

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.



No. 327.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 293.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
July, 1901.



LONDON :

PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

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 OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH;
or E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1901.

[Cd. 431-19.] Price 2½d.

BAHAMAS,
1900.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

Postal Service.

82. The Post Office receipts amounted to £2,628 16s. 1d., and were derived from the following sources:—

	£	s.	d.
Sales of postage stamps within the Colony	1,728	19	1
Postage	203	8	2
Sea postage allowance from United States	474	12	10
Other receipts	221	16	0
Total	£2,628	16	1

83. The Post Office expenses amounted to £2,068 5s. 2d., which may be sub-divided as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries (including district post-masters)	716	10	0
General expenses	289	15	2
Inter-insular carriage of mails	1,062	0	0
Total	£2,068	5	2

84. Annual subsidies were also paid to steamship lines connecting with the American Continent, viz.:—

New York-Cuba Line	£1,500
Miami-Nassau Line	£3,500

85. The subjoined statement is a summary of the purely postal business of the department, which is chiefly in connexion with the United States.

STATEMENT OF LETTERS & C., RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED DURING THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1900.

	Received.				Despatched.			
	Letters	Post Cards.	News.	Books	Letters.	Post Cards.	News	Books.
United Kingdom	24,151	543	12,884	18,117	18,311	206	4,952	657
United States ...	79,746	1,743	28,859	21,670	65,316	1,675	3,935	1,454
Other Countries	223	5	34	22	10,081	199	3,287	853
Inter-insular ...	21,927	64	256	482	22,198	242	9,106	6,885
Total ...	126,047	2,355	42,033	40,201	115,896	2,322	21,280	9,849

BAHAMAS,
1900.

86. The business transacted by means of the Parcels Mails has attained to four times its original dimensions during the past ten years, having increased by a steady annual progression from the number of 955 parcels handled in 1891 to the number of 4,197 parcels handled in 1900, showing how this branch of the postal business has been gradually appreciated and turned to use by increasing numbers of the public.

87. The money order transactions comprised in orders issued and paid a total number of 2,094, with a total value of £3,269 18s. 8d., and comparing these figures with those of previous years it is found that the business is nearly stationary, showing that the institution suffices to meet the convenience of the public for the remittance of small sums of money, but is not turned to illegitimate uses by being made the vehicle for the remittance of large sums in competition with the bank.

88. The premium of four per cent. on remittances which has wisely been fixed and maintained in this Colony for the Post Office rate is, of course, much higher than bank rates, and there is, therefore, no inducement to evade the Post Office rule which limits the amount of any single Post Office order to £10, as it is commonly evaded in Colonies where the Post Office rate is fixed too low.

Telegraph Service.

89. The telegraph line from Nassau to Jupiter in the State of Florida is owned and worked by the Government, and consists of a cable measuring 211 knots and a land line six miles in length.

90. The total cost of construction up to date has been £33,311, of which £30,000 was raised in 1892 by a loan bearing interest at 4 per cent., the annual charge for interest being £1,200.

91. Other annual charges comprise a contribution from General Revenue of £630 towards a Sinking Fund, and a contribution to the Repair Fund of £350.

92. Excluding the annual charge for interest and the other annual charges above mentioned, the total expenditure during the year was £477 13s. 6d. for ordinary working expenses, including salaries, and the total amount of receipts was £1,203 19s. 7d.

93. The number of messages received and sent were as follows:—

	From United Kingdom.	From United States.	TOTAL.
Received	172	1,310	1,482
Sent	203	1,312	1,515