

## Appendix R.

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### REPORT ON THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, HONGKONG, FOR THE YEAR 1924.

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#### 1.—STAFF.

##### *Postal Branch.*

Mr. R. E. Lindsell reverted to the Magistracy and Mr. M. J. Breen assumed charge of the Department on 22nd March.

Mr. C. J. Poole, Superintendent, Registration and Parcels Branch, resigned on 20th January.

Two new appointments of Assistant Superintendents of Mails, were created on 1st April. Mr. F. H. Holdman, Supervisor, and Mr. P. Roza, 1st Class Clerk were promoted thereto; the former in charge of the Parcels Branch and the latter in charge of the Registration Branch.

Mr. Thomas Lay, 2nd Class Clerk, Colonial Secretary's Office, succeeded Mr. Holdman as Supervisor on 1st April.

The following additions were made to the Subordinate Staff of the Department during the year :—

4 Clerks and 7 Postmen.

During the year changes amongst the Clerical Staff were one pensioned, one absconded, one dismissed and three resigned.

#### 2.—MAILS.

The number of mail receptacles of Hongkong origin dispatched during the year was 39,574 as compared with 39,459 in 1923—an increase of 115.

Receptacles in transit which were handled numbered 144,541 as against 133,498 in 1923—an increase of 11,043.

5,838 steamers carrying mails arrived and 9,302 left, an increase of 540 and 938 over the previous year's figures.

Full details are shown in Table I.

### 3.—REGISTERED ARTICLES AND PARCELS.

The number of registered articles handled amounted to 851,973 as compared with 808,002 in 1923—an increase of 43,971.

The figures for insured articles were 13,906 and 12,070 respectively—an increase of 1,836.

Parcels, ordinary and insured, which were dealt with reached a total of 396,195 as against 417,869 in 1923—a decrease of 21,674.

The decrease is attributed to various offices closing direct parcel mails to other administrations instead of sending through Hongkong.

Full details appear in Tables II and III.

Under the Local posted parcels established by Order-in-Council No. 119 in March 1923, 442 parcels only were dealt with.

### 4.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Table IV contains a statement of Postal Revenue and Expenditure for the year.

The total revenue from the Postal Service in 1924 amounted to \$754,928.26 an increase on the previous year of \$40,588.23. The Expenditure for 1924 amounted to \$269,568.06 which includes transit payments to Japan for the years 1920, 1921, 1922 and 1923.

The balance of revenue over expenditure amounted to \$485,360.20.

Table V shows the postage stamps etc. of each denomination issued for sale during the years 1923 and 1924.

Table VI shows the revenue and expenditure of the Post Office for the ten years 1915 to 1924.

Table VII gives the revenue from the sale of postage stamps for the years 1922, 1923 and 1924. The increase of revenue from this source in the year 1924 over that of 1923 amounted to \$46,350.51.

5.—MONEY ORDERS.

There has been no improvement in the Money Order business during the year under review, a consequence no doubt of the world wide commercial depression. A slight decrease of £729.16.6 has taken place in the total transactions of the year but this is probably due to the diversion of business from our hands. Formerly this office was the intermediary for the Exchange of Money Orders between the Federated Malay States and China, but last year a direct Service between the two countries came into operation.

The telegraphic Money Order transactions with Great Britain were :—

Inward 107 orders amounting to £1,768.10.0*d*, and outward 87 orders amounting to £1,258.14.9*d* against the previous year of inward 76 orders amounting to £1,376.0.0*d* and outward 37 orders amounting to £610.0.0*d*.

There was an increase of £380.11.0*d* in British Postal Orders sold but this was offset in the reverse direction by a decrease of £317.7.8*d* in the amount cashed here.

Local domestic Postal Notes show a slight decrease of \$527.25.

Full details appear in Tables VIII, IX and X.

6.—CHINESE DELIVERY SECTION.

During the year, this section handled 2,816,938 ordinary letters, 123,161 other articles, and 8,906 postal hong packets as against 2,472,829 ordinary letters, 102,947 other articles, and 7,922 postal hong packets in 1923.

The registered articles delivered amounted to 285,073 of which 182,231 were from the United States and Canada, and 102,842 from China and other countries, shewing an increase of 10,997 as compared with 274,076 in 1923.

3,903 insured letters were dealt with as against 3,475 in 1923. The total number of Chinese private boxes for which licences were issued during the year was 356, an increase of 18 as compared with 338 in 1923.

The licences of 27 Chinese Postal Hong's were renewed, an increase of 4 as in 1923.

7.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The revenue realised by the sale of postage stamps, the financial index of postal transactions shewed a further increase of \$47,129.27 over the figures for 1923.

The Mail Service from London via Siberia which was discontinued early in 1917 was resumed on December 28th, 1923. The London Mail of that date consisting of one bag was received on January 23rd, having taken 26 days in transit. The Service improved steadily until the outbreak of hostilities in North China and the consequent dislocation of the train service south of Harbin. On several occasions the London mail reached Hongkong in 22 days. This administration commenced to despatch a weekly mail to London via Siberia on February 13th, 1924. The Service is restricted to specially superscribed letters and post cards.

One case of damage to mails in transit occurred during the year, when twenty four bags of mail from Europe to Hongkong were badly damaged by sea water, as the result of an accident to the lighter conveying the mail to the B. I. s/s "Teesta" in Negapatam Harbour.

The Department placed its first motor mail van in commission on May 12th. The van has proved useful in expediting the conveyance of mails between the General Post Office and steamers lying at the wharves.

The Hongkong Post Office has participated in the United States Trans-Continental Air Mail Service since November 19th. The volume of correspondence transmitted by this Service is however insignificant.

The revenue collected by this Department during the year from radio-telegrams amounted to \$69,496.41, an increase of \$23,383.17 on the amount collected in 1923. Advices of vessels signalled at the Lighthouses yielded \$916.40, and Semaphore messages \$11.65.

The number of radio-telegrams forwarded during the year was 11,270 consisting of 107,771 words against 3,469 with 40,240 words in 1923, and 12,628 were received consisting of 142,325 words as against 8,066 with 98,284 words in 1923.

In conclusion I wish to thank all members of the Staff for the zeal displayed during the year under review.

M. J. BREEN,  
*Postmaster General.*

19th March, 1925.

**Table I**  
**Mails Received and Despatched during the years 1923 and 1924.**

	Receipts for and from Hongkong.	For H.M. Ships on China Station.	For Foreign Men-of-War.	Receipts in transit	Steamers carrying Mails.
Received in 1923, .....	39,570	7,308	792	133,498	5,298
Received in 1924, .....	41,256	6,737	785	144,541	5,838
Increase, .....	1,686	...	...	11,043	540
Decrease, .....	...	571	7	...	...
Despatched in 1923, .....	36,727	1,796	936	...	8,864
Despatched in 1924, .....	37,179	1,411	984	...	9,302
Increase, .....	452	...	49	...	938
Decrease, .....	...	365	...	...	...

**Table II.**  
**STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL AND HONGKONG CORRESPONDENCE FOR 1923-1924.**  
*Registered Articles.*

	Articles posted.	Articles delivered.	Received for transmission to other countries.	Total articles handled.
1924	274,350	479,823	97,800	851,973
1923	210,400	430,787	166,865	808,002
Increase	63,950	49,086	...	43,971
Decrease	...	...	69,065	...

*Insured Letters.*

	Articles posted.	Articles delivered.	Received for transmission to other countries.	Total articles handled.
1924	3,761	5,129	5,016	13,906
1923	3,582	5,576	2,912	12,070
Increase	179	...	2,104	1,836
Decrease	...	447	..	...

Table III.

Statistics of International and Hongkong Registered Parcels for the year 1924.

Description of Parcels.	International and Local.			Total 1924.	Total 1923.	Comparison with 1923.	
	Despatched.	Received for Delivery in Hongkong.	Received for onward transmission.			Increase.	Decrease.
Insured Parcels <i>via</i> Gibraltar,.....	2,936	6,210	212	9,358	9,435	.....	77
Ordinary Parcels <i>via</i> Gibraltar, .....	17,574	18,256	893	36,723	36,171	552	.....
Cash on Delivery Parcels, .....	.....	447	168	615	413	202	.....
America, Manila, and Honolulu Parcels, ..	14,388	16,104	131	30,573	25,474	5,099	.....
French Parcels by French Ships, .....	.....	3,240	1,332	4,572	3,109	1,463	.....
China Parcels, .....	44,647	41,340	35,466	121,453	134,228	.....	12,775
Indian Insured Parcels, .....	2,422	733	1,232	4,387	7,018	.....	2,661
Indian Ordinary Parcels, .....	13,436	2,686	5,937	22,059	22,237	.....	178
Indo-China Parcels, .....	13,856	3,671	648	18,175	21,451	.....	3,276
Straits Parcels, .....	13,869	2,088	1,864	17,821	22,202	.....	4,381
Australian Parcels, .....	7,400	794	2,003	10,297	11,647	.....	1,350
Dutch East Indies Parcels, .....	5,158	288	895	6,341	6,385	.....	44
Japanese Parcels, .....	2,766	4,280	1,503	8,549	10,126	.....	1,577
Miscellaneous Parcels, .....	8,079	2,896	3,271	14,246	15,303	.....	1,057
Locally Posted Parcels, .....	.....	*442	91,026	91,026	92,640	.....	1,614
Total, .....	146,581	103,475	146,581	396,195	417,869	7,316	28,990

\* Denotes number of parcels posted in Hongkong for Local Delivery.

Total decrease of 21,674 parcels.

**Table IV.**

**Revenue and Expenditure.**

Revenue.	1923.		1924.		Increase.	Decrease.	Expenditure.	1923.		1924.		Increase.	Decrease.
	\$		\$					\$		\$			
Sale of Postage Stamps, .....	654,667.66	701,018.17	46,350.51	...	...	...	Carriage of Mails:—	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unpaid Postage, .....	6,627.70	6,628.78	...	...	.92	...	Share of P. & O. Mail Subsidy, .....	...	...	24,597.33	24,597.33	...	...
Box-holders' Fees, .....	10,419.00	10,697.00	278.00	...	...	...	Transit Payments, .....	227,132.06	243,320.93	16,188.87	...	...	...
Commission on Money Orders and Postal Notes, .....	7,663.37	8,142.04	478.67	...	...	...	Working Expenses, * .....	292.63	...	...	...	...	292.63
Profit on Exchange on Money Order transactions, .....	33,375.65	26,999.70	...	6,375.95	...	...	Special Expenditure:—	5,987.46	1,649.80	...	...	...	4,337.66
Interest on Money Order Funds, .....	1,466.50	1,302.33	...	164.17	...	...	Motor Mail Van, .....	29,676.00	...	...	...	...	29,676.00
Void Money Orders and Postal Notes, .....	120.15	142.24	22.09	...	...	...	Typhoon Moorings for Steam Launches, .....	450.00	...	...	...	...	450.00
								263,538.15	269,503.06	40,786.20	34,756.29		
							Transit Charges &c. recovered in 1923 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
							1923 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
							Less payments, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
							Credit Balance.....	171,898.38	...	...	...	...	...
							Deduct from Expenditure, .....	91,639.77	269,568.06	...	...	...	...
							Balance of Revenue over Expenditure, .....	622,700.26	485,360.20	...	...	...	...
Total, .....	\$ 714,340.03	754,928.26	47,129.27	6,541.04			Total, .....	\$ 714,340.03	754,928.26	...	...	...	...

\* Includes salary of the Postmaster General paid from Vote "Cadet Service",—1923; \$12,746.67. 1924; \$11,994.47



Table V.

Postage Stamps, etc., issued for sale in Hongkong during years  
1923 and 1924.

	Denomina- tion.	1923.	1924.	Increase + Decrease -
Postage Stamps,.....	1 cent.	860,783	1,102,560	+ 241,777
„ .....	2 cents.	6,013,200	6,050,400	+ 37,200
„ .....	4 „	4,492,320	5,024,400	+ 532,080
„ .....	6 „	181,170	92,880	- 91,290
„ .....	8 „	81,600	79,920	- 1,680
„ .....	10 „	1,546,800	1,608,720	+ 61,920
„ .....	20 „	79,200	91,840	+ 12,640
„ .....	25 „	74,160	85,140	+ 10,980
„ .....	30 „	70,080	78,420	+ 8,340
„ .....	50 „	83,520	99,860	+ 16,340
„ .....	1 dollar.	56,590	61,740	+ 5,150
„ .....	2 dollars.	11,731	12,754	+ 1,023
„ .....	3 „	5,430	7,510	+ 2,080
„ .....	5 „	6,610	6,890	+ 280
„ .....	10 „	11,320	8,819	- 2,501
Books of Stamps,.....	1 dollar.	11,425	11,949	+ 524
Post Cards,.....	1 cent.	16,630	36,200	+ 19,570
„ .....	1½ cents.	18,750	...	- 18,750
„ .....	2 „	250	...	- 250
„ .....	4 „	18,173	13,800	- 4,373
Postage Envelopes,...	4 „	11,000	10,550	- 450
Registration Enve- [lopes,	10 „	23,224	24,607	+ 1,383

Table VI.

Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1915 to 1924.

Post Office

Year.	Total Revenue.	Total Expenditure.	Profit + Loss -	Percentage of Expenditure to Revenue.
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	%
1915.....	368,457.77	403,609.02	- 35,151.25	109.54
1916.....	401,742.33	308,136.33	+ 93,606.00	76.70
1917.....	403,869.87	259,214.83	+144,655.04	64.18
1918.....	427,132.88	156,107.69	+271,025.19	36.54
1919.....	450,056.75	104,073.87	+345,982.88	23.12
1920.....	526,122.08	229,378.70	+296,743.38	43.59
1921.....	644,157.54	261,077.84	+383,079.70	40.53
1922.....	662,862.11	258,115.57	+404,746.54	38.93
1923.....	714,340.03	91,639.77	+622,700.26	12.82
1924.....	754,928.26	257,573.59	+497,354.67	34.11

Table VII.

Comparative Table of Revenue from Sale of Postage Stamps  
during the years 1922, 1923 and 1924.

Month.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	\$	\$	\$
January, .....	54,327.32	58,850.16	79,474.90
February, .....	38,396.40	47,806.70	41,457.03
March, .....	50,401.69	56,767.75	58,815.80
April, .....	46,398.85	53,588.83	59,110.95
May, .....	50,452.93	52,467.36	60,427.89
June, .....	44,795.69	51,865.18	51,135.75
July, .....	43,336.75	60,616.48	58,241.11
August, .....	42,988.10	39,738.20	54,070.43
September, .....	44,058.05	50,657.56	54,241.97
October, .....	47,135.27	56,751.47	57,801.89
November, .....	57,535.91	64,179.35	63,002.00
December, .....	52,756.99	60,378.62	63,238.15
Total, .....	\$ 572,583.95	\$ 654,667.66	\$ 701,018.17

**Table VIII.**

Money Order Transactions during the years 1924 and 1923.

Country.	1924.			1923.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	Orders issued.	Orders paid.		Orders issued.	Orders paid.		Orders issued.	Orders paid.		Orders issued.	Orders paid.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Great Britain, .....	7,962 10 0	5,223 6 7	6,961 12 0	4,510 14 9	1,000 18 0	712 11 10	145 6 9	1,448 15 2	34 17 7	1,826 9 9		
Queensland, .....	152 5 11	6,702 15 10	297 12 8	8,151 11 0								
New South Wales, .....	491 7 8	2,176 16 7	526 5 3	4,003 6 4								
Victoria, .....	151 4 0	1,110 15 5	114 4 5	881 15 3								
South Australia, .....	36 10 9	497 14 6	26 7 11	314 3 0								
Tasmania, .....	9 6 3	121 0 9	20 18 6	134 16 0								
New Zealand, .....	177 8 8	1,105 7 6	129 11 6	1,186 17 7								
Western Australia, .....	17 14 7	818 3 10	34 11 1	1,031 16 1								
Union of South Africa, .....	49 6 5	436 4 6	81 1 9	275 9 6								
United States of America, .....	1,828 2 7	2,062 3 2	3,088 1 4	3,330 15 0								
Canada, .....	432 11 8	1,059 0 11	284 14 1	1,091 15 11								
Philippine Islands, .....	3,661 7 7	3,025 3 5	2,039 11 4	2,712 16 7								
Japan, .....	12,350 9 9	2,666 13 3	14,755 8 5	3,326 13 10								
Straits Settlements, .....	1,742 6 9	4,049 18 5	1,670 18 9	4,608 6 2								
Federated Malay States, .....	297 3 8	2,886 9 1	368 4 3	8,380 8 6								
British North Borneo, .....	102 5 11	1,861 18 2	159 12 4	1,858 18 11								
Saravak, .....	39 14 4	904 7 1	46 17 9	1,296 2 11								
Siam, .....	4 5 8	202 4 7	24 17 3	256 11 4								
Macao, .....	518 19 5	376 17 2	612 15 3	403 17 5								
China, .....	14,471 7 2	20,158 11 2	17,983 11 2	12,356 11 1								
Liu Kung Tau (Wei Hai Wei), .....		181 15 11		150 4 0								
India, .....	16,177 6 8	6,230 19 2	9,759 2 5	7,742 19 4								
Ceylon, .....	97 13 4	159 19 10	80 18 8	232 19 11								
French Indo-China, .....	69 14 7	384 8 4	355 16 4	581 0 0								
Netherlands East Indies .....	101 3 5	2,028 11 4	2 6 5	129 3 10								
Base Post Office, .....				28 5 5								
<b>Total,</b> .....	£ 60,915 6 9	66,731 6 6	59,425 7 1	68,981 2 8	9,473 15 4	11,634 1 1	7,953 15	8,133,883 17 3				

£127,676 13 3

£128,406 9 9

£21,107 16 5

£21,837 12 11

Net Decrease,.....£729 16 6

Table IX.

British Postal Orders issued and paid at Hongkong, and at Agencies in China.

ORDERS ISSUED.														Amount.			
VALUES.																	
s.		d.		s.		d.		s.		d.		s.		d.			
0	6	1	0	2	6	5	0	10	0	10	0	20	0			£	s. d.
446		1,397		896		1,042		1,332		1,288		198		3,011		4,363	2 0
380		1,297		941		1,035		1,271		1,181		188		2,706		3,982	11 0
Total in 1924, .....																	
Total in 1923, .....																	

ORDERS PAID.

		No. of Notes.		Amount.	
				£ s. d.	
.....	.....	.....	.....	2,708	15 10
Total in 1924, ...	.....	3,234			
Total in 1923, ...	.....	3,702		3,021	3 6

**Table X.**  
Statement of Local Postal Notes issued at Hongkong and at the Agencies in China.

	VALUE										Amount
	25 cts.	50 cts.	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$10.00			
Total in 1924,.....	23	28	35	20	25	34	150	528			\$ cts. 6,335.75
Total in 1923,.....	24	34	30	18	40	21	140	587			6,863.00