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No. 15.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Jamaica, 28th February, 1889.

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT directs the publication, for general information, of the following Annual Report of the Postmaster for Jamaica for the year ended 30th September, 1888.

By Command,

NEALE PORTER, Colonial Secretary.

No. 64.

General Post Office, 25th February, 1889.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the Twenty-first Report of the Post Office Department, being that for the Financial Year ended 30th September, 1888.

### REVENUE.

2. The Cash Receipts under all heads amount to £21,795 17s. 2d., and compare, as follows, with the similar receipts for the two years preceding:—

Year.	Postages.			Commission on Money Orders.			Telegraphs.			Miscellaneous.			Total.			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1885-86	...	15,681	4	8½	313	18	4	4,054	16	9	205	8	4	20,255	8	1½
1886-87	...	16,133	4	11¾	374	18	10	4,058	5	3	184	3	2	20,750	12	2¾
1887-88	...	16,690	17	11	434	8	10	4,447	18	0	222	12	5	21,795	17	2

3. There has been a total increase of £1,045 4s. 11¾d. over the receipts of the year 1886-87, such increase having taken place under the following heads:—

Postages	...	£557	12	11½
Commission on Money Orders	...	59	10	0
Telegraphs	...	389	12	9
Miscellaneous	...	38	9	3
		<u>£1,045</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11½</u>



4. The following is the usual Approximate Analysis of the Collections under the head of Postages:—

Year.			Packet Postages.	Inland Postages.	Total.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1885-86	...	...	4,623 17 6	11,057 7 2½	15,681 4 8½
1886-87	...	...	4,890 17 10½	11,242 7 1¼	16,133 4 11½
1887-88	...	...	5,017 15 0	11,673 2 11	16,690 17 11

5. The above approximate analysis shows that of the increase of £557 12s. 11½d. under "Postages," the sum of £126 17s. 1½d. appears to be in respect of Packet-Postages, while the sum of £430 15s. 9½d. is under Inland Postages.

6. Of the Collections on account of Packet-Postages the sum of £1,127 19s. 2d. has been claimed by and placed to the credit of the Imperial Post Office for the Sea-Conveyance of correspondence from Jamaica to the United Kingdom, the British Colonies and to other Countries of the Universal Postal Union.

7. The increase of £59 10s. on Money Order Commission Account will be found, on turning to the paragraph relating to Money Orders, to be due to the large number and amount of Orders drawn on the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada.

8. The following items comprise the "Miscellaneous" receipts:—

Rent of Private Letter Boxes	...	£70 11 2
Private Letter Bags	...	19 3 3
Fines	...	47 2 3
Mail Coach Commission	...	85 15 9
		£222 12 5

9. The value of Postage-labels, Post-cards and Newspaper-wrappers sold during the year is £16,249 18s. 3½d. of which the sum of £2,347 9s. 7d. was sold to Authorised Vendors at 5 per cent. discount: such discount amounts to £103 14s. The "Pourdage" allowed to District Postmasters on the sale of Stamps at their respective Offices amounts to £136 9s., being at the rate of 1 per cent.

10. Postage Stamps to the value of £399 6s. 1d. were purchased from the public at a discount of 2½ per cent.; the amount of such discount £10 4s. 2d. being carried to the credit of the Revenue and included under the head of "Postages."

11. During the year, Wrappers with an embossed Half-penny Stamp on each, for transmitting Newspapers and Book-packets have been imported and were issued to the public on the 1st September last.

12. On the first October, 1887, effect was given to Law No. 18 of 1887, which authorises the use of Adhesive Postage Stamps for any purpose that Revenue Adhesive Stamps may be used for, and the use of Revenue Adhesive Stamps in the pre-payment of postage; provided that if any writing or mark be on the face of any such Revenue Stamp, it shall be deemed to have been thereby cancelled. In like manner, any Postage Stamp which has been obliterated by the Post Office may not be used for the purposes of a Revenue Adhesive Stamp.

13. Under the same Law provision is made for the "Unification" of the Postage and Revenue Stamps from time to time as the present Postage Stamp plates get worn out. Advantage has accordingly been taken of the wearing out of the 1d. and 2d. Postage-stamp-Plates to order through the Crown Agents for the Colonies new Stamps of those denominations for Postage and Revenue purposes.

14. It is not possible under the Postage and Stamp Revenue Law to keep anything like an accurate account of the amount of Stamps which are used either for Revenue or for Postage purposes. It has therefore been arranged that, in order to adjust the accounts, the Post Office shall pay to the Stamp Commissioner the annual sum of £1,170 as representing the average annual sale of Adhesive Revenue Stamps for the past ten years; an arrangement similar to that which prevails in the Mother Country.

15. On the 1st February, 1887, by the order of the Governor in Privy Council, the rates of Postage on Book-packets and Parcels for Inland Circulation were reduced as under:—

*Book Packets.*

For each 2 ounces in weight (up to a limit of 3 lbs.), half-penny.

*Parcels.*

For each 2 ounces in weight up to a limit of 8 ounces, one-penny.

The rates charged formerly being for Book-packets not exceeding 1 ounce in weight 1d., above 1 ounce and not exceeding 4 ounces in weight 2d., and for each additional 4 ounces 2d.; and for Parcels 3d. for 4 ounces.

CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

16. The following is a comparative statement of the estimated number of Letters and Post Cards

which were received at and despatched from the several Post Offices during the three years ended 30th September, 1888.

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.
<i>Head Office, Kingston.—Inland Mails.</i>						
Ordinary Letters—						
Public ...	398,200	361,900	369,100	262,200	265,800	279,900
Official ...	55,500	48,800	54,700	40,700	52,100	44,200
Post Cards ...	15,400	12,000	15,600	5,300	6,600	7,200
Registered Letters—						
Public ...	6,934	7,697	8,284	18,204	18,544	20,150
Official ...	10,601	11,103	12,169	10,043	10,127	11,094
<i>Ocean Mails.—(By Vessels under Contract.)</i>						
United Kingdom—						
Ordinary Letters ...	115,000	122,700	128,200	134,200	145,000	155,500
Post Cards ...	1,280	1,742	1,939	1,280	1,690	1,300
Inter-Colonial, British West Indies, &c.—						
Ordinary Letters ...	45,800	50,400	50,580	120,200	102,560	97,290
Post Cards ...	102	139	136	65	18	11
<i>(By Vessels not under Contract.)</i>						
United States of America—						
Ordinary Letters ...	33,766	36,840	39,381	43,279	50,145	46,390
Post Cards ...	636	738	758	572	468	468
Colon, Panama, &c.—						
Ordinary Letters ...	29,612	58,498	44,815	645	9,549	7,674
Post Cards ...	4	358	273	...	...	...
Registered Letters—Packet ...	4,318	4,720	5,191	5,285	6,280	6,050
	717,173	717,641	731,226	642,563	668,921	677,227

17. The number of Letters and Post Cards which were exchanged between the District Post Offices, not including correspondence to or from Kingston is estimated to have been as under:—

	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.
Ordinary Letters ...	442,500	472,500	508,651
Post Cards ...	11,803	11,973	8,723
Registered Letters ...	9,334	9,807	9,463
	463,637	494,280	526,837

18. It has hitherto not been found practicable, without causing delay in the despatch of the Mails, to take, as in the case of Letters and Post Cards, periodical "Counts" of the number of Inland Newspapers circulating within the Island: but a test-count taken during the year under review gives 147,600 as the estimated annual number of Newspapers posted for despatch from the General Post Office, Kingston.

#### OCEAN MAILS.

19. The number of Vessels which conveyed Mails from Jamaica during the year under review and the two years preceding is as under:—

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1885-86.		1886-87.		1887-88.		1885-86.		1886-87.		1887-88.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
<i>Kingston—</i>												
Contract ...	73	717	56	644	60	717	80	886	73	841	70	870
Non-Contract ...	107	251	184	334	158	387	160	314	143	269	159	289
<i>Outports—</i>												
Contract ...	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Non-Contract ...	10	48	11	33	.	.	20	20	50	50	10	10



20. The number of Mails which have been exchanged by other Countries via Jamaica is 506.

21. The Steamers of Mr. Cunard, as pointed out in the 29th paragraph of my Annual Report for the year ended 30th September, 1886, ceased to call at this port in consequence of the determination of the Contract with the Imperial Government. But a Contract has been recently entered into by this Government with Messrs. Peckford and Black, of Halifax, for the maintenance of Steam communication between Jamaica, Bermuda and Halifax, including Turks Islands.

22. Frequent opportunities for Mail Communication with the United States of America have presented themselves in the several Lines of Steamers which ply between Kingston, the Outports and the different Ports in the United States.

#### INLAND MAIL CONVEYANCE.

23. I am glad to be able to report that the conveyance of Inland Mails during the year has been performed with creditable punctuality.

#### MONEY ORDERS.

24. The following is a comparative statement of the transactions of the Money Order Branch during the year under report, with those of the two years ended 30th September, 1886.

#### United Kingdom.

Year.	Jamaica Issue.		Payable in Jamaica.		Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
1885-86	7,509	£ 43,509 2 5	603	£ 1,662 5 3	£ 546 6 6
1886-87	8,841	£ 52,264 2 1	678	£ 1,713 14 8	£ 650 9 9
1887-88	10,419	£ 61,547 9 10	673	£ 1,834 16 1	£ 759 17 0

#### United States of America.

1885-86	1,682	£ 10,342 17 5	188	£ 603 1 10	£ 165 9 9
1886-87	2,090	£ 12,670 7 8	195	£ 601 19 1	£ 201 10 6
1887-88	2,508	£ 14,691 0 6	184	£ 646 3 3	£ 233 17 8

#### Dominion of Canada.

1885-86	319	£ 2,372 7 6	43	£ 228 14 3	£ 40 1 7
1886-87	395	£ 2,994 10 1	45	£ 270 6 8	£ 49 9 3
1887-88	482	£ 3,819 16 8	36	£ 193 10 9	£ 62 6 9

#### British Guiana.

1885-86	16	£ 60 12 6	57	£ 140 15 6	£ 1 9 5
1886-87	10	£ 23 0 8	62	£ 166 10 0	£ 1 5 5
1887-88	5	£ 19 0 10	48	£ 121 10 9	£ 0 15 11

#### Barbados.

1885-86	63	£ 100 17 10	63	£ 154 14 7	£ 2 14 5
1886-87	103	£ 240 15 10	31	£ 29 7 2	£ 2 15 4
1887-88	85	£ 190 10 11	44	£ 119 1 5	£ 3 4 3

#### Leeward Islands.

1885-86	10	£ 30 8 8	8	£ 16 13 1	£ 0 7 2
1886-87	27	£ 31 12 8	14	£ 53 19 9	£ 1 0 3
1887-88	22	£ 22 19 7	9	£ 22 15 1	£ 0 14 7

25. There has been a steady increase in the number and value of Money Orders issued by Jamaica and payable in Great Britain, the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada, and in a minor degree also with respect to Orders drawn in those places and payable in Jamaica. But the Inter-Colonial Exchange is comparatively stagnant and would appear to show that except as part of a general system there is not any real demand for the interchange of Money Orders between Jamaica and the other West India Colonies.



26. Of the total amount of Commissions which accrued to Jamaica, *i. e.*, £1,060 16s 2d., the sum of £620 1s. 8d. was paid for remittances of balances; the net profit to Jamaica is therefore £440 14s. 6d., thus:—

		<i>Accrued Commission.</i>		
		£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	...	759	17	0
United States of America	...	233	17	8
Canada	...	62	6	9
British Guiana	...	0	15	11
Barbados	...	3	4	3
Leeward Islands	...	0	14	7
		£1,060 16 2		
		<i>Less Premium on Remittances.</i>		
		£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	...	442	10	0
United States of America	...	141	5	10
Canada	...	36	5	10
		620 1 8		
		£440 14 6		

#### POSTAL ORDERS.

27. Although not accomplished within the year under review, I may mention that His Excellency Sir Henry Norman has been pleased to authorize the adoption within Jamaica of the System of Postal Orders that obtains at home and elsewhere, and which will be brought into operation on receipt of the necessary Forms which have been ordered through the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

28. Postal Orders will, in the first instance, only be issued as of the following amounts:—Sixpence; One Shilling; One Shilling and Sixpence, and Two Shillings and Sixpence.

Experience will shew whether other values are needed.

29. The combination of two or more of such orders will provide for any sum of more than sixpence; and any amount less than sixpence can, in any case, be remitted by adhesive stamps as is now done.

30. Postal-Orders will not interfere with the existing Inland Money Order System, but will supplement it, especially to the extent of providing outlying Country Districts with means of remittance not now obtainable.

31. Postal-Orders will be sold at the General Post Office and at each District Post Office at a sum equal to the actual *face-value* in addition to a charge of One-half-penny each for Commissions; and they will be cashed on presentation at the Chief Treasury or at any Parochial Treasury. They will also be received in payment of Taxes or other Public-dues by the Collectors of Taxes; and may be redeemed by any Assistant Collector of Taxes or District Postmaster if such Officer has at the time sufficient public money to enable him to do so.

#### REGISTRATION.

32. As a "Postal Order" will, practically, be payable at sight, it is my duty again to remind the public that, if money or its equivalent be forwarded by post without having been registered according to Law, any remitter of such value, in case of miscarriage can only blame himself, as an unregistered letter can seldom be traced.

33. On the other hand, a Registered Letter can always be traced by the "hand-to-hand check" insisted on by the Post Office, commencing with the receipt granted to the Poster and continued by each Officer of the Post Office through whose hands such Registered Packet passes until the final receipt is granted by the addressee.

34. If the Officer into whose hands a Registered Packet is traced cannot clear himself by a receipt of transit or of delivery, he is held responsible for the loss; and a payment of forty shillings is made by this Department on account of such miscarriage; but such payment expressly excludes any further or other liability on the part of the Government.

35. I cannot too strongly impress on public attention that every person through whose hands an unregistered "value" letter or other packet passes is most improperly exposed to temptation that may result in his own ruin and in the ruin of those dependent on him; and, therefore, a person who remits value through the post without the protection afforded by the system of registration is guilty of a wrong to himself, to his correspondent, to the Post Office and to any person who may, in any way, be connected with the handling of such letter.

36. That the fee of fourpence cannot be the objection to such registration is manifest, when I point out that Letters of Value on public business, such as applications for Money Orders, addressed to me as Head of the Post Office are, as a rule, forwarded without having been registered although such correspondence is free of any charge for Postage; and that in the year under review such unprotected remittances amounted to over £630.

#### EXPENDITURE.

37. The expenditure for the year, the details of which will be found in the Return which is annexed



to this Report, amounts to £16,861 13s. 6d., and compares with that of the two years preceding as under:—

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.		Services.	Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices	Inland.	Ocean.		
1885-86	£ s. d. 4,280 9 0	£ s. d. 2,108 9 7	£ s. d. 6,925 11 6	£ s. d. 1,067 5 7	£ s. d. 1,509 15 7½	£ s. d. 15,891 11 3½
1886-87	4,352 9 2	2,109 4 10	6,991 10 0	951 13 19	1,314 9 6½	15,719 7 4½
1887-88	4,380 0 10	2,113 16 8	6,941 17 2	1,984 17 10	1,441 1 0	16,861 13 6

38. It will be observed that the expenditure of the year under report, exceeds that of the year 1886-87 by the sum of £1,142 6s. 1½d., thus:—

<i>Increase.</i>		
Salaries, Head Office	.	£ s. d. 27 11 8
Salaries, District Offices	.	4 11 10
Ocean Mail Conveyance	.	1,033 4 0
Services	.	126 11 5½
		£1,191 18 11½
<i>Decrease.</i>		
Inland Mail Conveyance	.	49 12 10
		£1,142 6 1½

39. Turning to the detailed statement of expenditure above referred to, it will be seen that the principal increase of £1,033 4s. 0d. under ocean mail conveyance is in respect of the item of "Ship Letter, Gratuities" and is due to the settlement during the year of the Atlas Steam Ship Company's claim for sea-conveyance of correspondence from this island to New York, &c., since the determination of their Contract for Steam Communication between Kingston and New York.

40. The expenditure stated on account of ocean mail conveyance includes a remittance of £900 to the Imperial Post Office on account of postages actually collected.

41. The sum of £4,163 was also paid by the Crown Agents for the Colonies to the Imperial Post Office for this Colony's share of the annual loss to the Imperial Exchequer consequent on its entrance to the Universal Postal Union. This amount, or rather so much of it as is charged against this department, i.e. £3,000, is not however included in the total expenditure of £16,861 13s. 6d.

42. The increase under the head of "Services" will be found to have taken place for the most part, in the item "Manufacture of Stamps."

43. The Vote for Steam Communication round the Island continues to be administered by this department, and the sum of £1,726 16s. 8d. was paid to the the Atlas Steamship Company for such Service.

#### MAIL COACHES.

44. The total amount earned by the respective Lines of Mail Coaches is £2,782 6s. 6d. and compares, as under, with the earnings during the years 1885-86 and 1886-87:—

##### I.—Kingston and Savanna-la-Mar.

Year.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1885-86	373 10 6	124 12 3	498 2 9
1886-87	467 0 6	169 15 3	636 15 9
1887-88	542 14 6	201 10 6	744 5 0

##### II.—Kingston and Montego Bay.

Year.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1885-86	756 3 0	239 8 9	995 11 9
1886-87	808 15 3	302 1 0	1,110 16 3
1887-88	933 14 9	333 9 6	1,267 4 3

##### III.—Montego Bay and Lucca.

Year.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1885-86	14 8 6	3 12 0	18 0 6
1886-87	32 11 0	6 6 0	38 17 0
1887-88	55 2 0	9 4 9	64 6 9



## IV.—Kingston and Port Antonio.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1885-86	102	3	0	18	0	9	120	3	9
1886-87	297	11	0	85	1	0	382	12	0
1887-88	344	5	6	126	17	9	471	3	3

## V.—Kingston and Annotto Bay.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1885-86	93	3	0	7	11	3	100	14	3
1886-87	112	10	0	24	19	3	137	9	3
1887-88	194	16	0	40	11	3	235	7	3

45. The above stated results would appear to show that the public approves of the facilities afforded by the Mail Coach System for which there is not, except in respect of Services I and II any special subsidy paid; the other Services being undertaken by the local Contractors for Mail Conveyance as being for their own advantage.

46. It may not be unfair to place the extension of travelling facilities to the credit of the Government Mail Coach System, which although authorised by Governor Sir John Peter Grant in 1873, unfortunately could not then be carried into effect, because the Coaches imported from England were not suitable to the Jamaica Roads.

47. It was not until 1878 that under the auspices of the then Governor, the late Sir Anthony Musgrave, the first "Government Mail Coach" Service was started—a service that has contributed to the benefit of the travelling community not only in the facilities afforded thereby, but also in that, as the result of competition, the cost generally of travelling by Livery conveyance has been considerably cheapened; and further by the opportunity afforded for the transmission of Trade and other Parcels which exceed the limit of size and weight possible by ordinary post and at a cheaper rate.

48. The Revenue benefited to the extent of £85 15s. 9d., being the balance of the 10 per cent. charged on the Mail Coach Collections as remuneration for work done by the Post Office for Mail Coach Proprietors, the difference having been paid to the District Postmasters concerned.

49. On the 2nd July last, Mr. A. W. Douet, the Mail Coach Contractor between Kingston and Montego Bay, who is also the Contractor for the conveyance of the Mails between those places, started, by permission of this Department, a Mail Coach Service in connection with the conveyance of the Mails between Falmouth and Montego Bay; the effect being to bring those towns into daily Mail Coach Communication.

## RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

50. The following is a statement of the correspondence dealt with in the Returned Letter Branch during the year:—

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to the United Kingdom	415	98
Letters returned to Postal Union Countries	1,848	210
Letters reposted to writers in Kingston	3,421	1,116
Letters reposted to writers in the Country Districts	5,076	2,287
Letters Destroyed, Writers not found	2,231	2,109
Letters destroyed being illegible or anonymous	1,077	727
Newspapers returned to Publishers	2,429	5

51. The amount of Postage which was not recoverable in respect of the above and which has been written off is £72 12s. 8½d.

52. The number of letters which were found to contain value to the amount of £201 6s. 1d. is 308. They have been registered and reposted to their writers in due course.

## TELEGRAPHS.

53. The following is a statement of the Gross Receipts of the Telegraph Branch of this Department as shown by the amount of Stamps sold, in comparison with receipts of the two preceding years 1885-86, 1886-87:—

	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stamps sold	4,050 2 6	4,033 9 6	4,442 8 3
Additional Charge on Books containing Message Forms	5 6 9	4 15 9	5 9 9
	4,055 9 3	4,038 5 3	4,447 18 0



54. The above comparison shews that the receipts of the year under review exceed those of 1886-87 by the sum of £389 12s. 9d.

55. The number of Messages sent and received is 81,029 as against 73,781 sent and received during the previous year, being an increase of 7,248.

56. The working expenses of the Telegraph Branch during the year amount to £4,212 15s. 3½d. and compare as under with similar expenses for the years 1885-86 and 1886-87:—

	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries ...	2,504 15 6	2,606 11 8	2,659 14 4
Wages ...	467 10 3	483 16 3	487 9 0
Services ...	855 19 8	911 6 9	1,065 11 11½
	3,828 5 5	4,001 14 8	4,212 15 3½

57. The above exhibits an increase of £211 0s. 7½d. over the expenditure of 1886-87, and is to be found under the following heads:—

	£ s. d.
Salaries ...	53 2 8
Wages ...	3 12 9
Services ...	154 5 2½
	£211 0 7½

58. The expenditure under the head of "Services" includes an item of £45 2s. 0d. as will be seen on turning to the details in the return, hereunto appended, for remuneration to Telegraph Operators for services performed out of office hours—provision on this account having been included, for the first time in the Estimates for the year under review. It is with much pleasure that I am able to record that such a Vote has been granted, for it sometimes happens that the Clerks, in consequence of interruptions on the Lines during the day, are kept at work after the recognised Office hours which are from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. during which time they must be in constant attendance.

59. A Telegraph Station has been opened on the 1st May last at the Post Office at Middle Quarters ("Shaws") in the Parish of Saint Elizabeth, the necessary guarantee for the working expenses having been forthcoming.

60. Foreign Telegrams were sent over the Local Telegraph Lines, on account of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, during the year to the number of 1,135 and to the amount of £2,234 2s. 8d., as against 819 in number and £1,452 4s. 2d., in amount for the previous year 1886-87, proving that His Excellency the Governor's directions are appreciated.

61. The arrangement with the Company has had the effect of bringing each District in which a Telegraph Station has been established into telegraphic communication with all parts of the civilised world.

62. In the Estimates for 1887-88 an item of one hundred pounds (£100) has been provided, £50 being charged against the Post Office Vote and £50 against the Telegraph Vote, for the first time, for "Clerical Assistance" in consequence of the rapidly increasing work of the Head Office.

63. By means of this vote, which in its effect has been most useful, a School of Telegraphy has been established wherein Candidates for employment in the Telegraph Service are trained in Telegraph as also in Post Office work for promotion to a District Post Office or to other Departmental employment as opportunity may offer.

64. At present to meet the convenience of candidates, not able to afford to come to Kingston, such instruction is also imparted at District Stations; but should the Telegraph Service be extended more generally throughout the Island, it may be proper, in the future, to require each candidate to pass through the School for a shorter or longer period as may be necessary before being registered for general employment.

65. At present although so recently established, the "School," in addition to the work above referred to, renders material assistance and much needed relief to the permanent staff by the primary examination of Vouchers and Accounts, &c., of both branches of the Department. In fact, it is what may be termed the Examining Branch of the Head Office, subject, of course, to the usual directions and supervision of more experienced Clerks; and, in the Returned Letter Branch, Unclaimed correspondence is now returned to the writer with a promptitude that from press of general work was formerly seldom possible.

66. I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without placing on record my grateful appreciation of the good and useful work done by the Women of Jamaica who have joined the Postal Telegraph Service which is now in the tenth year of its existence.

67. With the exception of the Superintendent and his two Assistants all telegraph work is done by women; and each District Telegraph Station is also a Post Office, except at Port Morant where on account of the distance of the shipping-port from the main line of post-road the Post Office and Telegraph Station have to be kept apart.



68. There are 97 Post Offices in the Island of which 46 are also Telegraph Stations.

69. The Staff of women in paid public employment numbers 65, and there is a Reserve of about 37 passed as competent in, or still learning, Telegraphy.

70. In view of these facts it is clear that the experiment of 1878 has proved to be a success in the Post Office Department and that only opportunity is wanting to enable many women who need remunerative employment to find it in the Public Service.

71. I note that there were at Home during last year 3,872 women in the permanent Post Office establishment, and about 16,000 otherwise employed throughout the United Kingdom on the responsibility of local Postmasters.

MISCELLANEOUS.

72. I subjoin a statement showing the transactions of the Parcels Post between this Colony, the United Kingdom, the British West Indies and the United States of America:—

Parcels Received.

From.	Consignments.			Parcels.			Import Duty Collected.		
	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.
United Kingdom ...	25	26	25	3,025	4,605	5,740	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
British West Indies ...	4	22	46	4	52	73	0 2 6	1 19 9	3 7 0
United States of America ...	...	...	36	...	...	369	...	...	41 5 9
	29	48	108	3,024	4,657	6,182	267 13 8	512 18 8	769 18 4

From.	Postage accrued to Jamaica.			Declared Value of Parcels.		
	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.
United Kingdom ...	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
British West Indies ...	...	...	...	1 2 6	26 11 4	52 8 3
United States of America ...	...	...	...	...	...	380 6 6
	120 1 7	203 11 11½	269 5 4	2,778 8 0½	4,879 2 4½	6,925 3 4

Parcels Despatched.

To.	Consignments.			Parcels.			Postage accrued to Jamaica.			Declared Value of Parcels.		
	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.
United Kingdom ...	26	27	23	779	1,003	1,347	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
British West Indies ...	2	24	63	4	176	39	0 1 6	1 7 4	3 16 0	3 13 0	70 10 0	69 6 5
United States of America ...	...	...	33	...	...	244	...	...	13 16 0	...	...	312 6 6½
	28	51	129	783	1,211	1,680	29 14 2	30 7 5½	53 3 11	774 7 7	370 12 3	1,500 7 6

73. The foregoing statement shows that there has been during the year under review, a large increase of business in the Parcels' Post Branch; and that the Jamaica Revenue has benefited on account of Parcels-Post transactions to the extent of £1,094 7s. 7d.

Postages	...	£324 9 3
Customs' Duty	...	769 18 4
<b>Total</b>	...	<b>£1,094 7 7</b>

being £347 9s. 6d. in excess of the credit for the previous year: a result which, I submit, cannot be regarded otherwise than as most satisfactory, and as tending to show that the facilities afforded by the Parcels' Post System have been duly appreciated by the public.

74. In the 54th paragraph of my last Annual Report, I remarked that a Parcels Post Exchange between the United States of America and Jamaica had been established.

75. That exchange came into operation on 1st October, 1887; and in the Report of the Postmaster General for the United States of America for the year ended 30th June, 1887, is referred to in the following terms:—

"Parcels Posts Conventions have never been hitherto negotiated with other Countries, nor have any domestic arrangements of the kind been set on foot. It has been our policy to leave to Express Companies and



other Carriers the transportation of all parcels above the mailable weight of 4lbs. and no general demand for any change in this policy has ever arisen; such service by private hands having apparently been hitherto accepted as satisfactory. This however has little or no relation to the interchange of small parcels of merchandise with Foreign Countries.

"The restrictions of the Tariff Laws not only in the duties imposed, but still more in the troublesome and expensive requirements attending the passage through the Custom-house and the forwarding of articles have to a great degree prevented the purchase here by persons residing abroad, or their sending hither the smaller goods in retail which within our borders are freely purchased though long distances intervene between the buyer and seller.

"It has seemed probable that this obstruction might be removed with great advantage to our people especially to our Merchants and the Ocean Carriers by concluding with the countries of our Continent and its contiguous Islands arrangements for the use of the Mails for such purposes which would afford entire freedom of transmission of single parcels of moderate weight and size, subject only to the payment on receipt by the addressee of the proper duty without farther charges."

Upon reference, in such connection, the Attorney General of the United States of America expressed his opinion that the Post Office Department could conclude Postal Conventions with Foreign Powers, fixing limits of weight and size on articles to pass by post with such Foreign Countries higher than that provided by Law for domestic Mails.

"A Convention was soon negotiated with the Governor of Jamaica for the exchange of articles by the Parcels Post system which had indeed been previously urged by the enterprising Postal administration of that Island, and having been duly signed came into operation on 1st October, 1887."

In the Annual Report of the Postmaster General of the United States Post Office for 1888, the subject of Parcels' Post is again adverted to as under:—

"The first Parcels Post Convention between the United States and any Foreign Country was that concluded with Jamaica and which went into operation October 1st, 1887; and since then Parcels Post Conventions have been concluded between the United States and the following countries:

Barbades—1st December, 1887.

Bahamas—1st February, 1888.

British Honduras—1st March, 1888.

Mexico—1st July, 1888.

"The provisions of these different Parcels' Post Conventions are substantially the same, viz., 12 cents (sixpence) per pound or fraction of a pound, in addition to this a charge for interior service and delivery may be collected from the addressee in the country of destination—this charge is 5 cents (2½d.) on each single parcel of whatever weight; and if the weight exceeds one pound, 1 cent (half-penny) for each four ounces or fraction of four ounces.

"These charges will certainly compare favourably with the charges of Foreign Express Companies; the principal advantage of the new system however which has made it so exceedingly popular is, that it does away with the former slow and expensive method of meeting the Custom-house requirements.

"The effect of these Conventions herein referred to has been to remove the restrictions which previously existed in the transmission by mail of this class of Mail-Matter; and there can be no doubt that it has and will continue to augment largely the Trade relations with those Countries without imposing additional burthens on the Postal Revenue of the United States as the Postage collected on such matter despatched will more than equal the expenditure.

"Parcel Post Conventions are now pending with all the Central and South American States and it is hoped that the time is not far distant when "The Three Americas" will be embraced in one Grand Parcel Post Union which will, in its way, aid this Country in fulfilling its eventual mission, viz., to control the markets of this hemisphere and become the leader in its industrial and commercial progress."

76. I may be forgiven for alluding to the interesting fact that to Mrs. Cleveland, the wife of the President of the United States of America, was addressed the *first parcel of this first Parcels Post Exchange* between the United States of America and other Countries.

77. It was delivered to Mrs. Cleveland, on behalf of the Women's Self Help Society of Kingston, Jamaica, by the kind offices of the Superintendent of Foreign Mails, Washington, the Honble. N. M. Bell, to whom credit for the realization of the Parcels' Post Exchange with the United States of America is due and is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

78. Mrs. Cleveland accepted the offering in the following graceful terms:—

"I wish to express to the Woman's Self-Help Institution of Jamaica my gratification at the beautiful fan which I have just received by the new Parcel Post; and I beg that my thanks may be conveyed by you to the Women of the Institution.

"The fan gives me great pleasure as an example of what the Women of Jamaica can do and also because it has been the means of paying me the compliment, I so appreciate, of being the first American to receive a parcel by this method of transportation lately adopted between our two Countries."

79. The Parcels Post business with the United States of America is conducted almost entirely on the same lines as that with the United Kingdom and British Colonies; but there are two points to which I desire specially to invite the attention of the public in connection with the transmission of parcels to the United States of America, viz.: as to the prohibition of certain articles, and as to the regulation which exists against closing parcels against inspection.

80. The United States Parcels Post Convention prohibits the transmission of the following:—

"Publications which violate the Copy-right Laws of the country of destination, poisons and explosive or inflammable substances; fatty substances; liquids and those which easily liquefy; confections and pastes, live or dead animals, *except* dead insects and reptiles, when thoroughly dried; fruits and vegetables and substances which exhale a bad odour; lottery-tickets; lottery advertisements or lottery circulars; all obscene or immoral articles; articles which may in any way damage or destroy the mails or injure the persons handling them."



81. Parcels for the United States must *not be closed against inspection*, that is, they must not be secured by means of wax, screws or nails or in any manner which would not admit of their easy examination by the Customs Authorities in the United States. It is contrary to the laws of the United States for any Officer of the Post Office or of the Customs to open packages closed against inspection.

82. A disregard of the above quoted instructions can only result in disappointment to the Sender and to the Receiver of the Parcels; for the Post Office authorities of the United States are most particular in returning any Parcel containing prohibited articles or which may have been closed against inspection in any manner whatsoever.

83. In the 93rd paragraph of my Annual Report for the year ended 30th September, 1885, I remarked, in connection with the establishment of the Parcels Post Exchange with the Mother Country which came into operation on the 1st October, 1885, that the dimensions of a Parcel had been limited to two feet greatest length and four feet greatest girth, such limit having been fixed in accordance with the carrying capacity of the Mail Coaches; but that it might 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, I am glad now to be able here to record that such increased measurements were adopted in the case of the American Post Office on the 19th December, 1888, and in the case of the British Post Office and British Colonies on the 1st January, 1889.

84. It is but fair to the principal and enterprising Mail Coach Contractor, Mr. A. W. Douet, that I should at the same time state that the adoption of the increased measurements above referred to, is due to the ready manner in which he acquiesced to my request to provide, when necessary, extra conveyances for Foreign Parcels addressed to Post Offices in the interior; and I am glad to be able to state that, notwithstanding the increased dimensions, the Post Office has been able to deliver without delay the parcels which have been received by each Mail from the United Kingdom, &c., and from the United States of America.

85. In addition to the parcels which were received by the Parcels Post, 351 packets contained in the Mails from places over sea were detained for examination of their contents by the Customs' Authorities, with the result that duty to the amount of £206 17s. 7½d. was collected thereon.

86. In conclusion I have the honor to submit the usual Returns.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

FRED. SULLIVAN,  
Postmaster for Jamaica.