

Colonial Secretary's Office, 29th July, 1891.

THE MAJOR GENERAL ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT directs the publication, for general information, of the following Report of the Stamp Commissioner on the transactions of his Department for the period of eighteen months from the 1st October, 1889, to the 31st March, 1891.

By Command,

J. ALLWOOD, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Stamp Office, 23rd July, 1891.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward the following Report of the transactions of this Department, embracing the period of eighteen months from the 1st October, 1889, to the 31st March, 1891.

2. The cash receipts for the first six months of the above period, namely, from the 1st October, 1889 to the 31st March, 1890, were £9,329 1s. 1½d., being in excess of the Estimate (£8,000) by £1,329 1s. 1½d.

3. Those for the succeeding twelve months to the 31st March, 1891, constituting the new Financial Year were £19,390 10s. 10d., being in excess of the Estimate (£16,000) by £3,390 10s. 10d.

4. Statement No. 1, given below, shows that the aggregate collections for the half-year above referred to were £1,688 12s. 11¾d. above those of the corresponding previous half-year; and £1,202 16s. 10¾d. above the average of the last three corresponding half-years.

5. Those for the year ending 31st March last—Statement No. 2—were £1,036 15s. 8¾d. in excess of the previous year; and £1,352 16s. 8¼d. above the average of the last three years.

No. 1.

Half-Year.	Stamp Office,	Sales by Country	Allotment from Petty	Total.
	Kingston.	Distributors.	Session Fees.	
Ending 31st March, 1888 ...	£ s. d. 6,423 1 7	£ s. d. 766 14 10½	£ s. d. 219 7 0	£ s. d. 7,409 3 5½
“ 31st March, 1889 ...	6,589 1 4	751 14 6¾	299 12 3	7,640 8 1¾
“ 31st March, 1890 ...	8,138 8 0	870 4 1½	320 9 0	9,329 1 1½

No. 2

Year.	Stamp Office,	Sales by Country	Allotment from Petty	Total.
	Kingston.	Distributors.	Session Fees.	
Ending 31st March, 1889 ...	£ s. d. 14,111 0 7	£ s. d. 1,559 16 2½	£ s. d. 697 19 9	£ s. d. 16,368 16 6½
“ 31st March, 1890 ...	15,737 13 10	1,842 4 9¼	773 16 6	18,353 15 1¼
“ 31st March, 1891 ...	16,707 10 5	1,906 5 5	776 15 0	19,390 10 10

6. An Analysis of the Cash Receipts at this office for the year ending 31st March last, as compared with the other two Financial Years hereunder mentioned, gives the following:—

Documents Stamped.	Year ending 30th	Year ending 30th	Year ending 31st
	September, 1888.	September, 1889.	March, 1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Conveyances of Land ...	2,180 19 2	2,591 9 0	2,908 6 10
Ditto by Building Societies ...	58 1 6	51 10 0	36 10 0
Diagrams of Land ...	56 0 0	70 9 0	55 6 0
Mortgages ...	558 10 0	485 15 0	592 15 6
Ditto to Building Societies ...	43 15 0	57 0 0	67 0 0
Leases ...	56 2 0	67 3 0	69 9 3
Settlements, Deeds of Gift, &c. ...	101 17 6	346 2 6	258 7 6
Foreign Bills of Exchange ...	1,393 3 9	1,503 13 6	1,674 14 5
Inland Bills of Exchange ...	394 19 2	446 6 11	823 7 8
Foreign Bills of Lading ...	314 9 0	337 17 6	461 4 3
Coastwise Bills of Lading ...	105 11 0	115 9 8	300 8 0
Impressed Stamps on Receipts ...	14 11 10	16 1 10	16 6 0
Supreme Court Fees ...	469 6 0	364 0 0	397 18 3
Probate Duty ...	1,610 5 7	1,793 15 9	1,522 7 10
Legacy Duty ...	1,026 17 8	551 16 11	1,091 13 6

Documents Stamped.	Year ending 30th September, 1888.			Year ending 30th September, 1889.			Year ending 31st March, 1891.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Fire Policies	827	7	3	658	7	3	1,155	7	0
Life Policies	48	3	6	55	14	5	3	2	6
Marine Policies	42	16	9	45	10	6	37	4	8
Powers of Attorney, English, &c.	83	0	0	53	0	0	87	0	0
Ditto Local	66	15	0	91	5	0	86	10	0
Adhesive Stamps, 3d.	0	10	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto do. 1d.	16	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marriage Licences	65	0	0	40	0	0	75	6	0
Bank Cheque Books	559	3	4	574	9	7	771	2	3
Orders at Sight	5	9	3	6	16	4	5	10	8
Deeds not otherwise charged	67	0	6	66	1	6	64	2	6
Charter-parties	16	10	0	9	0	0	15	0	0
Articles of Copartnership	9	0	0	10	14	0	27	4	0
Bonds	7	14	6	10	8	0	16	4	0
Agreements	32	13	3	41	12	0	42	5	3
Satisfactions on Mortgages	6	7	6	7	10	0	10	12	6
Notarial Certificates, &c.	3	16	0	5	14	0	4	8	0
Office copies—Record Office	20	17	0	18	12	0	15	16	6
Accounts, Current, &c.	7	18	6	8	5	6	10	1	0
Articles of Clerkship	250	0	0	250	0	0	100	0	0
Assignments of Articles	0	15	0	3	15	0	2	5	0
Surveyors' Notices	1	5	0	1	7	0	1	14	0
Private Bill	50	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ketubahs	6	0	0	8	5	0	9	0	0
Awards	0	15	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Patents of Inventions	34	13	0	24	5	0	42	2	6
Registrations of Debentures	44	4	4	15	15	0	5	5	6
Bank Licence	65	0	0	65	0	0	65	0	0
Admissions of Barristers	15	0	0	...	...	...	30	0	0
Admissions of Solicitors	300	0	0	100	0	0	700	0	0
Land Surveyors' Commissions	...	...	...	60	0	0	...	...	...
Land Surveyors' Articles	60	0	0	60	0	0	20	0	0
Assignments of Articles	...	...	...	0	15	0	...	...	...
Patents of Land	11	10	0	13	15	0	1	10	0
Declarations—Medical Law	5	0	0	1	0	0	10	0	0
Certificates ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	2	0
Notary Public Commissions	...	...	...	3	0	0	20	0	0
Lumber Measurers' Certificates	0	4	0	...	...	...	0	19	0
Letters of Preference	1	0	0	...	...	...	1	0	0
Certificates	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	11	0
Blank Paper	10	14	0	7	19	0	20	2	0
OTHER RECEIPTS—									
Fees Incumbered Estates Court	19	0	0	...	...	...	7	10	0
Subsidy from General Post Office	1,121	5	0	1,170	0	8	1,170	0	0
Bank Circulation	1,521	5	0	1,507	5	0	1,679	0	0
Sales of Kingston Distributors	272	2	2	333	5	4	92	3	7
Sales of Forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	0
Poundage refunded to Revenue	84	16	10	61	9	6	55	3	0
	13,945 0 10			14,188 7 2			16,707 10 5		

7. A Comparative Statement of the number and value of Conveyances stamped during the under-mentioned Financial Years, respectively, gives the following:—

Year ending	Not exceeding £10.		Not exceeding £20.		Not exceeding £50.		Not exceeding £100.		Exceeding £100.		Total.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
30th September, 1888...	262	1,570 12 0	131	2,060 2 3	172	6,108 0 11	103	8,197 9 0	260	148,222 3 3	928	166,158 7 5
30th September, 1889...	267	1,756 11 6	189	3,042 8 6	247	8,994 1 8	165	12,659 5 0	331	180,518 5 2	1199	206,970 11 10
31st March, 1891 ...	287	1,976 14 6	189	3,011 8 9	256	7,141 1 4	171	13,390 8 9	365	227,307 1 4	1268	252,826 14 8

8. A further Comparative Statement of some of the more important transactions for the same period gives the following:—

	Year ending 30th Sept., 1888.	Year ending 30th Sept., 1889.	Year ending 31st March, 1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount secured by Mortgage	67,387 9 10	94,315 9 8	112,682 9 5
Amount secured to Building Societies	8,449 0 0	11,675 0 0	15,480 0 0
Annual Rental shown by Leases	5,373 14 0	6,134 0 0	6,650 16 4
Amount on which Probate Duty was paid	54,374 18 11	68,350 0 9	55,136 9 6
Amount on which Legacy Duty was paid	31,553 17 6	19,577 9 7	31,587 15 11
Insurances against Fire New	374,600 0 0	329,175 0 0	578,025 0 0
Insurances against Fire. Renewal	3,371,400 0 0	3,077,784 0 0	3,655,809 0 0
Life Assurances	38,400 0 0	44,000 0 0	24,000 0 0
Marine Insurances	180,000 0 0	200,000 0 0	180,000 0 0

9. The following is the Bank Circulation and the Duty paid thereon during the last three years.

Year.	Circulation.	Duty Paid.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ending 31st March, 1889	155,897 0 0	1,559 10 0
“ 31st March, 1890	151,674 0 0	1,517 0 0
“ 31st March, 1891	167,851 0 0	1,679 0 0

10. There were one hundred and seven Stamp Distributors at the 31st March, including fifty-nine District Postmasters.

11. The Stock of Adhesive Stamps, Postal Cards, &c., on the 31st March, was:—

Postage Stamps	£21,535 10 0
Postal Cards	312 8 6
Telegraph Stamps	410 0 0
Newspaper Wrappers	445 10 0
“ Official” Postage Stamps	4,545 0 0
Postal Orders	9,700 0 0
	<u>£36,948 8 6</u>

12. The issue of the undermentioned Unified Postage and Revenue Stamp was authorized by a notice in the “ Gazette” of the 26th February:—

Twopence half penny, Color: Light purple, Queen’s head within a circle containing the words, “Jamaica Postage and Revenue” with the denomination “2½d.” at the base.

13. The gross amount of Stamps and Cards sold at this office on behalf of the Post Office Department during the Financial Year ending 31st March was £3,994 1s. 3d.; by Country Distributors, £317 17s. 9d.; Total, £4,311 19s. 0d. This amount is subject to a deduction of £1,170 paid to this Department in return for the surrender of the sale of Adhesive Stamps for Stamp Revenue purposes.

14. The total Stamps impressed and issued for the same period was as follows:—

For Cash	£13,711 3 10
To Stamp Distributors	1,982 5 4
To Clerks of Courts	5,925 4 0
Spoiled Stamps exchanged	110 3 5
	<u>£21,728 16 7</u>

15. The Financial Year, as newly constituted, is signalized by the largest Stamp Revenue that has ever been collected; arising no doubt, in a great measure, from the impetus given to trade by the holding of the Exhibition.

16. This Department was represented at the Exhibition by a set of the forty-eight dies used in impressing Stamp Duty, embossed in red-coloured printing ink, with the design of a Crown in the centre; and mounted in a suitable frame.

17. The Staff, whose ready and efficient co-operation I gladly acknowledge, remains the same as at the date of my last Report, consisting of Mr. Thomson, Second Class Clerk; service in this Office over seventeen years; and Mr. Depass, Third Class Clerk; service in this Office nearly three years.

I have, &c.,

PHILIP E. CHAPMAN, Commissioner of Stamps.