



# Supplement to the Jamaica Gazette.

NEW SERIES—VOL. XXIII.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1900.

No. 20.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 13th October, 1900.

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT directs the publication, for general information, of the following Report on the working of the Postal and Telegraph Department during the year ended on the 31st March, 1900.

By Command,

PHILIP C. CORK, Acting Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office, 22nd September, 1900.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the thirty-second Annual Report of this Department, being that for the financial year ending 31st March, 1900

## REVENUE.

2. The Cash Receipts during the year amount to £26,926 10s. 4d. under the following heads:—

Postal	...	...	£21,296 13 4
Telegraphs	...	...	5,629 17 0
			£26,926 10 4

3. The above stated Receipts are less than the Estimates for the corresponding period by the sum of £203 6s. 8d. under the head of "Postages," and by £299 3s. 0d. under the head of "Telegraphs." If the Cash Receipts be compared with those of the year 1898-99, it will be ascertained that there has been a falling off to the extent of £1,725 18s. 5½d; the sum of £1,254 6s. 5½d. being in respect of Postages, and £471 12s. 0d. under the head of Telegraphs.

4. In addition to the earnings of the Post Office, as shown above by the Cash Collections for prepaid and unpaid mail matter, the department conveyed under the "franking privilege," which was re-established on the 1st January, 1898, official mail matter, the estimated annual value of the postage on which is £2,500. If this sum, therefore, be added to the cash receipts, it will result that the total earnings of the Post Office may be stated at £23,796 12s. 4d. I submit that in considering the expenditure of the Post Office in relation to its receipts, it is only fair and equitable to take into account the value of any service performed for the Government free of charge.

5. The decrease which has occurred in the Postal Collections must undoubtedly be attributed to the reduction from 2½ per half-ounce to 1d. per half-ounce in the *letter-rate* of postage to the United Kingdom and to certain British Possessions and Protectorates, which took effect on the 24th May, 1899, Her Majesty's Birthday, under the authority of His Excellency the Governor.

6. The Imperial Penny Postage Scheme or System had been inaugurated in the United Kingdom and most of Her Majesty's Possessions on the 25th December, 1898, Christmas Day, but, as pointed out in the 8th paragraph of my last annual report, Jamaica had not then given its adhesion.

7. The question of the further loss which would result from the reduction had to be carefully considered, and it was decided that it was not in the interest of the Colony, in view of the generally depressed state of its finances, to further reduce the letter rate of postage. Upon a re-consideration of the matter, however, invited by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, it was determined that the further loss which might be lessened by a probable increase in the number of letters, should not any

longer debar this Colony from taking part in a scheme which had been agreed to, and accepted by other parts of the British Empire.

8 The following is the usual abstract of the postal collections under each head of Revenue, as compared with similar collections during 1897-98, 1898-99 :—

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.
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	27,652 8 9½
1899-1900 ...	20,125 12 4	378 18 10	634 19 6	5,629 17 0	157 2 8	26,926 10 4

9. I also, give, hereunder, the usual approximate analysis of the collections under the head of postages :—

Year.	Packet Postages.	Inland Postages.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
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
1899-1900 ..	3,649 7 4½	16,476 4 11½	20,125 12 4

10. The above approximate analysis results in disclosing that in addition to the decrease which has occurred in the collections under Packet Postages, and which I have explained in the preceding paragraph there has also been a falling off of £129 15s. 0½d under the head of Inland Postages which is to be attributed to a continuance of the depression which has been taking place during the last three years in trade and agriculture and which I hope may soon pass away. I take this opportunity to remark that although the Postal Revenue has suffered as shown above by depression in trade and agriculture during the last three years it has during the last decade notwithstanding the reductions in the sea and in the Inland rates of postage exhibited a remarkable resilience, for in the year 1890-91 the total Postal Revenue amounts to £17,637 2s. 7½d, including the postage on official mail matter which was then prepaid by Official Postage Stamps, while during the year under review, as shown above the collections amount to £21,296 13s. 4d., not including "Official Postages" estimated as already shown as £2,500 per annum, being an increase within the period 1890 to 1900 of £3,657 10s. 8½d. Which if added to the Official Postages will make a total increase of £6,157 10s. 8½d. This I submit may be accepted as fairly satisfactory and as showing that the Public have appreciated and taken advantage of the increased postal facilities resulting from Railway Extension, reduced postage, sea and Inland, and increased number of Post Offices as well as of Telegraph Stations.

11. The Postal Receipts include the sum of £265 17s. 5d for the freight on the parcels conveyed by the Mail Coaches subsidized by the Government for the conveyance of mails and parcels. As explained in previous reports this is a new source of Revenue resulting from the expiration, or determination, of certain Mail Coach Contracts of which advantage has been taken to make the freight on parcels which had hitherto been credited to the Contractor accrue to the Revenue—the Contractor, when permitted to convey passengers by a Mail Coach is now only credited with the passenger fare. This source of Revenue will be more profitable still when certain other Mail Coach Contracts fall in and are either contracted for, or undertaken, by the Public Works Department; and as the parcel service may be extended to other offices.

12. The receipts on account of Commissions on Money Orders shew a decrease of £13 11s. 1d on transactions of the year preceding.

13. The Postal Order Commissions have continued to increase—they are in excess of the sum collected during 1898-99 by £40 17s. 3d.

14. The Miscellaneous Receipts exceed those of the year preceding by the sum of £31 9s. 3d. and have been derived from the following sources :—

Rent of Private Letter Boxes ..	£63 12 0
Do. do. Bags ..	66 17 4
Mail Coach Commissions ..	13 12 8
Surplus Cash Money Orders ..	13 0 8
	<hr/>
	£157 2 8

15. The total face value of the postage stamps, post cards and newspaper wrappers which were sold during the year under review, is £19,547 18s. 4d., of which £19,041 6s. 1d. was disposed of at the General Post Office, Kingston, while the Stamp Commissioner sold to the authorised Vendors at 5 per cent and 2½ per cent. discount the amount of £506 12s. 3d. as against £15,748 7s. 3d. sold by the Post Office, and £5,326 15s. 11d. by the Stamp Commissioner during the preceding year 1898-99.

The large increase in the Post Office sales and diminution in those by the Stamp Commissioner are the result of the decision by the Government and given effect to during the year, to economise by reducing the number of Stamp Vendors to whom postage stamps had hitherto been sold by the Stamp Commissioner at 5 per cent. discount, and to reduce the discount to 2½ per cent. The economy thus effected during the year is disclosed by the payment which this Department has made to the Stamp Commissioner for discount allowed to vendors, *i. e.*, £73 0s. 5d. as against £237 12s. 7d. for the previous year: the amount saved being £164 12s. 2d. On the other hand, by reason of the increased Post Office sales the poundage of 1 per cent. allowed at the General Post Office and to District Postmasters on the sale of postage stamps has been increased by the sum of £31 8s. 4d. the net economy resulting from the change being £133 3s. 10d.

16. Of the total amount of postage stamps sold, as shown above, the Post Office accounted to the Stamp Commissioner for the sum of £1,170, being the estimated annual amount of adhesive postage stamps which were used by the public in payment of Revenue Stamp duties.

17. In addition to the sale of Postage Stamps at District Post Offices, the Post Office has been required, during the year to undertake *generally*, the sale of "Impressed Revenue Stamps," which was, hitherto, limited to certain Districts Post Offices and to some of the public who had been appointed Stamp Distributors, and also to undertake the sale of "Judicial Stamps" for payment of Court Fees at the District Post Offices in the more important Towns and in the other districts where the Post Offices are in proximity to the Court Stations.

18. The system of selling Adhesive Stamps at all District Post Offices came into force with the coming into operation of the new Stamp Law on the 1st August, 1899, while the sale of Judicial Stamps was begun at the District Post Offices on the 1st November, 1899.

19. Impressed Stamps to the face value of £947 18s. 1½d. were issued for sale at District Post Offices between the 1st July and the 31st March last, of which the sum of £230 6s. 8½d. was sold and accounted for to the Stamp Commissioner.

20. Judicial Stamps to the face value of £1,263 10s. have also been supplied to the selected District Post Offices between October and March last, the amount sold being £600 16s. 6d.

21. With the exception of one or two complaints which might have been expected, and which are inseparable from the inauguration of any new system, the public convenience appears to have been and is being met, and both systems appear to be working smoothly.

22. I would take this opportunity to point out that the Adhesive and the Judicial Stamps can also be purchased from the Collectors of Taxes if they cannot at any time be obtained at contiguous District Post Offices.

23. The Adhesive and Revenue Stamps which are supplied to District Post Offices are as under:

Description.	Value of			Value of Paper.			Total value to be		
	Impressed Stamp.			Value of Paper.			Collected.		
Blank Slips for Onepenny	0	0	1	No	charge.	0	0	1	
Ditto Twopence	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Ditto Threepence	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	
Ditto Sixpence	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	
Ditto Ninepence	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	9	
Ditto One Shilling	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Ditto One Shilling and Sixpence	0	1	6	0	0	1½	0	1 7½	
Ditto Two Shillings	0	2	0	0	0	1½	0	2 1½	
Ditto Three Shillings	0	3	0	0	0	1½	0	3 1½	
Ditto Four Shillings	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	4 2	
Ditto Five Shillings	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	5 2	
Ditto Six Shillings	0	6	0	0	0	2	0	6 2	
Foreign Bills of Lading, per set of two	0	1	6	0	0	6	0	2 0	
Coastwise Bills of Lading, each	0	0	3	0	0	1½	0	4½	
Foreign Bills of Exchange, per set of two	0	0	3	0	0	6	0	9	
Ditto " "	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	1 0	
Ditto " "	0	0	9	0	0	6	0	1 3	
Ditto " "	0	1	6	0	0	6	0	2 0	
Ditto " "	0	3	0	0	0	6	0	3 6	
Ditto " "	0	4	6	0	0	6	0	5 0	
Ditto " "	0	6	0	0	0	6	0	6 6	
Ditto " "	0	7	6	0	0	6	0	8 0	
Ditto " "	0	9	0	0	0	6	0	9 6	
Ditto " "	0	10	6	0	0	6	0	11 0	
Diagram forms each	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	2 3	
Surveyors' Notice Forms " "	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1 1	
Title Forms " "	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	1 6	
Ditto " "	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2 0	
Ditto " "	0	1	6	0	1	0	0	2 6	
Ditto " "	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3 0	
Ditto " "	0	2	6	0	1	0	0	3 6	
Ditto " "	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	6 0	
Ditto " "	0	7	6	0	1	0	0	8 6	
Ditto " "	0	10	0	0	1	0	0	11 0	
Ditto " "	0	12	6	0	1	0	0	13 6	
Ditto " "	0	15	0	0	1	0	0	16 0	
Ditto " "	0	17	6	0	1	0	0	18 6	
Ditto " "	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1 0	

24. As complaint has been made that Impressed Revenue Stamps of higher values cannot be obtained at the District Post Offices, I take this opportunity to remark, for the information of the Public, that it has not been considered expedient, were it practicable or possible, to supply *each* District Post Office with the higher values, since it is not easy to fix a limit, or to foresee what may be the requirements of the Public. If therefore an adhesive slip or other impressed stamp document cannot be obtained at a District Post Office or at a Collectorate in the vicinity, the District Postmaster is authorised, at the instance of the party requiring it to make a special requisition for the Stamp which will, if possible, be supplied by the return of post, or the Stamp Commissioner will similarly supply the want, if the application be accompanied by the face value of the Stamp.

25. The practice of limiting the supply of Impressed Stamps to District Post Offices is based upon the similar practice which exists in the Mother Country, with this exception, that in this Colony where the application is made through a District Postmaster, the applicant is not required to pay until the Stamp has been supplied—in the United Kingdom the application *must* be accompanied by the money.

26. I submit also that the practice has been justified by the eight month's experience during the year under review, since there was, of the £947 18s. 1½d which had been issued for sale, the sum of £717 11s. 5d. remaining unsold and in the hands of the District Postmasters on the 31st March last.

## CIRCULATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

27. The total number of Letters and Post Cards which are estimated to have passed through the General Post Office, Kingston, and each District Post Office during the year under review; the estimates as previously stated are based on four "counts" taken during one week in each quarter.

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900
<i>Inland Mails—</i>						
<i>Ordinary Letters—</i>						
Public ..	1,298,167	1,192,269	1,247,974	1,330,511	1,448,746	1,343,331
Official ..	134,096	120,731	125,411	103,948	111,761	111,693
Post Cards ..	27,325	23,985	26,286	22,295	27,963	23,777
<i>Registered Letters—</i>						
Public ..	13,734	17,111	18,121	68,652	70,066	73,379
Official ..	23,734	25,469	26,450	18,660	19,137	16,943
<i>Ocean Mails.—By Vessels under Contract—</i>						
United Kingdom—						
Ordinary Letters ..	157,696	152,473	127,385	202,138	195,737	208,780
Post Cards ..	3,641	5,245	4,771	1,400	1,400	1,400
Inter-Colonial, B.W.I., &c.—						
Ordinary Letters ..	51,015	49,256	50,669	92,781	93,381	88,379
Post Cards ..	299	394	316	1,006	1,032	687
<i>By Vessels not Contract—</i>						
United States of America ..						
Ordinary Letters ..	90,872	113,215	115,782	118,816	119,875	139,006
Post Cards ..	2,737	3,878	3,669	1,902	2,572	2,441
Other Countries—						
Ordinary Letters ..	56,905	59,006	98,850	9,050	18,064	35,861
Post Cards ..	1,530	2,697	2,257	36	62	133
Registered Letters, Packet ..	13,529	13,912	17,605	10,471	11,115	15,679
	1,875,28.	1,779,641	1,865,546	1,981,666	2,120,911	2,061,468

*At District Post Offices.*

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Ordinary Letters ..	1,062,750	1,014,718	1,075,152
Post Cards ..	31,499	32,642	36,894
Registered Letters ..	28,996	32,711	34,290
	1,123,245	1,080,071	1,146,336

28. From the above approximate estimate it appears that 5,073,350 Letters and Post Cards passed through the General Post Office, Kingston, and the several District Post Offices. The number of registered articles of mail matter which were dealt with being 202,467, and is in excess by 12,946 of the number received and despatched during the year preceding.

29. This increase which is annually taking place in the number of Registered Letters received and despatched is very satisfactory to me, because it tends to show that the public have taken to heart the many "homilies" I have written in past Annual Reports, in the endeavour to point out the risk resulting from sending through the post unregistered packets containing money or other value. During the year under review, and the two years preceding, with which the figures in this report are stated in comparison the number of registered articles received and despatched amount to over half a million without there having been a single case of miscarriage or loss. This I submit must satisfy the most incredulous, or sceptical person, as to the safety afforded by the system of registration and that the experience quoted bears ample testimony to the general honesty of the Post Office employees—I again place this on record with a great deal of pleasure, for it is one which will bear, I think, the test of comparison with any other Post Office in the world; and I hope that the public will read this and be induced to accept the advice given in this and in my other reports, namely to register every packet which they may post containing money or any other value; the registration fee is only 2d and I am of the opinion that the absolute safety as shewn above justifies the expenditure.

30. The number of complaints of alleged miscarriages which have been received during the year is 261 and continue, I am glad to be able to report, to bear but a small proportion to the total number of letters, &c. which have been transmitted by post. In not a single case, and careful enquiry has been made into each complaint, has there been any direct evidence that the miscarriage occurred in the Post Office, while on the other hand, there has been, in some cases, actual testimony to show that the miscarriage did not take place in the Post Office. In making this record again I repeat that I do not thereby claim infallibility for the Post Office but merely ask for charity from those who might otherwise be prone to believe, without thought or consideration, that when miscarriages do take place, it must inevitably be in the Post Office and leave entirely out of their consideration the fact that the articles in the course of transmission and receipt have to pass through other hands, and that miscarriage may occur from causes other than that of dishonesty.

31. In addition to the safeguards afforded by the system of registration the Colony, under the "Postal Union Insurance Agreement" and with the consent of His Excellency the Governor gave its adhesion to the system of insuring letters to and from the United Kingdom and certain other Countries: the fee for Insurance and the limit of compensation are as under:—

Fee.		Limit of Compensation.		Fee.		Limit of Compensation.	
s.	d.	£		s.	d.	£	
0	8	...	12	3	2	...	72
1	2	...	24	3	8	...	84
1	8	...	36	4	2	...	96
2	2	...	48	4	8	...	108
2	8	...	60	5	2	...	120

32. The system was inaugurated here on the 1st November last and the relative terms and conditions have been duly advertised and been made known through each District Post Office. The extent to which the system has been availed of by the public is that 11 letters with declared value to the amount of £504 9s. 0d. have been despatched while 9 with declared value amounting to £211 19s. have been received.

#### OCEAN MAILS.

33. I subjoin a statement giving the number of Contract as well as Non-Contract, vessels which conveyed Mails to and from Jamaica during the year under review as compared with the two years previously as well as the number of Mails conveyed.

	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1997-98.		1898-99.		1899-1900.		1897-98.		1898-99.		1899-1900.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
<i>Kingston—</i>												
Contract ...	63	861	60	928	50	700	57	735	60	783	52	853
Non-Contract	256	386	297	436	310	742	257	365	471	896	496	830
<i>Outports—</i>												
Non-Contract	69	86	48	97	63	63	162	181	139	160	202	280

34. The number of Mails received and despatched, is 3,468 as against 3,300 received and despatched during the year preceding. The number of transit Mails which were exchanged by other Countries via Jamaica is 247.

35. The Mails which have been despatched and received by contract vessels have been conveyed by the steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company which have continued to perform under contract with the Imperial Government, the Mail Services between Jamaica, the United Kingdom, the British and Foreign West Indies and Central America with the commendable punctuality which has marked the service for years.

36. The non-contract Mail services have principally been performed by the steamers of the United Fruit Company and by those of the Atlas Steam Ship Company. In both cases the Companies have afforded frequent opportunities for the exchange of Mails with the United States of America and with the United Kingdom via the United States and in the case of the Atlas Company also with Central America.

37. The exchanges of Mails with the United States and with the United Kingdom via the United States, by the United Fruit Company Steamers have taken place via *Boston, Baltimore and Philadelphia*, the despatches and receipt in Jamaica being from and to Kingston and Port Antonio, while the similar exchanges by the steamers of the Atlas S. S. Company have been via New York, the Mail being despatched from Kingston.

38. The "Tweedie Trading Company" has also offered frequent opportunities for the exchange of Mails with the United States of America and with Belize, British Honduras, while Messrs. Pickford and Black's Steamers have continued to run monthly and conveyed Mails between Jamaica and Halifax, Bermuda and Turks Islands.

39. Postal Communication has also been maintained with the Cayman Islands and with St. Jago de Cuba by means of schooners plying between Kingston and those places. The Atlas S. S. Co. "Adula" was availed of on a great many occasions to send and receive Mails from St. Jago de Cuba.

40. The public have taken advantage of the many opportunities which have been offered, as above shewn, to send and to receive Mail matter from the Mother Country via the United States of America, this is shewn by the fact that the number of letters sent to the United Kingdom via the United States is 58,416 while the number received is 2,558 as against 44,621 received and despatched during the year 1898-99.

41. The cost to the Colony of the above referred to Mail Services is £7,558 12s. 10d. as shewn by the following details:—

Proportion of Imperial Contract with Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.	£5,140	0	0
Postage paid to Imperial Post Office	...	1300	0
Transit rates for Sea and Territorial transit to other Countries		161	9
Gratuity at 1d., per letter for Conveyance of Mails by Non-Contract Vessels	...	957	3
			4
		<hr/>	
		£7,558	12
			10

#### INLAND MAIL CONVEYANCE.

42. There has been, as will be seen on reference to the abstract of Expenditure hereafter at paragraph 65, that a considerable economy has been effected in the expenditure for the conveyance of Mails. This saving has resulted from the decision, after careful consideration, as pointed out in paragraph 36 of my last Annual Report, of the Government to place the Inland Mail Conveyance under the Superintendence of the Public Works Department which now undertakes the performance of all Foot Post Mail Services, previously contracted for by the public, as well as all Horse Post Mail Services, in all cases in which it is ascertained that the service can be performed at a cheaper rate than if it were contracted for.

43. The change of system has been attended with satisfactory results in all respects and I bear willing testimony to the very great interest which has been shown in the matter not only by the Head of the Public Works Department but by the Superintendent of Works in the several Parishes and Districts a portion of whose duty now is to superintend the Mail Services in their respective Parishes or District. It has been of great advantage to this Department to have had the services of these Officers at disposal to whom cases of delay and other irregularities may be referred at once for independent enquiry.

44. There has not been I am glad to say, any interruption of the Mail Services by road during the year under review but during the months of November and December, 1899, and January, 1900, the Train Service between Kingston, Bog Walk and Port Antonio was temporarily interrupted as the result of heavy rains; but every effort was made by this Department to prevent inconveniences by sending the Mails by road, or by Trolley, between the places on the Railway line. The Railway authorities gave every facility and did all they could to prevent serious inconvenience to the public.

45. The Mail Service between Pedro and Bensonton has been discontinued on the 26th January, 1900, as a result of the closing of the Bensonton Office hereinafter referred to.

46. The Horse Post Mail Service between Middle Quarters and Ramble was discontinued on 31st May last, on the ground of economy when the service was taken over by the Public Works Department; a Foot Service between Middle Quarters and Newmarket, and between Chester Castle and Bethel Town via Montpelier being substituted therefor.

#### DISTRICT POST OFFICES.

47. At the end of the year under review, there were in existence 148 District Post Offices as against 150 at the end of the preceding year.

48. The District Post Office at Gregory Park in the Parish of St Catherine had to be closed on the 2nd December, 1899, because a person who was suitable and who would agree to accept the salary attaching to the Office of Postmaster could not be found. It remained closed at the end of the year, I regret to say, but I hope to open it shortly in view of the facilities which are now being offered by the Railway authorities since the Government has assumed charge of the Railway, but which were under the old regime refused unless paid for.

49. The Post Office at Bensonton in the Parish of St. Ann had to be closed on 27th January last on disciplinary grounds, it has not been re-opened not only because of the difficulty of getting a suitable Postmaster, but because the Office had proved to be unremunerative.

50. The Post Office at Little London in the Parish of Westmoreland was closed temporarily from the 6th January to the 31st March in consequence of the illness of the Postmaster and of the difficulty I experienced in finding a successor.

MONEY ORDERS.

51. The transactions of the Money Order Branch for the year under review 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.	
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
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
1899-1900	8,013	28,027 17 1	1,497	3,657 0 11	444 11 11

*United States of America.*

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
1899-1900	2,779	7,729 17 1	639	2,112 19 8	161 4 9

*Dominion of Canada.*

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
1899-1900	439	2,548 16 0	107	327 3 5	32 4 2

*British Guiana.*

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
1899-1900	109	193 16 7	84	145 17 9	3 5 1

*Barbados.*

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
1899-1900	308	351 16 0	239	512 3 11	9 18 4

*Windward and Leeward Islands.*

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
1899-1900	123	184 16 7	193	399 11 9	4 14 6

*Turks Islands.*

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
1899-1900	28	103 18 1	205	676 17 2	3 16 2

*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
1899-1900 ...	11	33 12 0	100	154 8 6	1 7 9

*British Honduras.*

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
1899-1900 ...	9	44 10 0	90	165 4 10	1 3 0

*Trinidad.*

1898-99 ...	28	46 0 3	66	228 0 0	1 14 10
1899-1900 ...	16	23 7 7	86	256 19 5	1 11 9

52. Summarising the above transactions it is shewn that the issue of Jamaica on other Countries are less by the sum of £3,240 17s. 5d. than those of the year ended 31st March, 1899, while the issues of other Countries on this Colony are in excess by the sum of £73 19s. 8d.

Jamaica Issue.	No.	Amount.
1898-98	12,211	£42,483 4 5
1899-1900	11,835	39,242 7 0
Issue of other Countries payable in Jamaica :—		
1898-99	3,168	8,334 7 8
1899-1900	2,240	8,408 7 4

53. The above details disclose the fact that the principal decrease has occurred in the issues on the United States of America and on Canada which are less this year than last by the sum of £3,135 9s. 5d. in the case of the United States of America, and by £411 6s. 9d. in that of Canada, a decrease which I am of opinion is due to the depression in trade and agriculture. There has also been a decrease in the transactions with Barbados, British Guiana, Windward and Leeward Islands and Trinidad.

54. The transactions with the Mother Country are more by the sum of £784 2s. 0d. than the year preceding, but they are still much below the average £34,000 of the years preceding the period of depression in this Island, to which I referred similarly in the 43rd paragraph of my last annual Report.

55. The net Commissions which accrued to the Colony as a result of the Money Order transactions detailed above is £378 18s. 10d. as against £392 9s. 11d. for the year 1898-99, the details are as hereunder stated:—

United Kingdom	...	£444 11 11
United States of America	...	161 4 9
Canada	...	32 4 2
British Guiana	...	3 5 1
Barbados	...	9 18 4
Windward and Leeward Islands	...	4 14 6
Panama	...	1 7 9
British Honduras	...	1 3 0
Trinidad	...	1 11 9
Turks Islands	...	3 16 2
		<u>£663 17 5</u>
Less premium on Remittances.		
United Kingdom	...	£191 5 0
United States	...	71 5 6
Canada	...	22 8 1
		<u>284 18 7</u>
		<u>£378 18 10</u>

56. The premium on remittances relate to the amounts paid to the Imperial Post Office at  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for Commissariat Certificates, and for Bills on the Crown Agents for the Colonies at 1 per cent. in settlement of the balances due to the Mother Country, the United States of America and to Canada.

## POSTAL ORDERS.

57. Postal Orders of the face value of £31,198 15s. were issued for sale at the General Post Office and at the several District Post Offices during the year, being £2,450 12s. 6d. in excess of the issues during the previous year.



58. The following is a statement of the issues of each denomination as compared with the three year's preceding :—

*Postal Orders Issued.*

Denomination.	1897-98.			1898-99			1899-1900.		
	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	16,075	401 17 6	33 9 9½	16,150	403 15 0	23 12 11	19,425	485 12 6	40 9 4½
1 0	34,125	1,706 5 0	71 1 10½	35,100	1,755 0 0	73 2 6	38,250	1,912 10 0	79 13 9
1 6	34,000	2,550 0 0	70 16 8	36,050	2,703 15 0	75 2 1	40,400	3,630 0 0	84 3 4
2 6	35,125	4,390 12 6	73 3 6½	38,075	4,759 7 6	79 6 5	40,375	5,046 17 6	84 2 3½
5 0	31,925	7,981 5 0	133 0 5	29,465	7,366 5 0	122 15 5½	34,715	8,678 15 0	144 12 11
10 0	24,735	12,367 10 0	206 2 6	23,520	11,760 0 0	196 0 0	24,090	12,045 0 0	200 15 0
	175,985	29,397 10 0	587 14 9½	178,360	28,748 2 6	579 19 4½	197,255	31,198 15 0	633 16 8

59. The Postal Orders sold to the public amount to £31,266 14s. as against £29,474 10s. during 1898-99; the excess being £1,792 4s. and compare with the sales of the two years preceding as follows :—

*POSTAL ORDERS SOLD.*

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
April	2,363 12 6	2,570 3 6	2,531 4 0
May	2,358 19 0	2,470 3 0	2,856 0 0
June	2,308 11 0	2,307 13 6	2,613 9 6
July	2,480 5 0	2,285 13 6	2,773 4 0
August	2,208 18 0	2,406 4 6	2,623 13 0
September	2,359 17 0	2,329 1 6	2,640 12 0
October	2,325 7 6	2,448 18 0	2,641 18 6
November	2,480 7 6	2,598 1 0	2,451 16 6
December	2,683 1 0	2,783 6 0	2,788 8 6
January	2,364 3 6	2,339 3 6	2,466 14 0
February	2,240 11 6	2,344 12 0	2,303 2 0
March	2,571 7 6	2,681 10 0	2,576 12 0
	28,745 1 0	29,474 10 0	31,266 14 0

60. The increase which has taken place in the issues and sales of Postal Orders is one which has been of annual recurrence since the establishment of the system in 1890-91 during which year the sales amount to £10,493 7s. 6d. as against £31,266 14s. shewn above.

61. Comparing the Sales with the Issues it will be seen that there is but little difference in the total face value, again pointing to the fact which I have recorded previously, namely, that the Postal Orders are used almost entirely as a means of remittance and not as a circulatory medium and that they do not therefore supply the place of a circulatory medium as was at first supposed they might and which was in a measure the original intention in issuing them.

62. I am glad to say that the number of complaints of alleged miscarriage of Postal Orders through the post during the year have lessened materially, the public having apparently recognised the necessity for registering them and for filling in the names of the Payee, precautions which formerly were very much neglected and lost sight of.

63. As also shewn in the Abstract of Revenue at paragraph 8 the commissions which resulted from the sale of Postal Orders amount to £634 19s. 6d. as against £594 2s. 3d. collected during the previous year.

*EXPENDITURE.*

64. The expenditure for the Post Office during the year under review amounts to £28,851 13s. 10½d. as against £31,134 14s. 0½d. the amount expended during the year preceding. In both amounts is included the annual payment of £5,140 by the Crown Agents for the Colonies to the Imperial Exchequer for this Colony's share of the subsidy to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the Mail Service between Jamaica the United Kingdom and the British and Foreign West Indies.

65. The following is an abstract of the expenditure for the year as compared with that for the years ended 31st March, 1898, and 1899 respectively.

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.
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	10,652 4 0	1,938 6 11	5,140 0 0	5,001 9 10½	31,134 14 0½
1899-00	5,484 19 0	2,994 15 9	9,827 3 9½	2,418 12 10	5,140 0 0	2,986 2 6	28,851 13 10½

66. The above stated comparison shows that the expenditure during the year under review is £2,283 0s. 2d. less than that of the preceding year, such net decrease being accounted for thus:

Decrease—

Salaries District Offices	...	£19 15 8
Mail Conveyance Inland	...	825 0 2½
Other charges	...	2,015 7 4½
		<u>2,860 3 3</u>

Increase—

Salaries Head Office	£96 17 2	
Mail Conveyance Ocean	480 5 11	577 3 1
		<u>577 3 1</u>

Net decrease ... £2,283 0 2

67. The decrease under the head of the Salaries at District Post Offices has resulted from the closing of the District Post Offices as shown at paragraphs 48, 49 and 50 while that under Inland Mail Conveyance is due to the performance of certain Mail Services by the Public Works Department as shown in my last annual report and in paragraph 42 of this report, at a cheaper cost.

68. In the sum stated in the above Abstract under the head Inland Mail Conveyance is included £311 14s. 6d. which was expended out of the Post Office Vote by the Public Works Department in the purchase of vans and live stock. If this sum of £311 14s. 6d. be deducted from the total cost of Inland Mail Conveyance as shown in the Abstract above it will result that the Inland Mail Conveyance by the Public Works Department and Mail Contractors, &c., only amounts to £9,515 9s. 3½d. as against £10,652 4s. 0d. during the previous year, the economy effected by the Public Works Department being £1,136 14s. 8½d. for the year under review. A further economy is being effected by a continuance of the system during this year, 1900-1901.

69. The net decrease under the head of "Other Charges" is principally due to the smaller expenditure for the manufacture of Postage Stamps and Postal Orders, to the exclusion from the Post Office Vote of the items of Printing and Stationery, which amounted during the preceding year to £860 9s. 2½d., and to a saving under Travelling Charges. I may here remark that in common with all other Departments the Post Office has been enjoined by Government to exercise the greatest economy in expenditure, and I need hardly add that every effort has been made and is being made to comply with the injunction.

70. Under the head of Other Charges the expenditure for the conveyance by Tram Car of Letter Carriers is increased by the sum of £69 18s. 10d. This is the result of the transfer of the Jamaica Street Car Company Service to the West India Electric Company and of the relative extension of the lines in the City and the Suburbs and the Parish of St. Andrew. The Post Office having agreed with the Company to convey Postmen, Telegraph Messengers and Mail Bags in the Cars for the sum of £100 per annum, the amount paid to the old Company for a similar service being £26 per annum. This improved Car Service has been of great advantage to the Department and to the Public; for it not only has facilitated the delivery of Mail matter and Telegrams in and out of the City but it has also relieved the addressees of Telegrams who reside out of the City and in St. Andrews of the payment of portage.

71. The increase which has occurred under the head of Ocean Mail Conveyance is principally due to the larger amount of Ship Letter Gratuities at the rate of 1d. per letter which has been paid for the conveyance by Non-contract Vessels of Mails from Jamaica, principally to the United Fruit Company and to the Atlas Steam Ship Company for Mail matter to the United States of America and to the United Kingdom via the United States, the Ship Letter Gratuities so paid amount to £957 2s. 4d. as against £613 12s. 9d. paid during 1898-99. There was also a relative increase in the postage on Ship Letters.

72. I submit that £950 per annum may not be regarded as an excessive amount to pay for such frequent and efficient Mail Services as are placed at the disposal of this Government by the Steamers of the United Fruit Coy., and of the Atlas Steam Ship Company, which afford Bi-weekly, and some-

times Tri-weekly, opportunities for communicating with the Mother Country and with the United States of America and almost with all other parts of the civilized world via these Countries.

73. A Remittance of £1,300 was made to the Imperial Post Office on account of Sea and territorial Transit Rates, while a sum of £158 19s. 6. on similar account was remitted to other countries, viz :—

United States	...	...	£150 11 9
Canada	...	...	8 7 9
			£158 19 6

## MAIL COACHES.

74. The amount which was collected during the year for Passenger Fares and for parcels conveyed either by the Mail Coaches of Contractors who agree or are permitted to take Passengers in connection with their Mail Contracts and for freight on parcels conveyed, either by the above or by the Public Works Department's Mail Carts, which have been substituted for the Mail Coaches on certain lines of Mail Service, is shown in detail by the following statements in comparison with the two years preceding.

## I.—Kingston and Montego Bay

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	330 12 0	218 11 3	549 3 3
1898-99	...	343 8 3	23 1 0	545 10 0
1899-00	...	386 6 9	221 2 3	607 9 0

## II.—Montego Bay and Lucea.

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	121 0 0	12 15 3	133 15 3
1898-99	...	115 10 0	9 14 6	125 4 6
1899-00	...	112 4 0	11 14 0	123 18 0

## III.—Kingston and Port Antonio.

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	147 5 0	123 6 3	270 11 3
1898-99	...	163 0 0	119 13 9	282 13 9
1899-00	...	180 12 6	132 19 9	313 12 3

## IV. Kingston and Annotto Bay

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	11 0 0	26 13 6	37 13 6
1898-99	...	11 15 0	23 18 0	35 13 0
1899-00	...	...	22 10 6	22 10 6

## V.—Kingston and Gordon Town.

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	70 5 0	8 3 3	78 8 3
1898-99	...	54 9 0	8 11 6	63 0 6
1899-1900	...	...	3 1 6	3 1 6

VI.—*Kingston and Chapelton.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	...	19 0 6	19 0 6
1898-99	...	...	17 14 9	17 14 9
1899-1900	...	...	20 10 3	20 10 3

VIII.—*St. Ann's Bay and Port Maria*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	...	25 12 6	25 12 6
1898-99	...	...	26 15 6	26 15 6
1899-1900	...	...	29 12 9	29 12 9

IX.—*Dry Harbour and Brown's Town.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	...	43 8 0	43 8 0
1898-99	...	...	50 5 3	50 5 3
1899-1900	...	...	46 15 0	46 15 0

X.—*Lucea and Green Island.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	...	3 7 6	3 7 6
1898-99	...	...	2 17 0	2 17 0
1899-1900	...	...	5 17 3	5 17 3

XI.—*Richmond and Port Maria.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	74 8 0	36 15 3	111 3 3
1898-99	...	...	42 16 6	42 16 6
1899-1900	...	...	33 17 9	33 17 9

XII.—*Montpelier and Sav.-la-Mar.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	3 4 0	74 1 0	77 5 0
1898-99	...	...	77 13 6	77 13 6
1899-1900	...	...	74 3 9	74 3 9

XIII.—*Ipswich and Black River.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	119 15 0	48 18 3	168 13 3
1898-99	...	...	42 11 9	42 11 9
1899-1900	...	...	40 1 6	40 1 6

XIV.—*Balaclava and Santa Cruz.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	21 18 0	36 4 0	58 2 0
1898-99	...	37 0 0	41 0 6	78 0 6
1899-1900	...	22 4 0	28 14 9	50 18 9

XV.—*Williamsfield and Mandeville.*

YEAR.		Passengers' Fares.	Parcels.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-98	...	...	55 19 0	55 19 0
1898-99	...	...	50 9 3	50 9 3
1899-1900	...	...	47 10 3	47 10 3

75. A Summary of the above gives the following results :—

Passengers' Fares	...	£701 7 3
Parcels	...	718 11 3

£1,419 18 6

as against £1,441 5s. 9d. collected during the year preceding.

76. The whole amount which has been collected for Passengers' Fares has been lodged to the credit of the Contractors after deducting 10 o/o for booking at the General Post Office, Kingston, and at the several District Post Offices - while of the amount received for freight on parcels the sum £385 5s. 4d., accrued to the Contractors subject to a similar deduction of 10 o/o and the sum of £333 5s. 11d., to the Department and been lodged to the credit of Postal Revenue.

77. At the end of the year under review there were only two Mail Coach Services in existence in connection with which the Mail Contractors could claim under the original agreement the freight on parcels; but as these Contracts expire during the current year the amount of freight on parcels which accrues to this department will be increased by nearly 100 o/o.

78. The Passenger Service by Mail Coaches were limited at the end of the year under review to those between—Ewarton and Montego Bay, Montego Bay and Luca, Kingston and Port Antonio, Ipswich and Black River, Balaclava and Santa Cruz, Williamsfield and Mandeville.

## RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

79. The amount of Mail Matter which was disposed of in the Returned Letter Branch during the year under review is as follows :—

	Paid.	Unpaid.
Letters returned to the United Kingdom	1,151	233
“ “ “ other Countries	3,186	1,363
“ “ “ writers in the Island	26,789	4,794
“ destroyed being illegible or anonymous	2,060	526
“ “ writers nor having been found	9,720	3,401
Newspapers returned to the Publishers	12,000	...
“ destroyed	2,790	...

80. The unpaid postage on Unclaimed, &c., Mail Matter which had to be written off as irrecoverable is £111 6s. 6.

81. Packets to the number of 2,092 were found to contain value to the amount of £408 19s. 8½d., and were duly registered and reposted to the writers.

82. I am glad to record that the promptitude in returning unclaimed Mail Matter to which I referred in previous reports continues—all unclaimed Mail Matter being dealt with always within a week of its receipt into the Returned Letter Branch.

#### TELEGRAPHS.

83. As shewn at paragraph 2 under the head of Revenue, the Collections on account of Telegraphs amount to £5,629 17s 0d., the details being as under as compared with those of the two years preceding

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stamps sold ...	5,076 12 3	5,982 14 3	5,609 15 6
Additional charge on Books containing Message Forms ...	6 0 3	5 14 9	5 14 6
Fees for opening Stations out of the Office Hours ...	3 0 0	113 0 0	14 7 0
	5,085 12 6	6,101 9 0	5,629 17 0

84. The decrease on last year's collections is shewn to be £471 12s. and is explained by the fact that during the year 1898-99, as stated in my last Annual Report, paragraph 69, there was an abnormal telegraph business done during the Spanish American War from April to July, 1898, which also increased the fees for opening Stations out of office hours, and which similarly explains the decrease under that head during the year under report.

85. As shewn by the usual Returns which I append to this Report the number of messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station is 96,812 as against 97,368 during the previous year, being a decrease of 556.

86. The amount which was collected at the Inland District Telegraph Stations for Telegrams handed in for transmission to places abroad is £2,208 0s 1d, of which £1,927 14s. 2d. belonged to and was lodged in the Colonial Bank to the credit of the Direct Cable Company; the balance of £280 5s. 11d. being similarly lodged to the credit of the West India and Panama Cable Company.

87. The working expenses of the Telegraph Service by the Post Office Department during the year under review amounts to £7,396 15s. 1½d. as against £7,707 11s. 4d. the net decrease of £310 16s. 2½d; being the result of the exclusion from the Vote of the Post Office of the item for Printing and Stationery which during the year 1898-99 amounts to £368 4s. 10d.

88. The expenditure by the Public Works Department for the maintenance of the lines amounts to £1,324 9s. 10d, which being added to the above cost of working expenses makes the total expenditure £8,721 4s. 11½d., the deficit between Revenue and Expenditure being £3,091 7s. 11½d. as against a deficit of £2,938 for the year 1898-99.

89. Below is a comparative statement under each head in comparison with the expenditure during the years 1897-98 and 1898-99 :—

Year.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries ...	4,518 5 9	4,519 1 10	4,489 9 1
Wages ...	880 15 3	889 2 6	877 19 11
Services ...	2,287 4 3	2,299 7 0	2,029 6 1½
	7,686 5 3	7,707 11 4	7,396 15 1½

90. The Telegraph Stations which were in existence at the end of the financial year is 70, a District Telegraph Station having been opened under guarantee at Pratville on the 6th December, 1899, the line being extended from Milk River.

91. The usual Telegraph Station was opened at the Race Course, Kingston, during the Race Meeting held on the 12th, 13th and 14th December last, and a temporary Telegraph Station was opened at the Constant Spring Hotel from the 2nd February to the 10th April last, the latter date being that on which the Hotel was closed. A Post Office was established at the same time.

92. The Telegraph School in Kingston, and the training of Candidates at some of the District Stations has been continued during the year, at the end of which there were 36 awaiting permanent employment of which 21 were holding acting appointments as Postmistress and Telegraph Clerk or as assistants to the Postmistress and Telegraph Clerks during the absence from sickness or otherwise of the substantive holders of the office.

93. I take this opportunity again to record my appreciation of the good conduct and cheerful as-

assistance rendered by the Members of this Auxiliary Staff, and I bear testimony to the very patient manner in which they await their turn for permanent employment.

94 It is also again my very pleasing duty to record my appreciation of the good conduct and efficient service of the Postmistresses and Telegraph Clerks and Assistants. There has been I am glad to say very few instances if any of resistance against the strict discipline which has necessarily to be maintained in a Telegraph Service.

PARCEL POST.

95. The transactions of the Parcels Post Branch compare as under with the two years preceding.

PARCELS RECEIVED.

From	Consignments.			Parcels.			Import Duty Collected.		
	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	26	26	26	8,422	7,928	7,895	1,147 1 1½	1,837 9 5	1,511 1 7
British West Indies	112	115	98	265	304	251	9 2 5	14 5 1	14 18 9
United States of America ...	164	239	324	2,436	2,843	3,499	161 13 2	392 4 4	425 2 11
Dominion of Canada	13	12	12	171	169	179	7 11 1	16 9 8	11 13 2
Turks Islands ...	...	9	10	...	32	30	...	0 4 0	0 2 4
Belize ...	...	3	2	...	5	4	...	0 14 9	0 8 2
Bermuda ...	...	...	4	...	...	8	...	...	1 5 7
	315	404	476	11,294	11,281	11,864	1,325 7 9½	2,261 7 3	1,964 12 6

	Postage Accrued to Jamaica.			Declared Value of Parcels.		
	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	450 6 8	395 9 5	271 2 7	12,229 16 9½	9,526 3 11½	10,050 12 0½
British West Indies	...	...	...	100 6 7	75 11 6½	118 1 2
United States of America ...	...	...	...	2,219 19 6	2,195 4 1	3,018 5 10
Dominion of Canada	3 13 1½	3 5 2½	3 7 11	138 1 3	84 3 5	75 15 6
Turks Island ...	...	1 3 11½	...	...	12 14 9	11 16 1
Belize ...	...	...	...	...	3 5 8	2 9 0
Bermuda ...	...	...	...	...	...	8 3 6
	453 19 9½	399 18 7	274 10 6	14,688 4 1½	11,897 3 5	13,285 3 1½

PARCELS DESPATCHED.

	Consignments.			Parcels.			Postage Accrued to Jamaica.		
	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	27	26	26	2,219	2,292	2,608	71 8 0	73 13 9½	58 2 9½
British West Indies	133	161	165	323	430	398	14 1 8	14 4 0	17 0 8
United States of America ...	65	76	54	559	618	789	24 14 6	29 7 6	36 8 6
Dominion of Canada	13	12	14	252	108	143	8 3 11½	2 14 4½	2 12 8½
Turks Island ...	...	16	13	...	159	163	...	5 15 1½	11 19 0
Belize ...	...	7	3	...	13	4	...	0 16 8	0 5 6
Bermuda ...	...	...	7	...	...	9	...	...	0 10 0
	228	298	82	3,353	3,620	4,114	118 8 1½	126 11 5½	126 19 2

	Declared Value of Parcels		
	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£ s d.	£ s d.	£ s d.
United Kingdom ...	2,591 16 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	2,604 3 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,388 14 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
British West Indies ...	217 7 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	233 16 10	268 9 6
United States of America ...	300 18 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	321 5 4	201 3 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dominion of Canada ...	179 10 0	35 1 5	43 15 7
Turks Island ...	...	150 12 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	156 3 4
Belize ...	...	9 7 10	0 5 0
Bermuda ...	...	...	15 8 6
	3,289 11 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	3,354 6 10	3,074 0 4

96. The amount which accrued to the Colony as a result of the above detailed Parcel Post business is £2,366 2s. 2d., viz.:

Share of Postage on Parcels received ...	£274 10 6
Share of Postage on Parcels despatched ...	126 19 2
Customs duties ...	1,964 12 6
	<u>£2,366 2 2</u>

97. The number of Parcels which were received and despatched is 15,978, 11,864 being received and 4,114 despatched, and it is again a pleasure to me to be able to report that of the large number of parcels which were handled and dealt with by this Post Office not a single miscarriage occurred, and that as shown in my last and previous report this is a record which has remained unbroken ever since the commencement of the Parcels Post System in October, 1885, the number of parcels dealt with since that time being 169,175.

98. A feature in the Parcels Post business during the year under report has been the adoption here of the Triple Scale of charges on the 1st November, 1899, viz.:

- 1/ for a parcel weighing not over 3 lbs.
- 2/ " " over 3 lbs. but not over 7 lbs.
- 3/ " " " 7 lbs. " " " 11 lbs.

99. This scale has been made applicable to Parcels to and from the United Kingdom and certain British Colonies.

100. This step towards simplicity and uniformity in the postage on parcels was taken by the Mother Country at the Meetings held by the Imperial Postal Conference it is expected that the reduction in the postage on heavy parcels will cause an increase in Parcels Post between the United Kingdom and the Colonies.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

101. This Department continues as it has done for years to suffer from the want of sufficient and suitable accommodation.

102. I annex the usual detailed Returns.

I have, &c.

GEO. H. PEARCE,  
Postmaster for Jamaica.

The Hon. The Acting Colonial Secretary,  
Kingston.



RETURN shewing the number of Telegraphic Messages sent from and received at each Telegraph Station from 1st April, 1899, to 31st March, 1900, as compared with Return from 1st April, 1898, to 31st March, 1899.

Station.	1898-99.		1899-1900.		Remarks.
	Messages Sent.	Messages Received.	Messages Sent	Messages Received.	
Kingston	25,470	26,853	23,732	24,123	Transmitting Station.
Spanish Town	1,979	2,263	2,049	2,343	
Bogwalk	827	757	682	575	
Linstead	749	835	867	972	" "
Ewarton	485	443	488	505	
Mcneague	808	1,100	768	959	
Claremont	465	428	481	523	
St. Ann's Bay	3,780	3,699	4,202	4,066	" "
Runaway Bay	387	409	650	677	
Dry Harbour	377	445	370	417	" "
Brown's Town	1,956	1,984	1,810	1,894	" "
Cave Valley	247	315	276	365	
Stewart Town	192	217	188	255	
Ulster Spring	228	235	233	312	
Rio Bueno	193	216	255	274	
Duncans	506	473	620	617	
Falmouth	2,462	2,458	2,435	2,460	
Montego Bay	6,965	6,268	6,204	6,086	" "
Ramble	389	428	401	459	
Luces	2,252	2,228	2,624	2,758	
Green Island	282	308	307	367	
Grange Hill	223	221	268	254	
Sav.-la-Mar	2,810	2,688	2,990	2,708	" "
White House	179	142	168	146	
Black River	2,545	2,503	2,213	2,224	
Middle Quarters	440	463	425	474	
Santa Cruz	437	490	368	490	" "
Malvern	614	599	455	562	
Mandeville	2,344	2,435	2,166	2,215	" "
Newport	411	520	391	532	
Shooters Hill	512	763	621	942	" "
Mile Gully	347	392	323	389	
Balacava	732	744	661	684	
Christiana	275	327	362	417	
Porus	1,290	1,297	1,158	1,057	
May Pen	744	724	786	794	" "
Chapelton	950	993	1,043	1,157	" "
Alley	682	689	719	745	
Salt River	157	176	151	194	
Milk River	744	783	762	748	
Pratville	...	...	55	42	Opened 6th Dec., 1899.
Old Harbour	893	1,008	931	1,015	
Yallahs	253	233	245	266	
Morant Bay	1,647	1,771	1,765	1,824	Transmitting Station.
B. M. Valley	158	140	151	153	
Trinity Ville	175	194	201	210	
Port Morant	376	432	442	492	
Bowden	524	331	429	252	
Bath	240	249	313	301	" "
P. G. River	408	439	418	461	
Manchioneal	494	509	653	583	
P. M. River	206	226	260	310	
Port Antonio	7,775	6,103	9,138	7,580	" "
St. Margarets Bay	196	245	206	247	
Hope Bay	368	407	491	458	
Buff Bay	926	811	842	780	
Annotto Bay	2,441	2,168	2,864	2,143	" "
Highgate	427	431	444	438	
Port Maria	4,506	4,379	3,976	3,817	" "
O-nenbessa	544	631	565	653	
Retreat	285	244	297	267	
Gayle	305	348	371	359	
Ocho Rios	836	862	889	979	
Port Royal	1,249	1,054	914	880	
Race Course	28	24	11	10	Opened 3 days 12th 13th and 14th December, 1899.
Up-Park Camp	649	766	499	622	
Halfway Tree	620	659	470	747	
Constant Spring	...	...	57	34	Opened 2nd Feb., 1900, to 10th Apl., 1900.
Gordon Town	308	350	247	419	
Cold Spring	732	596	244	225	
Stony Hill	110	227	163	257	
Castleton	101	100	121	119	
Railway	2,153	2,120	2,468	2,220	
Total	97,368	97,368	96,812	96,812	

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	477	6	11½			
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received at General Post Office	65	16	0			
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received from the United Kingdom	78	2	4			
Postage on Unpaid Correspondence received from Other Countries	242	18	5			
Stamps sold by Post Office Department	19,041	6	1			
Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	506	12	3			
Rent of Private Letter Boxes	63	12	0			
Fees for Conveyance of Private Letter Bags	66	17	4			
Commissions on Money Orders	378	18	10			
Fees for detention of Country Letters per Packet for delivery in Kingston	6	11	0			
Commission on Mail Coach Collections	13	12	8			
Commission on Postal Orders sold	634	19	6			
Mail Coach Collections	265	17	5			
Surplus Cash in Money Order Chest lodged to credit of Revenue	13	0	8	21,855	11	½

TELEGRAPHS—

Stamps sold	5,909	15	6			
Additional Charge on Books	5	14	6			
Fees for keeping Telegraph Offices open out of Office hours	14	7	0	5,629	17	0

## Department during the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1900.

POST OFFICE—PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salary of Postmaster for Jamaica	...	700	0	0			
Salaries of Clerks	...	3,519	2	10			
Clerical Assistance	...	22	15	1			
Wages of Sorters, Letter Carriers, &c.	...	1,002	1	6			
Packet Newspaper Sorters	...	136	1	0			
Salaries of District Postmistresses	...	2,931	8	11			
Messengers conveying Mails between G. P. O. and Railway, &c.	...	104	18	7			
Wages of Letter Carriers at Spanish Town	...	63	6	10	8,479	14	9
<b>COMMISSION ON STAMPS SOLD—</b>							
Poundage on Stamps sold by Department	...	183	17	9			
Discount on Stamps sold by Stamp Commissioner	...	73	0	5	256	18	2
<b>CONVEYANCE OF MAILS—</b>							
Contractors	...	8,963	16	9			
Ship Letter Gratuities	...	957	3	4			
Conveyance of Mails between District Post Offices and Railway Stations	...	303	19	6½			
Transit Rates payable to Postal Union Countries other than United Kingdom	...	161	9	6			
Proportion of Postage payable to United Kingdom	...	1,300	0	0			
Initial cost of substituted Mail Services undertaken by Public Works Department	...	311	14	6			
Conveyance of Foreign Mails by Train	...	247	13	0	12,245	16	7½
<b>OTHER CHARGES—</b>							
Allowance for Services out of Office hours	...	380	19	3			
Travelling Charges	...	165	9	7			
Mail Bags and Wrappers	...	57	15	0			
Letter Carriers Uniform	...	162	0	6			
Customs Officers' Overtime in Parcels Post Office	...	33	10	0			
Petty Expenses	...	342	14	11			
Furniture	...	15	4	6			
Lighting	...	58	11	10			
Winding Clocks	...	6	0	0			
Rent of Telephone	...	8	0	4			
Cleaning Latrines	...	36	5	0			
Rent of Offices	...	760	11	4			
Date Stamps and Type	...	11	19	7			
Conveyance of Letter Carriers by Tram Car	...	95	18	10			
Twine and Wax	...	104	8	1			
Manufacture of Stamps and Post Jards	...	228	8	6			
Manufacture of Postal Orders	...	164	13	5			
Conveyance of Clerk from Royal Mail Steamer at Port Royal	...	5	16	6			
Advertising	...	88	1	2			
Water Supply, G. P. O.	...	2	16	0	2,729	4	4
<b>POSTAL UNION CONTRIBUTION—</b>							
Contribution to United Kingdom to meet additional loss consequent on joining Postal Union	...	...	...	...	5,140	0	0
					28,851	13	10½
<b>TELEGRAPH BRANCH—PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS—</b>							
Salary of Superintendent	...	400	0	0			
Salaries of Assistants to Superintendent	...	500	0	0			
Salaries of Operators	...	3,589	9	1			
Wages of Messengers, Head Office	...	155	13	2			
Wages of Messengers, District Offices	...	722	6	9	5,367	9	0
<b>OTHER CHARGES—</b>							
Lighting	...	7	11	7			
Repairing Instruments	...	46	12	0			
Porterage	...	218	5	3			
Rent of Offices	...	868	3	9			
Petty payments	...	1	5	9			
Water Supply	...	68	0	0			
Travelling Charges	...	133	18	0			
Furniture	...	42	15	2½			
Services performed out of Office hours	...	371	16	10			
Messengers' Uniform	...	18	3	6			
Stores and Manufacture of Stamps	...	148	10	3	2,029	6	1½
					7,396	15	1½
<b>DRAWBACK ENTRIES—</b>							
Re-directed Letters	...	302	2	0½			
Letters sent through Returned Letter Branch	...	246	6	3½			
Stamps supplied to Foreign Countries	...	2	12	0	551	0	4½