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No. 20.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 21st October, 1897.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Report on the Post Office Department for the year 1896-97.

By Command,

FRED. EVANS, Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office, Jamaica, 28th September, 1897.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Post Office Department, being that for the Financial Year ended 31st March 1897.

## Revenue.

2. The cash collections during the year amount to £29,905 10s. 4½d., as under:—

Postages	...	...	£24,425 11 1½
Telegraphs	...	...	5,479 19 3
			£29,905 10 4½

3. If the above stated receipts be compared with the estimates for the same period, it will be seen that the collections on account of "postages" are in excess by the sum of £3,125 11s. 1½d., while "Telegraphs" exhibit a decrease of £520 0s. 9d.

4. Comparing the receipts with those for the preceding year, 1895-96, it results that there has been an increase under "postages" of £855 14s. 4½d., and a decrease of £676 10s. 3d. under "telegraphs": the net increase over the collections of the year 1895-96 being £179 4s. 1½d., as against a net increase of £1,763 12s. 2d., which was exhibited by a similar comparison of last year's transactions with those of 1894-95.

5. It could hardly be expected that the Postal receipts will continue to exhibit the large increase which has taken place annually under the head of "postages" since the reduction in the Inland and Sea Postages on the 1st January 1890, and the 1st June 1890, respectively; for finality must, even in revenue, be attained at some time, but, it is satisfactory to note that during a year of serious depression in trade and agriculture, there has been the increase shewn above. While the depression has not seriously affected the Postal receipts, it has certainly had its effect on the Telegraph revenue; clearly illustrating that, which is fully recognised by this Department, the success of the Telegraph system, from a financial point of view, is, to a very large extent, mainly dependent on the commercial prosperity of the Colony, although, as I have had occasion to remark previously, its success, from all points of view, *i. e. Politically, Commercially and Socially*, may not be measured entirely by the result of the actual collections which do not, I submit, represent all the benefits conferred by the system.

6. The use of Private Telephone Lines,—their own as well as those rented from the Government—by the Boston Fruit Company, has, to some extent, affected the Telegraph receipts.



7. The following is the usual abstract shewing the collections under each head as compared with similar receipts during the years 1894-95, 1895-96.

PERIOD.	Postages.	Commission	Commission	Telegraph.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
		on Money Orders.	on Postal Orders.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894-95	20,974 2 9	400 10 5	450 7 6½	5,908 16 6	228 16 9	27,962 13 11½
1895-96	22,488 17 7	388 6 7	519 12 1½	6,156 9 6	173 0 6	29,726 6 3½
1896-97	23,331 7 1½	414 5 6	534 3 9½	5,479 19 3	145 14 9	29,805 10 4½

8. I also subjoin an approximate analysis of the receipts on account of "Postages," as compared with the similar analysis for the preceding year 1895-96.

Year.	Packet Postages.	Inland Postages.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895-96	4,946 15 11½	17,542 1 7½	22,488 17 7
1896-97	5,472 16 2	17,858 10 11½	23,331 7 1½

9. The above approximate comparative analysis discloses that the increase under the head of "Postages" appears to have taken place, for the most part, in the Packet or Sea Postage collections, which is no doubt due to the increased number of the opportunities afforded for exchanging Mails with the Mother Country, the United States of America, and other places abroad. The increase under "Inland Postages" is due to the establishment of new District Post Offices, and to the extension of the Daily Mail Services by Railway, as well as to the freight which has been collected on parcels sent by Mail Coach, and which was formerly retained by the Mail Contractor—advantage having been taken of the termination of certain of the Mail Coach Contracts to alter the terms thereof, to the extent of retaining as part of the Postal Receipts the freight on Parcels—the Contractor only reaping the benefit in addition to the Mail Subsidy, of the amount collected for "Passenger-Fares." The amount of freight so collected on the parcels sent by Mail Coaches is £273 0s. 0d.

10. In the 10th paragraph of my report on the transactions of the year 1895-96, I recorded the fact that the Post Office receipts had exceeded the expenditure, (not including the amount paid to the Imperial Government for the Colony's proportion of the Mail Contract with the Royal Mail S. P. Coy.) by the sum of £656 12s. 9d. I have now to record that for the year under report the expenditure is in excess of the revenue by the sum of £892 5s. 0¾d., due to the increased expenditure explained at paragraph 54, the amount paid to the Imperial Post Office being £5,140.

11. In addition to the payments made on account of the Mail Contract, the Imperial Post Office has been credited in the accounts of this Department, with the sum of £1,838 3s. 0d., for the sea and territorial transit on Mail Matter sent from the Colony to the United Kingdom and other places, by vessels, the subsidy on which is paid by the Imperial Government. Similar payments, amounting to £131 7s. 10d., were made to the United States of America and Belgium £6 7s. 0d.

12. The collections under the head of "Commission on Money Orders, it will be noticed, exceed those of the preceding year by the sum of £25 18s. 11d., while Commissions on the sale of Postal Orders are in excess by the sum of £14 11s. 8d.

13. The details of the collections under Miscellaneous are as under:—

Rent of Private Letter Boxes	...	...	£68 9 0
Rent of Private Letter Bags	...	...	5 5 0
Fines	...	...	12 1 0
Mail Coach Commissions	...	...	59 19 9
			£145 14 9

14. Postage Stamps, Post Cards and Newspaper Wrappers to the amount of £22,495 1s. 6½d. were sold during the year under report, of which the sum of £17,371 12s. 8½d. was sold by the Department at the General Post Office and at the several District Post Offices, while the Stamp Commissioner sold to authorized vendors, at the rate of 5 per cent. discount, the sum of £5,123 8s. 10d., the discount being £252 19s. 5d.

15. The sum of £168 18s. 6d. was paid to District Postmasters for poundage at 1 per cent. on the amount of stamps stated above to have been sold by the Department.



16. The annual amount of £1,170 was paid to the Stamp Commissioner on account of the Adhesive Postage Stamps, estimated to have been sold by him, in addition to his sales for postal purposes, for the payment of Stamp Duties.

17. Stamps to the amount of £18 12s. were purchased at the rate of 1½ per cent. from the Public, such discount being 10s. 8d.

## CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

18 The estimated total number of letters and Post Cards which passed through the General Post Office and each District Post Office, during the year under review, is given below, in comparison with similar estimate during the two years preceding.

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
<i>Inland Mails—</i>						
Ordinary Letters -						
Public ...	695,800	722,400	831,519	980,600	1,057,700	1,134,835
Official ...	85,500	87,900	89,100	93,600	98,400	99,000
Post Cards ...	41,000	42,800	42,900	65,200	69,250	69,970
Registered Letters—						
Public ...	6,868	8,850	9,400	41,791	50,604	60,134
Official ...	18,735	22,842	23,444	14,350	15,997	15,537
<i>Ocean Mails.—By Vessels under Contract—</i>						
United Kingdom—						
Ordinary Letters ...	173,721	187,238	199,577	217,241	224,768	233,318
Post Cards ...	2,310	3,083	3,155	1,400	1,400	1,400
Inter-Colonial, B.W.I., &c.—						
Ordinary Letters ...	38,500	43,100	43,260	51,200	73,650	84,360
Post Cards ...	393	259	374	715	989	1,099
<i>By Vessels not Contract—</i>						
United States of America—						
Ordinary Letters ...	79,256	95,729	97,169	95,419	97,417	101,671
Post Cards ...	894	908	1,565	1,915	2,024	1,975
Other Countries—						
Ordinary Letters ...	43,800	56,613	54,575	12,280	16,268	16,842
Post Cards ...	957	1,247	1,466	48	169	119
Registered Letters, Packet ...	10,954	13,309	13,397	9,348	9,949	10,147
	1,198,688	1,286,278	1,410,901	1,585,107	1,720,585	1,830,407

*At District Post Offices.*

	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Ordinary Letters ...	902,564	1,059,539	1,075,581
Post Cards ...	21,164	34,736	34,736
Registered Letters ...	18,297	20,506	23,749
	942,025	1,114,781	1,134,066



19. The above estimates again, as they did last year, disclose the fact that the mail matter handled by the Department has increased generally; and I am glad to record again that such increase included registered mail matter, which number 155,808, against 142,057, during the preceding year; and, I am further glad to say, that not a single article has miscarried in either year. I wish to emphasize this fact, not only in refutation of the oft-repeated reckless statements, that registered articles are constantly lost and made away with, in the course of transmission through the post; but also, as an answer to others, who deprecate or ignore the necessity for registration of letters, or other packets containing value, because, as they correctly argue, that the Post Office Department is not *legally* responsible for the contents of a registered article, which miscarries in the course of post. I submit that, as shewn above, the safe transmission of a large number of registered articles through the post annually without loss, or miscarriage, must be accepted, not only as evidence of the general honesty of the employes of the Post Office, but as a guarantee of the satisfactory working of the system, of which I earnestly ask the Public to avail themselves, not only for their own protection, but to put the Post Office employes out of the reach of temptation, as much as possible, as well as to relieve the head of this Department of the labour relative to the enquiry for missing articles, which may or may not have been posted, a point very often difficult to settle in the absence of the unregistered article.

20. I do not, as I have repeatedly said, claim for this Department entire immunity from loss, or miscarriage; indeed it would be most unwise, not to say arrogant, for any head of a Post Office to do so; but I do say that, in the absence of positive evidence, I am not prepared to endorse or to pass by unchallenged, reckless statements, made at the cost of the character of the Post Office employes, that a large percentage of letters miscarry, *not excepting registered letters*.

21. I would here state, that the proportion of complaints of miscarriages to the number of letters passing through the Post is infinitesimal; such complaints number during the year under review 286; the total number of letters *sent* and *received* being estimated at 4,375,374.

22. I take this opportunity to say also, that each complaint is carefully enquired into and recorded, but, as may be expected, the result of the enquiry is not, as a rule, successful in the case of unregistered mail matter.

23. It must also be borne in mind that an unregistered letter, or other packet, may miscarry without there being dishonesty on the part of anybody; since it may find its way into another packet, Inland, or Foreign, as recently happened a few days ago when a gentleman was good enough to return to me a letter addressed to another person, and which he had found inside an open circular to his address. Carelessness on the part of the Poster, or of the Addressee's Agent, and of the Addressee, is also very often the cause of loss, or of delay, for which the Post Office is blamed, since, in addition to its own shortcomings, it has to bear all the "sins of omission and commission," resulting from carelessness and dishonesty.

24. There is and has been a growing desire to have the registration fee reduced to 1d.; but I do not see my way, at present, to recommend such reduction, and I take this opportunity to remind the public that the registration fee was reduced 50%, *i.e.*, from 4d. to 2d. on the 1st June 1893, the latter amount being that charged under the Postal Union Regulations. The increase numerically which has taken place in registered mail matter since the reduction, has not been such as to indicate that the public will, to any greater extent, avail themselves of the system, the safety of which I hope to instil even at the cost of repetition. I know that a great obstacle to the more general use of the registration system is the unavoidable delay in delivery due to the fact that the registered packets are not, like ordinary mail matter, delivered at the houses of the addressees by Letter Carriers, either at the General Post Office, or at the District Post Offices, to an unauthorised Agent; but under present conditions I am not prepared to alter the system of delivery at the offices which has worked so well and successfully in the past.

#### OCEAN MAILS.

25. The following is a statement shewing the number of Vessels which conveyed Mails to and from the Colony:—

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1894-95.		1895-96.		1896-97.		1894-95.		1895-96.		1896-97.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
<i>Kingston—</i>												
Contract ...	63	783	58	747	49	905	53	728	52	735	51	878
Non-Contract	244	526	277	402	240	441	301	588	427	608	234	456
<i>Outports—</i>												
Non-Contract	64	112	69	127	63	136	30	52	39	61	98	109



26. 152 mails were sent via Jamaica by places abroad.

27. In again recording the fact that the Mail Service to and from the Mother Country, the British and Foreign West Indies and Central America, has been maintained principally by the Steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, I am unable, as heretofore, to say that there has not been any interruption of the Service; for the S. S. "Orinoco," which left Southampton on the 2nd December last, met with bad weather off the coast of Portugal and had to put into "Penicle" in consequence of damage to her "Steering gear" and could not complete the voyage, the mails being brought on to the West Indies by the S. S. "Elbe" which arrived here on the 1st January last, on the same day as the mails which left England per R. M. S. "Atrato."

28. It will be readily understood that the arrival of both mails taxed the energies of the Department to some extent; but, I am glad to say, that notwithstanding the large amount of mail matter which had to be dealt with, for it must be recollected that one of the mails contained matter which was due in advance of the Xmas holidays, and which is always very considerable, the delivery was effected without delay in Kingston and the mails were despatched to the several District Post Offices on the evening of the same day. I take this opportunity to bear testimony to the very cheerful and zealous manner in which the Post Office Staff discharged their duties on the occasion, as well as to the efficient way in which the Mail Contractors met the necessity, for providing for the conveyance of the increased quantity of mails.

29. The non-arrival of the mail of the 2nd December did not in any way interrupt the Homeward Service, as the mails were despatched in due course on the 22nd December.

30. I may observe that this interruption only served to mark the regularity with which the steamers of the Royal Mail Packet Company have, year after year, delivered the mails at this Port.

31. The steamers of the Atlas Company, the Boston Fruit Company and Messrs. J. E. Kerr & Co. have continued during the year to afford opportunities for the exchange of mails with the United Kingdom, the United States of America and other places abroad. The weekly despatch of mails by the Boston Fruit Company's steamers, in addition to the regular fortnightly, and sometimes oftener, despatches of the steamers of the Atlas S. S. Company have proved of great convenience to the community generally.

32. During the tourist season the steamers of the "Plant Line" again afforded a few opportunities for exchanging mails with the U. S. of America via Port Antonio and Tampa.

33. Opportunities for the exchange of Mails with Belize, British Honduras, also existed for a short period during the year by the steamers of the Atlas S. S. Co.

34. Mails were also exchanged with Halifax, Bermuda and Turks Islands by the steamers of Messrs. Pickford & B'ack, which afforded a regular monthly service.

#### INLAND MAIL CONVEYANCE.

35. I am glad to be again able to record that there has not been any delay or interruption of any of the mail services, as, thanks to the very efficient and satisfactory manner in which the Mail Contractors generally have discharged their obligations, the mails have arrived at, and been despatched from, the General Post Office and the several District Post Offices with regularity; this is the more satisfactory, I submit, since it must be recollected that the services have been for the most part performed during the night and in all weathers without a mishap of any kind.

36. The Mail Services which came into operation during the year in connection with the opening of new Post Offices are as follows:—

On 15th April, 1896,	Annotto Bay	and	Enfield	in	St. Mary
On 13th May, 1896,	Bowden	"	Port Morant	in	St. Thomas
On 17th July, 1896,	Spanish Town	"	Guanoboa Vale	in	St. Catherine
On 20th " "	Old Harbour	"	Bartons	"	"
On 7th October "	Boroughbridge	"	Cave Valley	in	St. Ann
On 9th " "	St. Ann's Bay	"	Bamboo	in	do.
On 14th " "	Balaclava	"	Troy	in	Trelawny
On 16th " "	Mile Gully	"	Harry Watch	in	Manchester
On 19th " "	Black River	"	Mountainside	in	St. Elizabeth

The above stated mails are all carried by "Walking Couriers."

37. On the 1st May 1896, the Tri-weekly Mail Services between Chapelton and Rock River and Chapelton and Frankfield were made Daily Mail Services, to avoid the inconvenience to correspondents at Rock River and Frankfield, respectively, resulting from the re-arrangement of the Time Table between Kingston and Chapelton, which became necessary to afford greater facilities to correspondents at Chapelton, in connection with the Daily Mail Services with Kingston and intermediate Offices.

38. On the 16th June 1896, a Mail and Parcel Post Service, in addition to the Tri-weekly Mail Service, was established between Montego Bay and Lucea, in connection with the train to and from Kingston, &c. via Montego Bay.

39. The opening of the Railway between Bog Walk and Port Antonio, has resulted in the extension of the daily mail service by train, to Port Antonio and intermediate Offices on the line. This service, which commenced on the 24th August, gives Port Antonio and the Offices between Annotto Bay and Port Antonio, like Montego Bay, &c., the benefit of a daily mail service with Kingston, in addition to the tri-weekly mail service which travels at night and which has to be maintained in connection with other similar services travelling at the same time, and with which, so to speak, it has to "dove-tail" so as not to dislocate the Postal Circuit, which would be the case if mails be sent by train travelling only in daylight.

40. A daily mail service was also established on the 1st September 1896, in connection with the railway extension to Port Antonio, between Kingston and Port Maria via Richmond, thus giving the residents of Port Maria and surrounding districts the convenience, for which they have been waiting,



not only of exchanging mails daily with Kingston, but of sending and receiving Inland and Foreign Parcels.

41. On the 1st September 1896, the tri-weekly mail service between Green Island and Lucoa ceased, and a daily mail and parcel post service was established in lieu thereof: the time table being so arranged as to connect on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays with the additional tri-weekly service between Montego Bay and Lucoa, via the railway.

42. Advantage was taken of the expiration of the Mail Contract between Dry Harbour and Brown's Town, to include in the new contract a parcel post service, Inland and Foreign, which took effect on the 1st October, 1896.

#### DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

43. The number of District Post Offices in existence at the end of the year under review is 142, as against 130, at the end of the year preceding. Post Offices having been established in the undermentioned Districts—

- Castleton in the Parish of St. Mary on 13th April, 1896.
- Enfield in the Parish of St. Mary on 15th April, 1896.
- Bowden in the Parish of St. Thomas on 13th May, 1896.
- Runaway Bay in the Parish of St. Ann on 1st July, 1896.
- Guanaboa Vale in the Parish of St. Catherine on 17th July, 1896.
- Bartons in the Parish of St. Catherine on 20th July, 1896.
- Boroughbridge in the Parish of St. Ann on 7th Oct., 1896.
- Bamboo in the Parish of St. Ann on 9th Oct., 1896.
- Troy in the Parish of Trelawny on 14th Oct., 1896.
- Harrywatch in the Parish of Manchester on 16th Oct., 1896.
- Mountainside in the Parish of St. Elizabeth on 19th Oct., 1896.
- Gregory Park in the Parish of St. Catherine on 2nd Oct., 1896.

Making a total of 37 District Post Offices established during the three years ending with that now under review, which I submit is some evidence that neither this Department nor the Government has been unmindful of, or disregarded, the claims of the public in this connection, and, that, as stated in the 12th paragraph of my last annual report, Post Offices are recognised as factors for good in Districts and communities and as having an educating and civilising effect.

44. The Post Office at Richmond has been removed to Meek Spring near the Railway Station; but the name of Richmond has been retained.

#### MONEY ORDERS.

45. The transactions of the Money Order Branch are as under, and compare with the two years preceding as under:—

##### United Kingdom.

Year.	Jamaica Issue.		Payable in Jamaica.		Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894-95	9,223	34,845 0 2	1,064	2,648 11 3	536 2 4
1895-96	9,309	34,545 15 7	1,241	2,807 8 0	501 15 3
1896-97	8,689	31,075 0 5	1,380	3,465 11 9	484 9 11

##### United States of America.

1894-95	2,726	9,043 6 10	405	1,248 2 2	161 18 11
1895-96	3,007	10,771 15 3	536	1,672 16 4	168 15 0
1896-97	2,932	10,234 2 4	615	1,679 13 10	167 4 6

##### Dominion of Canada.

1894-95	244	1,145 9 8	60	247 3 3	15 4 3
1895-96	291	1,239 0 11	80	296 12 3	16 2 6
1896-97	371	1,844 1 10	95	358 0 1	26 3 9

##### British Guiana.

1894-95	80	129 8 0	76	280 12 8	4 7 9
1895-96	68	106 0 9	63	137 15 1	2 6 0
1896-97	61	96 4 2	92	193 0 3	2 10 4

*Barbados.*

1894-95	...	159	270 18 6	97	253 1 9	6 5 4
1895-96	...	391	524 18 8	158	383 14 10	9 1 3
1896-97	...	399	532 18 0	169	326 4 2	12 17 5

*Windward and Leeward Islands.*

1894-95	...	40	55 14 4	120	278 1 9	1 18 10
1895-96	...	50	55 1 10	116	142 14 7	2 3 6
1896-97	...	82	116 2 10	95	168 14 10	2 8 0

*Turks Island.*

From May 1896 to March 1897	...	11	41 9 6	209	726 18 8	4 13 5
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*British Honduras.*

From May 1896 to March 1897	...	3	22 17 7	56	132 0 6	0 17 1
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46. The above details, summarised, compare with the transactions of the year 1895-96 as under—

Jamaica Issue.	No.	Amount.
1895-96	13,116	£47,242 13 0
1896-97	12,548	43,963 16 8
Issue of other Countries payable in Jamaica:—		
1895-96	2,194	5,441 1 1
1896-97	2,711	7,050 4 1

47. There has, it will be seen, been a decrease in the total number as well as in the amount of the Orders drawn by Jamaica on other places: a result which I think may fairly be attributed to the general depression in trade already referred to. On the other hand there has been an increase in the drafts by other countries on the Colony such increase having occurred chiefly in the orders of the Mother Country.

48. The net amount of Commissions which accrued to the Colony as a result of the above stated Money Order Exchanges is £414 5s. 6d. as shewn by the following details:—

	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	...	483	14 8
United States of America	...	167	4 6
Dominion of Canada	...	26	3 9
British Guiana	...	2	10 4
Barbados	...	12	17 5
Windward and Leeward Islands	...	2	8 0
Turks Islands	...	4	13 5
British Honduras	...	0	17 1
		700	9 2
Less premium on remittances—			
United Kingdom	...	198	15 0
United States	...	76	19 3
Canada	...	9	6 2
Barbados	...	1	3 3
		286	3 8
		£414	5 6

49. On the 1st May, 1896, a Money Order Exchange between this Colony and British Honduras came into operation; and, on the same date, the Money Order Exchange with Turks Island, formerly conducted through the Island Treasury, began to be effected through the Post Office.

## POSTAL ORDERS.

50. The subjoined statement gives the total number and amount of the Postal Orders issued and sold during the year.



## POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED.

DENOMINATION.	1894-95.			1895-96.			1896-97.		
	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.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
6	32,500	812 10 0	67 14 2	12,650	316 5 0	26 7 1	14,325	358 2 6	29 16 10½
1 0	15,025	751 5 0	31 6 0½	27,800	1,390 0 0	57 18 4	31,675	1,583 15 1	65 19 9½
1 6	12,925	969 7 6	26 18 6½	28,850	2,163 15 0	60 2 1	33,600	2,520 0 0	70 0 0
2 6	25,750	3,218 15 0	53 12 11	29,775	3,721 17 6	62 0 7½	45,875	5,734 7 6	95 11 5½
5 0	25,110	6,277 10 0	104 12 6	28,870	7,217 10 0	120 5 10	24,475	6,118 15 0	101 19 7
10 0	20,515	10,257 10 0	170 19 2	23,805	11,912 10 0	198 10 10	21,085	10,542 10 0	175 14 2
	131,825	22,286 17 6	455 3 4	151,770	26,721 17 6	525 4 9½	171,035	26,857 10 0	539 1 10½

## POSTAL ORDERS SOLD.

	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
April	2,059 10 6	2,057 4 0	2,219 3 0
May	1,884 5 0	2,219 10 0	2,281 3 0
June	1,914 11 0	2,127 9 6	2,429 15 0
July	1,842 1 6	2,222 3 6	2,193 3 6
August	1,757 4 0	2,012 9 6	2,005 5 0
September	1,517 12 6	2,206 3 6	1,991 1 6
October	1,338 5 0	2,176 8 0	2,038 0 6
November	1,786 3 0	2,389 13 0	2,160 15 0
December	2,023 18 6	2,374 1 0	2,448 4 6
January	1,988 4 6	2,081 3 0	2,096 10 0
February	1,876 10 6	2,094 2 6	2,140 15 0
March	2,108 18 0	2,422 15 6	2,468 14 0
	22,097 4 0	26,383 3 0	26,577 10 0

51. Comparing the transactions with those of the year preceding, it will be seen that there has only been a slight increase over the last year, in the total "face value" of Postal Orders sold: the large increase which has been taking place annually since the inauguration of the system having apparently ceased, unless it can be that the general depression has also affected the purchasing power of the community in the matter of Postal Orders. I cannot, without data, express an opinion upon this point. The Postal Orders continue to be used more as a means of remittance than as a medium of circulation, because, I believe, it is not generally understood, that the Postal Orders may not be presented for redemption for at least three months after the end of the month in which they are issued, after which time an additional commission equal to the original commission is charged on redemption, for each period of three months.

## EXPENDITURE.

52. The expenditure on account of the Post Office, not including Telegraphs, which is stated separately hereafter, is £25,323 3s. 0½d., being £2,409 19s. 0d. in excess of the expenditure for the corresponding period of the year preceding. The following is a comparative statement shewing the expenditure under each head of service, while the details under each sub-head of Estimates will be found in the return annexed to this report.

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.		Services.	Total.
	Head Offices	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894-95	4,715 6 8	2,422 6 6	8,419 6 9	2,028 10 8	4,612 12 6½	22,198 3 1½
1895-96	4,923 16 4	2,535 9 0	9,020 2 2	1,962 1 1	4,471 15 5½	22,913 4 0½
1896-97	5,193 12 7	2,681 8 9	9,841 2 11	2,289 1 8	5,317 17 1½	25,323 3 0½



53. The above comparison shews that the increase is to be found under the following heads.

Salaries Head Office	...	...	£269 16 3		
District Offices	...	...	145 19 9	415 16 0	
<i>Conveyance of Mails.—</i>					
Inland	...	...	821 0 9		
Ocean	...	...	327 0 7	1,148 1 4	
<i>Services.—</i>	...	...		846 1 8	
			£2,409 19 0		

54. The increase under "Salaries" has resulted from the usual annual increments to the Staff employed at the General Post Offices, Kingston; the establishment of new District Post Offices during this and the preceding year, and the employment of additional Messengers for the conveyance of Mails between new Offices on the Railway lines.

55. The increase under Inland Mail Conveyance results from additional Mail Services in connection with Railway extension, as well as from new Mail Services in relation to the new District Post Offices.

56. The increase under "Ocean Mail Conveyance" is in respect of the "Sea-transit-rates" payable to the United Kingdom.

57. The increase under the head of "Services" has occurred, principally, in the items for contingencies, Letter Carriers Uniforms, Mail Bags and Wrappers, Rent of Post Offices, Twine and Wax, Manufacture of Stamps, Printing, and Stationery and Furniture, all of which may fairly I submit be attributed to the growth and expansion of the Department.

58. In addition to the above stated expenditure, the sum of £3,000 has been charged against the Post Office out of the total sum of £5,140 paid to the Imperial Exchequer, by the Crown Agents for the Colony's proportion of the "Postal Union Contribution." If for purpose of comparison of receipts with expenditure this sum of £5,140 be added to the expenditure above detailed, the result will be to shew a deficit of £6,037 11s. 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d.

59. For Steam Communication round the Island the Atlas Company received through this Department, the usual annual subsidy of £1,800, the payment of the full amount is evidence of the satisfactory nature of the service, in so far as relates to the observance of the approved Itinerary, since it has not been necessary to impose any penalties for failure to keep time. The amount so paid to the Atlas Company is not included in the Post Office Vote, as it has not any relation to it, and has therefore not been included in the above stated expenditure.

60. The S. S. Spay of the R. M. S. Packet has also been employed as a Coastal steamer but not under subsidy.

#### MAIL COACHES.

61. The following is a statement of the earnings by the respective lines of Mail Coaches as compared with those of the two years preceding:—

##### I.—Kingston and Montego Bay.

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894-95	...	718 9 9	425 10 9	1,144 0 6
1895-96	...	540 2 6	391 19 6	932 2 0
1896-97	...	458 11 3	373 19 3	832 10 6

##### II.—Montego Bay and Lucea.

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894-95	...	108 12 0	14 1 9	122 13 9
1895-96	...	100 2 0	11 0 3	111 2 3
1896-97	...	130 16 0	15 19 6	146 15 0



III.—*Kingston and Port Antonio.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894-95 ...	409 14 0	259 10 3	669 4 3
1895-96 ...	371 18 0	270 10 0	642 8 0
1896-97 ...	223 1 6	243 17 6	466 19 0

IV.—*Kingston and Annotto Bay.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894-95 ...	204 14 6	79 9 3	284 3 9
1895-96 ...	217 4 9	84 19 9	302 4 6
1896-97 ...	57 0 6	49 9 0	106 9 6

V.—*Kingston and Gordon Town.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
October, '95 to March, '96 ...	32 16 6	1 9 9	34 6 3
	71 3 6	7 15 6	78 19 0

VI.—*Kingston and Chapelton.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From February to March, '96 ...	...	1 13 9	1 13 9
1896-97 ...	...	9 18 6	9 18 6

VIII.—*St. Ann's Bay and Port Maria.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From May 1896, to March, 1897 ...	11 2 0	30 7 0	41 9 0



IX.—*Dry Harbour and Brown's Town.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From Oct., 1896, to March 1897 ...	...	17 0 0	17 0 0

X.—*Lucea and Green Island.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From Sep., 1896, to March, 1897 ...	12 18 0	2 5 3	15 3 3

XI.—*Richmond and Port Maria.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From Sep., 1896 to March, 1897 ...	45 2 0	17 16 3	62 18 3

XII.—*Montpelier and Sav-la-Mar.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97 ...	107 2 6	61 12 9	168 15 3

XIII.—*Ipswich and Black River.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97 ...	214 2 0	65 12 3	279 14 3

XIV.—*Balaclava and Santa Cruz.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97 ...	40 19 0	31 8 0	72 7 0

XV.—*Williamsfield and Mandeville.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97 ...	...	46 2 9	46 2 9



62. The total earnings have been as under —

Passenger Fares	...	...	£1,371 18 3
Parcels	...	...	973 3 6
			£2,345 1 9

being an increase of £53 4s. 0d. over the receipts of 1895-96, which has been due entirely to the establishment of the new Coach Services, which have been authorised during the year, in connection with the contracts concluded for the conveyance of mails; for in the case of the Coach Services established previously, there has been a decided falling off in receipts for passengers, notably between Kingston and Montego Bay, Kingston and Annotto Bay, and Kingston and Port Antonio via Bath, in consequence of Railway extension and increased facilities by Coastal Steamers.

63. The following Mail Coach Services for the conveyance of passengers and parcels, came into operation during the year, in connection with contracts for the Conveyance of Mails, viz. St. Ann's Bay and Port Maria on 1st May, 1896.

*Montego Bay and Lucea* on 16th June, 1896, creating, with the service already in existence, a daily Mail Coach Service between the places named and intermediate offices.

*Richmond and Port Maria* on 1st September, 1896, daily, in connection with the Train Service between Bog Walk and Richmond.

*Green Island and Lucea* on 1st September, 1896, daily, and in connection with the Montego Bay and Lucea Coach Service, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and with the train from Montego Bay

64. Permission has also been granted to the Mail Contractor between Dry Harbour and Brown's Town to convey passengers in the Mail Conveyance; but he did not avail himself of the concession, therefore, the service is only limited to the conveyance of Mails and Parcels; an arrangement which has enabled residents in the Brown's Town District to send and receive Inland and Foreign Parcels.

65. The Receipts on account of Passengers and Parcels, have in the case of the Services between Kingston and Montego Bay, Montego Bay and Lucea, and Kingston and Port Antonio, and Kingston and Gordon Town, belong to the Mail Coach Contractors, less 10 per cent. claimed by the Department for booking at the General Post Office and at the several District Post Offices; but in all the other cases the collections on account of Passengers fares only are placed to their credit—the collections on account of parcels being retained and placed to the credit of Postal Revenue, the amount lodged being £273. As pointed out in the 57 paragraph of my last Annual Report, in all future similar Services the receipts on account of freight on parcels will be retained similarly, by which means there will be a gradual extension of the Parcels Post system to outlying Districts.

#### RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

66. The following exhibits the number of letters, &c. dealt with in the Returned Letter Branch.

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to the United Kingdom	1,059	223
“ “ to other Countries	2,316	485
“ “ to Writers in the Island	8,524	2,145
“ Destroyed, being illegible or anonymous	2,738	795
“ Destroyed, Writers not having been found	2,560	705
Newspapers returned to the Publishers	4,230	...

67. The amount of unpaid postage on unclaimed Mail Matter which had to be written off as irrecoverable is £55 0s. 3d.

68. Value to the amount of £415 1s. 7d. was found in 1,403 unclaimed Packets and was reposted to the Writers under registered covers.

69. As a result of the augmentation of the Staff by the system of Auxiliary Female Clerks, I am glad to be able to record that unclaimed Mail Matter is now very promptly treated: the letters, &c., which are returned weekly as unclaimed, &c., from the General Post Office and the several District Post Offices being opened and returned before the end of the following week.

#### TELEGRAPHS.

70. The following is a detailed statement of the collection on account of "Telegraphs," as compared with the receipts for the corresponding period of the years ended:—

	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stamps sold	5,899 3 9	6,140 18 6	5,469 10 9
Additional charge on Books containing Message Forms	6 12 9	6 11 0	6 8 6
Fees for opening Stations out of the Office Hours	3 0 0	9 0 0	4 0 0
	5,908 16 6	6,156 9 6	5,479 19 3

71. As pointed out in my general remarks under the head of "Revenue" the Telegraph receipts are less by the sum of £676 10s. 3d. than those of the year 1895-96, as a result not only of the general depression, but of the Private Telephone Wire System.

72. The messages which were sent and received during the year number 96,292 as against 110,715 during 1895-96. Of the total number 1,809 were sent over the Railway Lines.



73. I annex a return shewing the number of messages sent from, and received at, each Station.

74. At some of the District Stations it will be observed that the Telegraph business done is not very extensive, but I should hesitate, on that ground, particularly during a period of depression, which, I hope, may soon pass away, to recommend the withdrawal from such districts of the benefits of telegraphy: certainly not as long as the duties of the Operator can be combined with those of a Postmistress, and both receipts on account of Post Office and Telegraphs cover, or very nearly so, the working expenses of the Post Office and Telegraph Station. It must be borne in mind that a District Telegraph Station is not only of immediate benefit to persons residing in the neighbourhood, but that it also increases the usefulness of every other Telegraph Station in the Island which can send messages to and from it. A Telegraph Station in a district also brings the district into touch with the rest of the civilised world, since messages can be sent to, and received from places abroad, under the arrangement with the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

75. The sum collected by the Post Office Department on behalf of the W. I. & Panama Telegraph Co. during the year is £2,059 10s. 1d. which amount has been paid in due course to the Company's Clerk in Charge in this Island.

76. The expenditure by the Post Office for the Working Expenses of the Telegraph Department during the year under review, amounts to £7,556 8s. 5d. being £62 8s. 3d. less than that for the preceding year. The following is a statement of the expenditure under each head of service, as compared with that for the years 1894-95 and 1895-96.

Year.	1894-95.		1895-96.		1896-97.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Salaries	4,052	6 0	4,285	14 4	4,399	12 1
Wages	829	1 8½	847	10 11	867	13 1
Services	2,194	4 3½	2,485	11 5	2,289	3 3
	7,075	12 0	7,618	16 8	7,556	8 5

77. If the above stated expenditure on account of "Telegraphs" by the Post Office, be added to the amount expended by the Public Works Department in maintaining and repairing the line, viz., £1,974 2s. 1d., it will be found that the total expenditure is £9,530 10s. 6d., and, if such total expenditure be compared with the receipts say £5,479 19s. 3d. the deficit shewn is £4,050 11s. 3d. as against a deficit of £3,632 13s. 10d. for the corresponding period 1895-96.

The net decrease in the expenditure is explained thus:

<i>Decrease—</i>			
Services	...	...	£196 8 2
<i>Increase—</i>			
Salaries	...	...	138 19 11
<b>Net decrease</b>	...	...	<b>£62 8 3</b>

78. The number of Telegraph Stations in existence at the close of the Financial year under review is 69, as against 66 at the end of the previous year.

79. Telegraph Stations have been opened during the year at the following places in connection with District Post Offices:—

"Castleton," in the Parish of St. Mary, on the 13th April, 1896.

"Highgate," in the Parish of St. Mary, on the 16th June, 1896.

"Runaway Bay," in the Parish of St. Ann, on the 1st July, 1896.

80. A Telegraph Station was again opened on the Race Course, Kingston, during the Races on the 15th, 16th and 17th December last.

81. During the year the "Double-Current System" of Telegraphy, which was adopted in February, 1896, on the lines between Kingston and St. Ann's Bay and Kingston and Mandeville, has worked very successfully and beneficially; arrangements are being made for extending it to the sections, Mandeville to Sav.-la-Mar, Sav.-la-Mar to Montego Bay and Montego Bay to St. Ann's Bay, thus including the system in the entire "Western Main Circuits."

82. The advantages of the system are, that it enables the work not only to be transmitted more expeditiously, but it also enables the circuit to be worked in the face of considerable interferences and disturbances which are peculiar to over-head lines, while, at the same time, less powerful currents are needed, and the circuit can as a result be used to much greater distances.

83. The "Double-Current System," although a decided improvement does not supply the place of an efficient Duplex, or Quadruplex system, such as is employed in the Mother Country, &c.; but the introduction of either of such systems into the Telegraph Service of this Colony has been carefully considered and found to be impracticable; even if the relative circumstances justified its adoption, because, not only of the initial expenditure for Instruments, &c., but of that, which would be considerable, for the additional staff, supposing that efficient clerks, which are required to give effect to the system, could be obtained.

84. As a result of the work done in the "School of Telegraphy," at the Head Station, Kingston, during the year under report, I have to record that the number of Candidates admitted is 26, and that 23 passed as competent.

85. At the end of the year the number of competent auxiliary staff of learners is 38, and I again have much pleasure in testifying to the efficient service cheerfully rendered by such auxiliary staff, in the absence of the permanent P. M's. and Telegraph Clerks, in cases of illness and otherwise. Of the Competent Auxiliary Staff 37 were appointed permanently to vacancies.



86. The permanent staff of Postmistresses and Telegraph Clerks also, I am glad to say, on the whole rendered good and faithful service.

## PARCEL POST.

87. The following is a statement of the transactions of the Parcels Post Branch, as compared with those of the two years preceding:—

## PARCELS RECEIVED.

From	Consignments.			Parcels.			Import Duty Collected.		
	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	26	26	26	8,649	9,024	9,277	1,328 13 9	1,416 4 7	1,437 12 9
British West Indies	93	110	115	222	254	267	9 9 6	8 0 0	11 9 9
United States of America	69	73	106	1,574	2,043	3,818	85 9 2	120 13 7	141 17 4
Dominion of Canada	12	12	12	103	125	146	3 1 0	5 5 3	7 19 6
	200	221	259	10,548	11,446	13,508	1,326 13 5	1,550 3 5	1,598 19 4

	Postage Accrued to Jamaica.			Declared Value of Parcels.		
	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	460 7 7½	485 5 2½	565 15 9½	13,316 16 7	14,478 5 1	16,612 0 9½
British West Indies	...	...	...	114 18 3	127 2 6	135 10 11½
United States of America	...	...	...	1,417 19 3	1,986 12 11	2,012 0 5
Dominion of Canada	1 15 7½	2 1 10½	0 18 4	41 3 8	62 17 3	85 18 6
	462 3 3	487 7 1	566 14 11½	14,890 17 9	16,654 17 9	18,845 10 8

## PARCELS DESPATCHED.

	Consignments.			Parcels.			Postage Accrued to Jamaica.		
	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	26	27	28	2,031	2,294	2,594	64 1 10½	74 10 5	83 12 1½
British West Indies	121	139	139	271	390	380	7 13 0	13 3 4	14 11 8
United States of America	73	79	85	406	451	543	18 1 6	21 4 0	24 17 6
Dominion of Canada	12	12	12	56	71	88	1 5 5	1 9 2	1 11 10½
	232	257	264	2,964	3,206	3,605	91 1 9½	110 6 11	124 13 2

	Declared Value of Parcels.		
	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	2,338 18 1	2,384 4 0½	2,554 18 1½
British West Indies ...	163 10 3	262 2 5	219 3 6½
United States of America ...	230 17 10	327 3 0½	455 17 7
Dominion of Canada ...	19 9 7	28 12 2	43 15 2
	2,752 15 9	3,002 1 8	3,273 14 5



88. A summary of the above shews, that the total amount which has accrued to the Colony from Parcels Post Exchanges with other Countries, is £2,290 6s. 7½d., of which the sum of £691 7s. 3½d., is in respect of Postages, and £1,598 19s. 4d. Customs Import duty, which has been collected at the General Post Office, Kingston, and at the several District Post Offices.

89. In addition to the Import duty collected on the contents of parcels by the Parcels Post, Import duty to the amount of £43 3s. 0d. was assessed and collected by the Customs Officials on the contents of 582, registered and unregistered packets which were received in the Ordinary Mails from the United Kingdom, the United States, &c., and which were detained for examination in the presence of a Customs Officer; the addressee or authorised Agent being notified of the detention and being present at the examination.

90. It will be seen from the increase which has again taken place in the number of parcels which have been received and despatched, particularly in the former, that the public continue to take advantage of and to appreciate the facilities afforded by the Parcel Post.

91. I have again to record that notwithstanding the large number of parcels dealt with, I have not received a single complaint of the loss, or miscarriage, of a parcel. This continuance of immunity from loss, may, I submit, be regarded as satisfactory, particularly so when it is recollected that a great many of the parcels are sent to all parts of the Island for delivery, as soon as possible after the arrival of the mails from England, &c.

92. On the 1st November, 1896, an arrangement concluded between the Post Office of the United States of America and this Department, came into force for the transmission, by post, of samples of merchandise, of packages of live Bees subject to the conditions which have been duly advertised, viz. :— The Bees must be placed in boxes so constructed, as to avoid all danger and to permit the contents to be ascertained.

The boxes must be wooden, and be closed with a wire screen protected by a moveable wooden lid.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

93. In the 81st paragraph of my last Annual Report, I recorded the fact that the Government had approved of the Salaries attaching to the then existing vacant offices in the Third Class of Clerks, 4 in number, being made available for the employment of young women. The idea of an auxiliary female staff, to the extent of 8 in number, has thus been given practical effect to, with the best possible results to the Department and to the public since the young women who have been employed at the General Post Office, Kingston, and who have been selected from the competent staff of Telegraph operators, most of whom also had a fair knowledge of Post Office duties at District Post Offices, have discharged their duties intelligently, faithfully and efficiently.

94. While efficiency has not been sacrificed, there has been a numerical gain to the staff of 4. Nearly all the Post Offices and all the District Telegraph Stations are conducted by women, and I can certainly bear testimony to their probity and efficiency generally.

95. On the 15th July, 1896, a system of delivery of correspondence by Letter Carriers in Spanish Town was inaugurated, the Letter Carriers being two in number, and the town limits of the delivery being as follows: North—Brunswick and Kent Streets; South—Burke Road; East—Monk Street and Barrett Street; West—Wellington Street and Prince Lane.

96. The system has worked satisfactorily, as I have not had any complaints to the contrary.

97. Additional *Street Letter Boxes* have been established, on the 30th October, 1896, at the under-mentioned sites:—

“Torrington Bridge;” “Constabulary Station, South Camp Road;” “Fire Brigade Station;” “Constabulary Station, Brown’s Town;” “Highholborn and Laws Streets;” “Myrtle Bank Hotel;” “Regent Street and Spanish Town Road.”

98. To provide for clearing the boxes, the subordinate staff had to be increased by two.

99. I regret to record that it became necessary to dismiss *en bloc* seven of the staff of Letter Carriers during the year for insubordination. Some of the men had been employed for some time, and it is a pity, on that account, that they did not deem it necessary to shew a better example to those who had been employed more recently.

100. In this connection, I would remark that I find some difficulty in obtaining, notwithstanding careful scrutiny and selection, suitable men as Letter Carriers, the qualifications for which are, intimate knowledge of the city, an elementary education, and last, but not least, probity.

101. The class of young men, with the educational qualifications required, which could be obtained many years ago when I first joined the Post Office service, is not now obtainable; for the educational advantages placed at their disposal have enabled the rising generation to seek higher employment, principally in the Civil Service of the Colony.

102. The subordinate staff of Sorters and Letter Carriers has been further weakened from time to time by the transfer of some of the most intelligent to the staff of Out-Door Officers of the Customs and as “Runners” to the “Kingston Collectorate” of the Internal Revenue Department, for which latter place their knowledge of the city peculiarly fits them.

103. My efforts to submit this Annual Report at an earlier date, have, I regret to say, been frustrated in consequence of the temporary disorganization of the Accountant Branch through illness, as already brought under the notice of the Government. It is not possible to avail for clerical work in the Control or Administrative Branches of the services of any of the Staff in the Circulation Branch, many of whom are not very experienced in any case, since doing so would result in delay in the receipt, delivery and despatch of the mails, which cannot be entertained, for, like “time and tide,” Mail Steamers and Mail Trains will not wait.

I have, &c.,

GEO. H. PEARCE, Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Hon. 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		398	3	9½			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received at the General Post Office		368	12	9½			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from the United Kingdom		87	1	9½			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from British Possessions and							
Foreign Countries	...	195	17	1½			
Stamps sold by the Department	...	17,371	12	8½			
Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	...	5,123	8	10			
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	...	68	9	0			
Fees for Conveyance of Private Letter Bags	...	5	5	0			
Commission on Money Orders	£700	9	2				
Less premium on Remittances :							
United Kingdom	£198	15	0				
United States	76	19	3				
Canada	9	6	2				
Barbados	1	3	3	286	3	8	414 5 6
<hr/>							
Fees for Detention of Country Letters per Packet for Delivery in Kingston		10	12	0			
Fine Account	...	12	1	0			
Commission on Mail Coach Collections	...	59	19	9			
Discount on Stamps purchased from the Public	...	0	10	8			
Commission on Postal Orders sold	...	534	3	9½			
Mail Coach Collections	...	273	0	0	24,923	3	9
<hr/>							
TELEGRAPHS--							
Stamps sold	...	5,469	10	9			
Additional Charge on A I and B Books	...	6	8	6			
Fees for keeping Telegraph Offices open out of Office hours	...	4	0	0	5,479	19	3
<hr/>							
£30,403 3 0							



## Department during the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1897.

SALARIES—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salary of Postmaster for Jamaica	...	677	19	1			
Salaries of Clerks	...	3,139	5	8			
Clerical Assistance	...	32	3	8			
Wages of Sorters, Letter Carriers, &c.	...	1,076	15	11			
Packet Newspaper Sorters	...	195	4	0			
Salaries of District Postmistresses, &c.	...	2,681	8	9			
Messengers conveying Mail between General Post Office and Railway Station	...	72	4	3	7,875	1	4
<b>COMMISSION ON STAMPS SOLD—</b>							
Poundage on Stamps sold by Department	...	168	18	6			
Discount on Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	...	252	19	5	421	17	11
<b>CONVEYANCE OF MAILS—</b>							
Contractors	...	9,562	0	1			
Packet Mail Service	...	5	2	0			
Proportion of Postage placed to credit of United Kingdom	...	1,600	0	0			
Ship Letter Gratuities	...	541	18	10			
Conveyance of Mails between Post Offices and Railway Stations	...	228	1	5			
Conveyance of Mails between General Post Office and Up-Park Camp	...	51	1	5			
Transit Rates payable to Union Countries other than United Kingdom	...	142	0	10	12,130	4	7
<b>SERVICES—</b>							
Contingencies	...	718	13	3½			
Letter Carriers Uniforms	...	196	8	4			
Water Supply	...	6	8	0			
Lighting Account	...	31	0	8			
Advertising	...	110	7	6			
Mail Bags and Wrappers	...	178	16	2			
Travelling Charges	...	231	1	6			
Allowance for Services out of Office hours	...	460	6	5			
Rent of Post Offices	...	747	15	4			
Twine and Wax	...	109	16	11			
Manufacture of Stamps	...	1,090	0	9			
Date Stamps and Type	...	45	15	5			
Furniture	...	90	2	0			
Stationery	...	853	6	11			
Conveyance by Tram for Letter Carriers, &c.	...	26	0	0	4,895	19	2½
					25,323	3	0½
<b>POSTAL UNION CONTRIBUTION.</b>							
Contribution to the United Kingdom to meet additional loss consequence on joining Postal Union	...				3,000	0	0
<b>DRAWBACK ENTRIES—</b>							
Re-directed Letters	...	187	19	6½			
Letters sent through Returned Letter Branch	...	85	17	7½			
Stamps supplied to Foreign Countries	...	3	0	10½	276	18	0½
<b>TELEGRAPH BRANCH SALARIES—</b>							
Salary of Superintendent	...	400	0	0			
Salaries of Assistant to Superintendent	...	491	13	4			
Salaries of Operators	...	3,507	18	9			
Wages of Messengers—Head Office	...	157	9	11			
Wages of Messengers—Out Stations	...	710	3	2	5,267	5	2
<b>SERVICES—</b>							
Porterage	...	197	1	9			
Travelling Charges	...	197	13	9½			
Water Supply	...	43	5	1			
Contingencies	...	215	18	7½			
Rent of District Offices	...	787	0	0			
Messengers Uniform	...	26	1	0			
Manufacture of Stamps, &c.	...	198	4	7			
Services out of Office hours	...	198	19	0			
Furniture	...	74	6	5			
Stationery	...	346	4	2			
Lighting	...	4	8	10	2,289	3	3
					£7,556	8	5
<b>VOTE ADMINISTERED BY POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—</b>							
Steam Communication round the Island	...				£1,800	0	0



Return shewing the number of Telegraphic Messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station from 1st April, 1896, to 31st March, 1897, as compared with return from 1st April, 1895, to 31st March, 1896.

STATION.	1st April, 1895, 31st March, 1896.		1st April, 1896, 31st March, 1897.		Remarks.
	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	
Kingston	25,418	29,848	23,330	25,560	Transmitting Station.
Spanish Town	2,371	2,284	2,150	2,389	
Bog Walk	865	863	636	562	
Linstead	796	742	718	684	" "
Ewarton	585	493	490	409	
Moneague	860	1,202	902	1,200	
Claremont	494	482	428	411	
St. Ann's Bay	4,555	4,455	4,291	4,100	" "
Runaway Bay	...	...	365	325	Opened 1st July, 1896.
Dry Harbour	631	711	580	661	Transmitting Station.
Brown's Town	2,217	2,193	2,123	2,189	" "
Cave Valley	347	367	382	382	
Stewart Town	318	272	351	329	
Uster Spring	450	387	388	332	
Rio Bueno	266	244	267	264	
Duncans	456	498	401	440	
Falmouth	2,824	2,999	2,477	2,507	
Montego Bay	7,581	6,790	7,096	6,535	" "
Ramble	533	543	482	505	
Luca	2,811	2,584	2,165	2,202	
Green Island	703	709	434	440	
Grange Hill	291	268	284	224	
Sav.-la-Mar	3,095	3,458	3,005	3,039	" "
White House	220	209	214	202	
Black River	3,833	3,527	3,351	3,265	
Middle Quarters	414	503	438	521	
Santa Cruz	722	809	559	571	" "
Malvern	590	649	639	678	
Mandeville	2,967	3,012	2,715	2,682	" "
New Port	491	541	556	594	
Shooters Hill	783	816	644	637	" "
Mile Gully	597	368	566	575	
Balaclava	654	787	585	703	
Christiana	439	536	392	443	
Porus	1,427	1,086	1,349	1,148	
May Pen	1,213	952	1,041	909	" "
Chapelton	1,229	1,122	1,243	1,236	
Alley	883	706	830	748	" "
Salt River	191	195	172	154	
Milk River	656	730	649	715	
Old Harbour	1,167	1,166	1,040	1,079	
Yallahs	395	365	296	315	
Morant Bay	1,980	1,813	1,656	1,666	" "
B. M. Valley	151	188	181	174	
Trinityville	272	267	277	265	
Pt. Morant	615	585	737	617	
Bowden	525	419	479	387	
Bath	425	415	267	315	
P. G. River	457	525	442	501	
Manchioanal	1,253	1,077	749	683	
Priestman's River	294	295	219	243	
Pt. Antonio	8,021	7,027	5,251	4,336	" "
St. Margaret's Bay	568	579	325	309	
Hope Bay	1,160	925	440	403	
Buff Bay	1,385	1,298	948	863	
Annotto Bay	3,825	3,530	2,130	1,965	" "
Highgate	...	...	468	533	Opened 16th June, 1896.
Pt. Maria	5,113	4,549	4,157	3,809	
Orscabessa	479	504	486	524	Transmitting Station.
Retreat	176	241	194	242	
Gayle	358	399	356	459	
Ocho Rios	691	703	608	595	
Pt. Royal	1,153	997	814	755	
Up-Park Camp	610	750	527	589	
H. W. Tree	707	673	580	632	
Gordon Town	236	304	352	362	
Cold Spring	701	591	420	371	
Stony Hill	198	236	113	222	
Castleton	...	...	205	151	Opened 13th April, 1896.
Race Course	53	10	36	15	Opened 3 days 15th to 17th Dec., '96
Railway	1,371	1,344	1,809	1,672	
Total	110,715	110,715	96,292	96,202	