



# Supplement to the Jamaica Gazette.

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Colonial Secretary's Office, 23rd October, 1893.  
**T**HE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Annual Report on the Postal and Telegraphs Department for the year ended 31st March, 1893.  
 By Command,

J. ALLWOOD, Acting Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office, 11th October, 1893.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Twenty-fifth Annual Report of this Department being that for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1893.

#### REVENUE.

2. The Collections, "Postal" and "Telegraphs," amount to £24,966 14s. 9½d. as under:—

			£	s.	d.
Postages	...	...	19,153	3	9½
Telegraphs	...	...	5,813	11	0
			<hr/>		
			£24,966	14	9½

3. If these figures be compared with the Estimates for the corresponding period it will be seen that the actual receipts have exceeded the Estimates by the sum of £1,853 3s. 9½d. in the case of "Postages" and by £113 11s. 0d. in the case of "Telegraphs," while a further comparison with the actual receipts of the preceding year, 1891-92, shows that there has been an increase under both heads of Revenue as follows:—

			£	s.	d.
Postal	...	...	820	3	4½
Telegraphs	...	...	45	11	9

4. The subjoined abstract Statement of the receipts will afford also a comparison, under each head of account, with the collections of the two years preceding.

PERIOD.	Postages.	Commission		Telegraphs.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
		on Money Orders.	on Postal Orders.			
1890-91	£ s. d. ... 16,833 10 11½	£ s. d. 344 10 8	£ s. d. 207 17 6	£ s. d. 6,407 17 3	£ s. d. 253 3 6	£ s. d. 24,046 19 10½
1891-92	.. 17,437 6 1½	335 9 8	335 18 9	5,767 19 3	224 5 11	24,100 19 8½
1892-93	... 18,260 5 8½	307 6 6	401 13 3	5,813 11 0	183 18 4	24,966 14 9½



5. I also subjoin the usual comparative and approximate Analysis of the Collections under the head of Postages.

Year.	Packet Postages.	Inland Postages.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1891-92 ...	4,083 2 3½	13,354 3 9¼	17,437 6 1¼
1892-93 ...	4,258 1 1	14,002 4 7½	18,260 5 8½

6. In the 11th paragraph of my Annual Report for 1890-91, and in the 5th paragraph of that for 1892, it was my pleasure in my remarks under the head of "Revenue" to record in connection with the substantial reductions of 50 o/o and 37 o/o in the Inland and in the Packet Letter Rates of Postage which had been sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor in Privy Council, and which had taken effect on the 1st January and 1st June, 1890 respectively, that the ascertained loss, as a result of such reductions, had been very much less than had been anticipated, or estimated as possible, and I submitted that such satisfactory results bore evidence, not only of the wisdom and justice of the reduction, but that it had confirmed the oft expressed opinion that the Postal Revenue is resilient, and that in the near future there would not be any loss resulting from such reduction. It affords me therefore very much pleasure and great satisfaction to be able to record once more that the ascertained loss during the current year has been only £1,429 0s. 5½d. or 8 o/o as against £2,252 or 12¼ o/o, the ascertained loss during the preceding year, and £5,000 the estimated possible loss.

7. The following statement will, I submit, be interesting to the public, and will enable them best to understand at a glance the extent to which the Revenue has been effected by the reductions referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Year.	Ascertained Loss.	Per centage of Loss.
	£ s. d.	
1890-91 ...	2,600 0 0	14½
1891-92 ...	2,252 0 0	12¼
1892-93 ...	1,429 0 0	8 o/o.

8. I would again also point out that the ascertained loss is arrived at by a comparison of the collections of the year, after deducting the amount of "Official Postages," with the Collections during the 12 months which immediately preceded the date, *i.e.*, 1st January, 1890, when the reduction took effect.

9. From the collections on account of "Sea Postages" the Imperial Post Office was credited with the sum of £1,315 3s. 4d. to cover "Sea-transit Rates" on the correspondence conveyed by vessels subsidized by the Mother-country to the United Kingdom and British and Foreign West Indies and to the Postal Union Countries. Similar payments were also made to the extent of £125 17s. 5d. to other Countries, *viz.* :—

	£ s. d.
United States of America ...	116 5 0
Belgium ...	9 12 5

10. A slight decrease will be observed in the collections on account of Commissions on Money Orders. Such slight decrease has been taking place since 1889-90, and is, I am of opinion, attributable to the greater banking facilities which have existed since the establishment of another Bank—the Halifax and Nova Scotia; and which facilities are taken advantage of by the commercial portion of the community, who formerly had greater recourse to Money Orders for remittance to places abroad.

11. On the other hand it will be seen that there has been a gradual increase in the Commissions on Postal Orders, consequent on the increase which is annually taking place in the amount of Postal Orders sold to the public, who have shown due appreciation of the establishment of the system. The Postal Orders sold during the year under review amount to £20,192 8s. 0d. as against £17,097 6s. 0d. during the year preceding; the increased sale being £3,095 2s. 0d., or 23.96 per cent. The amount of Postal Orders sold during the first year of the establishment of the system is only £10,493 7s. 6d., being nearly 100 per cent. less than the sales during the year under review as shown above. The further details of the Postal Order transactions will be found at paragraph 30.

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

Rest of Private Letter Boxes ...	£63 2 0
Private Letter Bags ...	19 14 0
Fine Account ...	10 12 0
Mail Coach Commission ...	90 19 4



13. The total amount of Postage Labels, Post Cards and Newspaper Wrappers sold is £17,824 18s. 10½d., of which the sum of £3,679 8s. 8½d. was sold by the Stamp Commissioner to Authorized Vendors at 5 per cent. discount; such discount amounts to £181 2s. 6d.

14. On the Postage Stamps &c., sold by the Department, *i.e.*, £14,145 10s. 2d., at the General Post Office and the several District Post Office, "Soundage" to the amount of £138 7s. 7d., has been paid.

15. The usual annual payment of £1,170 has been made to the Stamp Commissioner in respect of the Adhesive Stamps estimated to have been used under Law No 18 of 1887 in payment of Stamp Duties.

16. The Postage Stamps which were purchased from the public amount to £17 12s. 10½d., and the discount, which appears in the Collections on account of Postages, to 8s. 1d. The amount of stamps which the public offer for exchange at the several Post Offices continues to diminish, because with the establishment of the Postal Order System, Postage Stamps ceased to be used as a means for small remittances through the post.

## CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

17. The following is the usual comparative statement of the estimated number of Letters and Post Cards which have been dealt with at the General Post Office, Kingston and at the several District Post Offices during the year under review.

*At Head Office, Kingston.*

	Outwards			Inwards.		
	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
<i>Inland Mails—</i>						
Ordinary Letters—						
Public ...	619,000	575,710	620,400	471,100	459,100	525,200
Official ...	56,004	49,300	58,200	28,800	32,800	37,600
Post Cards ...	17,690	31,700	14,000	11,200	10,700	12,900
Registered Letters—						
Public ...	9,391	9,941	11,245	23,916	27,275	31,213
Official ...	12,538	13,976	16,561	7,580	6,006	6,436
<i>Ocean Mails.—By Vessels under Contract—</i>						
United Kingdom—						
Ordinary Letters ...	137,700	135,800	155,400	182,600	192,300	211,600
Post Cards ...	1,990	2,000	2,000	1,399	1,400	1,400
Inter-Colonial, B. W. I., &c.—						
Ordinary Letters ...	51,200	57,000	52,000	66,300	61,600	55,300
Post Cards ...	190	152	254	228	266	335
<i>By Vessels not Contract—</i>						
United States of America—						
Ordinary Letters ...	59,178	63,700	60,900	89,944	81,400	76,400
Post Cards ...	1,346	1,132	1,254	1,276	1,178	923
Other Countries—						
Ordinary Letters ...	27,400	37,300	32,400	8,505	10,300	8,900
Post Cards ...	540	551	676	...	10	23
Registered Letters, Packet ...	6,320	8,039	7,376	5,737	7,019	7,760
	1,000,397	986,291	1,032,686	898,675	891,344	975,990

*At District Post Offices.*

	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Ordinary Letters ...	847,600	858,400	841,800
Post Cards ...	18,900	12,610	14,000
Registered Letters ...	9,010	11,972	11,177
	875,510	882,982	866,977



18. The above estimates show that the total number of Letters and Post Cards, Inland and Foreign which circulated during the year under review exceed the estimated circulation of the preceding year by 115,016.

19. The number of Vessels which conveyed Mails between this Colony and other places abroad is as under, as compared with similar services in 1890-91 and 1891-92 :—

	Outwards.						Inwards.						
	1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.		1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.		
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	
<i>Kingston—</i>													
Contract	...	74	777	61	708	63	761	84	725	61	855	77	889
Non-Contract	...	205	417	217	507	217	485	165	234	228	358	278	415
<i>Outports—</i>													
Non-Contract	...	24	63	67	95	49	77	...	...	28	40	...	...

20. The number of Mails exchanged via Jamaica by places abroad is 156.

21. There has not been any interruption, I am glad to say, such as I had to record in my last Annual Report, in the Mail Service between the United Kingdom and Jamaica; it will be remembered that the wreck of the "Moselle" and the breaking down of the machinery of the "Medway" caused a temporary derangement. During the year under review the Mail Service with the Mother-country has been performed by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company with wonted regularity and efficiency.

22. The Mail Service with the United States of America has been maintained principally by means of the Steamers of the Atlas Steam Ship Company which continue to run with commendable regularity and punctuality between the ports of Kingston and New York, while equal facilities have been afforded for the exchange of Mails via the outports by the Steamers of Messrs. J. E. Kerr & Co., via Montego Bay and Port Maria and those of the Boston Fruit Company via Port Antonio. The withdrawal of the Steamers of the "Anchor Line" has tended to reduce the number of opportunities for exchanging Mails with the United States of America. On the other hand, the Steamers of the "Prince Line," consigned to Messrs. Soutar & Co., have afforded such opportunities.

23. The Central America Company's Steamers, consigned to Messrs. Solomon, Ashenheim & Co., have continued to run between New York and Central America via Jamaica, conveying Mails to Jamaica from New York and from Jamaica to Belize, British Honduras, Grey Town and Nicaragua.

24. Communication with Halifax, Bermuda and Turks Islands has been maintained by means of the Steamers of Messrs. Pickford & Black, of Halifax, under their contract with the Government of this Colony. The contract will expire on the 26th October, 1893.

#### INLAND MAIL CONVEYANCE.

25. It affords me very great pleasure to bear testimony to the continuance of the satisfactory manner in which the Mail Contractors have discharged their duties, evidence of this is contained in the fact that the fines which it became necessary to impose in cases of breaches or laches of contract only amount to £10 12s. in the preceding year it is only £7 10s. 6d. There has not been any interruption of the Mail Service either by the road or by rail—at least such as might be laid to the door of the Contractors. Slight delays have taken place in consequence of the flooding of the rivers between Kingston and Port Antonio via Morant Bay, and of landslips between Kingston and Annotto Bay; but they have not been of long duration.

#### MONEY ORDERS.

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

#### United Kingdom.

Year.	Jamaica Issue.		Payable in Jamaica.		Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
1890-91	...	8,536	£ s. d.	822	£ s. d.
1891-92	...	8,100	40,110 5 9	868	2,164 11 10
1892-93	...	8,357	36,195 9 9	958	2,248 17 8
			34,780 13 4		2,186 2 4
					£ s. d.
					545 16 8
					489 9 0
					497 10 4



*United States of America.*

1890-91	...	1,945	8,926 0 6	298	947 3 5	131 10 2
1891-92	...	2,152	9,491 0 9	347	1,020 4 2	135 11 4
1892-93	...	2,060	6,623 0 2	318	866 12 7	115 10 1

*Dominion of Canada.*

1890-91	...	218	1,314 13 6	77	339 18 4	24 18 2
1891-92	...	351	2,216 8 6	82	364 14 11	30 15 2
1892-93	...	245	1,191 18 3	85	319 4 3	17 1 11

*British Guiana.*

1890-91	...	67	136 17 6	62	158 7 3	2 13 4
1891-92	...	35	144 4 1	45	129 18 9	1 13 9
1892-93	...	36	46 4 4	78	245 5 0	2 3 10

*Barbados.*

1890-91	...	102	332 16 6	91	230 9 9	4 14 9
1891-92	...	113	301 5 6	107	412 14 6	5 0 11
1892-93	...	127	276 0 5	104	180 7 5	4 4 1

*Windward and Leeward Islands.*

1890-91	...	9	15 1 4	41	203 18 8	1 4 8
1891-92	...	34	68 6 4	71	194 0 0	1 19 0
1892-93	...	28	60 2 11	113	246 10 10	1 18 5

27. A Summary of the number and amount of the Orders exchanged between the Colony and other places compares as under with the transactions of the year preceding—

Jamaica Issue.	No.	Amount.
1891-92	10,783	£48,416 4 11
1892-93	10,853	42,977 19 5
Issue of other Countries payable in Jamaica—		
1891-92	1,520	4,370 10 0
1892-93	1,656	4,044 12 5

28. It will be noticed that there has been a large and gradual falling off in the amount of Orders issued in Jamaica on the United Kingdom, on the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada. I attribute this decrease to the competition which has existed since the establishment of another Bank in this Colony and which has led to reduced rates of charge for Bills of Exchange of which the public have, naturally, not been slow in taking advantage. The Post Office Department cannot engage in such competition, for while the commercial portion of the community are not debarred from participating to a limited extent, in any benefit which may result from a reduced rate of Commission on Money Orders, the system is chiefly intended for the convenience of persons not engaged in business who may be desirous of making small or "domestic" remittances which may not be easily obtainable or payable through a Bank; in short, it is not intended that the Money Order System shall interfere with legitimate banking transactions.

29. The accrued Commission account for the year under review is as under:—

United Kingdom	...	£497 10 4
United States of America	...	115 10 1
Dominion of Canada	...	17 1 11
British Guiana	...	2 3 10
Barbados	...	4 4 1
Windward and Leeward Islands	...	1 18 5
		£638 8 8
Less premium on Remittances—		
United Kingdom	...	£262 10 0
United States	...	56 14 5
Canada	...	8 10 7
		327 15 0
		£310 13 8

## POSTAL ORDERS.

30. The amount of Postal Orders issued and sold during the year, as compared with similar transactions for the two years preceding, is as under: the system has been in existence for three years, having been inaugurated on the 1st April, 1890.

## POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED.

DENOMINATION.	1890-91.			1891-92.			1892-93.		
	No.	Face Value.	Commis- sion.	No.	Face Value.	Commis- sion.	No.	Face Value.	Commis- sion.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
6d.	7,050	176 5 0	14 13 9	9,075	226 17 6	18 18 1½	11,650	291 5 0	24 5 5
1s.	12,575	628 15 0	26 3 11½	17,140	857 0 0	35 14 2	22,285	1,114 5 0	46 8 6½
1s. 6d.	13,575	1,018 2 6	28 5 7½	17,165	1,287 7 6	35 15 2½	21,560	1,617 0 0	44 18 4
2s. 6d.	25,025	3,128 2 6	52 2 8½	22,940	2,867 10 0	47 15 10	18,885	2,360 12 6	39 6 10½
5s.	8,845	2,211 5 0	36 17 1	22,930	5,732 10 0	95 10 10	21,880	5,470 0 0	91 3 4
10s.	8,440	4,220 0 0	70 6 8	12,200	6,100 0 0	101 13 4	19,080	9,540 0 0	159 0 0
	75,510	11,882 10 0	228 9 9½	101,450	17,071 5 0	335 7 6	115,340	20,393 2 6	405 2 6

## POSTAL ORDERS SOLD.

			1890-91	1891-92.	1892-93.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
April	...	...	389 8 0	1,287 8 0	1,712 7 0
May	...	...	521 0 6	1,345 5 6	1,679 18 0
June	...	...	509 0 0	1,310 1 6	1,618 2 6
July	...	...	614 1 6	1,358 19 0	1,681 16 0
August	...	...	820 16 6	1,311 13 6	1,666 12 0
September	...	...	932 2 0	1,308 13 6	1,637 14 0
October	...	...	1,063 8 6	1,388 14 0	1,583 5 6
November	...	...	1,003 7 0	1,387 0 0	1,700 10 6
December	...	...	1,243 11 0	1,686 13 0	1,842 9 0
January	...	...	1,117 15 6	1,428 6 0	1,687 19 0
February	...	...	1,027 11 6	1,626 5 0	1,631 9 6
March	...	...	1,251 5 6	1,658 7 0	1,750 5 0
			10,493 7 6	17,097 6 0	20,192 8 0

31. The above statements, I submit, shew that the Postal Order System is of great use to the public, and is assuming large proportions.

32. The Commission resulting from the sale of Postal Orders and placed to the credit of the Revenue is as already shewn, £401 13s. 3d.

33. I regret to have to remark again, in this connection, that many persons do not yet appear to recognise this necessity, before parting with a Postal Order, for filling in the name of the party to whom the Postal Order is payable—therefore, at the cost of repetition I would again invite the attention of the public to this necessity, the neglect of which, as well as the omission to keep a note of the number of each order which is inclosed in letters intended for transmission by the Post, and which *unregistered letters*, are in a great number of instances entrusted to servants, or agents, and who in most cases, are aware of, or are told of the contents, renders it almost impossible to trace the order, or, if found, to identify them with those alleged to have miscarried. I would again add that a Postal Order is intended to be *negotiable*. At the same time I urge upon the public also the necessity for availing themselves of the protection afforded by the system of registration when sending value through the Post: not to do so is *unsafe and unfair*, as it exposes every person, through whose hands the letters pass, both in and out of the Post Office, to temptation which may lead to their ultimate ruin. The excuse, which previously existed, as to the high rate of the fee charged for registration no longer exists as the fee was on the 1st June last reduced by 50 o/o, *i.e.*, from 4d to 2d. I cannot refrain from here remarking upon the most extraordinary ideas which are entertained and as often expressed to me by even some of the most intelligent persons with regard to the system of registration who say that to register a letter is to invite attention to it as containing value and to increase the risk of miscarriage; and further that the Post Office is not responsible for the contents of a lost registered letter, therefore what is the use of registering.

34. My reply to such persons has been and is that while I admit that the Post Office is not *legally* responsible for the contents of a registered letter, and that it is not impossible for the Post Office to lose a registered letter, the probability of miscarriage is very slight indeed. I make this statement from,



personal experience and base it on the system of averages. I have been in the Post Office Department Jamaica, over 28 years, and I assert without fear of contradiction that while thousands of registered articles have passed annually through the Post Office, the average loss has not been *one* per annum, or anything like it. I trust that this will be read by those persons who doubt and mistrust the efficiency of the system of registration, concerning which, I would add, that when a registered letter miscarries, it is always possible to trace it to the last person who had possession of it; for from the time of posting when a receipt is given, until the delivery to the addressee, a registered article must be accounted for by each person through whose hands it passes: and no person in this Post Office below the rank of a clerk or a District Postmaster is allowed to have access to, or be in possession of registered articles. A great deal of valuable time is taken up in making inquiries for unregistered letters stated to have been posted and not to have been received.

## EXPENDITURE.

35. The expenditure on account of the Postal Service amounts to £20,398 14s. 2½d. and compares as under with the expenditure of the two years preceding:—

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.		Services.	Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland	Ocean.		
1890-91	£ 4,486 18 4	£ 2,257 5 9	£ 7,341 5 1	£ 1,953 1 9	£ 2,355 6 5½	£ 18,398 17 4½
1891-92	£ 4,744 5 8	£ 2,299 2 7	£ 8,676 11 3	£ 1,586 5 10	£ 3,452 6 5½	£ 20,758 11 9½
1892-93	£ 4,626 15 7	£ 2,304 14 10	£ 8,424 10 11	£ 1,666 6 1½	£ 3,376 6 8½	£ 20,398 14 2½

36. The decrease under Salaries is the result of the retirement on a Pension during 1891-92 of the late Mr. Sullivan to whose retirement and subsequent death I alluded in the 65th paragraph of last year's report.

37. The decrease under Mail Conveyance is principally due to the fact that the expenditure for the preceding year 1891-92 included payments to the Jamaica Railway Company for service performed in 1890-91; the claims for which remained unpaid at the end of that year pending the settlement of the question of an increased rate of payment which was subsequently granted as stated in paragraph 28 of my last year's report.

38. The increase under Ocean Mail Conveyance is to be found under the head of "Ship Letter Gratuities" being 1d. per letter for mail matter conveyed by vessels not under contract with the Government of this Colony.

39. The expenditure under the head of "Services" includes for the first time the cost of Stationery and Printing as a result of the arrangement that each Public Department shall pay to the Government Printing Office the value of the Stationery supplied and the Printing done—the amount so paid by the Post Office is £524 12s. 4d.

40. The item does not as might have been supposed appear as an increase over the expenditure of the year preceding, because the expenditure of that year 1891-92 includes a payment for Postage Stamps supplied during 1890-91, the expenditure therefore relating to that year is explained in the 39th paragraph of the last year's report.

41. In addition to the above stated expenditure for "Ocean Mail Conveyance" the Colony paid to the Imperial Exchequer the sum of £5,780, being the proportion of the amount required annually of the British and Foreign West India Colonies in respect of the loss which the Imperial Government sustains on the Royal Mail Service between the United Kingdom and the Colonies in question. Of this annual payment £3,000 has been charged in the Public Accounts against the Post Office, while the balance of £2,780 appears under the head of "Miscellaneous."

42. The sum of £1,800 was paid through this Department to the Atlas S. S. Company for Steam Communication round the Island—the amount is not, however, included in the expenditure of the Post Office which merely administers the Vote.

## MAIL COACHES.

43. 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.
1890-91	479	6 6	233	15 4	713	1 10
1891-92	438	14 6	239	15 0	678	9 6
1892-93	227	9 0	239	13 6	467	2 6



II.—*Kingston and Montego Bay.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.		Parcels.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1890-91	938	3 0	391	13 3	1,329	16 3
1891-92	911	17 9	366	14 7	1,278	12 4
1892-93	719	6 9	405	19 5	1,125	6 2

III.—*Montego Bay and Lucea.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.		Parcels.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1890-91	89	2 0	11	12 6	100	14 6
1891-92	94	4 0	10	15 3	104	19 3
1892-93	73	12 0	14	6 3	87	18 3

IV.—*Kingston and Port Antonio.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.		Parcels.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1890-91	468	1 0	182	3 7	650	4 7
1891-92	491	10 3	183	13 0	675	3 3
1892-93	456	3 6	209	7 6	665	11 0

V.—*Kingston and Annotto Bay.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.		Parcels.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1890-91	204	5 0	58	9 0	262	14 1
1891-92	194	7 6	48	3 3	242	10 9
1892-93	194	12 6	56	9 3	251	1 9

44. The above figures shew that the total earnings of the Coaches amounted to £2,596 19s 8d., viz. :—

Passengers	...	£	s. d.
Freight on Parcels	...	1,671	3 9
	...	925	15 11

45. There has been a falling off in the earnings of the Mail Coaches on the "Northside" and "Southside," which I attribute chiefly to the extension of the Railway Lines and to the increased facilities afforded to the public by the Coastal Steamers.

## RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

46. The following amount of Correspondence was disposed of in the Returned Letter Branch :—

	PAID.	UNPAID.
Letters returned to the United Kingdom	710	105
" " " Postal Union Countries	1,609	368
" " " Writers in Kingston	6,890	951
" " " " " Country	13,165	1,749
" destroyed being illegible or anonymous	739	144
" " Writers not found	2,855	690
Newspapers returned to Publishers	2,871	"

47. The postage on Unclaimed Correspondence which has been written off as irrecoverable is £20 9s. 10½d.

48. The number of letters which were found to contain value to the amount of £220 16s. 1d. is 549. They have been duly registered and posted for transmission to their respective writers.



## TELEGRAPHS.

49. The following is a detailed and comparative statement of the gross receipts on account of Telegraphs. It will be observed that the receipts for the year under review amounted to £5,813 11s. 0d., and exceed those of the preceding year by the sum of £43 11s. 9d.

	1890-91.			1891-92.			1892-93.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Stamps sold	6,361	10	6	5,749	15	6	5,793	3	0
Additional charge on Books containing Message Forms	8	6	9	8	3	9	7	8	0
Fees for opening Stations out of Office Hours	38	0	0	10	0	0	13	0	0
	£	6,407	17 3	5,767	19 3		5,813	11 0	

50. The number of messages which were sent and received is 103,803 as against 102,925 sent and received during 1891-92: the increase being 878.

51. Of the total number of messages sent and received, 355 and 367 respectively, were transmitted over the Railway Lines.

52. The value of the Foreign Telegrams handed in at the several Inland Telegraph Stations for transmission over the cables of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, is £2,014 18s. 4d., which amount has been paid to the Clerk in charge of the Company's Office in this Island.

53. The following is a comparative statement of the Expenditure on account of Telegraphs:—

Year.		1890-91.			1891-92.			1892-93.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries	...	3,070	19	3	3,504	2	5	3,863	18	3
Wages	...	628	17	7	694	14	10	763	7	9
Services	...	1,854	6	5	2,183	8	4	2,007	0	10½
		£	5,554	3 3	6,382	5 7		6,634	7 10½	

54. The above shows that there has been an increase over the expenditure of the preceding year to the extent of £252 2s. 2½d. Such increase has occurred principally under the head of Salaries of Operators and Wages and has been the result of the establishment of new Stations and of the addition to the wages of the Assistant Telegraph Operators.

55. A Telegraph Station was opened at "Ramble" in the Parish of Hanover on the 21st April, 1892, the extension of the line being from Montego Bay.

56. A temporary Telegraph Station was opened on the Kingston Race Course during the Races on the 13th, 14th and 15th December, 1892, and on the Cumberland Pen Grounds on the 15th and 16th March last.

57. The extension of the Telegraph Line to Green Island viâ Glasgow was sanctioned, but the line could not be completed and opened within the year under review. The office was established however soon after the close of the year.

58. I am glad to be able to again bear testimony to the prompt attention which has been given by the Public Works Department to the maintenance of the line and to the speedy rectification of faults reported by this Department which has resulted in preventing anything like a serious or prolonged interruption of the lines to the inconvenience of the public.

59. I am pleased also, to state that although there have been cases of illness amongst the Staff of Telegraph Operators in which it became necessary to send as soon as possible other Operators to their relief, whereby the energies of the Department were occasionally severely taxed, in finding substitutes at once from other districts - it has not been necessary to close any Station or Post Office in consequence of illness, and I bear willing testimony to the generally satisfactory manner in which the Staff have discharged their duties under all circumstances.

## PARCELS POST.

60. The following is an Abstract of the Parcels Post collections during the year under review:—

From	Consignments.			Parcels.			Import Duty Collected.		
	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
United Kingdom	26	26	27	8,264	7,665	8,567	£ 1,275 16 9	£ 998 6 9	£ 1,163 11 4
British West Indies	90	79	95	176	133	221	9 11 2	4 18 7	10 10 5
United States of America	78	76	72	815	887	1,013	84 4 1	72 14 10	67 11 5
Dominion of Canada	...	4	12	...	14	59	...	6 8 0	2 19 11
	194	185	206	9,255	8,699	9,860	1,369 12 0	1,077 8 2	1,244 13 1



	Postage Accrued to Jamaica.			Declared Value of Parcels.		
	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	410 6 7½	369 14 0½	439 8 9½	11,472 9 2½	9,389 7 11½	11,559 16 11
British West Indies ...	...	...	...	61 17 0	48 10 5	196 10 0
United States of America ...	...	...	...	762 18 5	720 11 1	828 16 5
Dominion of Canada ...	...	0 5 5	1 0 2½	...	13 18 10	44 5 0
	410 6 7½	369 19 5½	440 9 0	12,297 4 7½	10,272 8 3½	12,629 8 4

## PARCELS DESPATCHED.

	Consignments.			Parcels.			Postage Accrued to Jamaica.		
	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	26	26	26	1,532	1,722	1,887	70 2 11½	51 2 0	60 14 9½
British West Indies ...	83	109	99	266	202	228	7 3 8	6 8 4	6 18 8
United States of America ...	34	39	36	214	279	276	9 2 6	...	11 19 6
Dominion of Canada ...	...	4	11	...	26	48	...	0 3 1½	1 1 8
	143	178	172	2,012	2,229	2,439	86 9 1½	57 13 5½	80 14 7½

  

	Declared Value of Parcels		
	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	1,121 9 11½	1,068 2 5½	2,044 1 4½
British West Indies ...	148 10 0½	120 13 3½	178 7 1
United States of America...	81 14 4½	144 11 10	116 16 5
Dominion of Canada ...	...	8 4 8	15 17 11
	1,351 14 4½	1,941 12 3	2,355 2 9½

61. The total amount of Import Duty and Postages which accrued to the Colony from Parcel Post business is £1,765 16s. 8½d., viz.:—Postages £521 3s. 7d., Import Duty £1,244 13s. 1d.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

62. The Post Office at "Laughlands" was temporarily closed on the 29th April, 1892, it was opened on the 28th May.

63. I had hoped to complete this report at an earlier date, but I have been prevented from doing so in consequence of press of work and sickness amongst the staff who suffered very much during the recent epidemic of influenza which attacked, simultaneously, a good many of the Clerks as well as Letter Carriers at a time when the services of the Clerks were particularly required in the preparation of the Statistical Returns for this Report—and I take this opportunity to record here my appreciation of the energy which was displayed by those of the Staff who were not taken ill and who had a great deal of labour thrown upon them in getting through the work of receiving and despatching the Mails with a reduced staff. It is also fair to record that those of the staff who were taken ill resumed their duties as soon as they could. It will be at once recognised that such a dislocation of a Post Office staff is a serious matter—as the work has to be got through within a prescribed time, and the employment at a moment's notice of substitutes who understand the routine work is not always possible.

64. I submit the usual Returns.

I have, &c.,

GEO. H. PEARCE, Postmaster for Jamaica.



Return showing the number of Telegraphic Messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station from 1st April, 1892, to 31st March, 1893, as compared with Return from 1st April, 1891, to 31st March, 1892.

Station.	1st April, 1891, 31st March, 1892.		1892-93.		Remarks.
	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	
Kingston	22,339	24,837	22,861	25,305	Transmitting Station
Spanish Town	1,860	2,062	1,788	2,076	
Bog Walk	483	376	466	412	
Linstead	995	848	869	780	" "
Ewarton	580	541	526	480	
Monaque	1,022	1,225	1,031	1,144	
Claremont	421	465	557	503	
St. Ann's Bay	4,921	4,716	4,727	4,487	" "
Dry Harbour	682	751	556	573	" "
Browns Town	2,185	2,129	2,065	2,067	" "
Cave Valley	135	151	272	301	
Stewart Town	316	297	223	244	
Ulster Spring	487	451	342	349	
Rio Bueno	494	436	394	332	
Duncans	432	488	369	447	
Falmouth	3,470	3,490	2,921	3,032	" "
Montego Bay	6,567	6,232	6,355	5,798	
Ramble	...	...	379	337	Opened 11 months.
Lucoa	2,892	3,017	2,402	2,445	
Graingo Hill	104	89	132	127	
Sav-la-Mar	4,172	3,988	3,359	3,393	Transmitting Station.
White House	188	172	222	225	
Black River	3,194	3,042	3,113	2,884	
Middle Quarters	393	354	415	336	
Santa Cruz	852	857	869	839	" "
Malvern	576	641	635	700	
Mandeville	2,856	3,267	2,940	3,079	" "
New Port	547	562	447	465	
Shooter's Hill	729	800	562	634	" "
Mile Gully	394	332	439	362	
Balaclava	1,010	933	959	951	
Christiana	158	128	260	302	
Porus	1,361	1,136	1,157	927	
May Pen	1,258	1,005	1,127	973	" "
Chapelton	982	967	1,153	1,067	" "
Alley	880	778	933	880	
Salt River	319	254	282	280	
Milk River	840	824	828	933	
Old Harbour	1,032	1,050	1,170	1,159	
Yallahs	455	417	474	452	
Morant Bay	2,054	2,063	2,587	2,453	" "
B. M. Valley	12	8	400	444	
Trinity Ville	45	47	296	279	
Port Morant	1,044	981	1,047	1,080	
Bowden	967	806	1,291	1,111	
Bath	541	676	548	717	
P. G. River	1,064	826	1,000	842	
Manchioneal	828	904	1,559	1,349	
Priestman's River	301	388	375	415	
Port Antonio	8,302	7,310	8,071	7,593	" "
St. Margaret's Bay	514	483	398	299	
Hope Bay	964	866	642	684	
Buff Bay	1,160	1,156	1,283	1,100	
Annotto Bay	2,881	2,764	2,930	2,990	" "
Port Maria	3,975	3,909	4,418	4,331	" "
Oracabessa	1,012	1,030	1,150	1,113	" "
Retreat	19	29	211	270	
Gayle	40	45	204	298	
Ocho Rios	626	637	798	775	
Port Royal	1,320	1,132	1,267	1,011	
Up-Park Camp	596	633	540	603	
Halfway-Tree	454	500	403	476	
Gordon Town	264	367	204	264	
Cold Spring	447	397	366	367	
Stony Hill	196	187	157	150	
Exhibition	63	82	...	...	
Cumberland Pen	8	4	68	9	Opened two days 15th & 16th Mch. '93
Race Course	31	3	35	14	" three days 13th to 15th Dec., '92
Railway	306	304	355	367	
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,925</b>	<b>102,925</b>	<b>103,803</b>	<b>103,803</b>	



## Return shewing the Gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office

POST OFFICE—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received at District Post Offices ...		398	2	9½			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received at the General Post Office		341	17	10			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from the United Kingdom		86	10	0			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from British Possessions and Foreign Countries	...	156	12	2			
Postages on Unpaid Ship Letters	...	1	5	0			
Stamps sold by the Department	...	14,145	10	2			
Stamps sold by the Stamp Commissioner	...	3,679	8	8½			
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	...	63	2	0			
Fees for Conveyance of Private Letter Bags	...	19	14	0			
Commission on Money Orders:							
Less Premium on remittances	...	£641	4	8			
United Kingdom	£262 10 0						
United States	63 0 10						
Canada	8 7 4	333	18	2	307	6	6
Fees for detention of Country Letters per Packet for delivery in Kingston		20	15	6			
Fine Account	...	10	12	0			
Commission on Mail Coach Collections	...	90	10	4			
Discount on Stamps purchased from the Public	...	0	8	1			
Registered Letter Envelopes sold	...						
Commission on Postal Orders	...	401	13	3	19,723	8	4
TELEGRAPHS—							
Stamps sold	...	5,793	3	0			
Additional charge on "A 1" and "B" Books	...	7	8	0			
Fees for keeping Telegraph Office open out of office hours	...	13	0	0	5,813	11	0

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£25,536 19 4



## Department during the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1893.

SALARIES—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salary of Postmaster for Jamaica	...	600	0	0			
Salaries of Clerks	...	2,966	18	1			
Clerical Assistance	...	22	18	0			
Wages of Porters, Letter Carriers, &c.	...	633	13	4			
Wages of Auxiliary Letter Carriers	...	133	6	2			
Packet Newspaper Sorters	...	167	0	0			
Salaries of District Postmasters	...	2,304	14	10			
Wages of Messengers conveying Mails between General Post Office and Railway Station	...	53	0	0	6,931	10	5
COMMISSION ON STAMPS SOLD—							
Poundage on Stamps sold by Department...	...	138	7	7			
Discount on Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	...	181	2	6	319	10	1
CONVEYANCE OF MAILS—							
Contractors	...	8,246	8	2			
Special Mail Services	...	0	7	0			
Packet Mail Services	...	18	6	10½			
Proportion of Postage placed to credit of the United Kingdom	...	1,100	0	0			
Ship Letter Gratuities	...	414	11	6			
Conveyance of Mails between Post Offices and Railway Stations	...	124	15	9			
Conveyance of Mails between General Post Office and Up-Park Camp	...	53	0	0			
Transit Rates payable to Union Countries other than United Kingdom	...	133	7	9	10,090	17	0½
SERVICES—							
Contingencies	...	423	0	1½			
Letter Carriers' Uniforms	...	98	6	9			
Water Supply	...	8	14	9			
Lighting Account	...	30	1	8			
Advertising	...	76	15	0			
Mail Bags and Wrappers	...	44	10	7			
Travelling Charges	...	233	5	0			
Allowance for Services out of office hours	...	348	16	1			
Rent of Post Offices	...	540	12	0			
Twine and Wax	...	98	10	3			
Manufacture of Stamps	...	597	12	0			
Date Stamps and Type	...	37	0	1			
Furniture	...	...	...	...			
Stationery	...	524	12	4	3,056	16	7½
					20,398	14	2½
Exhibition Post Office	...	...	...	...	4	15	3
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	...	139	3	4			
Letters sent through Returned Letter Branch	...	63	17	9½			
Stamps supplied to Foreign Countries	...	5	5	1½	208	6	3
TELEGRAPH BRANCH SALARIES—							
Salary of Superintendent	...	400	0	0			
Salaries of Assistants to Superintendent	...	400	0	0			
Salaries of Operators	...	3,063	18	3			
Wages of Messengers, Head Office	...	133	1	5			
Wages of Messengers, District Offices	...	630	6	4	4,627	6	0
SERVICES—							
Porterage	...	144	18	5			
Travelling Charges	...	130	18	4			
Water Supply	...	32	0	0			
Contingencies	...	204	0	0½			
Rent of Head Office	...	48	0	0			
Rent of District Offices	...	748	1	8			
Messengers' Uniforms	...	29	6	6			
Manufacture of Stamps, &c.	...	212	9	7			
Services out of Office Hours	...	240	7	8			
Furniture	...	...	...	...			
Stationery	...	216	19	8	2,007	1	10½
					6,634	7	10½
VOTES ADMINISTERED BY POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—							
Steam Communication round the Island	...	...	...	...	1,800	0	0
Furniture	...	...	...	...	67	2	10