



# Supplement to the Jamaica Gazette.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1900.

No. 6.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 4th September, 1899.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following Report by the Postmaster for Jamaica on his Department for the year ended 31st March, 1899.

By Command,

FRED. EVANS, Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office, 14th August, 1899.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the thirty-first Annual Report of this Department being that for the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1899.

## REVENUE.

2. The cash collections during the year amount to £28,652 8s. 9½d., as under:—

Postal	...	£22,550 19 9½
Telegraphs	...	6,101 9 0
		<hr/>
		£28,652 8 9½

3. Compared with the Estimates for the corresponding period, the above stated receipts exceed the Estimates by the sum of £2,050 19s. 9½d., in the case of postages and by the sum of £1,101 9s. 0d. in the case of Telegraphs; being a total excess under both heads of £3,152 8s. 9½d. A further comparison of the actual collections during the year under review with those during the preceding year ended on 31st March, 1898, shows that there has been a decrease of £322 19s. 3½d. in respect of "Postages" and an increase of £1,015 16s. 6d., under the head of "Telegraphs," being a net increase under both heads of Revenue of £682 17s. 2½d.

4. The decrease which has taken place under the head of postages is undoubtedly due to the re-establishment on the 1st January, 1898, as pointed out in the 4th paragraph of my last annual report, of the franking privilege whereby the receipts on account of "Postages" now suffer an annual loss of £2,500 per annum, being the estimated amount of official mail matter which used to be prepaid by means of official postage stamps, but which is now, under the "franking system," conveyed by the Post Office free of charge.

5. If the above stated sum of £2,500 be added to the collections on account of postages during the year under report it will be ascertained that there has been an increase of say, £2,167 0s. 8½d. in the collections of the year under review over those of the preceding year; but as the year, 1897-98 was, as I pointed out in the 4th paragraph of my last annual report one of serious depression, which affected all branches of trade and agriculture, and had as well a serious and adverse effect on the postal and telegraph receipts, I submit that a better appreciation of the effect which the reversion to the franking privilege has had on postal receipts will be obtained by a comparison of those receipts for the year 1896-97, with those for the year under review. Such a comparison shows that there has been a decrease of £1,874 11s. 4½d., as against the estimated annual value of official postages, i.e. £2,500,



6. I subjoin the usual abstracts showing the collections under each head of revenue in comparison with the similar receipts during the two preceding years, 1896-97 and 1897-98 :—

Period.	Postages.	Commission		Telegraph.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
		on Money Orders.	on Postal Orders.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97	23,331 7 1½	414 5 6	534 3 9½	5,479 19 3	145 14 9	29,905 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
1898-99	21,438 14 2½	392 9 11	594 2 3	6,101 9 0	125 13 5	28,652 8 9½

7. I also subjoin the usual approximate analysis of the receipts on account of "Postages" as compared with the similar results for the two years preceding :—

Year.	Packet Postages.		Inland Postages.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
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
1898-99	4,832	14 2½	16,605	19 11½	21,438	14 2½

8. This analysis shows that while there is not any appreciable falling off in the collections under packet postages, the inland postages have fallen off for the reasons above stated. Although not germane to the present report, I would here remark that a further reduction in the collections on account of "Postages" may be looked for during the current year, since the letter rate of postage from this Colony to the United Kingdom and to the British Colonies and possessions which have agreed to join the "Imperial Penny Postage System," has been reduced from 2½d. to 1d. per half ounce. The Imperial Penny Postage system came into force between the mother country and most of her Colonies on the 25th December last, but this Colony was not able to give its adherence to the scheme on that date because in view of the generally depressed state of the finances of the Colony, the question of the resultant loss of postal revenue, became a matter for the most serious consideration. It has however been decided after careful consideration that it is not in the interest of the Colony that Jamaica shall not be included in the scheme, which it joined on the 24th May last, Her Majesty's birthday. The reduction of 150 per cent. in the packet rate of postage will of necessity reduce the collections as I have stated, although it is hoped that the loss will be reduced by the numerical increase which may be expected to result from the decreased letter rate, personally I am of the opinion that there will not be a very large increase, if any, for it must be borne in mind that the postage to the United Kingdom has been reduced from 1s. to 1d. per half ounce from time to time.

9. To meet the expressed wish of the Canada Government, however, which joined the penny postage scheme on the 25th December last, this Colony agreed to the reduction of the letter rate of postage between Jamaica and Canada from 2½d. to 1d. per half ounce.

10. The receipts under the head of postages include the sum of £336 for freight on parcels conveyed by mail coaches subsidized by the government for the conveyance of mails and parcels and which in most cases are also available for the conveyance of passengers whose fares are placed to the credit of the mail contractors and which amounts are stated under the head of mail coach transactions hereafter.

11. The commissions on account of Postal Orders sold to the public exhibit an increase of £19 14s. 7½d. over the amount collected in 1897-98 and of £59 18s. 5½d. over that in 1896-97.

12. The commissions on Money Orders show an increase of £18 13s. 9d. over those during 1897-98, while they are less by the sum of £21 15s. 7d. than those for the year 1896-97.

13. The miscellaneous collections consist of the following items :—

Rent of Private Letter Boxes	...	£93 11 0
Do. do. do. Bags	...	19 19 0
Fines	...	0 8 0
Mail Coach Commissions	...	11 15 5
		£125 13 5

14. Postage Stamps, Post Cards and Newspaper Wrappers of the total face value of £21,075 3s. 2d. were sold during the year, of this sum the Post Office Department sold £15,748 7s. 3d. at the General Post Office, Kingston, and at the several District Post Offices. While the Stamp Commissioner sold to authorised Vendors at 5 o/o discount the sum of £5,326 15s. 11d.



15. The discount on the Stamps sold by the Stamp Commissioner to the authorised Vendors at 5 o/o amounts to £237 12s. 7d. while the Poundage at 1 per cent. on the stamps sold by the Department is £152 9s. 5d. the total cost of the sale by both Departments being £390 2s. 0d.

16. The Stamp Commissioner received from the Postal Department the estimated annual amount of £1,170 for Adhesive Postage Stamps which are used by the public in the payment of Revenue Stamp duties.

17. The collections on account of postages as detailed above are less by the sum of £8,583 14s. 3½d. than the total expenditure, an abstract of which is given hereafter under the head of expenditure and the details of which will be found in the Return annexed to this report, but in considering this deficit it must not be lost sight of that it includes a payment of £5,140 0s. 0d. for the Colony's contribution towards the Mail Contract with the Royal Mail Company for the service between the United Kingdom and the British and Foreign West Indies and that the Post Office Department conveys free of charge a large amount of Official Mail matter which as previously stated is estimated at least at £2,500 per annum.

18. In the 21st paragraph of my last Annual Report, I remarked that the Post Office Department had 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 which was taking place generally in the Revenues of the Island because of the depression which existed in the prices of the Island's staple products, and that any increase of postal facilities necessitating expenditure need not be expected, and I further pointed out that a continuance of the depression might result in a withdrawal of some of the existing facilities however much the Government might regret being compelled to take such a step. After a careful review of the Post Office Estimates in connection with its receipts and the continued falling off of the Revenue generally it was decided to close on the 28th February last eleven District Post Offices, a list of which will be found hereafter at paragraph 39 under the head of "District Post Offices." This decision to close such Post Offices as appeared to be superfluous and not self-supporting was only arrived at by the Government as I have said after the most careful consideration of the circumstances in each case, and because it was felt that however justifiable the extension or maintenance of certain postal facilities might be for the convenience of the public in time of general prosperity in the Island it was not justifiable when the Revenues of the Colony were in such a condition as to call for the most anxious and watchful care on the part of those responsible for the administration of the affairs of each Public Department in the Colony.

#### CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

19. The usual estimates have been taken 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. The following Statement gives the results of these estimates in comparison with the results of similar estimates taken during the two years preceding. The estimates are based on four weekly "counts" taken in each quarter of the year. The time allowed for despatching and receiving the mails which have in most cases to connect with Trains and Mail Steamers, which do not wait, will not admit of the letters contained in each Mail received or despatched being counted, therefore the estimates may only be regarded as approximate.

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
<i>Inland Mails—</i>						
<i>Ordinary Letters—</i>						
Public	831,519	1,298,167	1,192,269	1,134,835	1,330,511	1,448,746
Official	89,100	134,096	120,731	99,000	103,948	111,761
Post Cards	42,900	27,325	23,985	69,970	22,295	27,963
<i>Registered Letters—</i>						
Public	9,400	13,734	17,111	60,134	68,652	70,066
Official	23,444	23,734	25,469	15,537	18,660	19,137
<i>Ocean Mails.—By Vessels under Contract—</i>						
<i>United Kingdom—</i>						
Ordinary Letters	199,577	157,696	152,473	233,318	202,138	195,737
Post Cards	3,155	3,641	5,245	1,400	1,400	1,400
<i>Inter-Colonial, B.W.I., &amp;c.—</i>						
Ordinary Letters	43,260	51,015	49,256	84,360	92,781	93,351
Post Cards	374	299	394	1,099	1,006	1,032
<i>By Vessels not Contract—</i>						
<i>United States of America—</i>						
Ordinary Letters	97,169	90,872	113,215	101,671	118,816	119,875
Post Cards	1,565	2,737	3,878	1,975	1,902	2,572
<i>Other Countries</i>						
Ordinary Letters	54,575	56,905	59,006	16,842	9,050	18,064
Post Cards	1,466	1,530	2,697	119	36	62
Registered Letters, Packet	13,397	13,529	13,912	10,147	10,471	11,115
	1,410,901	1,875,280	1,779,641	1,830,407	1,981,666	2,120,911



*At District Post Offices.*

	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
Ordinary Letters ...	1,075,581	1,062,750	1,014,718
Post Cards ...	34,736	31,499	32,642
Registered Letters ...	23,749	28,996	32,711
	1,134,066	1,123,245	1,080,071

20. The above Statement shows that 4,791,102 letters and Post Cards are estimated to have been received and despatched, and that in addition thereto 189,521 registered articles of Mail matter were dealt with, the number of registered articles being 12,745 in excess of the number received and despatched during the preceding year 1897-98.

21. It is a pleasurable circumstance to me to be again able to record that of the 189,521 registered articles of mail matter, Inland and Foreign, which have been received and despatched not a single case of loss or miscarriage occurred. I again submit that this continued good record bears testimony not only to the general accuracy in the handling of registered mail matter but also to the honesty of the Post Office employees and that such satisfactory results should satisfy the public that the safer method of forwarding value of any kind through the post is that of registration, the fee for which is only 2d. in addition to the ordinary postage. I do not apologise for each year in my report bringing under the notice of the public the safety attaching to the system of registration because I conceive it to be my duty to do so not only in the interests of the parties concerned, but on behalf of the employees of the Department who in the case of an unregistered article of mail matter containing value are unnecessarily and wrongly exposed to temptation, and I am glad to say that such continued reference and warnings have borne good fruit since there has been annually an increase in the number of registered articles, shewing also that the fallacious idea which formerly prevailed that to register an article of mail matter was to invite attention to the fact that it contained value and to increase the risk of miscarriage. I feel certain that the fact that the Post Office has dealt with 367,297 registered articles in two years without a single miscarriage is sufficient to dispel any such idea as to the risk attending registration of letters and other articles.

22. I am glad also to be again able to record, as I did in the 27th paragraph of my last Annual Report, that the number of complaints which have been received of the miscarriage of unregistered letters and other articles through the post continue to bear but a small proportion to the number of letters received and despatched, since the complaints of alleged miscarriages which have been received during the year only amount to 117, while the estimated number of letters including registered articles amount as shewn above to 4,980,623.

23. In some of the cases of complaint the missing articles have been traced in others it has been found that the alleged miscarriages did not take place in the Post Office Department, while in the remaining cases it has been impossible to say where the miscarriages took place, as the missing articles were not registered.

24. While on the subject of these complaints, I hope I may be excused if I refer to the almost general lack of charity towards the Post Office on the part of persons who make complaints, and who as a rule *at once* assume that the guilty party is an employee of the department quite forgetting that others engaged in the posting and receipt of the missing articles may equally be suspected until evidence circumstantial or otherwise has proved where the miscarriage has taken place. Some of these reckless charges are, I regret to say, made by persons whose position and intelligence might lead one to expect otherwise and are made with such scant courtesy that it is often very difficult to continue the relative official correspondence.

25. As an instance of some of the unfair charges which have been made during the year against the Post Office with regard to missing letters containing value, I may state that recently letters to a firm in Kingston were constantly going astray and complaints were being made to the Post Office when it was subsequently discovered that the guilty party was the clerk of the firm to whom the correspondence was addressed and who was only detected because he extended his dishonest operations to registered mail matter—had he not done so suspicion as in other similar cases would have rested against the Post Office, this is not by any means in my 34 years experience in the Post Office in Jamaica a single instance I could if necessary recount many more, while not claiming that the Department is immaculate, for I only quote this case as I have done others to warn the public against coming to an unfair conclusion in the absence of evidence, and to prove in justice to the staff over which I have the honour to preside, that all the thieves in the Island are not concentrated in the Post Office, if such an idea prevails.

26. There have been a few cases of breach of the Law which makes it a penal offence to affix obliterated stamps or stamps already used to an article of mail matter, but the cases have not been such as to justify legal proceedings since enquiry resulted in shewing that in nearly every case the offence was committed by a child of tender years against whom legal proceedings would not in my opinion have been justifiable or successful looking to the small amount involved, *Id.* and to the future of the child. In such cases, all of which are made the subject of careful enquiry by the Police, I have caused the parents, through their clergyman or some other respectable or responsible person, to point out to the child the serious nature of its offence and when necessary to inflict corporal punishment, a form of punishment I am not however in favour of with regard to young children. When possible and in order



to test the bonâ fides of the explanation tendered I have caused the children to be brought before me—in one case the girl was little more than an infant who hardly stood higher than my desk. On being questioned she admitted that she had received the Id. and that she had used it in the purchase of "American Candy," this, I regret very much to say, is not a solitary instance.

## OCEAN MAILS.

27. The number of vessels "Contract" and "Non-Contract" which conveyed mails, as well as the number of mails conveyed to and from this Colony during the year will be found in the following comparative statement:—

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1896-97.		1897-98.		1898-99.		1896-97.		1897-98.		1898-99.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
<i>Kingston—</i>												
Contract ...	49	905	63	861	60	928	51	878	57	735	60	783
Non-Contract	240	441	256	386	297	436	234	456	257	365	471	896
<i>Outports—</i>												
Non-Contract	63	136	69	86	48	97	98	109	162	181	139	160

28. The above statement discloses that 1,461 mails were despatched to and 1,839 received from places abroad, as against 1,333 despatched and 1,379 received during the corresponding period of the year preceding, while the number of Transit Mails, that is to say, mails which have been exchanged via Jamaica by places abroad is 422 as against 157 during the year ending 31st March, 1898.

29. The increase which has occurred in the number of mails exchanged between Jamaica and places abroad is for the most part due to the additional semi-weekly service inaugurated on 1st January, 1899, by the Boston Fruit Company in connection with their contract with the United States Government for the conveyance of mails to and from Jamaica via Boston, Baltimore and Philadelphia. By means of this admirable service this Colony has not only been able during the year to exchange mails with the United States of America via Kingston and Port Antonio but to receive and to despatch mails to the Mother Country and places via the United Kingdom, although the correspondence sent from Jamaica to England via the United States is far in excess of the mail matter received from England via the United States.

30. The direct Mail Service between the United Kingdom and the British and Foreign West Indies and with Central America, &c, has been continued to be maintained by the Steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., under Contract with the Imperial Government with that regard to efficiency and punctuality which have marked the service for so many years.

31. In addition to the opportunities afforded by the Boston Fruit Company, the Steamers of the Atlas Steam Ship Company conveyed mails regularly during the year between Jamaica and New York and to and from other places in the Republic of Columbia and other Countries in Central America. The Steamers of Messrs. J. E. Kerr & Co., were also availed of for the exchange of mails with the United States principally to and from the outports.

32. A mail Service between Jamaica and Belize, British Honduras, has also been continued to be maintained by the Steamers of the Tweedie Trading Coy., and the regular Monthly Mail Service with Halifax, Bermuda and Turks Islands has also been continued by the Steamers of Messrs. Pickford and Black.

33. The Schooners plying between Kingston and the Outports and Grand Cayman have also been used for the exchange of mails with the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.

34. From the above it will be seen that Jamaica has continued to have during the year under review ample opportunity for the frequent exchange of mail matter with the rest of the civilised world, upon the continuance of which, as I said in my last annual report, the inhabitants of this Island may fairly congratulate themselves. The expenditure in respect of the above referred to Mail Services amounted to £7,078 6s. 11d., as under:—

Proportion of Imperial Contract with Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.	£5,140	0	0	
Postage paid to Imperial Post Office	...	1,141	0	0
Transit rates for Sea and Territorial transit to other Countries		183	14	2
Gratuity at Id., for letter for Conveyance of Mails by Non-Contract Vessels		613	12	9

£7,078 6 11



*Inland Mail Conveyance.*

35. The Inland Mail Services have, I am glad to say, been continued to be performed by the respective Mail Contractors in a generally satisfactory manner.

36. In this connection I may remark that with a view to economy the Government has initiated and had under careful consideration a scheme for the future performance of the Inland Mail Services by and under the superintendence of the Public Works in all cases in which it is obvious that the service can be undertaken at a cheaper rate than by Contract which has been the system hitherto in force. To this end certain Mail Services were undertaken experimentally by the Public Works Department with such satisfactory results, due to the great interest which has been shewn in the matter by the Public Works Department, that it has been decided that the Public Works Department shall perform the service generally as far as possible a large saving of expenditure may therefore be looked forward to during the current year as a result of the change of system.

37. The following Mail Services have been discontinued in connection with the closing on the ground of economy of the Post Offices referred to in paragraphs No. 18 and No. 39 of this report :—

Chester Castle and Copso.  
Bethel Town and Lambs River.  
Mile Gully and Harry Watch.  
Do, and Maidstone,  
Walderston and Spaldings.  
St. Ann's Bay and Davis Town.  
Claremont and York Castle.  
Bull Bay and Llandewey.  
Ulster Spring and Rock Spring.  
Stewart Town and Gibraltar.  
Buff Bay and Skibo.

38. The mail coach service between Kingston and Annotto Bay was discontinued on the 31st December last, the mails between Kingston, Annotto Bay, Castleton and Enfield, being sent by the Railway, while a daily foot post service has been established between Kingston and Stony Hill via Halfway Tree and a tri-weekly foot service between Annotto Bay and Castleton.

## DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

39. The District Post Offices in existence at the close of the year under review number 150 as against 160 at the close of the preceding year, eleven Post Offices, the names of which appear hereunder, having been closed for economical reasons as stated in paragraph 18, and an office having been established at Hartlands in the Parish of St. Catherine on 1st September, 1898.

POST OFFICE.	PARISH.
1. Copso.	Hanover.
2. Lambs River	Westmoreland.
3. Harry Watch	Manchester.
4. Maidstone	Do.
5. Spaldings	Clarendon.
6. Davis Town	St. Ann.
7. Gibraltar	Do.
8. York Castle	Do.
9. Rock Spring	Trelawny.
10. Llandewey	St. Thomas.
11. Skibo	Portland.

40. The following Post Offices were closed temporarily during the year :—

Post Office.	Parish.	From	To	
Jackson Town	...	Trelawny	23rd July	27th October
Boroughbridge	...	St. Ann	29th "	9th November
Point Hill	...	St. Catherine	12th October	16th December



## MONEY ORDERS.

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

*United Kingdom.*

Year.	Jamaica Issue.		Payable in Jamaica.		Proportion of Commission accruing to Jamaica.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
1896-97	8,689	£ 31,075 0 5	1,380	£ 3,465 11 9	£ 484 9 11
1897-98	8,027	27,836 18 8	1,278	3,784 8 11	444 11 4
1898-99	7,896	27,243 15 1	1,510	4,193 8 4	438 17 8

*United States of America.*

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
1898-99	3,110	10,865 6 6	530	1,097 17 10	176 15 4

*Dominion of Canada.*

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
1898-99	472	2,960 2 9	96	329 12 7	48 17 6

*British Guiana.*

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
1898-99	104	223 8 0	82	202 2 6	3 18 0

*Barbados.*

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
1898-99	431	806 16 9	272	601 3 11	12 17 1

*Windward and Leeward Islands.*

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
1898-99	144	273 15 0	121	251 14 2	4 11 5

*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
1898-99	12	31 19 5	278	982 15 0	4 10 7

*Panama.*

From 1st Jan., 1898 to 31st March, 1898	1	7 19 0	13	68 16 0	0 9 0
1898-99	7	20 4 0	107	204 9 7	1 9 0



*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
1898-99 ...	7	11 16 8	106	243 3 9	1 9 0

*Trinidad.*

1898-99 ...	28	46 0 3	66	228 0 0	1 14 10
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42. A Summary of the above transaction shows that there has been, unlike the two years preceding an increase in the total number and amount of the Money Order Issues of Jamaica on other Countries, and that the number and amount of the drafts by other places on Jamaica continue to show an increase over the preceding year's transactions.

Jamaica Issue.	No.	Amount.
1897-98	11,994	£40,068 5 1
1898-99	12,211	42,483 4 5

Issue of other Countries payable in Jamaica:—

1897-98	2,770	7,679 8 6
1898-99	3,168	8,334 7 8

43. While, however, as stated in the preceding paragraph, there has been a net increase in the issues of Jamaica on all other Countries, I call attention to the fact that the falling off, to which I referred in my last Annual Report as well as in that for the year ending 31st March, 1897, in the drafts of this Colony on the Mother Country has continued as will be seen on a reference to the above details which show that in 1896-97, such drafts amounted to £31,075 0s. 5d., in 1897-98 to £27,836 18s. 8d. in they ear under review to £27,243 15s. 1d. While in the year 1895-96 they amounted to £34,545 15s. 7d. thus in four years there has been a decrease of £7,302, which I submit must be accepted as another indication of the depression in trade and agriculture from which the Colony has been suffering.

44. The drafts of the United Kingdom on the Colony has on the other hand been steadily increasing for a similar comparison shows that they have gone up by the sum of £1,386 in four years.

45. The drafts of Jamaica on the United States of America which last year showed a decrease of £1,632 14s. 3d. On the preceding year's transaction 1895-96, has again come up to and exceeded the average of £10,500 for the two years 1895-96 and 1896-97, the drafts during the current year having amounted to £10,865 6s. 6d.

As a result of the above stated Money Order Exchanges, net commissions to the amount of £399 9s. 11d. accrued to the colony as detailed below.

United Kingdom	...	£438 17 8
United States of America	...	176 15 4
Dominion of Canada	...	48 17 6
British Guiana	...	3 18 0
Barbados	...	12 17 1
Windward and Leeward Islands	...	4 11 5
Turks Islands	...	4 16 7
British Honduras	...	1 9 0
Panama	...	1 9 0
Trinidad	...	1 14 10
		£695 6 5
Less premium on remittances—		
United Kingdom	...	£ 172 10 0
United States	...	93 1 3
Canada	...	37 5 3
		302 16 6
		£392 9 11

46. A Direct Money Order Exchange between this Colony and that of Trinidad came into force on the 1st May, 1898.

## POSTAL ORDERS.

47. The total face value of the Postal Orders issued for sale during the year amounted to 29,474 10s. 0d. as against £28,745 1s. 0d. for the preceding year, while the number issued is 178,385 as against 175,985.



## POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED.

Denomination.	1896-97.			1897-98.			1898-99.		
	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	14,325	358 2 6	29 16 10½	16,075	401 17 6	33 9 9½	16,150	403 15 0	23 12 11
1 0	31,675	1,583 15 0	65 19 9½	34,125	1,706 5 0	71 1 10½	35,100	1,755 0 0	73 2 6
1 6	33,600	2,520 0 0	70 0 0	34,000	2,550 0 0	70 16 8	36,050	2,703 15 0	75 2 1
2 6	45,875	5,734 7 6	95 11 5½	35,125	4,390 12 6	73 3 6½	38,075	4,759 7 6	79 6 5
5 0	24,475	6,118 15 0	101 19 7	31,925	7,981 5 0	133 0 5	29,465	7,366 5 0	122 15 5½
10 0	21,185	10,542 10 0	175 14 2	24,735	12,367 10 0	206 2 6	23,520	11,760 0 0	196 0 0
	171,035	26,857 10 0	539 1 10½	175,985	29,397 10 0	687 14 9½	178,360	28,748 2 6	679 19 4½

## POSTAL ORDERS SOLD.

	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
April	2,219 3 0	2,363 12 6	2,570 3 6
May	2,281 3 0	2,358 19 0	2,470 3 0
June	2,429 15 0	2,308 11 0	2,307 13 6
July	2,198 3 6	2,480 5 0	2,285 13 6
August	2,005 5 0	2,208 18 0	2,406 4 6
September	1,991 1 6	2,359 17 0	2,329 1 6
October	2,038 0 6	2,325 7 6	2,448 18 0
November	2,160 15 0	2,480 7 6	2,508 1 0
December	2,448 4 6	2,683 1 0	2,783 6 0
January	2,096 10 0	2,364 3 6	2,339 3 6
February	2,140 15 0	2,240 11 6	2,344 12 0
March	2,468 14 0	2,571 7 6	2,681 10 0
	26,577 10 0	28,745 1 0	29,474 10 0

48. The face value of the Postal Orders sold is £29,474 10s. as against £28,745 1s. 0d. during the preceding year, being an increase of £729 9s. showing that the appreciation of the convenience by the public since the inauguration of the system continues. If the total amount of Postal Orders sold during the year under review as stated above be compared with the sales £10,433 7s. 6d. during 1890-91, the year of the commencement of the system it will be seen that there has been an increase of £19,046 3s. 6d. in nine years.

49. The Commission which accrued on account of the sale of Postal Orders is, as shown in the abstract of Collections under the head of Revenue at paragraph 6, £594 2s. 3d. as against £574 7s. 7½d. for the preceding year.

## EXPENDITURE.

50. The expenditure on account of the Post Office during the year; an abstract of which under each head of the Estimates is subjoined, while the items or details will be found in the Return of Revenue and Expenditure hereunto appended, amounts to £31,534 14s. 0½d., including the sum of £5,140 paid to the Imperial Exchequer by the Crown Agents for the Colonies share of the subsidy to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the Mail Service between the United Kingdom and the British and Foreign West Indies.

51. Hitherto as pointed out in the 57th paragraph of my last Annual Report it has not been the practice to charge the entire payment of £5,140 against the Post Office but only £3,000—the balance of £2,140 being brought to account under the head of Miscellaneous—but it has been decided that during the year under review and in future the whole amount shall be included in the Post Office Estimate and appear as an item of expenditure in the accounts of the Department.

52. I have therefore for the purpose of comparison included the item in the following abstract of expenditure for the two years preceding under a separate sub-head of Mail Conveyance and in the total expenditure.



Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.			Services.	Total.
	Head Offices.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.	Proportion of Royal Mail Contract with Imperial Government.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97	5,193 12 7	2,681 8 9	9,841 2 11	2,289 1 8	5,140 0 0	5,217 17 1½	30,463 3 0½
1897-98	5,268 1 4	2,965 2 8	10,479 6 11	859 0 3	5,140 0 0	5,060 17 6	29,772 8 8
1898-99	5,388 1 10	3,014 11 5	10,552 4 0	1,938 6 11	5,140 0 0	5,001 9 10½	31,134 14 0½

53. The net increase of £1,362 5s. 4½d. in the expenditure over the preceding year is explained thus:—

<i>Increase—</i>			
Salaries—Head Office	...	£120	0 6
“ District Offices	...	49	8 9
Mail Conveyance—Inland	...	172	17 1
“ “ Ocean	...	1,079	6 8
		<u>£1,421</u>	<u>13 0</u>
<i>Decrease—</i>			
Other Charges	...	59	7 7½
		<u>£1,362</u>	<u>5 4½</u>

54. The increase under the head of the Salaries at the Head Office is in respect of the annual increments to the salaries of the clerical and subordinate staff at the General Post Office, Kingston, while that under the head of District Offices is the result of the establishment during 1897-98 of the District Post Offices mentioned at paragraph 39 of my last Annual Report, and of the opening of a Post Office at Hartlands in the parish of St. Catherine, as well as of an increase to the salary of the P. M. at Bluefields P. O. The closing of the District Post Offices already referred to has resulted in a decrease of about £126 during the current year.

55. The increase under Inland Mail Conveyance is due to the payment to the Jamaica Railway Company for conveyance of the Mails from the United States, &c., which are delivered at Port Antonio by the Boston Fruit Co., as a result of the regular service under their contract with the United States Government already referred to at paragraph 29. Formerly the payments made appeared in the item of Contingencies under the head of “Other Charges.”

56. The increase under the head of Ocean Mail Conveyance relates to the adjustment of the account between this Colony and the Imperial Post Office, for territorial and sea transit rates to the United Kingdom and other places under the terms of the Postal Union Treaty.

57. In addition to the remittance of £1,141 which was made to the Imperial Post Office for sea and territorial transit rates, the following sums were also paid to the undermentioned Countries, viz:—

United States	...	£171	12 2
Belgium	...	4	4 8
British Guiana	...	0	8 3
Canada	...	4	13 1
		<u>£180</u>	<u>18 2</u>

*Mail Coaches—*

58. I give below a statement of the earnings for passengers' fares and parcels of the respective lines of Mail Coaches as compared with the earnings for the preceding two years:—

I.—Kingston and Montego Bay.

YEAR.	Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97	458 11 3	373 19 3	832 10 6
1897-98	330 12 0	218 11 3	549 3 3
1898-99	343 8 3	202 1 9	545 10 0



II.—*Montego Bay and Luces.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97	...	130 16 0	15 19 6	146 15 0
1897-98	...	121 0 0	12 15 3	133 15 3
1898-99	...	116 10 0	9 14 6	125 4 6

III.—*Kingston and Port Antonio.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97	...	223 1 6	243 17 6	466 19 0
1897-98	...	147 5 0	123 6 3	270 11 3
1898-99	...	163 0 0	119 13 9	282 13 9

IV.—*Kingston and Annotto Bay.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97	...	57 0 6	49 9 0	106 9 6
1897-98	...	11 0 0	26 13 6	37 13 6
1898-99	...	11 15 0	23 18 0	35 13 0

V.—*Kingston and Gordon Town.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97	...	71 3 6	7 15 6	78 19 0
1897-98	...	70 5 0	8 3 3	78 8 3
1898-99	...	54 9 0	8 11 6	63 0 6

VI.—*Kingston and Chapelton.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896-97	...	...	9 18 6	9 18 6
1897-98	...	...	19 0 6	19 0 6
1898-99	...	...	17 14 9	17 14 9



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
1898-99 ...	...	26 15 6	26 15 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
1898-99 ...	...	50 5 3	50 5 3

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
1898-99 ...	...	2 17 0	2 17 0

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
1898-99 ...	...	42 16 6	42 16 6

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
1898-99 ...	...	77 13 6	77 13 6



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
1898-99	...	...	42 11 9	42 11 9

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
1898-99	...	37 0 0	41 0 6	78 0 6

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
1898-99	...	...	50 9 3	50 9 3

59. Summarizing the above details it appears that the total earnings are as under :—

Passengers' Fares	...	£725 2 3
Parcels	...	716 3 6

£1,441 5 9

being a decrease on the preceding years earnings of £190 16s. 9d.

60. The decrease has, it will be seen, taken place under the head of Passengers, but it is not due to any further decrease in the number of passengers conveyed so far as I am aware, but rather to the fact that in the cases of the Mail Coach Services between Montpelier and Savanna-la-Mar, Ipswich and Black River, and Richmond and Port Maria, the Post Office has ceased to collect the fares on passengers which are collected by the Mail Contractors, therefore such collections which amounted last year to the sum of £187 7s. 0d. and included in the above transactions for that period do not appear in the transactions of the year under review.

61. Of the above stated collections the sum of £336 was placed to the credit of the Revenue. The earnings of the Mail Coaches between Ewarton and Montego Bay, Kingston and Port Antonio, Kingston and Gordon Town and St. Ann's Bay, and Port Maria have been credited to the respective Mail Contractors after deducting 10 per cent. for services performed at the booking agencies at the General Post Office, Kingston, and at the several District Post Offices. In the case of the other lines of Coaches the Mail Contractors are only entitled to receive credit for the Passengers' fares subject to a deduction of 10 per cent., the freight on parcels being collected and retained by the Post Office.

62. The Coach Service which was run in connexion with the Mail Service between Kingston and Annotto Bay ceased with the discontinuance of that Mail Service as referred to in paragraph 38.



## RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

63. The number of letters, &c., which were dealt with in the Returned Letter Branch during the year under review, is as under:—

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to the United Kingdom ...	1,123	287
“ “ to other Countries ...	2,460	908
“ “ to writers in the Island ...	23,210	2,953
“ destroyed, being illegible or anonymous ...	3,593	726
“ destroyed, Writers not having been found ...	5,001	1,020
Newspapers returned to the publishers ...	10,445	—

64. The amount of unpaid postage on unclaimed Mail matter which could not be recovered and had to be written off is £73 8s. 11d.

65. Value to the amount of £272 10s. 11d. was found in 1,718 articles of Mail matter and was reposted under registered covers.

66. I have been so often asked the question as to what guarantee there is that the value contained in unclaimed letters, &c., which are not registered is duly accounted for that I embrace this opportunity to explain that before the letters, &c., are returned and reposted every letter is opened in the presence of two clerks who affix their signatures to the envelope or cover and should value be found the fact is recorded and the article treated and accounted for thereafter as if it had been registered originally—non-accounting or miscarriage can therefore hardly take place except by collusion.

67. The promptitude in the return of unclaimed Mail matter which it became my pleasure to report in my two previous reports has, I am glad to say, continued during the year as a result of the increase of the staff at the General Post Office by means of the Auxiliary Female Clerk system without any additional charge on the Estimates.

## TELEGRAPHS.

68. The following gives the details of the collections on account of Telegraphs as compared with those of the two years preceding:—

	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stamps sold ...	5,469 10 9	5,076 12 3	5,982 14 3
Additional charge on Books containing Message Forms ...	6 8 6	6 0 3	5 14 9
Fees for opening Stations out of the Office Hours ...	4 0 0	3 0 0	113 0 0
	5,479 19 3	5,085 12 6	6,101 9 0

69. As shewn in my general remarks under the head of “Revenue” the above comparison shows an increase of £1,015 16s. 6d. in Telegraph Receipts over those of the preceding year which had like the Postal Receipts suffered from the depression in trade and agriculture which then existed. The increase under the head of Stamps sold is for the most part if not entirely due to the access of business which prevailed during the month of April to July 1898, as a result of the Spanish American war, which taxed the energies of the Telegraph Branch of this Department to a very considerable extent, but I am glad to say that the Branch was quite equal to the occasion and I take this opportunity to bear testimony to the very efficient and cheerful manner in which the staff at the Head Station, at Port Antonio and at the intermediate stations responded to the call. The Clerks were often and sometimes continually employed at nights, if not in the actual transmission of messages, in being on the *qui vive* to accept, receive and despatch the official and the very voluminous News Messages which have been exchanged between Cuba and the United States via Port Antonio. I understand that the War Correspondents and Associated Press Agents expressed themselves as being satisfied at the very expeditious manner in which their messages were forwarded looking to the fact that we possess only a single line and instruments and that the work was performed at all hours of the night and day, without any relay night staff.

70. In the desire to expedite the transmission of the messages and to grant facilities great care had to be exercised in preventing any undue preference as well as in avoiding any delay in the transmission of public messages which of course always take precedence of Press Messages except the latter be paid at the ordinary rate.

71. The same cause has led to the increase of £110 for the fees for opening the Stations out of office hours as in each case that each Newspaper Correspondent or other person required the offices to be kept open he had to pay a fee of 20s. per hour to meet the cost of the remuneration to the Telegraph Operators for services performed out of office hours.

72. I append the usual Return shewing the total number of messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station such number is 97,368 as against 87,545 during the year 1897-98 being 9,823 increase which as in the case of the receipts is due, for the most part, to the work caused by the Spanish American war.



73. In addition to the above stated collections for Inland Telegrams this Department collected at the several District Telegraph Stations the sum of £2,566 11s. 11d. of which the sum of £2,177 18s. 3d. was on account and lodged to the credit of the Direct Cable Company and £388 13s. 8d. on account and lodged to the credit of the West India and Panama Cable Company.

74. The expenditure by the Post Office for the working expenses of the Telegraph Service during the year under review is £7,707 11s. 4d. If the sum of £1,331 7s. 0d. expended by the Public Works Department in maintaining the lines, be added the total expenditure will be found to be £9,039 9s. 2d. and if the total collections of £6,101 9s. 0d. be deducted the cost of the Telegraph Service to the Island during the year under review is £2,938 0s. 2d. as against £4,243 during the preceding year.

75. I furnish below a Statement of the Telegraph expenditure under each head as compared with the similar expenditure during the years 1895-96 and 1896-97, the details will be found in the Return of Revenue and Expenditure in the Appendix.

Year.		1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	...	4,399 12 1	4,518 5 9	4,519 1 10
Wages	...	867 13 1	880 15 3	889 2 6
Services	...	2,289 3 3	2,287 4 3	2,299 7 0
		7,556 8 5	7,686 5 3	7,707 11 4

76. The above comparison shows that the expenditure during the year under review is in excess by the sum of £21 6s. 1d. of that for the year preceding, a small increase which does not appear to call for any comment, but which may be explained thus:—

Salaries	...	£0 16 1
Wages	...	8 7 3
Services	...	12 2 9
		£21 6 1

77. The number of Telegraph Stations in existence at the end of the year under remark is the same as at the end of the preceding year, viz., 69.

78. A temporary Telegraph Station was, as is customary, placed under the Stand at the Race Meeting which took place on the Race course, Kingston, on the 13th, 14th and 15th December last.

79. The training of candidates for employment in the Post Office and Telegraph Services has been continued at the Head Office, Kingston, and at some of the District Stations. Only two candidates were admitted during the year, as owing to the number of competents, 43, awaiting employment, it has become necessary to close the list and to refuse all applications which have been many, the service apparently being very attractive to young women seeking employment.

80. Of the 43 competent candidates for employment on the 31st March last, 16 were filling the places of permanent Postmistresses and Operators who had been granted leave of absence, while 27 were patiently awaiting employment; 7 of the learners passed the qualifying examination during the year and were placed on the competent list.

81. As I have repeatedly remarked, this staff of competent learners have proved most useful as auxiliaries for filling the places of permanent Postmistresses and Operators in times of illness, and I again bear testimony to their good conduct and to the prompt and cheerful manner in which they have carried out the instructions, sometimes at very short notice, to proceed to the outstations, in some cases long distances, entailing travelling at night, to take up temporary appointment as Postmistresses or Assistant Postmistresses and Telegraph Operators, as well as to the efficient manner in which they discharge their duties while acting. I am glad to be able to say that the above remarks as to good conduct and efficiency apply equally as a whole to the permanent staff of Postmistresses and Telegraph Operators and their Assistants.

#### PARCEL POST.

82. The following is a comparative statement of the Parcel Post transactions during the three years ending 31st March, 1899.



## PARCELS RECEIVED.

From	Consignments.			Parcels.			Import Duty Collected.		
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
United Kingdom ...	26	26	26	9,277	8,422	7,928	£ s. d. 1,437 12 9	£ s. d. 1,147 1 1½	£ s. d. 1,837 9 5
British West Indies	115	112	115	267	265	304	11 9 9	9 2 5	14 5 1
United States of America ...	106	164	239	3,818	2,436	2,843	141 17 4	161 13 2	392 4 4
Dominion of Canada	12	13	12	146	171	169	7 19 6	7 11 1	16 9 8
Turks Island ...	...	...	9	...	...	32	...	...	0 4 0
Belize ...	...	...	3	...	...	5	...	...	0 14 9
	259	315	404	13,508	11,294	11,281	1,598 19 4	1,325 7 9½	2,261 7 3

	Postage Accrued to Jamaica.			Declared Value of Parcel.		
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	565 15 9½	450 6 8	395 9 5	16,612 0 9½	12,229 16 9½	9,526 3 11½
British West Indies	...	...	...	135 10 11½	100 6 7	75 11 6½
United States of America ...	...	...	...	2,012 0 5	2,219 19 6	2,195 4 1
Dominion of Canada	0 18 4	3 13 1½	3 5 2½	85 18 6	138 1 3	84 3 5
Turks Island ...	...	...	1 3 11½	...	...	12 14 9
Belize ...	...	...	...	...	...	3 5 8
	566 14 1½	453 19 9½	399 18 7	18,845 10 8	14,688 4 1½	11,897 3 5

## PARCELS DESPATCHED.

	Consignments.			Parcels.			Postage Accrued to Jamaica.		
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	28	27	26	2,594	2,219	2,292	83 12 1½	71 8 0	73 13 9½
British West Indies	139	133	161	380	323	430	14 11 8	14 1 8	14 4 0
United States of America ...	85	65	76	543	559	618	24 17 6	24 14 6	29 7 6
Dominion of Canada	12	13	12	88	252	108	1 11 10½	8 3 11½	2 14 4½
Turks Island ...	...	...	16	...	...	159	...	...	5 15 1½
Belize ...	...	...	7	...	...	13	...	...	0 16 8
	264	238	298	3,605	3,353	3,620	124 13 2	118 8 1½	126 11 5½



	Declared Value of Parcels.		
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	2,554 18 1½	2,591 16 0½	2,604 3 0½
British West Indies ...	219 3 6½	217 7 0½	233 16 10
United States of America ...	455 17 7	300 18 9½	321 5 4
Dominion of Canada ...	43 15 2	179 10 0	35 1 5
Turks Island ...	...	...	150 12 4½
Belize ...	...	...	9 7 10
	3,273 14 5	3,289 11 10½	3,354 6 10

83. As a result of the Parcel Post Exchanges between Jamaica, United Kingdom and other places abroad the amount which accrued to Jamaica for Postages and Customs Duties is £2,787 17s. 3½d. under, as against £1,325 15s. 6½d. which accrued during the year preceding :-

Share of Postages on parcels received ...	£399 18 7
Share of Postages on parcels despatched ...	126 11 5½
Customs Duties ...	2,261 7 3
	<u>£2,787 17 3½</u>

84. The total number of parcels dealt with is 14,891—the number despatched being 3,620 and received 11,281. I am glad to be able to record again that there has not been a single case of miscarriage in this Colony of a parcel, an unbroken record since the commencement of the system in October, 1885, which I submit is very satisfactory.

I have, &c.,

GEO. H. PEARCE, Postmaster for Jamaica.

To Honourable the Colonial Secretary,



DR.		Return showing the Gross Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office			
Post Office—		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received at District Post Offices		472	17	4½	
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received at General Post Office		73	19	2½	
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received from the United Kingdom		156	10	0½	
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received from other Countries		199	7	4	
Stamps sold by Department	...	15,748	7	3	
Stamp sold by Stamp Commissioner	...	5,326	15	11	
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	...	93	11	0	
Fees for Conveyance of Private Letter Bags	...	19	19	0	
Commissions on Money Orders	...	392	9	11	
Fees for detention of Country Letters per Packet, for delivery in Kingston		8	1	0	
Fine Account	...	0	8	0	
Commission on Mail Coach Collections	...	11	15	5	
Commission on Postal Orders sold	...	594	2	3	
Mail Coach Collections	...	336	0	0	23,434 3 8½
TELEGRAPHS—					
Stamps sold	...	5,982	14	3	
Additional Charge on Books	...	5	14	9	
Fees for keeping Telegraph Offices open out of Office hours		113	0	0	6,101 9 0
				£29,535 12 8½	



## Department during the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1899.

POST OFFICE—		£	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS—							
Salary of Postmaster for Jamaica	...	700	0	0			
Salaries of Clerks	...	3,397	1	3			
Clerical assistance	...	16	4	3			
Wages of Sorters, Letter Carriers, &c.	...	1,022	12	8			
Packet Newspaper Sorters	...	146	5	1			
Salaries of District Postmistresses	...	2,952	3	5			
Messengers conveying Mails between G. P. O. and Railway, &c.	...	105	18	7			
Wages of Letter Carriers at Spanish Town	...	62	8	0	8,402	13	3
COMMISSION ON STAMPS SOLD—							
Poundage on Stamps sold by Department	...	152	9	5			
Discount on Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	...	237	12	7	390	2	0
CONVEYANCE OF MAILS—							
Contractors	...	10,368	17	6			
Ship Letter Gratuities	...	613	12	9			
Conveyance of Mails between Post Offices and Railway Stations	...	283	6	6			
Transit Rates payable to Postal Union Countries other than U. K.	...	183	14	2			
Proportion of Postage payable to United Kingdom	...	1,141	0	0	12,590	10	11
OTHER CHARGES—							
Petty Expenses	...	333	3	7			
Letter Carriers Uniform	...	143	12	10			
Water Supply, G. P. O.	...	2	16	0			
Lighting Account	...	53	8	6			
Advertising	...	52	9	8			
Mail Bags and Wrappers	...	52	0	2			
Travelling Charges	...	255	18	3			
Allowance for services out of Office hours	...	401	1	6			
Rent of Post Offices	...	768	3	1			
Twine and Wax	...	128	4	0			
Manufacture of Stamps	...	1,136	19	11			
Date Stamps and Type	...	19	6	2			
Furniture	...	26	14	11			
Stationery	...	860	9	2½			
Conveyances by Tram Car of Letter Carriers	...	26	0	0			
Manufacture of Postal Orders	...	275	18	1			
Customs Officers' Overtime in Parcels Post Office	...	28	14	6			
Winding Clocks	...	6	0	0			
Rent of Telephone	...	6	0	0			
Conveyance of Clerk from R. M. steamer at Port Royal to Kingston	...	3	7	0			
Cleaning Latrines	...	31	0	6	4,611	7	10½
POSTAL UNION CONTRIBUTION—							
Contribution to United Kingdom to meet additional loss consequent on joining Postal Union	...	...			5,140	0	0
<u>31,134 14 0½</u>							
DRAWBACK ENTRIES—							
Re-directed Letters	...	329	17	1			
Letters sent through Returned Letter Branch	...	153	8	10½			
Stamps supplied to Foreign Countries	...	6	2	0	489	7	11½
TELEGRAPH BRANCH—PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS—							
Salary of Superintendent	...	400	0	0			
Salaries of Assistants to Superintendent	...	460	2	8			
Salaries of Operators	...	3,658	19	2			
Wages of Messengers—Head Office	...	158	16	7			
Wages of Messengers—District Offices	...	730	5	11	5,408	4	4
OTHER CHARGES—							
Porterage	...	201	9	7			
Travelling Charges	...	153	16	2			
Water Supply	...	76	1	0			
Petty Expenses	...	99	19	2			
Rent of District Offices	...	905	0	4			
Messengers' Uniform	...	15	15	6			
Manufacture of Stamps, &c.,	...	134	12	6			
Services out of Office Hours	...	249	1	9			
Furniture	...	43	5	6			
Stationery	...	368	4	10			
Lighting	...	6	5	8			
Repairing Instruments	...	45	15	0	2,299	7	0
<u>7,707 11 4</u>							



Return shewing the number of Telegraphic Messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station from 1st April, 1898, to 31st March, 1899, as compared with Return from 1st April, 1897, to 31st March, 1898.

Station.	1st April, 1897, to 31st March, 1898.		1898-99.		Remarks.
	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	
Kingston	21,998	23,353	25,470	26,853	Transmitting Station
Spanish Town	2,063	2,175	1,979	2,263	
Bog Walk	445	460	827	757	
Linstead	828	757	749	835	" "
Ewarton	613	495	485	443	
Moneague	1,061	1,173	808	1,100	
Claremont	449	515	465	428	
St. Ann's Bay	3,564	3,306	3,780	3,699	" "
Runaway Bay	326	305	387	409	
Dry Harbour	449	474	377	445	" "
Brown's Town	1,847	1,929	1,956	1,984	" "
Cave Valley	216	272	247	315	
Stewart Town	259	238	192	217	
Ulster Spring	313	304	228	235	
Kio Bueno	291	247	193	216	
Duncans	417	411	506	473	
Falmouth	2,386	2,380	2,462	2,458	
Montego Bay	6,581	6,186	6,965	6,268	" "
Ramble	469	466	389	428	
Lucas	2,179	2,140	2,252	2,228	
Green Island	272	340	282	308	
Grange Hill	209	172	223	221	
Sav.-la-Mar	2,797	2,659	2,810	2,688	" "
White House	213	208	179	142	
Black River	2,870	2,810	2,545	2,503	
Middle Quarters	395	461	440	463	
Santa Cruz	464	460	437	490	" "
Malvern	534	590	614	599	
Mandeville	2,537	2,496	2,344	2,435	" "
Newport	393	417	411	529	
Shooter's Hill	387	520	512	763	" "
Mile Gully	295	273	347	392	
Balaclava	552	576	732	744	
Christiana	321	395	275	327	
Porus	1,150	1,290	1,290	1,297	
May Pen	947	787	744	724	" "
Chapelton	1,080	1,118	950	993	" "
Alley	719	711	682	689	
Salt River	132	162	157	176	
Milk River	451	563	744	783	
Old Harbour	962	1,015	893	1,008	
Yallahs	258	239	253	253	
Morant Bay	1,484	1,566	1,647	1,771	" "
B. M. Valley	148	115	168	140	
Trinity Villa	286	277	175	194	
Port Morant	430	449	376	432	
Bowden	411	238	524	331	
Bath	316	323	240	249	" "
P. G. River	402	493	498	439	
Manchioneal	463	406	494	509	
Priestman's River	243	283	206	226	
Port Antonio	5,682	4,223	7,775	6,103	" "
St. Margaret's Bay	185	206	196	245	
Hope Bay	270	274	368	407	
Buff Bay	747	663	926	811	
Annotto Bay	2,068	1,799	2,441	2,168	" "
Highgate	461	447	427	431	
Port Maria	3,698	3,641	4,506	4,379	
Oracabessa	493	538	544	631	" "
Retreat	258	248	283	244	
Gayle	317	390	305	344	
Ocho Rios	626	657	836	862	
Port Royal	657	690	1,249	1,054	
Up-Park Camp	519	644	649	766	
Halfway Tree	654	625	629	659	
Gordon Town	384	327	308	350	
Cold Spring	543	460	732	596	
Stony Hill	135	256	119	227	
Castleton	98	123	101	100	
Race Course	34	19	25	24	Opened 13th, 14th, & 15th Dec., '98.
Railway	1,530	1,497	2,153	2,129	
Total	87,545	87,545	97,368	97,368	