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NEW SERIES—VOL. XV.

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No. 1.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 7th December, 1891.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Report on the working of the Postal and Telegraph Department for the eighteen months ended on the 31st March, 1891.

By Command,

NEALE PORTER, Colonial Secretary.

No. 102.

General Post Office, 30th November, 1891.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Twenty-third Report of the Post Office Department being that for the period 1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1891 :

REVENUE.

2. The "Postal" and "Telegraphs" receipts during the eighteen months under review amount to £35,207 7s. 1½d., as under :

Postages	...	...	£26,274	1	7½
Telegraphs	...	...	8,933	5	6
			<hr/>		
			£35,207	7	1½

of which the sum of £11,160 7s. 3½d., was collected during the six months ended 31st March, 1890, as under :

Postages	...	...	£8,634	19	0½
Telegraphs	...	...	2,525	8	3
			<hr/>		
			£11,160	7	3½

while the sum of £24,046 19s. 10½d., as under, relates to the financial year ended 31st March, 1891 :

Postages	...	...	£17,639	2	7½
Telegraphs	...	...	6,407	17	3
			<hr/>		
			£24,046	19	10½

3. The collections for the eighteen months exceed the estimates by the sum of £271 1s. 7½d. in the case of "Postages," and by the sum of £633 5s. 6d. in the case of "Telegraphs."

4. A comparison of the receipts during the period and the financial year, above stated, with the similar receipts during the corresponding period and year contained in the eighteen months ended 31st March, 1890, results as follows :—

PERIOD.	Postages.	Commission	Commission	Telegraphs.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
		on Money Orders.	on Postal Orders.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Half-year ended 31st March, 1889	8,654 7 9½	214 7 11	...	2,462 2 9	49 18 11	11,380 17 4½
Half-year ended 31st March, 1890	8,434 3 9½	167 8 9	...	2,525 8 3	33 1 6	11,160 7 3½
Year, 1889-90	17,227 16 9	362 13 10	...	4,857 19 3	210 8 3	22,658 17 1
Year, 1890-91	16,833 10 11½	344 10 8	297 17 6	6,407 17 3	253 3 6	24,045 19 10½

5. The above comparison shows that while there has been a falling off under the head of "Postages," there has been an increase under that of "Telegraphs."

6. The falling off under "Postages" is due to the reductions in the rates of "Inland Postages" and "Sea Postages" which have been made during the period under review.

7. On the 1st January, 1890, by order of His Excellency the Governor in Privy Council, the rates of Postage on Inland Letters and Post Cards were reduced in the case of letters from 2d. to 1d. per half ounce, and in that of Post Cards, "single" from 1d. to ½d. each—reply-paid from 2d. to 1d. each.

8. On the 1st June, 1890, the "Sea Postage" was reduced, as stated below, on correspondence addressed to the United States, Canada, and certain other places abroad when conveyed by vessels not under contract or subsidized by the Imperial or any other Government:

Letters, per ½ ounce	...	2½d.
Post Cards, single	...	1d.
" Reply-Paid	...	2d.
Newspapers, per 2 ounces	...	1d.
Printed Papers, per 2 ounces	...	1d.
Commercial Papers, per 4 ounces	...	2½d.
If exceeding 4 ounces	...	1d. per 2 ozs.
Patterns, per 2 ounces (minimum rate, 1d.)	...	1d.

9. On the 1st January, 1891, the Postage on correspondence addressed to all places in the Universal Postal Union was reduced as under:

Letters, per half ounce	...	4d. to 2½d.
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the rates of postage on other articles remaining unaltered.

10. The extent to which the Postal Revenue has been affected by the above stated reductions will, I submit, be best ascertained from a comparison of such receipts during the period in which such reductions occur, 1st January, 1890, to 31st March, 1891, with the collections during the fifteen months, 1st October, 1888, to 31st December, 1889. I therefore subjoin the following statement:—

Collections from 1st October, 1888, to 31st December, 1889	£21,918 19 9½
Do. from 1st January, 1890, to 31st March, 1891	20,629 16 1½
Loss	£1,289 3 7½

11. The stated amount of £1,289 3s. 7½d., does not, however, represent the *entire* loss resulting from the reduction of Postages, because in the collections during the period 31st March, 1891, is included the Postages on *Official* correspondence, the system of paying which came into force on the 1st April, 1890; the value of such Official Postages may be approximately stated at £2,000 per annum. If, therefore, this sum be deducted from the Receipts during the fifteen months ended 31st March, 1891, it follows that the loss may be stated at £3,289 3s. 7½d. or about £2,600 per annum, being about 14½ per cent.

12. When it is borne in mind that the Inland Letter rate of postage has been reduced by 50 per cent.; and the Packet rate by 37½ per cent., and that the possible loss estimated to result from the reduction of the Inland Postage was stated at £5,000 per annum, the above results must, I respectfully submit, be regarded as eminently satisfactory. It certainly has justified the action of His Excellency the Governor in Privy Council in granting to the Public the boon of a cheaper postage, while it also shews that such boon has been duly appreciated. I hope I may be excused for also repeating that which is stated in the 7th paragraph of the last Annual Report of this Department, *i.e.* that it confirms the oft-expressed opinion, based on past experience, that the Postal Revenue is resilient; and that in the near future, there will not be any loss consequent on the reduction of Postages.

13. I also subjoin the usual approximate analysis of the collections under the head of Postages.

PERIOD.	Packet Postages.	Inland Postages.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890 ..	2,616 1 2½	5,817 11 7	8,434 8 9½
1890 to 1891 ...	3,957 17 3½	12,875 13 7½	16,833 10 11½

14. Of the collections on account of Sea Postages the Imperial Post Office was credited with the sum of £1,127 19s. 2d. while the sum of £134 1s. 7d. was paid to the undermentioned countries for "Sea Transit Rates:"—

United States ... £134 1 7

15. There has been a falling off in the receipts on account of the "Commission on Money Orders." The average annual income under such head during the financial years which ended 30th September, 1887, 1888 and 1889 was £116, while during the eighteen months under review the collections only amount to £511 19s. 5d., as follows:

Half-year ended 31st March, 1890	...	£167 8 9
Year ended 31st March, 1891	...	344 10 8
		<u>£5,119 19 5</u>

This falling off is due to the action of the Colonial Bank and of the Bank of Nova Scotia which during the period under remark for some time granted Bills at par.

16. The Postal receipts have been augmented during the year ended 31st March, 1891, by the Commissions on the Postal Orders which system came into force in this Colony on the 1st April, 1890 such commissions amount to £207 17s. 6d.; my remarks on the results of the establishment of the Postal Order System will be found at paragraph 44 under the head of "Postal Orders."

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

Rent of Private Letter Boxes	...	£93 0 0
Private Letter Bags	...	12 12 0
Fines	...	44 16 0
Mail Coach Commissions	...	135 17 0
		<u>£286 5 0</u>

18. The amount of Postage, Labels Post Cards and Newspaper Wrappers which have been sold during the eighteen months under report is £24,623 11s. 3d. of which the sum of £4,292 19s. 3d. was sold by the Stamp Commissioner to authorised Vendors at 5 per cent. discount such discount amounts to £200 15s. 7d.

19. Of the total amount of Postage Stamps sold, the Stamp Commissioner has been paid the sum of £1,755 for Adhesive Postage Stamps used under Law No. 18 of 1857 in the payment of Stamp Duties. The Poundage which was allowed on the Postage Stamps sold by the Department, i.e. at the General Post Office, Kingston, and at the several District Post Offices, is £199 5s. 6d.

20. Postage Stamps to the amount of £262 5s. 2½d. were purchased from the Public during the period under review, the discount thereon amounting to £6 13s. 11d. has been placed to the credit of Postal Revenue.

21. As stated in paragraphs 11 of this Report, the privilege which had hitherto been accorded to certain Officials of sending through the Post Official Correspondence free of postage was abolished on the 1st April, 1890, and such correspondence is now required to be paid for at the following rates of postage, viz. :—

Letters per half ounce	...	1d.
Book packet per 2 ounces	...	½d.
(not exceeding 5lbs.)		

The above stated rates apply equally to unpaid correspondence to or from the Head of a Department or other Official.

22. For the prepayment of Official Correspondence posted by Heads of Departments or other Public Functionaries, Postage Stamps with the word "Official" printed across the face of each stamp have been provided. Such stamps are not available for the prepayment of correspondence posted by the general public.

23. The only officials who continue to enjoy the Franking Privilege are His Excellency the Governor, his Private Secretary and the Postmaster for Jamaica. The Honourable the Colonial Secretary also retains the right of franking correspondence.

CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

24. I subjoin the usual Comparative Statement shewing the estimated number of Letters and Post

* Including Official Postages.

Cards which have been received at and despatched from the Head office, Kingston, and the several District Post Offices :—

At Head Office, Kingston.

	Outwards.				Inwards.			
	1887-88.	1888-89.	1st Oct., '89, to 31st Mar., '90	1890-91.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1st Oct., '89, to 31st Mar., '90	1890-91.
<i>Inland Mails—</i>								
Ordinary Letters—								
Public ...	369,100	391,300	287,300	619,000	279,900	296,200	226,500	471,100
Official ...	54,700	59,000	23,800	56,004	44,200	42,800	13,300	28,800
Post Cards ...	15,600	15,900	9,300	17,600	7,200	8,100	4,400	11,200
Registered Letters—								
Public ...	8,384	7,473	4,605	9,391	29,150	20,720	11,907	23,916
Official ...	12,169	12,997	6,209	12,538	11,994	10,938	3,740	7,580
<i>Ocean Mails.—By Vessels under Contract—</i>								
<i>United Kingdom—</i>								
Ordinary Letters ...	128,200	129,900	60,900	137,700	155,500	161,903	137,700	182,600
Post Cards ...	1,939	2,040	989	1,990	1,300	1,498	699	1,399
<i>Inter-Colonial, British W. I. &c.—</i>								
Ordinary Letters ...	50,580	52,600	25,600	51,200	97,290	80,300	33,200	66,300
Post Cards ...	131	149	95	190	11	75	92	228
<i>By Vessels not under Contract—</i>								
<i>United States America—</i>								
Ordinary Letters ...	29,281	43,186	29,588	59,178	46,290	64,997	44,977	16,344
Post Cards ...	758	1,033	673	1,346	468	692	638	1,276
<i>Colon, Panama, &c.—</i>								
Ordinary Letters ...	44,815	33,440	13,700	27,400	7,674	4,254	4,297	8,595
Post Cards ...	273	366	270	540	...	...	...	...
Registered Letters, Packet	5,191	5,864	3,160	6,320	6,050	5,407	2,868	5,737
	731,926	754,728	475,359	1,000,397	677,227	696,990	484,348	808,675

At District Post Offices.

	1887 to 1888.	1888 to 1889.	1 Oct., '89, to 31 Mar., '90.	1890 to 1891.
Ordinary Letters ...	563,651	543,100	387,100	847,600
Post Cards ...	8,723	11,200	9,100	14,900
Registered Letters ...	9,463	9,456	4,980	9,010
	581,837	563,756	401,180	871,510

25. It will be observed that a large increase has taken place, numerically, in the circulation of correspondence, both "Inland" and "Ocean;" such increase being undoubtedly due to the already referred to reductions in the rates of postage on Inland and Packet Correspondence. The impetus which was given to trade generally during the year also had a resultant effect on the transactions of the Post Office.

26. Analysing the numerical return it will be noticed that under the head of Colon, Panama, &c., there has been a decrease in the number of Letters despatched hence to those places; such decrease has been taking place ever since the discontinuance of the work in the Panama Canal, which put a stop to the exodus of labourers and resulted in the return of many who had been employed there.

OCEAN MAILS.

27. The number of Vessels which conveyed Mails from Jamaica during the period under review compare, as under, with the two years preceding :—

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1887-88.		1888-89.		1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1891.		1887-88.		1888-89.		1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1891.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
<i>Kingston—</i>												
Contract ...	60	717	83	769	109	1,125	70	870	83	1,085	125	1,163
Non-Contract ...	158	387	169	400	296	610	159	389	159	225	247	356
<i>Outports—</i>												
Non-Contract ...	25	25	71	71	35	85	.	.	.	.	.	2

28. The Jamaica Post Office was used by other countries as the medium of exchange to the extent of 322 mails.

29. On the 1st July, 1890, the New Mail Contract which was referred to in the 22nd paragraph of the Report for 1888-89 as having been concluded between the Imperial Post Office and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the conveyance of Mails between Jamaica and the British and Foreign West Indies came into force. Under this Contract the Steamers are timed to leave Southampton on each alternate Wednesday at 6 p.m. and to arrive at Jamaica on each alternate Friday at 8 a.m. The homeward bound Steamer is timed to leave Jamaica on each alternate Tuesday at 2 p.m. and to arrive at Southampton on each alternate Wednesday at 9 p.m.

30. The Steamers of the "Atlas Company" and the "Anchor Line" have continued during the period under review to afford opportunities in Kingston for exchanging Mails with the United States of America and with the United Kingdom via the United States, while the line of Messrs. J. E. Kerr & Co., Messrs. E. J. Wessels and the Boston Fruit Company have afforded similar opportunities at the Outports.

31. The Steamers of the Central American S. S. Company, which arrive from New York about every eighteenth day have also brought Mails from New York. These Steamers leave for Belize as soon as possible after arrival, and, under arrangement between the Government of British Honduras and the Company, convey Mails from Jamaica to Belize.

32. The Contract Service between Jamaica, Bermuda, Halifax and Turks Islands has been efficiently and regularly performed by the Steamers of Messrs. Pickford and Black, of Halifax, under their Contract with the Government.

33. The exchange of Mails between Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, which was referred to in the 25th paragraph of the Report for 1889, as having been arranged for, has been maintained as often as opportunity presented itself in Kingston as well as at the Outports—the Mails being conveyed by the Schooners which ply between Jamaica and Grand Cayman or Cayman Brac.

INLAND MAIL CONVEYANCE.

34. I am again glad to be in a position to report that there has not been any interruption of the Inland Conveyance of Mails and that the Mail Contractors continue to discharge their duties most satisfactorily—this is evidenced by the fact that during the period under review the fines which it became necessary to impose for delays or breaches of contract did not exceed £50. The Mail Conveyance Branch of this Department is one of those which requires the most anxious and careful watching and superintendence, for it is fully recognised how much depends in the commercial and domestic world upon a punctual and regular conveyance and delivery of the mails.

35. On the night of Tuesday the 18th February, 1890, while the Mail Cart engaged in the conveyance of the mails between Kingston and Annotto Bay was crossing the "Haughton River," about four miles out of Annotto Bay, it was washed away—the mules being drowned and the van smashed and the contents, which consisted of the mails from Kingston and Annotto Bay for Port Maria, as well as a bag for New York, were washed away. An officer was immediately despatched from Kingston to try and recover the lost mail, and, I am glad to say, that through his energy and that of Sergeant-Major Allen of the Constabulary, the bag from Kingston which also contained the mail for New York was recovered and brought back to Kingston intact, and although the mail had been submerged for nearly 24 hours the contents were in a good state of preservation and were forwarded to the respective addressees. In the mail in question there were 35 Registered Letters and about 1,000 Ordinary Letters.

36. This is the only serious accident which happened during the period under review, and, when it is remembered that the mails are for the most part, certainly on the main lines, conveyed at night, and in all weathers, it will, I submit, be admitted as surprising that serious accidents do not occur more frequently.

37. The following new Mail Services were established in connection with the opening of new District Post Offices:

1. Between Alley and Salt River, in the Parish of Clarendon.
2. Between Shooter's Hill and Christiana, in the Parish of Manchester.
3. Between Moneague and Walker's Wood, in the Parish of Saint Ann.
4. Between Watson's Hill and Alligator Pond, in the Parish of Manchester.
5. Between Newport and Pratville, in the Parish of Manchester.
6. Between Saint Ann's Bay and Davis Town, in the Parish of Saint Ann.
7. Between Chapelton and Frankfield, in the Parish of Clarendon.

38. A Mail Service was also established between Middle Quarters, in the Parish of Saint Elizabeth, and Ramble, in the Parish of Hanover, on the 1st April, 1891, which has had the effect of enabling the District Post Offices at Chester Castle and Ramble to reply to correspondence from Kingston and intermediate offices by the return of Post, which they could not do when the mails for those offices were sent via Montego Bay. This new service also affords more time for replying to Packet correspondence.

MONEY ORDERS.

39. The following is a comparative statement of the transactions of the Money Order Branch for the period under review:—

United Kingdom.

Year.	Jamaica Issue.		Payable in Jamaica,		Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
1887-88 ...	10,419	£ 61,547 9 10	673	£ 1,834 10 1	759 17 0
1888-89 ...	11,026	67,747 5 11	778	1,994 13 5	826 7 6
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890	4,059	18,246 5 1	413	1,020 1 1	255 8 0
1890-91 ...	8,536	40,110 5 9	822	2,164 11 10	545 16 8

United States of America.

1887-88 ...	2,508	14,691 0 6	184	646 3 3	233 17 8
1888-89 ...	2,827	16,792 14 5	226	632 19 9	208 13 5
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890	993	4,382 13 10	130	397 7 4	63 14 11
1890-91 ...	1,945	8,926 0 6	298	947 3 5	131 10 2

Dominion of Canada.

1887-88 ...	482	3,819 16 8	36	193 10 9	62 6 9
1888-89 ...	514	3,745 18 7	71	332 1 0	63 1 11
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890	167	1,087 9 9	29	130 8 4	19 10 2
1890-91 ...	218	1,314 13 6	77	339 18 4	24 18 2

British Guiana.

1887-88 ...	5	19 0 10	48	121 10 9	0 15 11
1888-89 ...	27	158 6 7	42	111 3 1	1 13 0
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890	37	144 17 1	33	57 10 11	1 12 1
1890-91 ...	67	136 17 6	62	158 7 3	2 13 4

Barbados.

1887-88 ...	85	190 10 11	44	119 1 5	3 4 3
1888-89 ...	94	347 14 6	110	369 4 5	5 0 9
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890	63	205 6 4	38	62 16 5	2 9 4
1890-91 ...	102	332 16 6	91	230 9 9	4 14 9

Leeward Islands.

1887-88 ...	22	22 19 7	9	22 15 1	0 14 7
1888-89 ...	4	5 4 0	22	65 7 5	0 8 5
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890	8	14 9 6	11	21 3 3	0 6 8
1890-91 ...	9	15 1 4	41	203 18 8	1 4 8

40. A summary of the above details gives the following result:—

	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
Orders drawn by Jamaica on other Countries—Period ended 31st March, 1890 ...	5,327	24,051 1 7
Ditto 1890-91 ...	10,877	50,835 15 1
	<u>16,204</u>	<u>74,886 16 8</u>

Orders drawn by other Countries on Jamaica—Period				
ended 31st March, 1890	...	654	£1,689	7 4
Ditto	1890-91	1,391	4,044	9 3
		<u>2,045</u>	<u>5,733</u>	<u>16 7</u>

41. A comparison of these figures with those for the preceding years 1887-88 and 1888-89, shows that there has been a falling off in the total number and amount of Orders drawn by Jamaica on other Countries, while there has been an increase in the total number and amount of the Orders drawn in the contrary direction and payable in Jamaica.

42. The decrease in the drafts of Jamaica occurs principally in the transactions with the United Kingdom, and, as pointed out in paragraph 15 under the head of "Revenue," the result of the action of the Colonial Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia which for a time granted Bills of Exchange at par. On the other hand, the transactions with the United States of America have largely increased—such increase being attributable to the reduction from 2 per cent. to 1½ per cent. in the scale of Commission on Money Orders drawn by Jamaica on the United States of America—such reduction having been made on the 1st October, 1888, at the instance of the United States Government as reported in the 33rd paragraph of the last Annual Report of this Department.

43. The accrued Commission Account for the period under review is as follows:

United Kingdom	...	...	£801	4 8
U. S. of America	...	...	195	5 1
Dominion of Canada	...	...	44	8 4
British Guiana	...	...	4	5 5
Barbados	...	...	7	4 1
Leeward Islands	...	...	1	11 4
			<u>£1,053</u>	<u>18 11</u>
Less premium on Remittances—				
United Kingdom	...	£396	15 0	
United States	...	119	18 4	
Canada	...	19	7 4	£536 0 8
				<u>£517 18 3</u>

POSTAL ORDERS.

44. It was stated in the last annual Report of the Department at paragraph 33 that the Postal Order system would be inaugurated on the 1st April, 1890. I am glad to be able to report that the system duly came into force on the date stated when Postal Orders of the respective denominations of sixpence, one shilling, one shilling and sixpence and two shillings and sixpence were issued for sale to the public, a commission of one-half penny being charged on each denomination in addition to the face value.

45. On the 5th August, 1890, the higher denominations of Postal Orders for five shillings and ten shillings, respectively, were issued—upon such higher denominations a commission of one penny and two-pence, respectively, is charged in addition to the face value. Postal Orders are issued only at District Post Offices and at the Head Office, Kingston, and are payable at the Chief Treasury and at the several Parochial Treasuries; they are also cashed by District Post Masters, or by any Assistant Collector of Taxes, when their respective offices are open, and, provided, that they have sufficient funds for the purpose. They are also accepted in payment of taxes or other public dues subject to the regulations which govern their issue and payment and which regulations have been duly advertised.

46. The system has, I am glad to say, worked and is working satisfactorily. The Postal Orders are, however, made use of by the Public to a much greater extent as a means of remittance rather than as a medium of exchange—indeed, I understand that the higher denominations are now more largely used for remittances generally than Colonial Bank notes—which are not always to be obtained readily in the country districts.

47. The number and amount of Postal Orders issued during the financial year ended 31st March, 1891, is as under:—

DENOMINATION.	No.	AMOUNT.	
		Face Value.	Commission.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sixpence	7,050	176 5 0	14 13 9
One Shilling	12,575	628 15 0	26 3 11½
One Shilling and Sixpence	13,575	1,018 2 6	28 5 7½
Two Shillings and Sixpence	25,025	3,128 2 6	52 2 8½
Five Shillings	8,848	2,211 5 0	36 17 1
Ten Shillings	8,440	4,220 0 0	70 6 8
	<u>75,510</u>	<u>11,382 10 0</u>	<u>228 9 9½</u>

48. The extent to which the Postal Order system is appreciated by the public and is gradually increasing is best gathered from the subjoined statement of the monthly sale since the inauguration:—

	£	s.	d.
April, 1890	389	8	0
May "	521	0	6
June "	509	0	0
July "	614	1	6
August "	820	16	6
September "	932	2	0
October "	1,063	8	6
November "	1,003	7	0
December "	1,243	11	0
January, 1891	1,117	15	6
February "	1,027	11	6
March "	1,251	5	6
	£10,493	7	6

49. The Commission collected on the above is £207 17s. 6d., which amount has been placed to the credit of Postal Revenue.

50. Rule 8 of the Regulations relating to Postal Orders points out that if the blanks in a Postal Order are not filled in before the issue, the person to whom the order is issued must, before parting with it, fill in the name of the payee, and may fill in the name of the Treasury at which the amount is to be paid; but this is constantly being disregarded with the result that when complaint is made of the miscarriage of a Postal Order alleged to have been posted it has not been found possible to trace the missing order, or, if found, to identify it, unless, indeed, the precaution has been taken to keep the number of the order—a precaution which I would commend to the public as being most necessary and certainly most useful in helping to trace the order when missing. It must be borne in mind that a Postal Order which has not been made payable to any one, or which has not been crossed for payment through a Bank is like a Bank Note, most easily negotiable should it find its way into the hands of a dishonest person. I have also in this connection, again to record my regret at the continued recklessness of the public in sending remittances through the post without availing themselves of the protection afforded by the system of registration. The practice of sending unregistered letters or other packets containing value through the post is fraught with trouble and annoyance to the Department in the case of miscarriage and to all parties concerned, as in the absence of any evidence it is not possible to say where the miscarriage has taken place; and I would add that it also exposes improperly to temptation every person through whose hands the letter or packet may pass both *in* and *out* of the Post Office.

EXPENDITURE.

51. The expenditure for the period under review is as under:—

Six months ending 31st March, 1890	...	£ 8,503	8	2½
Year ending 31st March, 1891	...	18,398	17	4½
		£26,802	5	7

52. Such expenditure compares as follows with that of the two years preceding:—

YEAR.	SALARIES.		MAIL CONVEYANCE.		Services.	Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
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
1888-89	4,451 2 11	2,126 17 0	6,984 12 1	1,843 3 2	1,762 17 0½	17,168 12 2½
1st October, '89 to 31st March, '90	2,229 0 9	1,075 7 1	3,452 6 9	23 17 9	1,722 15 10½	8,503 8 2½
1890-91	4,486 18 4	2,257 5 9	7,341 6 5	1,953 1 9	2,355 6 5½	18,398 17 4½

53. The increase over the expenditure of the year 1888-89 is to be found principally under the head of "Salaries at District Offices" consequent on the establishment of new District Offices; "Inland Mail Conveyance," as a result of the establishment of Mail Services in connection with such new offices and under the "Services" caused by Contingencies. Travelling charges and manufacture of Postal Orders, and Postage Stamps and Post Cards. The details of the expenditure, in each case, will be found in the statement hereunto appended.

54. In addition to the above stated expenditure for "Ocean Mail Conveyance" the sum of £6,244 10s. was paid during the period under review to the Imperial Post Office through the Crown Agents for the Colonies, for this Colony's share of the annual loss to the Imperial Exchequer consequent on its entrance to the Universal Post Union. Of this the sum of £4,500 has been charged against this Department in the Public Accounts, while the sum of £1,744 10s. has been charged against "Miscellaneous."

55. The Department has also administered the Vote for Steam Communication round the Island and paid to the Agent of the Atlas Steam Ship Company the sum of £2,700 during the eighteen months ended 31st March, 1891, but the item is not included in the Post Office expenditure.

NEW DISTRICT POST OFFICE.

56. On the 1st October, 1889, the commencement of the period under review there were 97 District Post Offices; there are now 106. Offices having been established at the following places:—

1. "Salt River," in the Parish of Clarendon, on the 20th December, 1889.
2. "Christiana," in the Parish of Manchester, on the 18th February, 1890.
3. "Walker's Wood," in the Parish of Saint Ann, on the 31st March, 1890.
4. "Frankfield," in the Parish of Clarendon, on the 16th May, 1890.
5. "Bog Walk," in the Parish of Saint Catherine, on 1st July, 1890.
6. "Alligator Pond," in the Parish of Manchester, on the 10th July, 1890.
7. "Pratville," in the Parish of Manchester, on the 20th August, 1890.
8. "Jackson Town," in the Parish of Trelawny, on the 19th January, 1891.
9. "Davis Town," in the Parish of Saint Ann, on the 28th January, 1891.

57. The Post Office at Golden Spring was closed on the 5th June, 1890, and a Post Office, in lieu thereof, was established at Stony Hill.

58. A Post Office was established on the 27th January, 1891, in the Exhibition Building and was kept open until the 16th May, 1891. I am glad to say that such Post Office was of great convenience to, and was much appreciated by, Exhibitors and others. Mails were exchanged between the General Post Office, Kingston, and the Exhibition Post Office three or four times daily.

STREET LETTER BOXES.

59. Street Letter Boxes have been placed at the undermentioned Sites in Kingston during the period under review:—

1. At "Park Lodge," Windward Road, on the 15th February, 1890.
2. At the Corner of North Street and Central Avenue, Kingston Gardens.
3. At the Corner of Tower Street and Elletson Road, Rae Town.

MAIL COACHES.

60. The following is a comparative statement of the earnings of the several lines of Mail Coaches:

I.—Kingston and Savanna-la-Mar.

YEAR.	Passengers Fares.			Parcels.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1887-88	542 14 6	201 10 6	744 5 0				
1888-89	566 3 3	190 9 0	756 12 3				
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890	206 19 9	107 9 9	314 9 6				
1890-91	479 6 6	233 15 4	713 1 10				

II.—Kingston and Montego Bay.

1887-88	...	...	933 14 9	333 9 6	1,267 4 3
1888-89	...	...	947 14 3	336 17 9	1,284 12 0
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890	...	...	478 7 0	177 12 9	655 19 9
1890-91	...	...	938 3 0	391 13 3	1,329 16 3

III.—Montego Bay and Lucea.

1887-88	...	...	55 2 0	9 4 9	64 6 9
1888-89	...	...	64 4 0	9 0 6	73 4 6
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890	...	...	45 10 0	5 4 6	50 14 6
1890-91	...	...	89 2 0	11 12 6	100 14 6

IV.—Kingston and Port Antonio.

1887-88	...	...	344 5 6	126 17 9	471 3 3
1888-89	...	...	393 11 6	136 5 0	529 16 6
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890	...	...	187 16 6	67 16 9	255 13 3
1890-91	...	...	468 1 0	182 3 7	650 4 7

V.—Kingston and Annotto Bay.

1887-88	...	...	194 16 0	40 11 3	235 7 3
1888-89	...	...	204 15 0	38 16 9	243 14 9
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890	...	...	87 0 0	22 3 9	109 3 9
1890-91	...	...	204 5 0	58 9 0	263 14 1

61. The above figures shew that the total earnings by the several lines of coaches during the period and year under review amount to £4,442 12s. 0d., as under:—

—	Passengers.		Parcels.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890 ..	1,005	13 3	380	7 6
1st April, 1890, to 31st March, 1891 ..	2,178	17 6	877	13 9
	3,184	10 9	1,258	1 3

62. These financial results may, I submit, be regarded as sufficient evidence that the coaches continue to be of use to the public, not only as passenger conveyances, but for the transmission of parcels to and from Kingston and the country districts.

63. Of the amount earned by the several coaches the sum of £305 19s. 5d., was retained and paid to the several District Postmasters at the respective Mail Coach Offices while the commission on the transactions at the Head Office, Kingston, amounts to £139 10s. 6d., and was placed to the credit of Revenue under the head of Miscellaneous Receipts.

64. On the expiration of the contract for the Mail Coach Service between Kingston and Port Antonio on the 2nd November, 1890, the town of Bath was included in the new service. The coach, therefore, now proceeds to Bath after leaving Port Morant instead of travelling direct to Plantain Garden River.

RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

65. The following is a statement of the correspondence dealt with in the Return Letter Branch.

—	1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890.		1890 to 1891.	
	Paid.	Unpaid.	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to the United Kingdom ...	254	77	752	185
“ reposted to Postal Union Countries ...	856	123	1,084	331
“ reposted to writers in Kingston ...	1,007	567	5,279	793
“ reposted to writers in Country Districts ...	3,041	933	8,994	1,379
“ destroyed. Writers not found ...	1,975	1,722	2,930	1,831
“ destroyed, being illegible or anonymous ...	766	267	1,805	352
Newspapers returned to Publishers ...	2,625	...	...	...

66. The amount of postage which was not recoverable in respect of the above and which has been written off is £83 5s. 1d.

67. The number of letters which were found to contain value to the amount of £40 19s. 0d., is 583. Such letters were duly reposted to the writers.

TELEGRAPHS.

68. The gross receipts on account of “Telegraphs” amount to £8,933 5s. 6d., during the eighteen months under review and compare with the two years preceding, as under:

—	1887-88.	1888-89.	1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890.	1890-91.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stamps sold ...	4,442 8 3	4,788 0 8	2,522 17 9	6,361 10 6
Additional charge on Books containing Message Forms ...	5 9 9	6 13 3	2 10 6	8 6 9
Fees for opening Telegraph Stations out of Office Hours ...	...	...	...	38 0 0
	4,447 18 0	4,794 13 9	2,525 8 3	6,407 17 3

69. The above comparison shews that the receipts during the year 1890-91, exceed those of the year 1888-89, by the sum of £1,613 4s. 0d., while the collections for the eighteen months ended 31st March, 1891, are only £309 11s. 0d., less than the collections for the 2 years ended 30th September, 1889.

70. While the above financial results afford evidence of the fact that the Telegraph System in this island is being duly appreciated and is recognised as an important factor in the transaction of business, I would venture to remark that the benefits which have accrued, financially and otherwise, to this

Colony from the introduction of the system are not to be limited to, or to be ascertained from a mere consideration of the amount of Revenue collected for Messages sent; for these are what I may describe as the "Unseen Credits" which are contained in the increase of Public Revenue and Mercantile Profits arising out of the development of trade, particularly the Fruit Industry, to which the system has materially contributed, as well as in the comfort and advantages to government in its administration, and to the public generally, in all Departments of life, through having a cheap and rapid means of communication.

71. The number of Messages which have been sent and received during the eighteen months under review is 159,499 as follows:—

1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890	...	46,690
1890-91	...	112,809
		159,499

72. The numbers sent and received during the year ended 30th September, 1889, being 86,604 as stated in the 51st paragraph of the last Annual Report.

73. The expenditure on account of Telegraphs during the period is £8,121 8s. 8d. and compares as under with that for the two years preceding:—

	1887-88.	1888-89.	1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890.	1890-91.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	2,659 14 4	2,733 13 0	1,466 12 11	3,070 19 3
Wages	487 9 0	502 11 0	278 19 5	628 17 7
Services	1,065 11 11½	1,205 5 0	821 13 1	1,854 6 5
	4,212 15 3½	4,441 9 0	2,567 5 5	5,554 3 3

74. The increase which has generally taken place in the expenditure on account of Telegraphs is attributable to the establishment of new Stations and is germane to the natural growth of the system to which I have referred in my remarks with respect to the increase in Telegraph receipts. The details of the expenditure are to be found in the return of Gross Revenue and Expenditure annexed.

75. The following Telegraph Stations, nine in number, have been established during the period under review:—

1. "Salt River," in the Parish of Clarendon, on the 20th December, 1889.
2. "Malvern," in the Parish of Saint Elizabeth, on the 20th June, 1890.
3. "Rio Bueno," in the Parish of Trelawny on the 20th June, 1890.
4. "Beg Walk," in the Parish of St. Catherine, on the 1st July, 1890.
5. "Mile Gully," in the Parish of Manchester, on the 18th July, 1890.
6. "Balaclava," in the Parish of Saint Elizabeth, on the 2nd August, 1890.
7. "Stewart Town," in the Parish of Trelawny, on the 19th September, 1890.
8. "Ulster Spring," in the Parish of Trelawny, on the 23rd September, 1890.
9. "Stony Hill," in the Parish of Saint Andrew, on the 29th September, 1890.

76. At the commencement of the period under review there were 45 Telegraph Stations in existence, there were at the end of the period 54.

77. During the Exhibition a Telegraph Station was opened and maintained in the Building in connection with the Post Office. It has, I am glad to be able to record, not been necessary to close any Telegraph Station during the year, notwithstanding the many cases of emergency consequent on the illness of the Clerks in Charge. No one except such as are connected with the Department can fully appreciate the trouble, anxiety and expense which is caused in such cases in, at once, filling the place of a clerk who wires that she is so ill as to be unable to continue in the discharge of her duties. Were substituted service not obtained and supplied, the only alternative would be the closing of the office, and, it often happens, that the substituted service can only be obtained from a distance.

78. A direct Telegraph Line was completed between Kingston and Annotto Bay on the 24th November, and has proved what it was intended to be, namely, a most useful adjunct in relieving the congestion of work on other sections, as well as in providing an additional means of communication in cases of interruption. It very seldom happens now that any section or office is entirely "out of circuit."

79. The number of Foreign Telegrams which were sent from the Inland Telegraph Stations during the eighteen months is 2,085, while the cost of transmission is £4,079 16s. 2d. The amount was collected and has been paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

80. Under an agreement made between the Manager of the Jamaica Railway Company and the Head of this Department and approved by His Excellency the Governor—the Railway Telegraph Lines have been made available to the public for the transmission of messages under the regulations which govern the Inland Telegraph Service, as well as the special regulations which have been duly advertised. The agreement took effect on the 1st July, 1890.

81. On the 15th April, 1890, His Excellency the Governor approved of the opening of Telegraph Stations out of office hours, subject to the conditions which have also already been made public.

PARCEL POST.

82. The following is a comparative statement of the transactions of the Parcels Post Branch:—

Parcels Received

From	Consignments.				Parcels.				Import Duty Collected.							
	1887-88.	1888-89.	1 Oct. '89, to 31 Mar., '90.	1890-91.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1 Oct., '89, to 31 Mar., '90.	1890-91.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1 Oct., '89, to 31 Mar., '90.	1890-91.				
United Kingdom	26	25	13	26	5,740	6,137	3,768	8,204	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
British West Indies	46	55	39	90	73	19	56	176	722 5 7	776 13 7	497 8 8	1,275 16 9				
United States	36	75	41	78	269	579	391	815	3 7 0	6 6 11	2 5 1	9 11 2				
	108	156	84	194	6,182	6,912	4,215	9,255	44 5 9	55 16 3	29 19 8	81 4 1				
	108				156				84				194			
	6,182				6,912				4,215				9,255			
	769 18 4				838 16 9				329 13 5				1,369 12 0			

Postage accrued to Jamaica.				Declared Value of Parcels.			
1887-88.	1888-89.	1 Oct., '89, to 31 Mar., '90.	1890-91.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1 Oct., '89, to 31 Mar., '90.	1890-91.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
269 5 4	296 7 9	177 5 6	410 6 7½	6,512 8 7	7,260 1 5½	4,471 16 4	11,472 9 2½
...	...	...	...	32 8 3	517 9 10½	23 13 5	61 17 0
...	...	...	...	329 6 6	59 16 5½	272 0 6	762 18 5
269 5 4	296 7 9	177 5 6	410 6 7½	6,925 3 4	7,837 8 1½	4,767 16 3	12,297 4 7½

Parcels Despatched.

To	Consignments.				Parcels.				Postage accrued to Jamaica.							
	1887-88.	1888-89.	1 Oct., '89, to 31 Mar., '90.	1890-91.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1 Oct., '89, to 31 Mar., '90.	1890-91.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1 Oct., '89, to 31 Mar., '90.	1890-91.				
United Kingdom	20	26	13	26	1,347	1,385	348	1,592	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
British W. Indies	63	79	42	83	89	144	91	266	37 11 11	38 12 0½	38 13 8	70 2 11½				
United States	33	34	13	34	244	150	122	214	3 16 0	2 6 2	3 3 4	7 3 8				
	122	139	68	143	1,680	1,679	1,061	2,012	13 15 0	7 12 0	4 19 0	9 2 6				
	122				139				68				143			
	1,680				1,679				1,061				2,012			
	55 3 11				48 10 2½				46 16 0				86 9 1½			

Declared Value of Parcels.			
1887-88.	1888-89.	1 Oct., '89, to 31 Mar., '90.	1890-91.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,388 14 11½	1,195 15 6½	788 1 9½	1,121 9 11½
...
69 6 6	60 6 7	49 15 5	148 10 0½
112 6 0½	44 16 11	41 9 0½	81 14 4½
1,569 7 6	1,300 13 0½	879 6 3	1,351 14 4½

83. It will be observed that there has been a large increase in Parcels Post business particularly with respect to the Parcels received from the United Kingdom.

84. The revenue, which has resulted from Parcel Post business during the period under review, from Postages and Import Duty amounts to £2,620 2s. 8d. as under:—

	1st Oct., 1889, to 31st March, 1890.	1890-91.
Postages	£ s. d. 529 13 5	£ s. d. 1,369 12 0
Customs Duty	224 1 6	496 15 9
	753 14 11	1,866 7 9

85. In conclusion, I have to submit the usual Returns: and, at the same time, to express my regret that there has been so much delay in completing this Report. It has been unavoidable, and has been due to the extra labour which has devolved upon me in consequence of the unfortunate illness of Mr. Sullivan, the Postmaster for Jamaica.

I have, &c.,

GEO. H. PEARCE, Acting Postmaster for Jamaica.

RETURN showing the Transactions of the Money Order Branch between Jamaica and other places during the Six Months ended 31st March, 1890, and the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1891, as compared with that of 1888-89.

Year.	Jamaica Issue.		Payable in Jamaica.		Paid in Jamaica.		Total Commissions collected in Jamaica.	To Credit of Corresponding Office.	To Credit of Jamaica.	To Credit of Jamaica on account of Orders payable.	Total Credit to Jamaica.	Less Premium paid for Remittance.	Net Credit to Jamaica.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.							
UNITED KINGDOM—		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1888-89	11,026	67,747 5 11	778	1,994 13 5	755	1,970 18 3	1,155 0 3	338 19 3	816 1 0	10 6 6	826 7 6	517 10 0	308 17 6
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890 } 1890-91	4,659	18,246 5 1	413	1,020 1 1	407	1,031 16 2	341 8 6	91 7 1	250 1 5	5 6 7	255 8 0	120 0 0	135 8 0
8,536	40,110 5 9	822	2,164 11 10	786	2,073 9 7	734 0 6	199 2 9	534 17 9	10 18 11	545 16 8	276 15 0	269 1 8	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—													
1888-89	2,827	16,792 14 5	226	632 19 9	223	632 14 0	289 4 9	83 17 10	205 6 11	3 6 6	208 13 5	161 18 2	46 15 3
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890 } 1890-91	993	4,982 13 10	130	397 7 4	131	413 17 0	83 13 0	21 14 10	61 18 2	1 16 9	63 14 11	40 5 11	23 9 0
1,945	8,926 0 6	298	947 3 5	289	914 15 11	169 19 9	43 6 3	126 13 6	4 16 8	131 10 2	79 12 5	51 17 9	
DOMINION OF CANADA													
1888-89	514	3,745 18 7	71	332 1 0	70	339 18 0	80 0 6	18 11 5	61 9 1	1 12 10	63 1 11	34 6 2	28 15 9
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890 } 1890-91	167	1,087 9 9	29	130 8 4	31	142 13 1	24 4 0	5 6 10	18 17 2	0 13 0	19 10 2	9 12 6	9 17 8
218	1,314 13 6	77	339 18 4	72	365 14 7	29 19 3	6 15 7	23 8 8	1 14 6	24 18 2	9 14 10	15 3 4	
BRITISH GUIANA—													
1888-89	27	158 6 7	42	111 3 1	41	118 4 4	1 17 0	0 15 9	1 1 3	0 11 9	1 13 0	...	1 13 0
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890 } 1890-91	37	114 17 1	33	57 10 11	35	55 18 9	1 18 6	0 11 7	1 6 11	0 5 2	1 12 1	...	1 12 1
67	136 17 6	62	158 7 3	55	143 0 3	2 10 0	0 13 8	1 16 4	0 17 0	2 13 4	...	2 13 4	
BARRADOS—													
1888-89	94	347 14 6	110	369 4 5	108	366 10 1	4 18 6	1 14 7	3 3 11	1 16 10	5 0 9	...	5 0 9
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890 } 1890-91	63	205 6 4	38	62 16 5	33	56 8 9	3 3 6	1 0 6	2 3 0	0 6 4	2 9 4	...	2 9 4
162	332 16 6	91	230 9 9	84	222 19 1	5 6 0	1 14 8	3 11 4	1 3 5	4 14 9	...	4 14 9	
LEeward ISLANDS—													
1888-89	4	5 4 0	22	65 7 5	22	65 7 5	0 2 6	0 0 6	0 2 0	0 6 5	0 8 5	...	0 8 5
1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890 } 1890-91	8	14 7 6	11	21 3 3	10	20 3 3	0 6 0	0 1 6	0 4 6	0 2 2	0 6 8	...	0 6 8
9	15 1 4	41	203 18 8	39	201 11 2	0 5 6	0 1 5	0 4 1	1 0 7	1 4 8	...	1 4 8	

VOID ORDERS.

Country.	Repaid to Remitter.			Returned to the Issuing Office.		
	1890-91.	1st Oct., '89 to 31st March, '90.	1888-89.	1st Oct., '89 to 31st March, '90.	1888-89.	1890-91.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	44 16 9	7 9 0	18 1 4	6 7 0	32 6 10	19 16 5
United States of America	37 5 6	7 5 0	18 18 6	2 0 7	2 19 0	8 5 5
Dominion of Canada	...	...	...	0 13 0	...	...
Barbados	...	...	...	1 0 0	4 11 8	...
British Guiana	...	...	...	...	0 4 2	0 3 6

General Post Office,
30th November, 1891.

Geo. H. PRANCE,
Acting Postmaster for Jamaica.

Return shewing the Gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Post Office—						
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received at District Offices	220	8	4			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received at the General Post Office	45	9	2			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from the United Kingdom	57	16	7½			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from British Possessions and Foreign Countries	69	9	6			
Postages on Unpaid Ship Letters	0	16	0			
Stamps Sold by the Department	7,160	4	9			
Stamps Sold by the Stamp Commissioner	1,153	0	3			
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	5	2	0			
Fees for Conveyance of Private Letter Bags	5	5	0			
Commission on Money Orders	£354	7	0			
Less Premium on Remittances :						
United Kingdom	£120	0	0			
United States	57	13	11			
Canada	9	4	4	£186	18	3
				167	8	9
Fees for detention of Country Letters per Packet for delivery in Kingston	11	17	6			
Fine Account	...	...	...	...
Commission on Mail Coach Collections	...	...	...	22	14	6
Discount on Stamps purchased from Public	...	...	...	4	10	5
Registered Letter Envelopes sold	...	...	...	0	12	5¼
					8,924	15
						2¼
TELEGRAPHS—						
Stamps sold	...	...	...	2,522	17	9
Additional Charge on "A I" and "B" Books	...	...	...	2	10	6
					2,525	8
						3

£11,450 8 5¼

Department during the Half-year ending 31st March, 1890.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
SALARIES—							
Salary of Postmaster for Jamaica	...	400	0	0			
Salaries of Clerks	...	1,355	1	5			
Wages of Sorters, Letter Carriers, &c.	...	321	11	4			
Wages of Auxiliary Letter Carriers	...	39	0	0			
Packet Newspaper Sorters	...	78	8	0			
Salaries of District Postmasters	...	1,075	7	1			
Wages of Messenger conveying the Mails between General Post Office and Railway Station	...	13	0	0			
Clerical Assistance	...	22	0	0	3,304	7	10
COMMISSION ON STAMPS SOLD—							
Poundage on Stamps sold by Department	...	70	0	4			
Discount on Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	...	85	12	10	155	13	2
CONVEYANCE OF MAILS—							
Contractors	...	3,380	1	3			
Special Mail Services	...	11	5	6			
Packet Mail Services	...	3	16	0			
Proportion of Postage placed to credit of United Kingdom	...						
Ship Letter Gratuities	...	23	17	9			
Conveyance of Mails between General Post Office, &c., and Railway Stations	...	44	4	0			
Conveyance of Mails between General Post Office and Up-Park Camp	...	13	0	0	3,476	4	6
SERVICES—							
Contingencies	...	148	13	9½			
Letter Carriers' Uniforms	...	34	7	2			
Water Supply	...	4	6	0			
Lighting Account	...	4	17	1			
Advertising	...	57	13	0			
Mail Bags and Wrappers	...	14	0	4			
Travelling Charges	...	24	2	3			
Twine and Wax	...	3	12	2			
Allowance for Services out of Office Hours	...	158	0	2			
Rent of Post Offices	...	144	18	4			
Manufacture of Stamps, &c.	...	893	17	10			
Date Stamps and Type	...	28	14	7	1,567	2	8½
					8,503	8	2½
POSTAL UNION CONTRIBUTION—							
Contribution to the United Kingdom to meet additional loss consequent on joining Postal Union	...				1,500	0	0
DRAWBACK ESTIMES—							
Redirected Letters	...	75	5	7			
Letters sent through Returned Letter Branch	...	54	16	11			
Stamps supplied to Foreign Countries	...	2	0	6½	132	3	0½
TELEGRAPH BRANCH—SALARIES—							
Salary of Superintendent	...	200	0	0			
Salaries of Assistants to Superintendent	...	200	0	0			
Salaries of Operators	...	1,066	12	11			
Wages of Messengers, Head Office	...	62	11	5			
Wages of Messengers, District Offices	...	216	8	0	1,745	12	4
SERVICES—							
Porterage	...	72	9	7			
Travelling Charges	...	139	10	5½			
Water Supply	...	10	19	0			
Contingencies	...	54	14	7½			
Rent of Head Office	...	48	0	0			
Rent of District Offices	...	209	16	8			
Messengers' Uniforms	...	16	3	6			
Manufacture of Stamps, &c.	...	179	5	11			
Services out of Office Hours	...	84	13	4	821	13	1
					£2,667	5	5
Office Furniture	...				£24	1	9
VOICES ADMINISTERED BY POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—							
Steam Communication round the Island	...				£900	0	0

Return shewing the Gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
POST OFFICE—						
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received at District Post Offices	347	0	10½			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received at the General Post Office	343	12	9½			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from the United Kingdom	115	6	2			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from British Possessions and Foreign Countries	176	19	10½			
Postages on Unpaid Ship Letters	2	0	6			
Stamps sold by the Department	13,170	7	3			
Stamps sold by the Stamp Commissioner	3,139	19	0			
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	87	18	0			
Fees for conveyance of Private Letter Bags	7	7	0			
Commission on Money Orders	£714	13	6			
Less Premium on Remittances :						
United Kingdom	£276	15	0			
United States	80	13	8			
Canada	12	14	1	370	2	9
				344	10	9
Fees for detention of Country Letters per Packet for delivery in Kingston	19	0	0			
Fine Account	44	16	0			
Commission on Mail Coach Collections	113	2	6			
Discount on Stamps purchased from Public	2	3	6			
Registered Letter Envelopes sold	1	7	6½			
Commission on Postal Orders	207	17	6			
				18,123	9	2½
TELEGRAPHS—						
Stamps sold	6,361	10	6			
Additional Charges on "A 1" and "B" Books	8	6	9			
Fees for keeping Telegraph Offices open out of Office Hours	38	0	0			
				6,497	17	3
				24,531	6	5½

Department. during the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1891.

SALARIES—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salary of Postmaster for Jamaica	...	800	0	0			
Salaries of Clerks	...	2,746	9	4			
Clerical Assistance	...	86	14	2			
Wages of Porters, Letter Carriers, &c.	...	637	2	6			
Wages of Auxiliary Letter Carriers	...	90	0	4			
Packet Newspaper Sorters	...	150	12	0			
Salaries of District Postmasters	...	2,257	5	9			
Wages of Messenger conveying Mails between General Post Office and Railway Station	...	26	0	0	6,744	4	1
COMMISSION ON STAMPS SOLD—							
Poundage on Stamps sold by Department	...	129	5	2			
Discount on Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	...	115	2	9	244	7	11
CONVEYANCE OF MAILS—							
Contractors	...	7,209	0	7			
Special Mail Services	...	7	17	6			
Packet Mail Services	...	10	9	0			
Proportion of Postage placed to credit of the United Kingdom	...	1,300	0	0			
Ship Letter Gratuities	...	516	19	8			
Conveyance of Mails between Post Offices and Railway Stations	...	92	18	0			
Conveyance of Mails between General Post Office and Up-Park Camp	...	26	0	0			
Transit Rates payable to Union Countries other than United Kingdom	...	136	2	1	9,299	6	10
SERVICES—							
Contingencies	...	444	16	3			
Letter Carriers' Uniforms	...	42	15	2			
Water Supply	...	2	6	0			
Lighting Account	...	15	12	9			
Advertising	...	113	12	0			
Mail Bags and Wrappers	...	51	19	2½			
Travelling Charges	...	173	5	0			
Allowance for Services out of Office Hours	...	449	14	3			
Rent of Post Offices	...	236	0	0			
Twine and Wax	...	99	2	2			
Manufacture of Stamps, &c.	...	478	4	11			
Date Stamps and Type	...	3	10	10	2,110	18	6½
					£18,398	17	4½
Exhibition Post Office	...				140	13	2
POSTAL UNION CONTRIBUTION—							
Contribution to the United Kingdom to meet additional loss consequent on joining Postal Union	...				3,000	0	0
DRAWBACK ENTRIES—							
Re-directed Letters	...	148	9	0½			
Letters sent through Returned Letter Branch...	...	66	2	5			
Stamps supplied to Foreign Countries	...	9	16	11	244	8	4½
TELEGRAPH BRANCH SALARIES—							
Salary of Superintendent	...	400	0	0			
Salaries of Assistants to Superintendent	...	400	0	0			
Salaries of Operators	...	2,270	19	3			
Wages of Messengers, Head Office	...	132	11	9			
Wages of Messengers, District Offices	...	496	5	10	3,699	16	10
SERVICES—							
Porterage	...	137	6	6			
Travelling Charges	...	351	10	9½			
Water Supply	...	27	4	6			
Contingencies	...	168	13	11½			
Rent of Head Office	...	72	0	6			
Rent of District Offices	...	513	2	0			
Messengers' Uniforms	...	25	0	0			
Manufacture of Stamps, &c.	...	234	14	6			
Services out of Office Hours	...	324	14	2	1,854	6	5
					£5,554	3	3
Office Furniture	...				£29	8	1
VOTES ADMINISTERED BY POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—							
Steam Communication round the Island	...				£1,800	0	0

Geo. H. PRANCE, Acting P.M. Jamaica.

Return shewing the Number of Telegraphic Messages Sent from and Received at each Telegraph Station from the 1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1891.

STATION.	1st October, 1889, to 31st March, 1890.		1890-91.		Remarks.
	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	
Kingston	10,070	11,103	22,971	26,308	
Spanish Town	761	915	2,003	2,259	
Bog Walk	...	...	327	337	Opened 9 months.
Linstead	471	477	1,038	978	
Ewarton	273	261	706	570	
Moneague	431	488	1,039	1,191	
Claremont	233	208	468	462	
St. Ann's Bay	3,261	3,076	7,851	7,065	
Dry Harbour	416	419	901	936	
Brown's Town	1,204	1,175	2,237	2,339	
Stewart Town	...	...	202	210	Opened 7 months.
Ulster Spring	...	...	227	229	" " "
Rio Bueno	...	...	222	219	" 10 "
Duncans	151	167	475	500	
Falmouth	1,515	1,531	3,521	3,410	
Montego Bay	3,063	3,075	6,488	6,305	
Lucas	1,438	1,362	2,915	3,162	
Sav.-la-Mar	1,809	1,728	4,463	4,119	
Black River	1,343	1,233	3,131	2,986	
Middle Quarters	143	103	281	252	
Malvern	...	...	537	505	
Santa Cruz	460	456	882	891	
Mandeville	1,267	1,392	2,840	3,016	
Newport	273	261	571	566	
Shooter's Hill	346	412	817	1,013	
Mile Gully	...	...	184	177	Opened 9 months.
Balaclava	...	...	411	407	" 8 "
Porus	801	669	2,142	1,586	
May Pen	579	455	1,289	1,035	
Chapelton	545	541	1,058	988	
Alley	498	460	1,055	930	
Salt River	134	122	450	341	
Milk River	504	461	1,151	1,080	
Old Harbour	526	509	955	1,116	
Yallahs	185	167	481	476	
Morant Bay	828	787	1,799	1,735	
Port Morant	825	753	1,878	1,739	
Bath	206	237	680	751	
Plantain Garden River	355	295	968	717	
Manchioneal	487	523	898	996	
Priestman's River	171	183	352	449	
Port Antonio	3,395	2,986	9,938	8,962	
St. Margaret's Bay	393	359	888	803	
Hope Bay	503	536	1,476	1,331	
Buff Bay	732	728	1,942	1,939	
Annotto Bay	1,195	1,218	3,562	3,728	
Stony Hill	...	...	90	93	Opened 7 months.
Port Maria	1,972	1,921	5,376	5,232	
Oracubessa	588	626	1,340	1,418	
Ocho Rios	417	443	975	992	
Port Royal	704	542	1,618	1,207	
Up-Park Camp	420	389	791	743	
Halfway-Tree	275	304	765	737	
Gordon Town	171	253	403	590	
Cold Spring	353	371	436	476	
Exhibition	...	...	188	101	Opened 3 months.
Railway	...	...	257	...	
Total	46,690	46,690	112,809	112,809	

GEO. H. PEARCE,

Acting P. M. for Jamaica.