

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 365.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1901-2

(WITH A REPORT ON THE SALT INDUSTRY
OF INAGUA).

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 327.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1902.



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(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Medical Inspector reports that the public health has been good during the year throughout the island of New Providence; measles, whooping-cough, and chicken-pox prevailing in the early part of the year and influenza later on in a mild epidemic form.

The ordinary autumnal fevers were unusually limited in prevalence and of a mild type.

The relative mortality in the different seasons for New Providence exhibits only slight differences, the highest occurring in the June quarter.

(C) SANITATION.

The Medical Inspector reports that the sanitary condition of the island of New Providence was very satisfactory, and the water supply from springs and cisterns abundant.

Successful vaccinations to the number of 448 were performed in New Providence during the year, and 2,698 on the various out-islands of the Colony.

(D.) CLIMATE.

The rainfall for the year was 61·83 inches, 10 inches more than last year, and it was considered to be a very rainy season.

A meteorological return showing temperature, rainfall, and direction of winds is subjoined:—

	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.		Remarks.
	Solar Maximum.	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	Degree of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.	
January ...	130·0		77·0	59·7	17·3	68·4	0·49	81	N.E.	6	
February	129·8		77·0	61·4	15·6	69·2	1·00	83	N.E.	6	
March ...	136·7		79·4	63·7	15·7	71·1	0·30	80	S.E.	9	
April ...	137·6		79·7	67·6	12·1	72·7	1·40	77	N.E.	8	
May ...	136·6		83·4	71·5	11·9	77·5	9·26	92	S.	8	
June ...	133·2		85·7	76·2	9·5	81·0	14·04	82	S.E.	8	
July ...	141·9		87·3	79·4	7·9	83·4	8·15	75	E.	10	
August ...	148·4		87·9	78·6	9·3	83·1	7·54	71	S.E.	7	
September	148·6		88·1	78·0	10·1	83·1	8·32	82	S.E.	7	
October ...	148·9		83·8	75·3	8·5	79·6	10·06	77	E.	12	
November	124·6		77·2	70·1	7·1	73·7	0·30	67	N.E.	11	
December	111·1		75·1	67·2	7·9	71·2	0·97	76	E.	10	
Year ...	135·6		81·8	70·8	11·1	76·2	61·83	79	—	8½	

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

POST OFFICE.

The Revenue for the period of fifteen months from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902, amounted to £4,128, and the Customs duties collected on parcels to £878 19s. 5d.

The total number of postal packets received and despatched was 535,129.

During the period, 2,066 parcels, valued at £2,987 3s. 5d. were received from the United Kingdom, and 2,807 parcels, valued £1,879, were received from the United States. 394 parcels, value £252 16s. 10d., and 326 parcels, value £185 15s. 2d., were despatched to the United Kingdom and the United States, respectively. The total number of parcels received and despatched by parcels mails was 5,593, value £5,305 9s. 5d.

The following tables show the number of letters received and despatched, money orders issued and drawn, and numbers and value of stamps, envelopes, and postcards sold at the Nassau Post Office:—

Statement of Letters Received and Despatched from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.

	Received.				Despatched.			
	Letters.	Post Cards.	News and Books.	Total.	Letters.	Post Cards.	News and Books.	Total.
United Kingdom	36,019	814	45,427	82,260	24,173	358	7,913	32,444
United States ...	127,473	2,399	80,842	210,714	97,678	2,859	8,773	109,310
Other Countries	237	—	7	244	14,160	416	4,874	19,450
Inter-insular ...	28,611	119	1,262	29,992	30,084	387	20,244	50,715
Total ...	192,340	3,332	127,538	323,210	166,095	4,020	41,804	211,919
Total number Received					323,210			
" " Despatched					211,919			
Total					535,129			

Statement of Money Orders Issued and Drawn during the period from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.

	Issued.		Drawn.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
United Kingdom, including through orders.	1,073	£ 1,437 17 3	184	£ 400 13 7
United States	1,597	2,056 9 0	287	1,016 18 7
Total... ..	2,670	3,494 6 3	471	1,417 12 2

Total number of Money Orders issued and drawn 3,141, amounting to £4,911 18s. 5d.

Commission on Money Orders, £120.

Statement of Stamps, Envelopes, and Post Cards sold at the General Post Office, Nassau, from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.

						Amount.
						£ s. d.
145,212	stamps	at	0	1	...	605 1 0
105,530	"	"	0	2½	...	1,099 5 5
1,899	"	"	0	4	...	31 13 0
3,863	"	"	0	6	...	96 11 6
5,907	"	"	1	0	...	295 7 0
524	"	"	5	0	...	131 0 0
159	"	"	20	0	...	159 0 0
22	envelopes	"	0	1½	...	0 2 9
556	"	"	0	2	...	4 12 8
2 593	"	"	0	2½	...	27 0 2½
18	"	"	0	3	...	0 4 6
3,747	postcards	"	0	1	...	15 12 3
76	"	"	0	2	...	0 12 8
Total... 270,106						Total ... 2,466 2 11½

The Government cable from Nassau to Jupiter in Florida continues in good condition, and the numbers of messages sent and received during the period from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902, was as follows:—

United Kingdom	...	...	...	563
Other points	...	...	...	4,221
Service	...	...	...	321
Total				5,105

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(D.) CONSTABULARY.

There are no regulars, militia, or volunteers, but the constabulary was raised and equipped when the troops were withdrawn, as a semi-military force, armed and drilled as infantry. They were originally enlisted at Barbados and brought to the Bahamas, but few of these remain, and they are now recruited within the Colony.