

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 277.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 238.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1899.



LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and

32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or

HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[Cd. 3.] *Price 3d.*

BAHAMAS,
1898.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

138.

Post Office.

—	1897.	1898.
Total Postal Revenue	£ 2,452	£ 2,201
Total cost of Postal Service	5,445	5,319

The decreased revenue of 1898 was caused by a reduction in sales of stamps to dealers, these sales having produced only £91 last year whereas in the previous year £384 was realized by these sales. The decreased expenditure was caused by stoppages of subsidy to the New York and Cuba Steamship Company on account of occasional failures, caused by the war, to run fortnightly steamers.

139. During the last two years the subsidies for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony have not been permanently fixed. In 1897 the subsidy of £2,500 continued to be paid to the New York and Cuba Steamship Company, and £1,200 was paid to the Florida East Coast Company for a service between Nassau and Florida of twelve weeks, commencing with the 15th January; but in 1898 a new contract was entered into with the New York and Cuba Company, to continue in force for five years from the 1st June 1898, reducing the annual subsidy from £2,500 to £1,500, and the contract with the Florida East Coast Company was put into its final form, which involves the payment of a subsidy of £3,500 per annum by the Colonial Government for ten years, renewable at the option of the Company for a further period of ten years.

140. Although shown in the Blue Book returns as for the "conveyance of mails beyond the Colony," the contract, including the payment of the subsidy, is more nearly concerned with the erection and maintenance of first-class hotels and the conveyance of tourists between Nassau and Florida during the four months ending 30th April, after which the conveyance of mails ceases.

141. The subsidies payable to sailing vessels under contract to carry the fortnightly or monthly mails between Nassau and the out-islands amount in the aggregate to £1,032, and the expenditure on salaries and all other expenses of the Postal Service to £1,150.

142. The business of the Post Office tends to increase slightly, probably owing to the increased number of winter visitors. In 1898 there passed through the Post Office 2,496 more letters than in 1897, 317 more post-cards, and 1,572 more newspapers; but there was a decrease of 3,537 in the number of books and trade circulars, and of 253 in parcels.

143. On reference to the following statement of the estimated total number of letters, &c., dealt with in 1898, it will be observed that correspondence with the United Kingdom is rather more than one-third of the whole, the remaining two-thirds being with the United States and other places :—

BAHAMAS,
1898.

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other places.		
		From	To	From	To	
Letters	35,767	17,908	18,252	52,569	51,068	175,564
Post-cards	382	592	434	972	1,420	3,800
Newspapers	8,589	18,476	4,734	22,737	6,878	61,414
Book packets, sam- ples, and circulars.	7,433	19,928	1,134	18,987	2,595	50,077
Parcels	—	1,012	178	1,081	115	2,386

144. The Post Office money order business was rather less in 1898 than in the previous year, the total amount passing through the Post Office in 1898 having been £2,373 whereas in 1897 it amounted to £2,984.

145. The following is a comparative statement (omitting fractions) of the amount of money order transactions in 1898 and the previous year, distinguishing the transactions with the United Kingdom from those with the United States and other countries :—

Countries.	Issued in Colony.				Paid in Colony.			
	1897.		1898.		1897.		1898.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
United Kingdom ...	603	1,012	529	768	99	289	120	333
United States ...	743	1,013	739	781	161	445	136	318
Other Countries ...	42	119	35	47	36	106	38	126