limits of the "house delivery;" in the contrary case they are delivered across the counter at the Parcel Post Office, Blundell Hall.

100. Letters found in parcels by post are withdrawn and are surcharged at the wholly unpaid letter rate of postage.

101. Immediately after the arrival of each Mail from England an Officer of the Customs attends at the Parcel-Post Office and in the presence of the Post Office Clerk assesses the duty, if any, on the contents of the parcels. To each parcel so assessed a label printed in *blue* is attached with the amount of duty filled in over the initials of the Customs' Officer. In the case of parcels, the contents of which are not dutiable, a label printed in *red*, indicating the fact, is attached.

102. I am glad to be able to say that the system of delivery of parcels above explained appears to have given entire satisfaction to the public, from whom very few complaints have been received.

103. The complaints which have been made have invariably been with respect to the alleged excessive assessment of duty, and it has been necessary in all such cases to point out to the complainants that their letters on the subject should have been addressed to the Customs' Authorities, this Department not having any control in the matter of Customs' duty, beyond collecting and accounting for it.

104. The Customs' Officer is guided in the assessment of duty by the value of the contents as stated in the Customs' Declaration Form which is affixed to each parcel and signed by the Sender. The complaints referred to as to the excessive assessment of duty have, for the most part, resulted from the action of the Sender in placing a higher value upon the contents of the parcels than they were actually worth.

105. The parcels received from England, &c., are delivered in Kingston as a rule, by the afternoon of the day following the arrival of the Steamer, while the majority of those for the country are forwarded by the first Mail Coach or other opportunity.

106. I subjoin a Statement shewing the transaction of the Parcel Post during the year under review:—

Parcels Received.

From	Number of Consignments.	Number of Parcels.	Amount of Import Duty collected.	Postage accruing to Jamaica.	Declared Value of Parcels.
United Kingdom, &c. ...	25	3,020	£ s. d. 267 11 2	£ s. d. 120 1 7	£ s. d. 2,777 5 6½
West Indies ...	4	4	0 2 6	...	1 2 6

Parcels Despatched.

To.	Number of Consignments.	Number of Parcels.	Postage accruing to Jamaica.	Declared Value of Parcels.
United Kingdom, &c. ...	26	779	£ s. d. 22 12 8	£ s. d. 770 9 7
West Indies ...	2	4	0 1 6	3 18 0

107. It will be gathered from the above Statements that the total credit of the Colony on Parcel Post business was as under:—

Postages	...	...	£142 15 9
Customs' duty	...	...	267 13 8
			£410 9 5

108. In connection with the subject of the Parcel Post I would add that during the year I addressed a communication to the United States Post Office with the object of ascertaining its views with reference to the establishment of a Parcel Post Exchange between that Country and Jamaica, which I felt would prove of great convenience to persons in this Island. In reply I was informed that the subject of a general Parcel Post Exchange was under the consideration of the United States Post Office, and that until the general question had been decided any proposal from this Colony could not be entertained; but I was advised, at the same time, "that any article of merchandize (duly enclosed in an unsealed package and within the prescribed limits of size and weight) received in the United States Mail from Jamaica or other Foreign Country, which on examination appears not to be a bonâ fide trade-sample and, therefore, contrary to rule, will not be treated as undeliverable, but will be transferred to the Customs' Authorities for the collection of the import duties chargeable thereon."

109. The limit of size and weight above referred to is, length 12 inches, width 8 inches, depth 4 inches and weight 12 ounces. The rate of postage is that charged under Postal Union Regulations for Patterns of Merchandize, i.e. 1d. per 2 ounces.

110. The concession made by the United States Post Office has been duly notified to the public by advertisement and I trust that the time is not far distant when I shall be able to announce that the Parcel Post Exchange has been arranged between the United States and Jamaica.

111. In addition to parcels received from the United Kingdom, &c., by the Parcel Post, 282 packets were found in the Mails from the United Kingdom and other places beyond sea, and were detained for the inspection of their contents by the Customs' Authorities, with the result that duty to the amount of £28 3s. 6d. was collected on £249 2s. 1d. value.

112. Formerly such detained packets were dealt with only in Kingston, but, under an arrangement concluded with the Collector-General, such as are addressed to Post Offices at Customs' Outports are now *at once* forwarded to the Addressees for delivery in the presence of the Local Customs' Officer after payment of the import duty, if any, each Addressee being advised simultaneously with the despatch of the packet.

113. In concluding the Report it is necessary that I should explain that its earlier completion has been unavoidably prevented through sickness amongst the Staff at the commencement of the current Financial Year, three of the Staff being absent from such cause, while I, also, was prevented from attending to my duties for about two months in consequence of an attack of malarial fever.

114. The routine duties of the Post Office, upon the regular and correct performance of which so many interests depend, are so arduous and continuous as to leave but little time for clerical work in the shape of preparation of statistics, and when, as shewn above, the number of the Staff is lessened the energies of the remainder are severely taxed in keeping faith with the public.

115. It must not be lost sight of that during the last decade the work of this Department has been considerably increased through the introduction of the Telegraphs, Mail Coaches, extension of the Money Order System to the United States, Canada and the Colonies, and lastly, by the Parcel Post with the United Kingdom, &c., as well as through the increase in the number of Mails received and despatched to and from places over sea.

116. The usual Returns are submitted.

I have &c.,

FRED. SULLIVAN,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

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, 1886.

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.				
7,599	43,539 2 5	...	3 7 0	603	1,662 5 3	585	1,530 19 4	3 3 6	755 5 9				
Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of the United Kingdom.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Commission on United Kingdom issue placed to the 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.
	216 18 8		538 7 1		7 19 5		...		546 6 6		242 11 6		303 15 0

Statement showing the Transactions of the Money Order Branch of the General Post Office, Jamaica, with the United States of America for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1886.

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 the United States				
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.				
1,582	10,342 17 5	...	33 0 0	188	693 1 10	191	626 11 4	...	237 18 6				
Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of the United States.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Commission on United States issue placed to the 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.
	77 1 11		163 16 7		4 13 2		...		165 9 9		67 11 1		97 18 8

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, 1886.

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.				
219	2,272 7 6	...	...	43	238 14 4	39	207 13 10	1 18 3	50 12 6		
Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of Canada.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Commission on Canada issue placed to the 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 Dominion of Canada.	£ s. d.
	11 13 1		38 19 5		1 2 2		...		40 1 7		18 18 3		21 3 4

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, 1886.

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.				
16	60 12 6	...	...	57	140 15 6	58	134 13 3	...	1 1 6		
Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of British Guiana.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Jamaica Commissions placed to the credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Commission on British Guiana issue placed to the 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 6 2		0 15 4		0 14 1		...		1 9 5		1 9 5		...

Statement showing the Transactions of the Money Order Branch of the General Post Office, Jamaica, with Barbados for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1886.

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.				
63	100 17 10	...	...	63	154 14 7	66	164 6 10	0 14 2	2 9 0		
Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of Barbados.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Commission on Barbados issue placed to the 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 10 2		1 18 10		0 15 7		...		2 14 5		2 14 5		...

Statement showing the Transactions of the Money Order Branch of the General Post Office, Jamaica, with the Leeward Islands for the Financial Year, ended 30th September, 1886.

JAMAICA ISSUE.				LEEWARD ISLANDS ISSUE.				COMMISSION ACCOUNT.					
Payable in Leeward Islands.		Void Order Account.		Payable in Jamaica.		Paid in Jamaica.		Void Order Account.	Total Commissions collected on Orders issued in Jamaica on the Leeward Islands.				
No.	Amount.	Forfeited to Revenue.	Repaid to Revenue.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Amount.	Amount.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ t. d.	£ s. d.				
10	30 8 0	...	...	8	16 13 1	8	16 13 1	...	0 9 0		
Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of the Leeward Islands.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Jamaica Commission placed to the credit of Jamaica.	£ s. d.	Proportion of Commission on Leeward Islands issue placed to the 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 Leeward Islands.	£ s. d.
	0 3 1		0 5 11		0 1 3		...		0 7 2		0 7 2		...

FRED. SULLIVAN, Postmaster for Jamaica

Comparative Return showing the Total Number of Telegraph Messages Sent and Received during the Years ended 30th September, 1885 and 1886, respectively, and cause of Increase or Decrease at each Station.

	SENT.				RECEIVED.				
	1884-85.	1885-86.	Increase.	Decrease.	1884-85.	1885-86.	Increase.	Decrease.	
Kingston	17,592	16,722	.	870	19,793	18,621	.	1,174	} Depression in Trade
Spanish Town	2,074	1,669	.	405	2,293	1,728	.	565	
Linstead	1,335	940	.	395	1,129	865	.	264	} New Office.
Ewarton	.	243	243	.	.	237	237	.	
Moneague	600	689	89	.	561	594	33	.	} Oranges.
Claremont	396	491	95	.	348	414	66	.	
St. Ann's Bay	3,672	3,736	64	.	3,635	3,857	222	.	} Depression in Trade
Dry Harbour	537	443	.	94	432	386	.	46	
Brown's Town	1,723	1,443	.	280	1,617	1,401	.	216	} Depression in Trade
Duncans	412	427	15	.	470	455	.	15	
Falmouth	3,159	2,927	.	232	3,132	2,812	.	320	} Depression in Trade
Montego Bay	5,471	4,688	.	783	5,645	5,064	.	581	
Luca	2,296	2,204	.	92	2,182	2,064	.	118	} Depression in Trade
Savanna-la-Mar	3,337	2,956	.	381	3,161	2,830	.	331	
Black River	2,202	1,651	.	551	2,006	1,518	.	488	} Depression in Trade
Santa Cruz	580	514	.	66	544	472	.	72	
Mandeville	2,441	2,125	.	316	2,330	2,221	.	109	} Oranges.
Newport	305	307	2	.	326	358	32	.	
Shooter's Hill	484	634	150	.	507	613	106	.	} Depression in Trade
Porus	1,068	1,079	11	.	803	921	58	.	
May Pen	742	636	.	106	629	562	.	67	} Depression in Trade
Chapelton	892	690	.	192	869	700	.	169	
Alley	964	901	.	63	830	717	.	113	} Oranges.
Milk River	713	766	53	.	736	773	37	.	
Old Harbour	1,394	897	.	507	1,204	845	.	359	} Depression in Trade
Yallahs	.	119	119	.	.	106	106	.	
Morant Bay	1,192	1,410	218	.	1,142	1,397	255	.	} New Office.
Port Morant	1,572	1,865	293	.	1,349	1,630	181	.	
Bath	382	370	.	12	393	443	50	.	} Bananas.
Plan. Gard. River	694	572	.	122	554	532	.	22	
Manchioneal	1,027	1,174	147	.	1,113	1,354	241	.	} General Depression
Priestman's River	370	396	26	.	408	416	8	.	
Port Antonio	6,464	7,050	586	.	6,030	6,113	83	.	} Bananas.
Hope Bay	849	869	20	.	810	837	27	.	
Ruff Bay	1,087	1,035	.	52	1,053	1,108	55	.	} Depression in Trade
Annotto Bay	1,731	1,684	.	47	1,580	1,548	.	32	
Port Maria	2,921	2,816	.	105	2,880	2,778	.	102	} Depression in Trade
Oracabessa	758	651	.	107	741	653	.	88	
Ocho Rios	649	562	.	87	634	543	.	91	} Naval.
Port Royal	1,236	1,139	.	97	1,046	612	.	434	
Up-Park Camp	759	1,161	402	.	683	663	.	20	} Military.
Gordon Town	413	390	.	23	561	984	423	.	
Cold Spring	481	573	92	.	659	977	318	.	} Agricultural Stations
Cumberland Pen.	22	18	.	4	3	.	.	3	
Total	76,886	73,622	2,625	5,880	76,886	73,622	2,535	5,799	Net Decrease 13

FRED. SULLIVAN, Postmaster for Jamaica.