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No. 20.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 21st September, 1895.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Annual Report on the Post Office and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st March, 1895.

By Command,

FRED. EVANS, Colonial Secretary.

Report on the Post Office and Telegraph Department for the year ended 31st March, 1895.

General Post Office, Jamaica, 14th September, 1895.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Twenty-seventh Annual Report of the Post Office Department being that for the financial year ended 31st March, 1895.

REVENUE.

2. The receipts on account of "Postages" and "Telegraphs" amount to £27,962 13s. 11½d., as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Postages	22,053	17	5½
Telegraphs	5,908	16	6
	<u>£27,962</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11½</u>

3. Comparing the above figures with the estimates for the year under review, it results that "Postal Receipts" show an excess of £2,753 17s. 5½d., while the estimates on account of "Telegraphs" may be said to have been just realised, the excess being only £8 16s. 6d.

4. Continuing the comparison with the collection of the previous year 1893-94, it will be ascertained that the receipts on account of "Postages" are in excess of those of 1893-94 by the sum of £1,619 12s. 6d., while on account of Telegraphs there has been a decrease of £344 9s. 6d., which makes the net excess under both heads over last year's transactions £1,275 3s. 0d.

5. It must not, however, be lost sight of, in connection with the Telegraph Receipts, that the collections in 1893-94 were in excess of those in 1892-93 by the sum of £439 15s. 0d., therefore, the collections for Telegraph during the year under review, while being less than last year, as shewn above, exceed those of 1892-93; and, I may add, are quite up to the average collections of the three years preceding.

6. The following is the usual abstract of the collections under each head of revenue, as compared with the collections of the two years preceding.

PERIOD.	Postages.	Commission		Telegraph.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
		on Money Orders.	on Postal Orders.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1892-93	- 18,260 5 8½	307 6 6	401 13 3	5,813 11 0	183 18 4	24,966 14 9½
1893-94	- 19,429 3 1	354 6 6	431 14 4½	6,253 6 0	219 1 0	26,687 10 11½
1894-95	- 20,974 2 9	400 10 5	450 7 6½	5,908 16 6	228 16 9	27,962 13 11½

7. I also subjoin the usual approximate analysis of the collections under Postages, as compared with the analysis for the preceding two years.

Year.	Packet Postages.	Inland Postages.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1893-94 ...	4,443 7 10½	14,985 15 2½	19,429 2 1
1894-95 ...	4,630 18 9½	16,343 3 11½	20,974 2 9

8. In my last year's report I included a statement which shewed that as a result of the reduction which had taken effect on the 1st January and 1st June, 1890, in the Inland and the Packet Letter rates of Postage the ascertained loss of £2,000 or 14½ per cent. in 1890-91, the first financial year after the reduction, had fallen to £260, or 1.45 per cent. and, I with very great pleasure, submitted that the people of this Colony might fairly congratulate themselves upon so satisfactory a result of the reduced postal rates. It is with still greater pleasure that I am now able to record that the above figures show that not only has there not been any loss during the year under review, but that on the contrary there has been an increase of £1,284 16s. 8d. or 7.23 per cent. over the collections of the year which preceded that in which the reduction of rates came into force, *i.e.* 1889, the reduction being 50 per cent. in the case of the Inland letter rate, and 37 per cent. in that of the Packet letter rate of postage.

9. I would also point out that this most satisfactory and continued increase in the Postal Receipts has taken place, notwithstanding the reduction during the year 1893-94 of the registration fee from 4d. to 2d. or 50 per cent. and the adoption of the minimum scale of charges fixed by the Postal Union Treaty on Second Class mail matter, *i.e.*, "Post Cards," "Printed Papers," and "Commercial documents" as stated in the 8th and the 14th paragraph of my last Annual Report.

10. In connection with the reduction of the registration fee, I am pleased to be able to say that it has made the public more appreciative of the system of registration; but there are still many who continue to risk the transmission through the post of unregistered letters containing value, and who regard it as strange when, in the event of miscarriage this Department, on inquiry, is unable to trace the missing letter, or to say where the miscarriage occurred; and it is very difficult to make such persons believe that the Post Office employes are not *always* responsible for such miscarriages. The number of suggestions which are made to me for tracing letters which miscarry through the post are most amusing, and I hope I may be pardoned for recording one or two such suggestions. In more than one instance, I have been asked why the practice of counting and recording the number of letters exchanged in each mail between Post Offices is not adopted with a view to finding out if any letters miscarry, and on my pointing out that I failed to see where the practical result would be, as in the absence of the addresses, it would not be possible to say if the letter inquired for formed one of the number recorded as having been received and despatched, I have been as frequently met with the rejoinder from people who are intelligent, but who do not appear to think, "then why do you not keep the addresses" of all the letters passing through the post, and one of the persons who have made such a suggestion to me, actually told me that such a practice existed in other Post Offices and he quoted a Central American Post Office. The utter impracticability of adopting any such suggestion is obvious and needs no comment from me. I would only add that even if the Staff were sufficient, I do not think the public would appreciate being kept waiting while the addresses of their letters were being taken because some persons elect to disregard the benefits and protection afforded by the system of registration.

11. I would again invite the public, through the medium of this Report, to register their letters or other packets containing value, when sending them through the post. A great deal of difficulty is experienced by and trouble caused to this Department in tracing, or trying to trace unregistered packets. While I cannot say that miscarriages do not take place in the Post Office, for they do in every Post Office in the world, I merely ask that it be borne in mind that a Post Office has to bear the burden of *all* the miscarriages of correspondence which are not found out even though they may not have occurred in the Post Office, and, as previously stated, I could recount many an interesting story in this connection.

12. The Imperial Post Office has been credited during the year under review with the sum of £1,315 3s. 4d., on account of "sea transit rates," on correspondence sent via the United Kingdom or conveyed to and from the Colony by vessels subsidized by the Imperial Government.

13. The undermentioned sums were similarly paid to

The U. S. of America ...	...	£203 8 5
Belgium ...	...	0 0 0
St. Thomas ...	...	9 9 2

14. The preceding Abstract of Revenue shows that there has been an increase of £46 3s. 11d., under the head of Commissions on Money Orders and of £18 13s. 2d., under the head of Commissions on Postal Orders, the details of such increase are to be found hereafter at paragraphs 32 and 36.

15. There has also been an increase of £9 15s. 9d. in "Miscellaneous Receipts" which are made up of the following items:—

Rent of Private Letter Boxes ...	...	£67 9 0
Private Letter Bags ...	...	57 19 0
Fines ...	...	6 9 0
Mail Coach Commissions ...	...	96 19 9
		£228 16 9

16. The sale of Postage Labels, Post Card, and Newspaper Wrappers, during the year under review, amount to £20,500 19s. 4d., of this sum, the amount of £5,041 4s. 9d., was disposed of by the Stamp Commissioner to authorized Vendors at 5 per cent. discount, which discount amounts to £246 17s. 1d.

17. Poundage at the rate of 1 per cent. was also paid on the amount of Postage Stamps sold at the General Post Office, Kingston, and at the several District Post Offices.

18. Of the total amount of Stamp sold, the Stamp Commissioner has received the usual annual payment of £1,170 in respect of Adhesive Postage Stamps, used under Law 18 of 1887 in the payment of Stamp Duties.

19. Postage Stamps to the amount of £67 5s. 9d. were purchased from the Public, the discount at 2½ per cent. being £1 14s. 7d. which is included in Postages.

CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

20. I subjoin the usual Comparative Statement showing the estimated number of Letters and Post-Cards which passed through the General Post Office, Kingston and the several District Post Offices.

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.
<i>Inland Mails—</i>						
Ordinary Letters—						
Public ...	620,400	662,500	695,800	525,200	799,600	980,600
Official ...	58,200	38,000	85,500	37,600	65,800	93,600
Post Cards ...	14,000	12,200	41,000	12,900	18,400	65,200
Registered Letters—						
Public ...	11,245	12,155	6,868	31,213	39,922	41,791
Official ...	16,561	17,985	18,735	6,436	10,497	14,350
<i>Ocean Mails.—By Vessels under Contract—</i>						
United Kingdom—						
Ordinary Letters ...	155,400	166,000	173,721	211,600	210,900	217,241
Post Cards ...	2,000	2,000	2,310	1,400	1,400	1,400
Inter-Colonial, B.W.I., &c.—						
Ordinary Letters ...	52,000	58,100	38,500	55,300	42,500	51,200
Post Cards ...	254	253	393	335	182	715
<i>By Vessels not Contract—</i>						
United States of America—						
Ordinary Letters ...	60,900	73,900	79,256	76,400	75,300	95,419
Post Cards ...	1,254	1,837	894	923	1,178	1,915
Other Countries—						
Ordinary Letters ...	32,400	39,700	43,800	8,900	10,600	12,280
Post Cards ...	676	774	957	23	68	48
Registered Letters, Packet ...	7,376	9,369	10,954	7,760	7,952	9,348
	1,632,666	1,094,773	1,198,688	975,990	1,284,299	1,585,107

At District Post Offices.

	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.
Ordinary Letters ...	841,800	877,552	902,564
Post Cards ...	14,000	20,475	21,164
Registered Letters ...	11,177	14,930	18,297
	866,977	912,957	942,025

21. It will be observed that the increase to which I referred in my last Annual Report as being attributable to the reduced rates of postage, Inland and Packet, has continued.

OCEAN MAILS.

22. I also subjoin a Comparative Statement of the number of vessels which conveyed Mails between Jamaica and other places.

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1892-93.		1893-94.		1894-95.		1892-93.		1893-94.		1894-95.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
<i>Kingston—</i>												
Contract ...	63	761	69	814	63	783	77	889	88	994	53	728
Non-Contract ...	217	485	231	434	244	526	278	415	300	489	301	588
<i>Outports—</i>												
Non-Contract ...	49	77	59	81	64	112	...	...	37	44	30	52

23. Other countries sent 166 Mails via Jamaica.

24. I am glad to be again able to record in connection with the Ocean Mail Service that the Royal Steam Packet Company has continued to perform with their wonted efficiency and punctuality the Mail Service with the Mother Country and the Colonies, there not having been a single delay in arrival or departure or interruption in so far as this Colony is concerned during the year under review. Also that the steamers of the Atlas Steamship Company, of the Boston Fruit Company and of Messrs. J. E. Kerr & Co., have continued to afford, to the great convenience of the general public, many opportunities for exchanging mails with the United States of America, as well as with the Mother Country; the Atlas Company, particularly, have afforded and continue to afford a most efficient mail service for direct exchanges between the ports of Kingston and New York.

25. The steamers of Messrs. Pickford and Black also continue to run between Halifax and Kingston, via Bermuda and Turks Island, monthly, thereby affording regular opportunity for the exchange of Mails with Jamaica and the places named; the steamer has been most punctual in arrival and departure.

26. It will be recollected that in my last Annual Report, I pointed out that the Mail Contract which had existed between Messrs Pickford and Black and this Colony had terminated by effluxion of time on 26th October, 1893.

27. The same Company also ran steamers between Halifax and Cuba which afforded opportunity for the transmission of Mails direct to Cuba, but the service was adventitious.

ISLAND MAIL CONVEYANCE.

28. I am glad again to be able to record that in consequence of the very satisfactory and efficient manner in which the Mail Contractors, including the Jamaica Railway Company, have discharged their obligations, there has not been any interruption of the several Mail Services during the year under review. The small amount of fines, i.e., £6 9s. which it became my duty to impose in certain cases, I submit bears testimony to the efficient services of which I write.

29. On the 1st Oct., 1894, a new Mail Service was established between Cedar Valley and Trinity Ville in the Parish of St. Thomas in connection with the Mail Service between Gordon Town and Cedar Valley, with the effect not only of completing the Postal Circuit between Kingston and Morant Bay via Gordon Town but also of affording to residents in the neighbourhood of Hagley Gap and Cedar Valley Post Offices facility for the despatch and receipt of Telegrams by post via Trinity Ville Telegraph Station.

30. On the 12th February, 1895, the daily Mail Service by train between Kingston and intermediate Offices on the line of Railway was extended to Montego Bay, and on the 13th February, 1895, the intermediate Offices also commenced to exchange Mails by each Passenger Train with Montego Bay.

DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

31. The Number of District Post Offices in existence at the end of the year under review is 123 as against 109 at the end of the year 1893-94, Post Offices having been opened in the undermentioned Districts:—

- "Williamsfield" in the Parish of Manchester on the 2nd June, 1894.
- "Guava Ridge" in the Parish of St. Andrew on the 19th June, 1894.
- "Wallerston" in the Parish of Manchester on the 30th June, 1894.
- "Castleton" in the Parish of St. Mary on the 6th July, 1894.
- "Lime Hall" in the Parish of St. Ann on the 19th July, 1894.
- "Spring Hill" in the Parish of Portland on the 1st September, 1894.

- "*Rock River*" in the Parish of Clarendon on the 12th September, 1894.
 "*Mocho*" in the Parish of Clarendon on the 14th September, 1894.
 "*Negril*" in the Parish of Westmoreland on the 26th October, 1884.
 "*Mount Moriah*" in the Parish of Hanover on the 10th November, 1894.
 "*Devside*" in the Parish of Trelawny on the 20th November, 1894.
 "*Bensonton*" in the Parish of St. Ann on the 6th December, 1894.
 "*Lawrence Tavern*" in the Parish of St. Andrew on the 27th December, 1894.
 "*Highgate*" in the Parish of St. Mary on the 15th January, 1895.

MONEY ORDERS.

32. The following is a Comparative Statement of the transactions of the Money Order Branch :—

United Kingdom.

Year.	Jamaica Issue.		Payable in Jamaica.		Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
1892-93	8,357	£ 34,780 13 4	958	£ 2,186 2 4	£ 497 10 4
1893-94	8,783	£ 34,292 6 4	1,077	£ 2,998 7 4	£ 508 11 9
1894-95	9,223	£ 34,845 0 2	1,064	£ 2,648 11 3	£ 536 2 4

United States of America.

1892-93	2,060	£ 6,623 0 2	318	£ 866 12 7	£ 115 10 1
1893-94	2,377	£ 7,570 1 9	335	£ 880 16 4	£ 133 9 7
1894-95	2,726	£ 9,043 6 10	405	£ 1,248 2 2	£ 161 18 11

Dominion of Canada.

1892-93	245	£ 1,191 18 3	85	£ 319 4 3	£ 17 1 11
1893-94	304	£ 1,278 4 9	75	£ 258 8 11	£ 19 10 1
1894-95	244	£ 1,145 9 8	60	£ 247 3 3	£ 15 4 3

British Guiana.

1892-93	36	£ 46 4 4	78	£ 245 5 0	£ 2 3 10
1893-94	63	£ 92 4 8	61	£ 205 5 2	£ 2 7 5
1894-95	80	£ 129 8 0	76	£ 280 12 8	£ 4 7 9

Barbados.

1892-93	127	£ 276 0 5	104	£ 180 7 5	£ 4 4 1
1893-94	144	£ 207 6 7	94	£ 228 16 8	£ 5 7 9
1894-95	159	£ 270 18 6	97	£ 253 1 9	£ 6 5 4

Windward and Leeward Islands.

1892-93	28	£ 60 2 11	113	£ 246 10 10	£ 1 18 5
1893-94	35	£ 79 15 9	122	£ 219 2 7	£ 1 19 9
1894-95	40	£ 55 14 4	120	£ 278 1 9	£ 1 18 10

33. Summarising the above details and comparing them with the transactions of the year preceding, the following results are obtained :—

Jamaica Issue.	No.	Amount.
1893-94	11,706	£43,519 19 10
1894-95	12,472	£45,489 17 6
Issue of other Countries payable in Jamaica :—		
1893-94	1,764	£4,790 17 0
1894-95	1,822	£4,955 12 10

34. It will be observed that there has been an increase of Money Orders issued in Jamaica as well as in the issue of other Countries payable in Jamaica.

35. The Money Order Commissions which accrued to the Colony during the year under review is as under:—

		£ s. d.	
United Kingdom	...	536	2 4
United States of America	...	161	18 11
Dominion of Canada	...	15	4 3
British Guiana	...	4	7 9
Barbados	...	6	5 4
Windward and Leeward Islands	...	1	18 10
		£725 17 5	
Less premium on remittances—			
United Kingdom	...	£243	15 0
United States	...	70	14 4
Canada	...	10	15 0
Barbados	...	0	2 8
		325 7 0	
		£400 10 5	

POSTAL ORDERS.

36. I also furnish below a statement shewing the total number and face value of each denomination of Postal Orders issued and sold during the year as compared with the issue and sale of the two years preceding as under.

POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED.

DENOMINATION.	1892-93.			1893-94.			1894-95.		
	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.	11,650	291 5 0	24 5 5	11,475	286 17 6	23 18 1½	32,500	812 10 0	67 14 2
1s.	22,285	1,114 5 0	46 8 6½	24,500	1,225 0 0	51 0 10	15,025	751 5 0	31 6 0½
1s. 6d.	21,560	1,617 0 0	44 18 4	26,000	1,350 0 0	54 3 4	12,925	969 7 6	26 18 6½
2s. 6d.	18,885	2,360 12 6	39 6 10½	24,175	7,021 17 6	50 7 3½	25,750	3,218 15 0	53 12 1½
5s.	21,880	5,470 0 0	91 3 4	22,295	5,573 15 0	92 17 11	25,110	6,277 10 0	104 12 6
10s.	19,080	9,540 0 0	159 0 0	19,020	9,510 0 0	158 10 0	20,515	10,257 10 0	170 19 2
	115,340	20,393 2 6	405 2 6	127,465	21,567 10 0	430 17 6	131,825	22,286 17 6	455 3 4

POSTAL ORDERS SOLD.

		1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
April	...	1,712 7 0	1,695 15 6	2,059 10 6
May	...	1,679 18 0	1,910 7 6	1,884 5 0
June	...	1,618 2 6	1,711 11 0	1,914 11 0
July	...	1,681 16 0	1,784 6 6	1,842 1 6
August	...	1,666 12 0	1,721 6 0	1,757 4 0
September	...	1,637 14 0	1,756 5 0	1,517 12 6
October	...	1,583 5 6	1,821 3 0	1,338 5 0
November	...	1,700 10 6	1,835 6 0	1,786 3 0
December	...	1,842 9 0	1,921 4 0	2,023 18 6
January	...	1,687 19 6	1,847 15 0	1,988 4 6
February	...	1,631 9 6	1,790 17 6	1,876 10 6
March	...	1,750 5 0	1,827 15 0	2,108 18 0
		20,192 8 0	21,623 12 0	22,097 4 0

37. The above comparison shows that there has been an increase of £719 7s. 6d. over the transactions of 1893-94 in the amount of Postal Orders sold to the public, who, while continuing to appreciate

the system as a means of remittance, do not appear fully to recognise that it is also useful and intended as a medium of exchange. I am of the opinion that there is a prevailing idea, particularly amongst people in the lower walks of life, that a Postal Order must as soon as possible after receipt be paid at the nearest Parochial Treasury. The system has, however, worked and is working satisfactorily. This, I submit, is evidenced by the fact that the sales of the year under review show, on comparison with those during the year of the inauguration of the system, *i. e.*, 1890-91, an increase of £11,793 10s. 0d.

38. In connection with the Postal Order system, complaint has been sometimes made to me that difficulty had been experienced in obtaining Postal Orders at District Post Offices. I therefore take this opportunity to explain that such inconvenience cannot be avoided, and is, to a great extent, beyond the control of this Department, which, I may remark, is ever ready to mitigate or to remedy any public postal inconvenience. At the commencement of each month the District Postmasters are supplied on their requisitions with Postal Orders; if immediately after the receipt of such supply one or more of the public call at the Post Office and purchase the entire stock, for there is not any limit to the sale of Postal Orders to any one individual, it is a sequitur that until the Postmaster can bring the extraordinary sale under the notice of the Head Office, Kingston, and until the further supply required has been received at the District Post Office, inconvenience must result; and while I sympathize with the persons who are inconvenienced and who complain to me, I confess that I do not see how such inconvenience can be controlled or avoided: the only alternatives being either to send an unlimited supply of Postal Orders to the District Post Offices, or to limit the sale to any one individual: neither alternative do I regard as practicable. I therefore hope that if the above remarks meet the eye of any one who has been so inconvenienced in the past, or may be in the future, they will understand and appreciate the difficulty experienced in keeping the District Post Offices constantly supplied under the circumstances with Postal Orders.

39. There is also, I believe, a general impression that a District Postmaster may not apply more than once a month for Postage Stamps. I take this opportunity also to say that this is not the case; for the District Postmasters are particularly enjoined to bring under notice at once any unforeseen or extraordinary sale of Stamps or Postal Orders and to make a requisition for a further supply.

EXPENDITURE.

40. The expenditure of the Postal Service for the year under review amounts to £22,198 3s. 1½d. I subjoin the usual abstract of expenditure as compared under each head of service with the expenditure for the two years preceding.

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.		—	—
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.	Services.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
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 2¼
1893-94 ...	4,446 5 0	2,301 4 6	8,354 1 3	1,869 12 11	3,533 0 9	20,504 4 5
1894-95 ...	4,715 6 8	2,422 6 6	8,419 6 9	2,028 10 8	4,612 12 6¾	22,198 3 1½

41. The above comparison shows that the Postal Service Expenditure exceeds that of 1893-94 by the sum of £1,693 18 8¾d, as follows:—

Salaries Head Office ...	£269 1 8
Salaries District Offices ...	121 2 0
Inland Mail Conveyance ...	65 5 6
Ocean Mail Conveyance ...	158 17 9
Services ...	1,079 11 9¾
	<u>£1,693 18 8¾</u>

42. The increase under the head of Salaries at the Head Office is due to the "Annual Increments" of the staff; to an increase of the Salaries of the Letter Carriers, and to an addition to the staff of Letter Carriers, in connection with the extension of the House delivery in Kingston.

43. The increase under the head of Salaries at District Post Offices is the result of the establishment of District Post Offices in the Districts mentioned at paragraph 31 of this Report.

44. The increase under the head of Inland Mail Conveyance may also be attributed to the establishment of new Post Offices and to the extension to Montego Bay of the Mail Service by Train.

45. The increase under Ocean Mail Conveyance is in respect of "Ship Letter Gratuities" to non-contract steamers conveying Mails from Jamaica, and of sea transit rates payable to Postal Union Countries other than the United Kingdom.

46. The increase under the head of Services is to be found principally under the sub-heads of "Contingencies" in connection with the establishment of new Post Offices, "manufacture of Postage Stamps as a result of the increased sale, and of "Printing and Stationery."

47. The annual payment of £5,780 has been made to the Imperial Exchequer through the Crown Agents for the Colonies for this Colony's proportion of the annual loss sustained by the Imperial Go-

vernment in maintaining the Mail Service between the United Kingdom and the British and Foreign West Indies. As stated in previous reports the sum of £3,000 is charged against the Post Office Department in the Public Accounts, the balance being charged against "Miscellaneous."

48. If the payment of £5,780 be added to the expenditure of £22,198 3s. 1½d. as shown in the above Abstract and the result £27,978 3s. 1½d. be compared with Gross Receipts £22,053 17s. 5½d. for Postage, &c, it will be observed that the net deficit is £5,924 5s. 8¼d. so that but for the payment of such subsidy the receipts on account of Postages almost quadrate with the expenditure. It must be borne in mind, however, that for such payment of £5,780 per annum the public gain in return a most efficient Mail Service with the United Kingdom, &c., the British and Foreign West Indies and Central America, and I respectfully submit that the usefulness and importance of such an efficient service cannot be over-estimated.

49. In administration of the "Vote for Steam Communication round the Island" this Department paid to the Agent of the Atlas Steamship Company the sum £1,800, and it is with great pleasure that I again bear testimony to the punctual and satisfactory manner in which the Company has fulfilled its Coastal Itinerary—and that this is the third year during which it has not been found necessary to make any deductions from the Subsidy for penalties in respect of breaches of contract.

50. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have continued during the year to maintain with regularity the weekly Coastal Service to which I referred in 53rd paragraph of my last Annual Report as having been inaugurated.

MAIL COACHES.

51. The following are Comparative Statements 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.
1892-93	...	...	227 9 0	239 13 6	467 2 6
1893-94	...	...	158 14 0	270 3 9	428 17 9
1894-95	...	...	127 5 9	268 19 0	396 4 9

II.—Kingston and Montego Bay.

YEAR.			Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1892-93	...	...	719 6 9	405 19 5	1,125 6 2
1893-94	...	...	813 4 9	447 3 9	1,260 8 6
1894-95	...	...	718 9 9	425 10 9	1,144 0 6

III.—Montego Bay and Lucea.

YEAR.			Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1892-93	...	...	73 12 0	14 6 3	87 18 3
1893-94	...	...	76 10 0	15 4 0	91 14 0
1894-95	...	...	108 12 0	14 1 9	122 13 9

IV.—Kingston and Port Antonio.

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
1892-93	£ s. d. 456 3 6	£ s. d. 209 7 6	£ s. d. 665 11 0
1893-94	386 10 6	267 12 3	654 2 9
1894-95	409 14 0	259 10 3	669 4 3

V.—Kingston and Annotto Bay.

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
1892-93	£ s. d. 194 12 6	£ s. d. 56 9 3	£ s. d. 251 1 9
1893-94	208 0 0	74 11 9	282 11 9
1894-95	204 14 6	79 9 3	284 3 9

52. The above details being summarised show that the total earnings of the Mail Coaches amount to £2,616 7s. 0d., as under:—

Passengers	...	£1,568 16 0
For Parcels	...	1,047 11 0

and that comparing these figures with the earnings during the year preceding it results that there has been a total decrease of £101 7s. 9d. as follows:—

Passengers	...	£74 3 3
Parcels	...	27 4 6

53. The falling off in respect of Passengers' Fares has occurred in the Lines of Mail Coach between Kingston and Montego Bay, Kingston and Sav.-la-Mar respectively, which have been effected by the extended Railway facilities, as well as by the Coastal Steamers.

54. On the 11th March, 1895, the Mail Coach Passenger Fare between Falmouth and Montego Bay was, with the approval of this Department, reduced from eight shillings to six shillings—this step was taken to facilitate and to meet the convenience of the public travelling by rail to and from Montego Bay and Falmouth. At the same time and for the same reason the Mail Coach Time Table was amended so as to admit of passengers arriving from Falmouth in time to connect with the train leaving Montego Bay at 10.35 a.m. and of their returning from Montego Bay after the arrival of the Train due at 2.30 p.m.

RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

55. The following is a statement of the Correspondence which has been dealt with in the Returned Letter Branch during the year under review:

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to the United Kingdom	649	173
“ to other Postal Union Countries	1,695	327
“ to Writers in the Island	21,126	2,515
“ Destroyed being illegible or anonymous	3,330	530
“ Destroyed Writers not having been found	3,641	901
Newspapers returned to Publishers	6,444	...

Of the postage on the Unclaimed Unpaid Correspondence the sum of £40 8s. 0½d. has had to be written off as irrecoverable.

56. The number of unclaimed articles which were found to contain value to the amount of £2 5 15s. 6d. is 909. They were registered in due course and returned to the writers.

TELEGRAPHS.

57. The following is a detailed statement of the receipts of the Telegraph Branch during the year under review as compared with the receipts during the two years preceding:—

	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.
Stamps sold	£ s. d. 5,793 3 0	£ s. d. 6,243 2 3	£ s. d. 5,899 3 9
Additional charge on Books containing Message Forms	7 8 0	7 6 9	6 12 9
Fees for opening Stations out of the Office Hours	13 0 0	6 0 0	3 0 0
	£ 5,813 11 0	5,256 9 0	5,908 16 6

58. The number of Messages sent and received during the year is 105,719 as against 111,812 during 1893-94, and 103,803 during 1892-93. Of the total number of Messages transmitted 1,200 were sent and 1,305 were received over the wires of the Jamaica Railway Company.

59. I append to this report the customary detailed statement of the number of Messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station in the Island.

60. The sum of £2,177 4s. 2d. has been collected during the year under review at the several Inland Telegraph Stations for Foreign Telegrams sent over the West India and Panama Telegraph Company's Cables and has been duly lodged to the credit of the Company.

61. The Telegraph expenditure by this Department during the year under review is £7,075 12s. 6d. and compares as under with the expenditure during the two years preceding :—

Year.	1892-93.		1893-94.		1894-95.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Salaries ...	3,863	18 3	3,932	0 7	4,052	6 0
Wages ...	763	7 9	806	2 1	829	1 8½
Services ...	2,007	0 10½	2,166	13 1	2,194	4 3¼
	£	6,634 7 10½	6,904	15 9	7,075	12 0

62. The excess over the expenditure of last year is £170 16s. 3d. and has occurred under the following heads :—

Salaries ...	£143	5 0½
Services ...	27	12 2½

63. The increase on account of Salaries will be found under the Sub-heads of "Salaries of Operators" and "Wages of Messengers" at the Out Stations.

64. The *net* increase under Services is to be found under the Sub-heads "Porterage," "Contingencies," "Rents" "Manufacture of Stamps," "Stores" and "Furniture."

65. It will be observed that the Telegraph Expenditure by the Post Office for "Working Expenses," exceeds the receipts by the sum of £1,166 15s. 6d. and if the sum of £1,630 10s. 8d. expended by the Public Works Department for the maintenance of the Lines during the year under report be added, it results that the net deficit is £2,797 6s. 2d.

66. I respectfully submit, however, that the Public of this Colony will not regard this deficit as too large a sum to be borne by the exchequer of this Island for the maintenance of so useful a system which is so important a factor of the *Political, Commercial* and *Social* economy of all civilized communities.

67. It must not be supposed that the success of the telegraph system is to be measured by result of the collections at the rate of one shilling for twenty words, for it must be borne in mind that the transmission of a telegram may involve very large business transactions which may possibly result not only in an increase of revenue but may cause the circulation of large sums of money; for instance I think I may remark without fear of contradiction that the Fruit Trade could not in the absence of the Telegraph System have developed to the extent it has, therefore I claim that there are what I may term "*unseen credits*," which must be taken into account when considering the cost to this Island of the Telegraph Service.

68. A temporary Telegraph Station was opened under the Grand Stand at the Kingston Race Course during the races on the 11th, 12th and 13th December last.

69. The system of teaching young women telegraphy at the several Telegraph Stations and at the "Telegraph School" at the Head Office, Kingston, is being maintained with great success and advantage to the public and to the department, as it has enabled me to form an auxiliary staff of operators from which vacancies in the permanent staff are filled, while it at the same time provides for the acting appointments consequent on illness.

70. The Candidates to learn telegraphy are not admitted until they have produced the necessary testimonials and passed the qualifying examination, the latter being limited to reading aloud, dictation and arithmetic up to Compound Long-division. They are also required to agree to serve, after appointment, for one year certain and to give three months' notice of resignation in any case.

71. I take this opportunity to express my regret to find that so little care is taken by persons who recommend the Candidates for admission into the Telegraph School. I have repeatedly had to reject Candidates who have been recommended to me most highly, in some cases "Pupil Teachers!" because they could not pass the qualifying examination and did not possess that knowledge of English which is so essential for the correct transmission and receipt of telegrams. Had greater care been taken disappointment would have been saved to the Candidate and I should not have been caused unnecessary trouble.

72. I also take this opportunity to correct an idea which I have been told, on more than one occasion exists, *i.e.*, that only young women in the higher walks of life are permitted to learn telegraphy. I unhesitatingly affirm that this is not the case; for distinction as to class, color or creed is never made. All that is required, as shewn above is, that the Candidate shall be respectable and possess the necessary educational qualification.

73. I hear willing testimony to the satisfactory manner in which the staff of Telegraph Operators as a whole have discharged their duties.

74. The number of Telegraph Offices in existence at the end of the year under report is 66.

PARCELS POST.

75. The following is a Comparative Statement of the Parcels Post transactions.

From.	Consignments.			Parcels.			Import Duty Collected.		
	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	27	26	26	8,567	8,334	8,649	1,163 11 4	1,175 10 4	1,228 13 9
British West Indies ...	95	104	93	221	202	222	10 10 5	5 19 9	9 9 6
United States of America ...	72	68	69	1,013	1,316	1,574	67 11 5	69 14 1	85 9 2
Dominion of Canada ...	12	12	12	59	71	103	2 19 11	4 1 1	3 1 0
	206	210	200	9,860	9,923	10,548	1,244 13 1	1,255 5 3	1,326 13 5

	Postage Accrued to Jamaica.			Declared Value of Parcels.		
	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	439 8 9½	424 6 4	460 7 7½	11,559 16 11	12,962 17 3	13,316 16 7
British West Indies ...	...	...	...	196 10 0	111 18 8	114 18 3
United States of America ...	...	...	...	828 16 5	973 8 0	1,417 19 3
Dominion of Canada ...	1 0 2½	7 3 6½	1 15 7½	44 5 0	46 5 3	41 3 8
	440 9 0	425 9 10½	462 3 3	12,629 8 4	14,094 9 2	14,890 17 9

PARCELS DESPATCHED.

	Consignments.			Parcels.			Postage Accrued to Jamaica.		
	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	26	26	26	1,887	1,957	2,031	60 14 9½	55 7 5½	64 1 10½
British West Indies ...	99	110	121	228	272	271	6 18 8	8 4 4	7 13 0
United States of America ...	36	42	73	276	335	406	11 19 6	8 7 6	18 1 6
Dominion of Canada ...	11	12	12	48	87	56	1 1 8	1 9 9½	1 5 5
	172	190	232	2,439	2,651	2,964	80 14 7½	73 9 1	91 1 9½

	Declared Value of Parcels.		
	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	2,044 1 4½	1,838 8 1	2,338 18 1
British West Indies ...	178 7 1	164 10 3	163 10 3
United States of America ...	116 16 5	162 3 8	230 17 10
Dominion of Canada ...	15 17 11	24 15 2	19 9 7
	2,355 2 9½	2,189 17 2	2,752 15 9

77. A summary of the above statement shows that the total amount which accrued to the Colony in respect of the Import duty and Postages collected on Parcels exchanged with the United Kingdom and other Countries is, £1,879 18s. 5½d.

Import duty	...	£1,326 13 5
Postages	...	553 5 0½

as against £1,754 during the preceding year.

78. There has been a steady increase annually since the inauguration of the Parcels Post System, and it is with great satisfaction that I am able to record that, notwithstanding the large number of Parcels handled and distributed by each Mail, I do not recollect a single instance of loss or miscarriage in this Island.

MISCELLANEOUS.

79. On the 1st October, 1894, the Postal Delivery in Kingston by Letter Carrier was extended to the Suburban Districts of "Smiths Village," "Hannah Town," "Franklin Town," "Browns Town," "Passmore Town," and the Northern Limits of Arnold Road and South Camp Road including the "Goodwin Lands."

80. During the Christmastide the energies of the staff at the General Post Office, Kingston, were somewhat taxed in consequence of the number of Christmas Cards which were posted, but I am glad to say that I was able to make such arrangements, for assorting the Cards at the District Post Offices and at the General Post Office, Kingston, as prevented any delay or obstruction in the delivery of the business and other Mail matter, and that by Christmas Eve, notwithstanding the fact that it was a Post-day all the Christmas Cards had been distributed at a comparatively early hour and I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the efficient and cheerful manner in which the Post Office Staff including the Letter Carriers discharged the extra duty required of them.

81. The alterations referred to in the 78th paragraph of my last Annual Report have been made in the circulation branch, General Post Office, which is located in the "Town Hall," and I have thus been able to afford greater accommodation to the Public in the Registered Letter Branch, and in the Foreign Newspaper Branch, but equally with the "Blundell Hall" premises in which the Control Branch and the Telegraph Branch are maintained the premises are quite unfit and the space insufficient for the requirements of the necessary Branches of this Department, and I venture again respectfully to express the hope that, for the convenience of the Public as well as for the comfort of the employés, it will not be long ere suitable buildings will be obtained.

82. I submit the usual returns, &c.

I have, &c.,

GEO. H. PEARCE, Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Kingston.

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	...	385	0	4			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received at the General Post Office		372	4	4			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from the United Kingdom		103	1	3½			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from British Possessions and Foreign Countries	...	189	3	7½			
Stamps sold by the Department	...	15,459	14	7			
Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	...	5,041	4	9			
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	...	67	9	0			
Fees for Conveyance of Private Letter Bags	...	57	19	0			
Commission on Money Orders	...	£725	17	5			
Less premium on Remittances:							
United Kingdom		£243	15	0			
United States		70	14	4			
Canada		10	15	0			
Barbados		0	2	8	325	7	0
					400	10	5
Fees for Detention of Country Letters per Packet for delivery in Kingston		16	5	0			
Fine Account	...	6	9	0			
Commission on Mail Coach Collections	...	96	19	9			
Discount on Stamps purchased from the Public	...	1	14	7			
Registered Letter Envelopes sold	...	0	11	0			
Commission on Postal Orders sold	...	450	7	6½	22,648	14	2½
TELEGRAPHS—							
Stamps sold	...	5,899	3	9			
Additional Charge on A 1 and B Books	...	6	12	9			
Fees for keeping Telegraph Offices open out of Office hours	...	3	0	0	5,908	16	6

 £28,557 10 8½

Department during the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1895.

SALARIES—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salary of Postmaster for Jamaica	...	647	18	4			
Salaries of Clerks	...	2,833	0	9			
Clerical Assistance	...	47	4	11			
Wages of Sorters, Letter Carriers, &c.	...	977	2	8			
Packet Newspaper Sorters	...	158	0	0			
Salaries of District Postmistresses, &c.	...	2,422	6	6			
Messengers conveying Mail between General Post Office and Railway Station	...	52	0	0	7,137	13	2
COMMISSION ON STAMPS SOLD—							
Poundage on Stamps sold by Department	...	149	11	10			
Discount on Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	...	246	17	1	396	8	11
CONVEYANCE OF MAILS—							
Contractors	...	8,227	17	6			
Special Mail Service	...	...			
Packet Mail Service	...	10	8	0			
Proportion of Postage placed to credit of United Kingdom	...	1,300	0	0			
Ship Letter Gratuities	...	502	0	7			
Conveyance of Mails between Post Offices and Railway Stations	...	189	15	0			
Conveyance of Mails between General Post Office and Up-Park Camp	...	51	14	3			
Transit Rates payable to Union Countries other than United Kingdom	...	216	2	1	10,447	17	5
SERVICES—							
Contingencies	...	548	8	0 $\frac{1}{4}$			
Letter Carriers Uniforms	...	115	1	0			
Water Supply	...	16	8	0			
Lighting Account	...	25	11	8			
Advertising	...	70	12	0			
Mail Bags and Wrappers	...	132	5	7			
Travelling Charges	...	252	18	6			
Allowance for Services out of Office hours	...	417	3	1			
Rent of Post Offices	...	617	18	4			
Twine and Wax	...	94	5	1			
Manufacture of Stamps	...	1,078	15	5			
Date Stamps and Type	...	130	18	8			
Furniture	...	71	10	11			
Stationery	...	572	19	7			
Conveyance by Tram for Letter Carriers, &c.	...	39	0	0			
Transfer of Montego Bay Office	...	32	7	9	4,216	3	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
					22,198	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
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	...	172	4	3			
Letters sent through Returned Letter Branch	...	72	3	7 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Stamps supplied to Foreign Countries	...	11	10	4	255	18	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
TELEGRAPH BRANCH SALARIES—							
Salary of Superintendent	...	400	0	0			
Salaries of Assistants to Superintendent	...	400	0	0			
Salaries of Operators	...	3,252	6	0			
Wages of Messengers—Head Office	...	160	12	8 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Wages of Messengers—Out Stations	...	668	9	0	4,881	7	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
SERVICES—							
Porterage	...	182	10	2			
Travelling Charges	...	144	17	7			
Water Supply	...	17	9	0			
Contingencies	...	215	15	9 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Rent of District Offices	...	780	11	8			
Messengers Uniform	...	29	13	6			
Manufacture of Stamps, &c.	...	163	12	6			
Services out of Office hours	...	206	4	3			
Furniture	...	110	9	5			
Stationery	...	343	0	5	2,194	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
					£7,075	12	0
VOTE ADMINISTERED BY POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—							
Steam Communication round the Island	...				£1,800	0	0

Return showing the Number of Telegraphic Messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station from 1st April, 1894, to 31st March, 1895, as compared with Return from 1st April, 1893, to 31st March, 1894.

Station.	1st April, 1893, 31st March, 1894.		1894-95.		Remarks.
	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	
Kingston	23,974	27,670	24,560	27,304	Transmitting Station.
Spanish Town	2,204	2,387	1,935	2,264	
Bog Walk	551	440	750	639	
Linstead	952	820	783	715	" "
Ewarton	551	446	534	497	
Moneague	939	1,179	899	1,109	
Claremont	413	439	397	448	
St. Ann's Bay	4,942	4,749	4,305	4,193	" " "
Dry Harbour	577	647	610	648	" "
Browns Town	1,997	1,936	2,022	2,009	" "
Cave Valley	309	287	223	242	
Stewart Town	292	285	225	250	
Uluer Spring	483	461	578	455	
Rio Bueno	343	300	287	289	
Duncans	490	542	442	469	
Falmouth	3,558	3,427	3,230	3,445	
Montego Bay	7,353	6,434	7,729	6,912	" "
Ramble	397	430	595	619	
Lucea	3,397	3,375	2,994	2,987	
Green Island	584	590	677	642	
Grango Hill	246	186	257	213	
Sav. la-Mar	3,770	3,589	3,719	3,496	" "
White House	211	187	307	237	
Black River	3,250	3,306	3,576	3,520	
Middle Quarters	434	358	406	403	
Santa Cruz	857	840	893	970	" "
Malvern	670	675	638	679	
Mandeville	2,912	3,107	2,756	2,939	" "
New Port	411	443	426	517	
Shooters Hill	642	659	799	791	" "
Mile Gully	391	318	419	363	
Balaclava	695	739	624	777	
Christiana	359	417	378	453	
Porus	1,365	1,007	1,454	947	
May Pen	1,440	1,143	1,301	1,074	" "
Chapelton	1,430	1,215	1,286	1,176	
Alloy	997	915	1,071	911	" "
Salt River	291	249	320	296	
Milk River	862	993	757	838	
Old Harbour	1,504	1,399	1,315	1,288	
Yallahs	472	405	473	426	
Morant Bay	2,607	2,495	1,875	1,843	" "
B. M. Valley	360	358	236	238	
Trinity Ville	324	288	285	248	
Port Morant	1,931	1,064	789	681	
Bowden	788	705	669	533	
Bath	595	592	371	377	
P. G. River	834	713	574	569	
Manchioneal	1,555	1,441	1,279	1,260	
Priestman's River	364	341	329	298	
Port Antonio	7,492	6,575	6,018	5,315	" "
St. Margaret's Bay	410	424	350	386	
Hope Bay	955	916	837	749	
Buff Bay	1,281	1,470	1,391	1,334	
Annotto Bay	3,463	3,366	2,592	2,422	" "
Port Maria	5,575	5,427	4,495	4,345	
Oracabessa	924	912	705	655	" "
Retreat	416	428	260	336	
Gayle	289	383	287	368	
Ocho Rios	851	767	732	703	
Port Royal	1,103	940	1,048	872	
Up-Park Camp	714	711	736	710	
Halfway Tree	643	720	524	613	
Gordon Town	237	284	269	336	
Cold Spring	625	524	671	588	
Stony Hill	247	244	201	174	
Race Course	42	23	46	11	
Railway	572	672	1,200	1,305	Opened 3 days, 11th to 13th Dec. '94.
Total	111,812	111,812	105,719	105,719	