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No. 6.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 3rd December, 1898.

THE Governor directs the publication for general information, of the following Annual Report on the Post Office and Telegraph Department for the year 1897-98.

By Command,

FRED. EVANS, Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office, 30th September, 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Thirtieth Annual Report of this Department, being that for the financial year ended, 31st March, 1898.

Revenue.

2. The cash receipts during the year under review amount to £27,969 11s. 6½d. as under :—

Postal	...	...	£22,883 19 0½
Telegraphs	...	...	5,085 12 6
			<hr/>
			£27,969 11 6½

3. The above stated receipts exhibit, on comparison with the Estimates for the same period, the following decrease :—

Postage	...	...	£116 0 11½
Telegraphs	...	...	414 7 6
			<hr/>
			£530 8 5½

and if a similar comparison be made with the actual receipts of this year with the collection during the preceding year, 1896-97, it will be ascertained that the receipts on account of Postages are less than those of 1896-97 by the sum of £1,541 12s. 1¼d., while under Telegraphs the decrease is £394 6s. 9d.

4. While there cannot be any doubt that the serious depression in all branches of trade and agriculture has had a serious and an adverse effect on the Postal and Telegraph Receipts, I am glad to say that a portion of the deficiency in the Postal receipts is more apparent than real, and it is to be accounted for by the fact that the system of prepaying official correspondence by means of Official Postage Stamps which were purchased by the Public Departments and Public Officers and Functionaries from the Post Office ceased, and the system of franking by signatures was reverted to on the 1st January, last; therefore, the value of the Postages on Official Mail Matter does not appear in the receipts in the year under review for the period 1st January to 31st March last. The estimated annual value of the

postage on such Official Mail Matter is £2,500, so that if the sum of, say £600, for the period 1st January to 31st March, 1898, be added to the total collections on account "Postages," it will reduce the falling off in the Postal Receipts to £941 12s. 1½d.

5. While recording this falling off in the Postal Receipts as a result of the general depression referred to above I cannot at the same time refrain from calling attention to the fact that hitherto there has been an annual increase in the Postal Receipts since the reduction in 1890 of 50 o/o and 37 o/o in the letter rate of postage "Packet" and "Inland" respectively, and that the above stated receipts are not less than those of 1894-95 which amount to £27,962 13s. 11½d.

6. I give below an abstract shewing the collections under each head as compared with the similar receipts for the two years preceding, *i.e.*, 1895-96 and 1896-97.

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.
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
1897-98	21,853 13 3	373 16 2	574 7 7½	5,085 12 6	82 2 0	27,969 11 6½

7. I furnish also an Approximate Analysis of the receipts on account of Postages during 1895-96, and the year under review.

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
1897-98	4,869 10 3	16,984 3 0	21,853 13 3

8. The above analysis shows that the falling off in the Postal Receipts has occurred under the head of "Packet" as well as "Inland Postages" the latter being as I have already pointed out affected by the change in the system of accounting for the postage on Official Mail Matter.

9. The receipts under "Postages," as shown in the above abstract, includes the sum of £339 11s. for freight on parcels conveyed by the "Mail Coaches." In the 9th paragraph of my last annual report I pointed out that advantage had been and is being taken of the termination of the Mail Coach Contracts to such an extent as to retain the freight on parcels which formerly was placed to the credit of the Mail Contractor who now only benefits, in addition to the subsidy for the Conveyance of the Mails, by the Passengers Fares. The amount of freight on parcels during the year under review is £339 11s. as against £273 during 1896-97. This change in the system also accounts for the apparent falling off which has occurred in the receipts under the head of "Miscellaneous" in the item of Mail Coach Commissions.

10. The Commissions on the amount of Postal Orders purchased by the Public is £574 7s. 7½d. being an increase of £40 3s. 10d. over the preceding year.

11. The collections on account of Commission on Money Orders exhibit a falling off of £40 9s. 4d.

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

Rent of Private Letter Boxes	...	£55 4 0
" " " Bags	...	8 8 0
Fines	...	0 9 0
Mail Coach Commissions	...	18 1 0
		£82 2 0

13. The face value of the Postage Stamps, Post Cards and Newspaper Wrappers which were sold to the Public during the year under review is £21,378 10s. 3d. of which the sum of £4,781 5s. 6d. was sold by the Stamp Commissioner to Authorised Vendors at the rate of 5 per cent discount while the sum of £16,597 4s. 9d. was sold by the Department at the General Post Office, Kingston and at the several District Post Offices.

14. The discount allowed by the Stamp Commissioner to Authorised Vendors amounts to £235 19s. 4d. at 5 per cent. while the Poundage allowed on Stamps sold by the Department is £164 19s. 3d. at 1 per cent.

15. The annual payments of £1,170 has been made to the Stamp Commissioner in respect of the adhesive Postage Stamps used in the discharge of Stamp Duties.

16. If the Cash Receipts stated above be compared with the total expenditure on account of the Post Office it results that there is a net deficit of £6,888 9s. 7½d. The details of the expenditure will be found at paragraph 53.

17. In the expenditure is included the sum of £5,140 which is the annual payment required to be made by this Colony to the Imperial Exchequer to meet the ascertained loss on the Mail Subsidy to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company resulting from the admission in 1877 of the British and Foreign West Indies into the Universal Postal Union.

18. If therefore this sum of £5,140 be deducted from the Post Office Expenditure and the amount of Official Postages say £600 for the period 1st January to 31st March be added to the Receipts the deficit of £6,888 will be reduced to £1,149 which I submit is not a very large loss for a Post Office. It must be borne in mind that from time to time postal facilities in the Island have greatly increased while there has been a material reduction in the rates of postage on Foreign and Inland First and Second Class Mail matter—the increase which has, until the year under review, been occurring annually in the Postal Receipts, bears, I submit, not only testimony to the elasticity of the Postal Revenue, but is evidence of the appreciation of the people of this Colony of the increased Postal facilities.

19. It must also be borne in mind that with the exception of the Mother Country whose Post Office is a regular milch cow, yielding annually a net profit of over £3,000,000,—there are few Post Offices in the world the receipts of which quadrate with its expenditure. I submit that a Post Office, like roads, exists for the convenience of the public and of the state, therefore, if there has not been any waste or extravagance and the service has been fairly efficient, the people of this Colony ought not to complain if the receipts do not cover the expenditure.

20. I would again remark that the measure of success of the Post Office or of the Telegraph System, is not to be gauged by the postage on a letter or the cost of a telegram since either may relate to the inauguration or maintenance of large business transactions in respect of which any delay in the means of communication might result prejudicially. All these "Unseen Credits," as I have always called them must be taken into account when considering Post Office Revenue and Expenditure.

21. The Post Office Department has in common with all other branches of the Public Service been required to exercise the greatest economy in its expenditure in consequence of the falling off in the Revenue under all heads as a result of the well known depression in the prices of our staple products, therefore, I take this opportunity to say that the public must not, at present, look for any increased postal facilities requiring expenditure—indeed, should there not be a return of prosperity to this Island, for which I sincerely hope, the question of the withdrawal of some of the existing facilities may have to be seriously and carefully considered on the principle of the tailor who cuts his coat according to his cloth. I should regret if circumstances compelled the Government to take such a step and I hope it will be a "dernier ressort" for I fully recognise that the Post Office and Telegraphs exercise a most civilising influence and are great educational factors, while they assist materially in the development and maintenance of trade and agriculture, to say nothing of their usefulness as adjuncts in the administration of the Government and of Justice.

22. I have been so repeatedly asked by many persons to explain why there should be any loss to the Colony in respect of the Royal Mail Subsidy, that I would ask permission to be allowed to explain once more through the medium of this report the circumstances in connection therewith.

23. Prior to the entrance of Jamaica into the Postal Union the postage on a letter to the United Kingdom was one shilling per half ounce of which the Imperial Post Office was content to receive ½d., with a relative proportion of the postage on Mail Matter to the British and Foreign West Indies, to Countries *vis à* United Kingdom and on *all* second class Mail Matter, in liquidation of all claims for sea conveyance, but when Jamaica was, in common with the other Colonies in the British West Indies permitted to join the Universal Postal Union in 1877 under the auspices of the Mother Country and the letter rate of postage was reduced to 6d., this Colony was required to bear its proportion of the moiety of the loss resulting from such reduced postage to the Imperial Exchequer in connection with the Mail Subsidy to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the Mail Service to and from the British and Foreign West Indies. When the Letter rate of Postage was further reduced in 1878 as a result of the Paris Convention to 4d. per ½ ounce the Colony was required to further contribute its proportion of the additional loss and when the further reduction to 2½d. per half ounce, the present rate of postage to all places in the Universal Postal Union, took place under the Vienna Convention in 1891 the British and Foreign West Indies were required to bear a proportion of the entire loss to the United Kingdom in respect of the sea conveyance, after deducting the Postage collected in the United Kingdom and contributed by each Colony—the utility of the service as represented by the Postage being made the measure of the proportionate payment.

24. The annual payment of £5,140 to the Imperial Exchequer must therefore be regarded as the result of reduced postage from 1/ to 2½d. to the Mother Country with a relative reduction to other places, in the letter rate of postage and in the postage on second class Mail Matter.

CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

25. The following is a comparative estimate of the total number of letters and Post Cards which have passed through the General Post Office, Kingston, and each District Post Office during the year under review :—

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
<i>Inland Mails—</i>						
Ordinary Letters—						
Public ...	722,400	831,519	1,298,167	1,057,700	1,134,835	1,330,511
Official ...	87,800	89,100	134,096	98,400	99,000	103,948
Post Cards ...	42,800	42,900	27,325	69,250	69,970	22,295
Registered Letters—						
Public ...	8,850	9,400	13,734	50,604	60,134	68,652
Official ...	22,842	23,444	23,734	15,997	15,537	18,660
<i>Ocean Mails.—By Vessels under Contract—</i>						
United Kingdom—						
Ordinary Letters ...	187,238	199,577	157,696	234,768	233,318	202,138
Post Cards ...	3,083	3,155	3,641	1,400	1,400	1,400
Inter-Colonial, B.W.I., &c.—						
Ordinary Letters ...	43,100	43,260	51,015	73,650	84,360	92,781
Post Cards ...	259	374	299	989	1,099	1,006
<i>By Vessels not Contract—</i>						
United States of America—						
Ordinary Letters ...	95,729	97,169	90,872	97,417	101,671	118,816
Post Cards ...	908	1,565	2,737	2,024	1,975	1,902
Other Countries ...						
Ordinary Letters ...	56,613	54,575	56,905	16,268	16,842	9,050
Post Cards ...	1,247	1,466	1,530	169	119	36
Registered Letters, Packet ...	13,309	13,397	13,529	9,949	10,147	10,471
	1,286,278	1,410,901	1,875,280	1,720,585	1,830,407	1,981,666

At District Post Offices.

	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Ordinary Letters ...	1,059,539	1,075,581	1,062,750
Post Cards ...	34,736	34,736	31,499
Registered Letters ...	20,506	23,749	28,996
	1,114,781	1,134,066	1,123,245

26. I am again glad to say that the above estimates shew an increase in the number of Registered letters which have been sent through the Post during the year under report. This is, I submit, satisfactory as showing that the advice which I tendered to the public in my previous report has not appa-

rently been disregarded. I feel also glad and grateful to be able again to report that of the 177,776. Registered letters which passed through the Post Office not a single one was lost, or could not be accounted for. This, I submit again, is evidence of the satisfactory working of the system and justifies my inviting the special attention of the public to the fact with the view of again earnestly requesting them not to send money or other value through the post without registering it.

27. I am pleased also to be able to report that the number of complaints which have been received of the miscarriage of letters through the Post bears but a very small proportion to the total number handled, the complaints received being 196 while the estimated number of letters, including registered letters, which circulated amount to 4,886,521.

28. Each complaint was carefully enquired into and while I am glad to say in nearly all the cases there was not any evidence that the miscarriage had occurred in the Post Office, there were certainly three cases in which through the agency of the Police, into whose hands I immediately place all doubtful cases, it was established that the guilty parties were the servants of the complainants and they were convicted and imprisoned.

29. The decrease in the number of complaints as to alleged miscarriages which has taken place during the year is, I am of the opinion, also due to some extent to the ventilation which the subject received through the columns of the "Gleaner" newspaper last year and which appears to have led the public to recognise that *all* the miscarriages were not occurring in the Post Office, and that to register their letters was practically the only means of settling the vexed question as to whether the Post Office employes or the servants were at fault—if the miscarriage did not result from any other cause.

30. I may here state that as a result of the letters which were written to the newspapers it became my duty to look carefully into the matter of the sorting and despatch of correspondence with the view, if possible, of minimising the chances of miscarriage either from dishonesty or other causes. This I did, and made certain changes and alterations in the method of despatching and sorting mail matter at the General Post Office, Kingston, and at the District Post Offices, and this, I make no doubt, has also contributed to the happy result quoted above. I trust that my action will satisfy the public that while I am ready to defend the Department against reckless charges such as have been and are made from time to time, I am also prepared to listen to all complaints and to do all I can to remove any supposed grievances, and that I do not as I said in my last report claim for the Department entire immunity from loss which I again repeat it would be arrogant for any head of a Post Office to do.

OCEAN MAILS.

31. I subjoin a statement showing the number of vessels which conveyed mails to and from Jamaica during the year under review as compared with the two preceding years.

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1895-96.		1896-97.		1897-98.		1895-96.		1896-97.		1897-98.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
<i>Kingston—</i>												
Contract ...	58	747	49	905	63	861	52	735	51	878	57	735
Non-Contract	277	402	240	441	256	386	427	608	234	456	257	365
<i>Outports—</i>												
Non-Contract	69	127	63	136	69	86	39	61	98	109	162	181

32. The number of Mails which were sent *via* Jamaica to and from places abroad is 157.

33. The Mail Service with the United Kingdom and the British and Foreign West Indies and Central America, &c., has been maintained during the year by means of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's Steamers which have continued to arrive at and to leave the Colony with usual and commendable punctuality, there not having been the slightest interruption of the service.

34. Very many opportunities were again afforded during the year for the exchange of Mails with the United Kingdom, the United States and other places *via* the United States by the Steamers of the Atlas Company, the Boston Fruit Company and Messrs. J. E. Kerr & Co., for which great convenience the public are indebted to the Companies since they are not under contract for the conveyance of the Mails. The Steamers of the Atlas S. S. Company also afforded additional opportunities for the exchange of Mails with the Republic of Columbia and other places in Central America,

35. Mails have also been exchanged with Belize Honduras by means of the Steamers of "The Tweedie Trading Company" which vessels run between New York and Belize, &c., *via* Jamaica, while a regular Monthly Service with Halifax, Bermuda and Turks Islands has been maintained by means of the Steamers of Messrs Pickford and Black.

36. I submit that the Colony may congratulate itself on the continuance of so many opportunities notwithstanding the depression, for exchanging Mails with all parts of the civilized world and this, too without the payment of any subsidy except in the case of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

INLAND MAIL CONVEYANCE.

37. There has not been I am glad to be again able to report any serious delay or interruption of any of the Inland Mail Services and I again willingly bear testimony to the very satisfactory and efficient manner in which the Mail Contractors have on the whole carried out their contracts.

38. In connection with the opening of new Post Offices the following Mail Services came into operation:—

- On 18th May, 1897 Richmond and Clonmel in St. Mary.
- On 24th May, 1897 Buff Bay and Skibo in Portland.
- On 26th May, 1897, Port Antonio and Moore Town in Portland.
- On 9th June, 1897, Maundeville and Old England in Manchester.
- On 14th June, 1897, Santa Cruz and Myersville in St. Elizabeth.
- On 18th June, Newmarket and Springfield in St. Elizabeth.
- On 6th August, Stewart Town and Watt Town *via* Gibraltar in St. Ann.
- On 11th August, Ulster Spring, and Rock Spring in Trelawny.
- On 25th August, Montego Bay and Point in St. James.

DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

39. During the year under review 18 District Post Offices have been established at the undermentioned sites—making the total number of Post Offices in existence at the end of the year 160 as against 142 at the end of the previous year:—

- "Riversdale" in the Parish of St. Catherine on 13th May, 1897.
- "Troja" in the Parish of St. Catherine on 15th May, 1897.
- "Clonmel" in the Parish of St. Mary on 18th May, 1897.
- "Albany" in the Parish of St. Mary on 20th May, 1897.
- "Skibo" in the Parish of Portland on the 24th May, 1897.
- "Fellowship" in the Parish of Portland on 26th May, 1897.
- "Moore Town" in the Parish of Portland on 28th May, 1897.
- "Old England" in the Parish of Manchester on 9th June, 1897.
- "Pepper" in the Parish of St. Elizabeth on 11th June, 1897.
- "Myersville" in the Parish of St. Elizabeth on 14th June, 1897.
- "Braes River" in the Parish of St. Elizabeth on 16th June, 1897.
- "Springfield" in the Parish of St. Elizabeth on 18th June, 1897.
- "Catadupa" in the Parish of St. James on 27th July, 1897.
- "Gibraltar" in the Parish of St. Ann on 6th August, 1897.
- "Watt Town" in the Parish of St. Ann on 9th August, 1897.
- "Rock Spring" in the Parish of Trelawny on 11th August, 1897.
- "Point" in the Parish of St. James on 25th August, 1897.
- "Hector's River" in the Parish of Portland on 25th November, 1897.

40. The number of District Post Offices which have been established during the three years ended 31st March, 1898, is 55.

41. It has been remarked to me that too many small Post Offices have been established. I take this opportunity to point out that District Post Offices are only opened on the application of parties interested and after the Department has satisfied itself, by an inspection of the District by the Traveling Supervisor of Post Offices and otherwise that the office is a public necessity and is likely to prove self supporting. In such case it is my pleasure to recommend the application to the Government because I know and have seen the benefits which have accrued to a community through the establishment of Post Offices and Telegraph Stations.

42. It is only those who reside in the interior of the Island some distance away from the Post Office and Telegraph Station can fully realise what it is not to be in frequent communication not only with other parts of the Island but with the outside world, and not to be able to ascertain readily what is going on around them.

43. It must I think be admitted that the greatest consideration has been shown to the Public in the matter of the establishment of new Post Offices, and if until the Revenue of the Colony improves the Government hesitates to grant any future application for new Post Offices or declines any further postal facilities involving the expenditure of public money it will be justified by the present straitened circumstances; and I would again venture to express the hope that there may be such an improvement in the affairs of the Island as will obviate any necessity for the withdrawal of Postal facilities already accorded.

44. During the epidemic of Yellow Fever which occurred last year it became necessary, on sanitary grounds, to close the Shooters Hill Post Office and Telegraph Station in the Parish of Manchester, on the 26th November, 1898, and to conduct the business at the adjacent Post Office at Williamsfield, the Telegraph work being performed at the Kendal Railway Station. The Post Office and Telegraph Station at Shooters Hill was reopened on 8th January, 1899.

45. It became necessary also, for disciplinary reasons, to close the York Castle Post Office from the 22nd February to 1st March last.

MONEY ORDERS.

46. The following is a statement of the Money Order transactions during the year under review as compared with similar transactions during the two years preceding:—

United Kingdom.

Year.	Jamaica Issue.		Payable in Jamaica.		Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895-96 ...	9,309	34,545 15 7	1,241	2,807 8 0	501 15 3
1886-97 ...	8,689	31,075 0 5	1,380	3,465 11 9	484 9 11
1897-98 ...	8,047	27,836 18 8	1,278	3,784 8 11	444 11 4

United States of America.

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
1897-98 ...	2,975	8,601 8 2	566	1,503 13 3	164 17 0

Dominion of Canada.

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
1897-98 ...	489	2,953 0 9	102	354 14 8	23 6 3

British Guiana.

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
1897-98 ...	64	134 14 2	87	237 18 4	2 18 1

Barbados.

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
1897-98 ...	306	323 10 3	271	463 15 9	9 8 6

Windward and Leeward Islands.

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
1897-98 ...	116	145 12 8	100	198 13 9	3 10 9

Turks Islands.

From May 1896 to March 1897 ...	11	41 9 6	209	726 18 8	4 13 5
1897-98 ...	7	26 15 7	240	791 8 9	4 7 0

Panama.

From 1st Jan., 1898 to 31st March, 1898	1	7 19 0	13	68 16 0	0 9 0
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British Honduras.

From May 1896 to					
March 1897 ...	3	22 17 7	56	132 0 6	0 17 1
1897-98 ...	9	38 5 10	113	275 19 1	1 17 11

47. The above statement discloses the fact that the decrease in the number as well as in the amount of Money Orders drawn by Jamaica on other countries to which I called attention at paragraph 47 of my last Annual Report has continued during the year under review and that the falling off has taken place principally in the drafts on the United Kingdom and on the United States. The drafts of other places on Jamaica, as they did during the year preceding, exhibit an increase on the previous year's transactions.

Jamaica Issue.	No.	Amount.
1896-97	12,548	£43,963 16 8
1897-98	11,994	40,068 5 1
Issue of other Countries payable in Jamaica:—		
1896-97	2,711	7,050 4 1
1897-98	2,770	7,679 8 6

48. As a result of the above stated Money Order Exchanges, net commissions to the amount of £373 16s. 2d. accrued to the colony as detailed below.

United Kingdom ...	£444 11 4
United States of America ...	164 17 0
Dominion of Canada ...	23 6 3
British Guiana ...	2 18 1
Barbados ...	9 8 6
Windward and Leeward Islands ...	3 10 9
Turks Islands ...	4 7 0
British Honduras ...	1 17 11
Panama ...	0 9 0
	<u>£655 5 10</u>
Less premium on remittances—	
United Kingdom ...	£ s. d. 183 15 0
United States ...	84 1 4
Canada ...	13 9 6
Barbados ...	20 3 0
	<u>281 9 8</u>
	<u>£373 16 2</u>

49. The falling off in the remittances to the Mother Country and to the United States of America must, I submit, be accepted as further evidence of the general depression in trade.

50. On the 1st January, 1898, a Direct Money Order Exchange between the British Postal Agency at Panama and this Colony came into operation.

POSTAL ORDERS.

51. The denominations, number face value of, and commission on the Postal Orders issued for sale, and sold at the General Post Office and District Post Offices during the year are contained in the following comparative statements for the three years ended 31st March, 1898.

POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED.

Denomination.	1895-96.			1896-97.			1897-98.		
	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.
6	12,650	316 5 0	26 7 1	14,325	358 2 6	29 16 10½	16,075	401 17 6	33 9 9½
1 0	27,800	1,330 0 0	57 18 4	31,675	1,583 15 0	65 19 9½	34,125	1,706 5 0	71 1 10½
1 6	28,850	2,163 15 0	60 2 1	33,600	2,520 0 0	70 0 0	34,000	2,550 0 0	70 16 8
2 6	29,775	3,721 17 6	62 0 7½	45,875	5,734 7 6	95 11 5½	35,125	4,390 12 6	73 3 6½
5 0	28,870	7,217 10 0	120 5 10	24,475	6,118 15 0	101 19 7	31,925	7,981 5 0	133 0 5
10 0	23,805	11,912 10 0	198 10 10	21,185	10,542 10 0	175 14 2	24,735	12,367 10 0	206 2 6
	<u>151,770</u>	<u>26,721 17 6</u>	<u>525 4 9½</u>	<u>171,035</u>	<u>26,857 10 0</u>	<u>539 1 10½</u>	<u>175,985</u>	<u>29,397 10 0</u>	<u>587 14 9½</u>

POSTAL ORDERS SOLD.

—	1895-96.			1896-97.			1897-98.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
April	2,057	4	0	2,219	3	0	2,363	12	6
May	2,219	10	0	2,281	3	0	2,358	19	0
June	2,127	9	6	2,429	15	0	2,308	11	0
July	2,222	3	6	2,198	3	6	2,480	5	0
August	2,012	9	6	2,005	5	0	2,208	18	0
September	2,206	2	6	1,991	1	6	2,359	17	0
October	2,176	8	0	2,038	0	6	2,325	7	6
November	2,389	13	0	2,160	15	0	2,480	7	6
December	2,374	1	0	2,448	4	6	2,683	1	0
January	2,081	3	0	2,096	10	0	2,364	3	6
February	2,094	2	6	2,140	15	0	2,240	11	6
March	2,422	15	6	2,468	14	0	2,571	7	6
	26,383	3	0	26,577	10	0	28,745	1	0

52. It will be noticed that the comparison with the sale of the preceding year exhibits an increase of £2,168. This is contrary to what might have been expected during a period of depression, and I am of the opinion is due to the migration to the city and elsewhere of people from the interior seeking employment and who send and receive remittances, as well as to the result of the pressing demands of Merchants and others for the settlement of outstanding accounts. This expression of opinion, however, is not based on any reliable data and must therefore be regarded as problematical.

EXPENDITURE.

53. The expenditure of the Post Office (not including the sum of £3,000 which is charged against the Post Office Vote 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, as explained at paragraph 23) is £24,632 8s. 8d. as against £25,323 3s. 0½d. expended during the year preceding. The expenditure under each head of service is given below:—

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.		Services.	Total.
	Head Offices.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.		
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
1897-98	£ 5,268 1 4	£ 2,965 2 8	£ 10,479 6 11	£ 859 0 3	£ 5,060 17 6	£ 24,632 8 8

54. The net decrease of £690 14s. 4½d. is accounted for thus:—

DECREASE.

Conveyance of Mails.—

Ocean	...	£1,430 1 5
Services	...	256 19 7½
		£1,687 1 0½

INCREASE.

Salaries.

Head Office	...	£74 8 9	...
D.P.O's	...	283 13 11	...
Mail Conveyance.—			
Inland	...	638 4 0	996 6 8
		...	£690 14 4½

55. The decrease under Ocean Conveyance of Mails is a result of the Triennial adjustment under the Postal Union Treaty of the account between the Imperial Post Office and this Colony for the sea conveyance of mail matter to the United Kingdom and other places in the Postal Union.

56. The increase under the head of salaries at the Head Office relates to the annual increments of the staff at the General Post Office, Kingston, while that in respect of salaries at the District Post Offices is due to the establishment of the several Post Offices referred to at paragraph 39, which also accounts for the increase which appears under the head of Inland Mail Conveyance.

57. The above stated expenditure amounting to £24,632 8s. 8d. does not include the sum of £3,000 being so much of the annual payment of £5,140 as pointed out at paragraph 53 which is paid to the Imperial Post Office as "Postal Union Contribution", and is charged against the Post Office Vote. Therefore for purpose of comparison with revenue as shewn in paragraph 16 the amount must be added to the expenditure. The difference of £2,140 between the annual payment to the Imperial Exchequer and the sum charged against the Post Office now appears in the Estimates under the head of "Miscellaneous" but it has been decided to charge the entire amount against the P. O. Vote in future and it has been so included in the Estimates for the current year which have been increased accordingly.

58. The Contracts with the Atlas S. S. Company for Steam Communication round the Island expired on the 28th February, last. Of the sum of £1,800 voted for the service and administered by this Department, the Company received the amount of £1,707 4s., the difference being retained in respect of departure from Itineraries under the approval of the Government.

59. The S. S. "Spey" of R. M. S. Packet Company continued to be employed, without subsidy as a Coastal Steamer.

MAIL COACHES.

60. The earnings of the respective lines of Mail Coaches for Passengers' Fares and Parcels during the year under review are as follows as compared with the similar earnings during the two years preceding:—

I.—Kingston and Montego Bay.

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895-96	...	540 2 6	391 19 6	932 2 0
1896-97	...	458 11 3	373 19 3	832 10 6
1897-98	...	330 12 0	218 11 3	549 3 3

II.—Montego Bay and Lucea.

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895-96	...	100 2 0	11 0 3	111 2 3
1896-97	...	130 16 0	15 19 6	146 15 0
1897-98	...	121 0 0	12 15 3	133 15 3

III.—Kingston and Port Antonio.

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895-96	...	371 18 0	270 10 0	642 8 0
1896-97	...	223 1 6	243 17 6	466 19 0
1897-98	...	147 5 0	123 6 3	270 11 3

IV.—*Kingston and Annotto Bay.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895-96	217 4 9	84 19 9	302 4 6
1896-97	57 0 6	49 9 0	106 9 6
1897-98	11 0 0	26 13 6	37 13 6

V.—*Kingston and Gordon Town.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. s.	£ s. d.
October, '95 to March, '96 ...	32 16 6	1 9 9	34 6 3
1896-97	71 3 6	7 15 6	78 19 0
1897-98	70 5 0	8 3 3	78 8 3

VI.—*Kingston and Chapeltown.*

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From February to March, '96 ...	...	1 13 9	1 13 9
1896-87 ... ..	...	9 18 6	9 18 6
1897-98 ... ..	..	19 0 6	19 0 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
1897-98 ... ..	...	25 12 6	25 12 6

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
1897-98 ...	...	43 8 0	43 8 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
1897-98 ..	...	3 7 6	3 7 6

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
1897-98 ...	74 8 0	36 15 3	111 3 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
1897-98 ...	3 4 0	74 1 0	77 5 0

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
1897-98 ...	119 15 0	48 18 3	168 13 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
1897-98	...	...	21 18 0	36 4 0	58 2 0

XV.—*Williamsfield and Mandeville.*

YEAR.			Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97	46 2 9	46 2 9
1897-98	55 19 0	55 19 0

61. A Summary of the above details shew that the total amount earned is as under :—

Passengers' Fares	...	£899 7 0
Parcels	...	732 15 6
		<u>£1,632 2 6</u>

being a decrease of £712 19s. 3d.

62. The falling off has taken place both in Passengers' Fares and Parcels, and is without doubt due regards Passengers to the extension of the Railway Lines to Montego Bay and Port Antonio, to the epidemic of Fever which prevailed during the year under report and which had the effect of preventing people moving about as freely as they did the preceding year—while the general depression has had its effect not only on the Collections for Passengers but also for Parcels.

63. Of the Collections above stated the amount of £339 11s. was retained and placed to the credit of the Revenue. The earnings in respect of the Mail Coach Services between Kingston and Montego Bay, Montego Bay and Lucoa, Kingston and Port Antonio, and Kingston and Gordon Town have been placed to the credit of the Mail Contractors after deducting 10 per cent for booking passengers and parcels at the General Post Office, Kingston, and at the several District Post Offices. In the case of the other lines not mentioned above the Mail Contractors receive the passengers' fares only, the freight on the parcels being retained by the Department. On the expiration of the Services mentioned above, the Contractors will cease to receive the freights on parcels conveyed by their Mail Coaches.

64. The Passenger Services between Kingston and Port Maria and Kingston and Green Island respectively, have ceased because the Contractors found them unremunerative.

RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

65. The number of letters, &c., dealt with in the Returned Letter Branch during the year under report is as under :—

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to the United Kingdom	877	266
“ “ to other Countries	2,188	651
“ “ to Writers in the Island	19,935	2,953
“ destroyed, being illegible or anonymous	3,827	969
“ destroyed, Writers not having been found	5,097	1,871
Newspapers returned to the Publishers	5,069	—

66. The postage on the unclaimed Mail matter which had to be written off as irrecoverable from the posters is £43 7s 1d.

67. The number of letters, &c., which were found to contain value to the amount £343 12s. 9d. is 1,129 all of which have been duly registered and reposted to the writers.

68. I am glad again to be able to record as I did at the 69 paragraph of my last annual report that all unclaimed Mail matter is promptly dealt with—such promptitude which was not formerly the case being one of the many good results of the augmentation of the staff by the system of Auxiliary Female Clerks without increasing the expenditure for salaries at the Head Office.

TELEGRAPHS.

69. I subjoin a detailed statement of the Collections on account of Telegraphs as compared with similar collections, during the two years preceding.

	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stamps sold ...	6,140 18 6	5,469 10 9	5,076 12 3
Additional charge on Books containing Message Forms ...	6 11 0	6 8 6	6 0 3
Fees for opening Stations out of the Office Hours ...	9 0 0	4 0 0	3 0 0
	6,156 9 6	5,479 19 3	5,085 12 6

70. As pointed out under the head of "Revenue" there has been a decrease on the Collections of the year preceding of £394 6s. 9d. due to the general depression.

71. I also enclose a return shewing the number of Messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station in the Island. Turning to such Return it will be seen that the total number of Messages exchanged is 87,545 as against 96,292 sent and received during the year 1896-97.

72. If the sum of £1,643 4s. 1d. the amount expended for the maintenance of the line by the Public Works Department be added to the expenditure stated hereafter it will be ascertained that the Island Telegraph cost the Public of this Colony £4,243 per annum, being the excess of Expenditure over Receipts during a period of depression. The Telegraph Revenue is very responsive to any increase in Trade and Agriculture and I earnestly hope that it may not be long before prosperity returns to this Colony and that amongst other benefits which must result I may be able in my future reports to record a diminution of the annual loss on account of Telegraphs. I do not think that in this or any other country telegraph revenue will ever quadruple with expenditure, and it may be some solace to the taxpayers of this Island to know that in respect of its Telegraph transactions the Mother Country lost the sum of £140,000 for the year ended 31st March, 1897. It must also be borne in mind that the loss in respect of the Inland Telegraphs is only a little over twice as much as is paid to the Direct Cable Company for the Foreign Cable Service subsidy.

73. The collections at the several District Telegraph Stations on account of Foreign Telegrams despatched during the year is £2,529 11s. 9d. which amount has in due course been accounted for to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company and to the Direct Cable Company, respectively, the latter Company having come into operation in Jamaica on the 31st January, last.

74. The working expenses of the Telegraph Department during the year under review amounted to £7,686 5s. 3d. as against £7,556 8s. 5d. for the year preceding. I give below a statement of the expenditure under each head as compared with that for the year 1895-96 and 1896-97

Year.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries ...	4,285 14 4	4,399 12 1	4,518 5 9
Wages ...	847 10 11	867 13 1	880 15 3
Services ...	2,485 11 5	2,289 3 3	2,287 4 3
	7,618 16 8	7,556 8 5	7,686 5 3

75. The increase of £129 16s. 10d. in the expenditure, as shewn above, is accounted for thus:—

<i>Increase—</i>		
Salaries ...	...	£131 15 10
<i>Decrease—</i>		
Services ...	...	1 19 0
		£129 16 10

76. The number of Telegraph Stations in existence on 31st March last, is 69 being the same number as were in existence at the end of the year preceding.

77. The usual facility was accorded at the last Race Meeting in Kingston a temporary Telegraph Station having been opened under the Stand on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd February, 1898.

78. The "School of Telegraphy" at the Head Station G. P. O., Kingston, has been continued while candidates have also been trained at some of the District Stations with the result that twenty-nine candidates were admitted, twenty-nine passed as competent and on the 31st March last, there were forty-six competent clerks awaiting permanent employment and forming a *very useful* auxiliary staff for filling the places of the clerks on the permanent staff of Telegraph Operators who may be absent on leave from illness or otherwise. In this connection it is again my pleasing duty to record my appreciation of the efficient and cheerful service rendered by the members of the Auxiliary Staff, and

to bear testimony to the very ready manner in which when called upon they proceed at a moments notice to their destinations—by which means I have been able again to record that there was not any necessity to close any Post Office and Telegraph Station for want of a Clerk to fill the place of a permanent Operator or Postmistress.

79. I am also glad to say that the present staff of Postmistress and Telegraph Clerks have as a whole discharged their duties faithfully and efficiently. I submit that this is very satisfactory—as the duties of a Postmistress and Telegraph Clerk are very trying and sedentary, and in some cases a portion of the duties has to be discharged at nights.

PARCEL POST.

80. The transactions of the Parcels Post Branch compare with those of the preceding years 1895-96, 1896-97 as under :—

PARCELS RECEIVED.

From	Consignments.			Parcels.			Import Duty Collected.		
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
United Kingdom ...	26	26	26	9,024	9,277	8,422	£ 1,416 4 7	£ 1,437 12 9	£ 1,147 1 1½
British West Indies	110	115	112	254	267	265	8 0 0	11 9 9	9 2 5
United States of America ...	73	106	164	2,043	3,818	2,436	120 13 7	141 17 4	161 13 2
Dominion of Canada	12	12	13	125	146	171	5 5 3	7 19 6	7 11 1
	221	259	315	11,446	13,508	11,294	1,550 3 5	1,598 19 4	1,325 7 9½

	Postage Accrued to Jamaica.			Declared Value of Parcels.		
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	485 5 2½	565 15 9½	450 6 6	14,478 5 1	16,612 0 9½	12,229 16 9½
British West Indies	...	...	...	127 2 6	135 10 11½	100 6 7
United States of America.	...	...	...	1,986 12 11	2,012 0 5	2,219 19 6
Dominion of Canada	2 1 10½	0 18 4	3 13 1½	62 17 3	85 18 6	138 1 3
	487 7 1	566 14 1½	453 19 9½	16,654 17 9	18,845 10 8	14,688 4 1½

PARCELS DESPATCHED.

	Consignments.			Parcels.			Postage Accrued to Jamaica.		
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
United Kingdom ...	27	28	27	2,294	2,594	2,219	£ 74 10 5	£ 83 12 1½	£ 71 8 0
British West Indies	139	139	133	390	380	323	13 3 4	14 11 8	14 1 8
United States of America ...	79	85	65	451	543	559	21 4 0	24 17 6	24 14 6
Dominion of Canada	12	12	13	71	88	252	1 9 2	1 11 10½	8 3 11½
	257	264	238	3,206	3,605	3,353	110 6 11	124 13 2	118 8 1½

	Declared Value of Parcels.								
	1895-96.			1896-97.			1897-98.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	2,384	4	0½	2,554	18	1½	2,591	16	0½
British West Indies	262	2	5	219	3	6½	217	7	0½
United States of America	327	3	0½	455	17	7	300	18	9½
Dominion of Canada	28	12	2	43	15	2	179	10	0
	3,002	1	8	3,273	14	5	3,289	11	10½

81. The amount which accrued to Jamaica as a result of its exchanges by Parcels Post with the Mother Country and other places as shewn above is £1,898 11s. 0½d. of which the sum of £572 15s. 7d. relates to Postages and £1,325 15s. 6½d. to the Customs Import Duty which has been collected at the General Post Office and at the several District Post Offices, and duly accounted for to the Customs Department.

82. Looking to the large number of Parcels handled at the General Post Office and distributed at the District Post Offices it is a matter for congratulation that the record of immunity from loss which has been experienced since the establishment of the Parcel Post System has not been broken during the year. It is with great pleasure that I can here state that the Jamaica Post Office has never lost a parcel sent by the Parcels Post System.

MISCELLANEOUS.

83. I have much pleasure in closing this report to bear testimony to the continuance of the intelligence, faithfulness and efficiency of the Auxiliary Female Clerks who have been employed on the staff of the General Post Office, Kingston, to which I referred in the last paragraph of my Annual Report for 1896-97, the results have certainly justified the experiment. The System can I am of the opinion be extended not only in regard to convenience but to economy, but I regret to say that such extension may not be given effect to until the Post Office Department of this Colony is housed in a building which admits of a better organisation and supervision than is now possible, in buildings which are as inconvenient and unsuitable as they are uncomfortable.

I have, &c.

GEO. H. PEARCE, Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Kingston.

Return showing the Gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office

POST OFFICE—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received at District Post Offices	...	272	2	10			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received at General Post Office	...	437	3	8½			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from the United Kingdom	...	103	10	4½			
Postages on Unpaid Correspondence received from British Possessions and Foreign Countries	... ..	179	9	4			
Stamps sold by Department	...	16,597	4	9			
Stamp sold by Stamp Commissioner	...	4,781	5	6			
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	...	55	4	0			
Fees for conveyance of Private Letter Bags	...	8	8	0			
Commission on Money Orders	... £655	5	10				
Less Premium on Remittances:							
United Kingdom	£183	15	0				
United States	84	1	4				
Canada	13	9	6				
Barbados	0	3	10	281	9	8	373 16 2
Fees for Detention of Country Letters per Packet for Delivery in Kingston				7	8	0	
Fine Account	...			0	9	0	
Commission on Mail Coach Collections	...			18	1	0	
Discount on Stamps Purchased from the Public	...						
Commission on Postal Orders sold	...			574	7	7½	
Mail Coach Collections	...			339	11	0	23,748 1 5
TELEGRAPHS—							
Stamps sold	...			5,076	12	3	
Additional Charge on A I and B Books	...			6	0	3	
Fees for keeping Telegraph Offices open out of Office hours	...			3	0	0	5,085 12 6

 £28,833 13 9½

Department during the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1898.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
SALARIES—						
Salary of Postmaster for Jamaica	700	0	0	
Salaries of Clerks	3,261	10	2	
Clerical Assistance	21	8	7	
Wages of Sorters, Letter-Carriers, &c.	1,009	14	5	
Packet Newspaper Sorters	173	8	0	
Salaries of District Postmistresses	2,905	2	8	
Messengers conveying Mail between General Post Office and Railway Station	102	0	2	
Wages of Letter-Carriers at Spanish Town	60	0	0	8,233 4 0
COMMISSION ON STAMPS SOLD—						
Poundage on Stamps sold by Department	164	19	3	
Discount on Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	235	19	4	400 18 7
CONVEYANCE OF MAILS—						
Contractors	10,160	19	4	
Ship Letter Gratuities	600	9	6	
Conveyance of Mails between Post Offices and Railway Stations	266	7	7	
Conveyance of Mails between General Post Office and Up-Park Camp	52	0	0	
Transit Rates payable to Union Countries other than United Kingdom	258	10	9	11,338 7 2
SERVICES—						
Contingencies	727	19	2	
Letter-Carriers Uniforms	119	13	9	
Water Supply	3	0	0	
Lighting Account	33	18	3	
Advertising	
Mail Bags and Wrappers	88	6	1	
Travelling Charges	234	19	0	
Allowance for Services out of Office hours	367	2	5	
Rent of Post Offices	757	17	4	
Twine and Wax	171	6	11	
Manufacture of Stamps	1,147	18	2	
Date Stamps and Type	42	10	9	
Furniture	65	0	9	
Stationery	874	6	4	
Conveyance by Tram Car for Letter-Carriers	26	0	0	4,659 18 11
						24,632 8 8
POSTAL UNION CONTRIBUTIONS—						
Contribution to the United Kingdom to meet additional loss consequent on joining Postal Union	3,000 0 0
DRAWBACK ENTRIES—						
Re-directed Letters	333	11	11	
Letters sent through Returned Letter Branch	160	9	5½	
Stamps supplied to Foreign Countries	3	1	6	497 2 10½
TELEGRAPH BRANCH SALARIES—						
Salary of Superintendent	400	0	0	
Salaries of Assistants to Superintendent	50	0	0	
Salaries of Operators	3,618	5	9	
Wages of Messengers—Head Office	156	6	11	
Wages of Messengers—Out-Station	724	8	4	5,399 1 0
SERVICES—						
Forerage	186	3	8	
Travelling Charges	138	18	9½	
Water Supply	37	19	9	
Contingencies	249	5	5	
Rent of District Post Offices	843	16	11	
Messengers Uniform	14	17	6	
Manufacture of Stamps, &c.	121	18	9	
Services out of Office hours	312	4	4	
Furniture	67	19	11½	
Stationery	307	7	0	
Lighting	6	12	2	2,287 4 3
						7,686 5 3
VOTE ADMINISTERED BY POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—						
Seam Communication round the Island	1,707 14 0

General Post Office, 3rd December, 1898.

GEO. H. PRARCE, Postmaster for Jamaica.

Return shewing the number of Telegraphic Messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station from 1st April, 1897, to 31st March, 1898, as compared with Returns from 1st April, 1896, to 31st March, 1897.

STATION.	1st April, 1896, 31st March, 1897.		1897-98.		Remarks.
	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	
Kingston	23,330	25,560	21,998	23,353	Transmitting Station.
Spanish Town	2,150	2,389	2,063	2,175	
Bog Walk	636	562	445	460	" "
Linstead	718	684	828	757	
Ewarton	490	409	613	496	
Moneague	902	1,200	1,061	1,172	
Claremont	428	411	449	515	" "
St. Ann's Bay	4,291	4,100	3,564	3,306	
Runaway Bay	365	325	326	305	
Dry Harbour	580	661	449	474	" "
Brown's Town	2,125	2,189	1,847	1,929	" "
Cave Valley	382	382	216	272	
Stewart Town	351	329	259	238	
Ulster Spring	388	332	313	304	
Rio Bueno	267	264	201	247	
Duncans	401	440	417	411	
Falmouth	2,477	2,507	2,386	2,380	
Montego Bay	7,096	6,535	6,581	6,186	" "
Ramble	482	505	469	466	
Lucoa	2,165	2,202	2,179	2,140	
Green Island	434	440	272	340	
Grange Hill	284	224	209	172	
Sav.-la-Mar	3,005	3,039	2,797	2,659	" "
White House	244	202	213	208	
Black River	3,361	3,265	2,870	2,810	
Middle Quarters	438	521	395	461	
Santa Cruz	559	571	464	460	" "
Malvern	639	678	534	590	
Mandeville	2,715	2,652	2,537	2,496	" "
New Port	556	594	393	417	
Shooter's Hill	644	637	387	520	" "
Mile Gully	566	375	295	273	
Balaclava	585	703	552	576	
Christiana	392	443	321	395	
Porus	1,349	1,148	1,150	1,200	" "
May Pen	1,041	909	947	787	
Chapelton	1,243	1,236	1,080	1,118	" "
Alley	830	748	719	711	
Salt River	172	154	132	162	
Milk River	649	715	451	563	
Old Harbour	1,040	1,079	962	1,015	
Yallahs	296	315	268	239	" "
Morant Bay	1,656	1,666	1,484	1,566	
B. M. Valley	181	174	148	115	
Trinityville	277	265	286	277	
Port Morant	737	617	430	449	
Bowden	479	387	411	238	
Bath	267	315	316	323	
P. G. River	442	501	403	403	
Manchioneal	749	683	463	406	
Priestman's River	219	243	243	283	
Pt. Antonio	5,251	4,336	5,082	4,223	" "
St. Margaret's Bay	325	309	185	206	
Hope Bay	440	403	270	274	
Bull Bay	948	863	747	663	" "
Annotto Bay	2,130	1,965	2,068	1,799	
Highbate	468	533	461	447	
Port Maria	4,167	3,809	3,698	3,641	" "
Oracabessa	486	524	493	538	
Retreat	194	242	258	248	
Gayle	356	459	317	390	
Ocho Rios	608	595	626	657	
Port Royal	814	755	657	690	
Up-Park Camp	527	589	519	644	
H. W. Tree	580	632	654	625	
Gordon Town	352	362	384	327	
Cold Spring	420	371	543	460	
Stony Hill	113	222	135	256	
Castleton	206	151	98	123	
Race Course	36	15	34	19	Opened 3 days 1st to 3rd Feb, 1898
Railway	1,809	1,672	1,530	1,497	
Total	96,292	96,292	87,545	87,545	1898