

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 243.

The following Report of the Postmaster General for 1897 is published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 28th May, 1898.

No. 41.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
HONGKONG, 20th May, 1898.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward the following report on the British Postal Service in Hongkong and China during the year 1897.

2. Approximate statistics of correspondence received and despatched during the year are given in table A.

These figures are arrived at from statistics taken in October. Compared with 1896 the amount of international correspondence shows an increase of 100,740 ordinary letters, and post cards despatched and 103,310 received; 15,360 newspapers and other articles despatched and 278,720 received; 38,910 registered articles despatched and 650 received. Local correspondence despatched shows an increase of 1,390 ordinary letters and post cards, and 9,930 registered articles; but a decrease of 1,740 newspapers and other articles. While that received shows a decrease of 45,060 letters and post cards and 17,070 newspapers, &c., but an increase of 1,980 registered articles.

3. Table B. gives the monthly sale of stamps at Hongkong as compared with 1896, showing an increased sale of \$19,476.04, the average monthly sale being a little over \$15,000 as against a little under \$13,500 in 1896.

4. Table C. gives the statistics of parcels received and despatched, and Table D. the comparison with 1896. The outward Christmas and New Year mails comprised, respectively, 504 and 945 parcels, and the inward mails 702 and 987.

5. Table E. giving the revenue and expenditure for the year, compared with 1896, shows a nett increase in the revenue of \$23,336.16 and in the expenditure of \$18,799.12; the balance of revenue over expenditure being \$61,536.20—an increase of \$4,537.04 above that shown in 1896.

6. Table F. shows the number of parcels despatched to Europe by the P. & O. steamers and the amount of postage and insurance fees collected.

7. Table G. shows the Money Order business done during the year.

8. Messrs. ABBAS and J. C. REMEDIOS were appointed to the Registration Branch in February. Mr. MOORE was transferred to the Registrar General's Office as a student interpreter in October, and Mr. RODRIGUES to the Treasury in November. Messrs. LUZ and SIMÕES were appointed to the vacancies.

9. In February last the Imperial Chinese Post Office was established, and a conference was held in May between representatives of that administration and of the Straits Settlements and myself.

Agreements for facilitating the transmission of correspondence, &c. were discussed and subsequently given effect to.

10. I inspected the British Postal Agencies in China finishing with Hoibow in January last and found everything satisfactory, although later last year an inspection by an officer in the Local Audit found that one branch was not so carefully administered as it might have been.

11. A contract was made with the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company in May for the carriage of mails between the three ports, and as a result I was enabled to deal with the question of Chinese correspondence which had formerly been smuggled out of and into the Colony.

I estimate the increase of revenue on that account at about \$5,000.

12. The question of accommodation is more pressing than ever, since there has been a very large increase of postal business in the last two or three years.

The following comparative table of revenue during five years will show this increase almost exactly:—

1893,.....	\$167,600
1894,.....	192,170
1895,.....	244,450
1896,.....	245,280
1897,.....	268,600

The experience of the first four months of the current year shows that the revenue will exceed \$320,000.

As an instance of improvement arising from proper provision in the above respect I may state that the Registration Branch is now performing its work with as perfect accuracy as can be attained, no trouble as in the past having arisen for a good few months on account of loss of letters or other articles.

I therefore hope that Government will press on the construction of a new office without delay.

13. I may also call attention to the salaries of the subordinate officers though as I have had no complaint I did not consider it necessary to represent anything to Government specially on the subject. As an instance, the Compradore is paid only \$480 while he has to find security for \$1,000, handles over \$200,000 of Government money per annum, and is responsible for the conduct of the Chinese staff of over 36 servants.

The postmen too, who are supposed to be able to read and write Chinese to a certain extent, get very meagre pay—not more in a great many cases than a house coolie, and it is therefore not a matter of surprise that the local delivery service is not so perfect as it might be, were better educated men engaged.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. M. THOMSON,  
Postmaster General.

The Honourable  
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Table A.—Approximate Statistics for the Year 1897.

Description of Correspondence.	International.		Local.		Total.	Comparison with 1896.		
	Des-patched.	Received.	Des-patched.	Received.		Total in 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ordinary Paid Letters, .....	960,620	1,137,860	88,010	51,220	2,237,710	2,100,930	136,780	...
Unpaid or Short-paid Articles,.....	5,200	39,420	620	470	45,710	29,030	16,680	...
Letters on Postal Business, .....	3,700	3,420	1,510	1,040	9,670	10,120	...	450
Post Cards (Single), .....	13,780	27,350	1,380	630	43,140	35,130	8,010	...
Post Cards with reply, .....	260	650	50	30	990	1,630	...	640
Newspapers, Books, Circulars, &c., .....	390,620	1,172,780	59,230	12,950	1,635,580	1,356,370	279,210	...
Patterns, .....	10,660	26,210	340	470	37,680	41,620	...	3,940
Registered Articles, .....	99,960	160,010	19,460	11,110	290,540	241,280	49,260	...
Do., with Return Receipts,...	440	4,670	110	130	5,350	3,140	2,210	...
Local Delivery :—Letters, Circulars, &c.,	...	...	...	...	136,900	112,840	24,060	...

Table B.—Sale of Stamps at Hongkong 1896 and 1897.

	1896.	1897.
January, .....	\$15,520.43	\$16,004.76
February,.....	11,713.62	13,565.94
March,.....	12,693.90	16,375.21
April, .....	15,083.72	14,234.29
May,.....	12,218.73	14,743.61
June, .....	12,733.60	13,811.74
July, .....	13,664.26	14,427.57
August, .....	12,023.13	13,149.32
September, .....	11,837.54	15,591.71
October, .....	14,509.75	14,316.99
November, .....	14,155.97	15,644.49
December, .....	15,828.81	19,593.87
	<u>\$161,983.46</u>	<u>\$181,459.50</u>

Table C.—Statistics of Parcels for the Year 1897.

Despatched to	Despatched to		Received from		Received from	
	Ordinary.	Insured.	Ordinary.	Insured.	Ordinary.	Insured.
United Kingdom, .....	7,699	1,955	United Kingdom,.....	11,851	1,222	
India, .....	812	322	India, .....	720	300	
Germany, .....	221	...	Germany, .....	633	...	
Australia, .....	212	...	Australia, .....	188	...	
Ceylon, .....	101	...	Ceylon, .....	108	...	
Malta and Gibraltar,.....	40	...	Malta and Gibraltar, .....	41	...	
Egypt and Canada, .....	91	...	Egypt and Canada, .....	323	...	
Coast Ports, .....	9,819	...	Coast Ports, .....	8,808	...	
Total,.....	18,995	2,277	Total,.....	22,672	1,522	

Table D.—Parcels Received and Despatched during the Years 1896 and 1897.

Received from	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.	Despatched to	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
United Kingdom,.....	12,400	13,073	673	...	United Kingdom, ....	11,038	9,654	...	1,384
Germany, .....	407	633	226	...	Germany, .....	665	221	...	444
India,.....	876	1,020	144	...	India, .....	985	1,134	149	...
Other Countries, .....	530	660	130	...	Other Countries,.....	294	444	150	...
Coast Ports, .....	4,230	8,808	4,578	...	Coast Ports. ....	7,389	9,819	2,430	...
Grand Total,...	18,443	24,194	5,751	...	Grand Total,...	20,371	21,272	2,729	1,828

Table E.—Revenue and Expenditure 1897.

Receipts.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.	Expenditure.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
Sale of Stamps, .....	\$ 226,387.94	\$ 246,888.02	\$ 20,500.08	\$ ...	Transit Payments to } United Kingdom, ... }	\$ 41,616.30	\$ 47,016.75	\$ 5,400.45	\$ ...
Unpaid Postage,.....	7,182.57	7,178.95	...	3.62	Transit Payments to } Other Countries, ... }	32,533.61	38,302.94	5,769.33	...
Boxholders' Fees, .....	2,536.67	2,649.58	112.91	...	Commission on Money } Orders, .....	749.10	778.28	29.18	...
Commission on Money } Orders, .....	4,920.18	5,963.96	1,043.78	...	Contribution towards } P. & O. Subsidy, ... }	55,899.18	61,125.48	5,226.30	...
Profit on Exchange on } Money Order Trans- } actions, .....	3,986.82	5,664.35	1,677.53	...	Gratuities to Ship- } masters for Convey- } ance of Mails,..... }	7,146.78	6,673.44	...	473.34
Interest on Money } Order Fund, .....	266.15	208.21	...	57.94	Working Expenses, .....	50,336.20	53,183.40	2,847.20	...
Void Money Orders and } Postal Notes, .....	...	63.42	63.42	...	Balance, .....	56,999.16	61,536.20	4,537.04	...
Total,.....\$	245,280.33	268,616.49	23,397.72	61.56	Total,.....\$	245,280.33	268,616.49	23,809.50	473.34

Table F.—Parcels for United Kingdom Posted in Hongkong during the Year 1897.

Date.	Number of Parcels.	Postage.	Insurance Fees.	Date.	Number of Parcels.	Postage.	Insurance Fees.
				<i>Brought forward,...</i>	4,292	\$4,559.80	\$ 172.80
January 14th,.....	325	\$ 298.25	\$ 13.40	July 15th, .....	392	363.55	20.20
" 14th,.....	33	69.40	...	" 15th, .....	27	39.90	...
" 28th,.....	311	290.40	14.60	" 29th, .....	268	233.55	14.80
" 28th,.....	31	51.00	...	" 29th, .....	33	72.40	...
February 11th,.....	251	238.40	10.80	August 12th, .....	264	240.10	12.80
" 11th,.....	24	72.00	...	" 12th, .....	29	40.50	...
" 25th,.....	259	243.10	10.60	" 26th, .....	262	228.30	13.60
" 25th,.....	23	37.00	...	" 26th, .....	35	73.15	...
March 11th,.....	293	288.70	12.20	September 9th, .....	253	231.45	8.60
" 11th,.....	24	62.50	...	" 9th, .....	26	39.75	...
" 25th,.....	272	225.55	12.40	" 23rd, .....	297	281.55	23.00
" 25th,.....	17	26.75	...	" 23rd, .....	33	61.15	...
April 8th,.....	302	278.80	10.20	October 7th, .....	225	218.25	15.20
" 8th,.....	24	41.10	...	" 7th, .....	20	40.25	...
" 22nd,.....	341	306.90	18.60	" 21st, .....	340	357.75	16.20
" 22nd,.....	30	58.75	...	" 21st, .....	30	80.95	...
May 6th,.....	319	305.85	14.40	" 23rd, .....	33	61.15	...
" 6th,.....	31	90.85	...	November 4th, .....	478	413.95	32.40
" 20th,.....	325	310.75	15.60	" 4th, .....	26	51.50	...
" 20th,.....	17	23.00	...	" 18th, .....	899	739.85	43.80
June 3rd,.....	289	234.85	13.60	" 18th, .....	46	110.75	...
" 3rd,.....	26	42.50	...	December 2nd, .....	594	485.35	25.20
" 17th,.....	313	266.45	14.20	" 2nd, .....	36	52.25	...
" 17th,.....	61	259.30	...	" 16th, .....	406	377.15	17.00
July 1st,.....	294	270.85	12.20	" 16th, .....	38	58.80	...
" 1st,.....	57	166.80	...	" 30th, .....	274	255.10	15.20
				" 30th, .....	31	62.30	...
<i>Carried forward,...</i>	4,292	4,559.80	172.80	Grand Total,...	9,654	9,769.35	430.80

Table G.—MONEY ORDER BUSINESS, 1897.

	Number of Orders.	Amount.	Colonial Com- mission.	Total Com- mission.
<b>In Sterling.</b>				
		£ s. d.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports on United Kingdom, .....	2,623	8,657. 7. 3	301.90	
Do. on Queensland, .....	27	81.11. 0	5.39	
Do. on New South Wales, .....	98	242. 9. 9	2.57	
Do. on Victoria, .....	79	177.15. 6	2.25	
Do. on South Australia, .....	10	18. 9. 7	.48	
Do. on Tasmania, .....	88	127.15. 9	7.13	
Do. on New Zealand, .....	15	39.12.11	.75	
Total Outward Orders in Sterling,.....	2,940	9,345. 1. 9	320.47	320.47
United Kingdom on Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports, .....	1,204	3,816.17. 6	194.67	
Queensland Do., .....	2,289	15,895. 3. 2	1,488.54	
New South Wales Do., .....	831	4,024. 3. 5	425.25	
Victoria Do., .....	632	3,707. 7.10	384.47	
South Australia Do., .....	184	1,425. 3.10	150.53	
Tasmania Do., .....	127	394.19. 8	41.53	
New Zealand Do., .....	244	1,326.16. 6	139.00	
Total Inward Orders in Sterling,.....	5,511	30,590.11.11	2,823.99	2,823.99
<b>In Gold Dollars.</b>				
		\$ c.		
Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports on United States of America, .....	188	1,844.59	32.42	
Do. on Canada, .....	53	717.94	9.23	
Total Outward Orders in Gold Dollars,.....	241	2,562.53	41.65	41.65
United States of America on Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports, .....	314	4,844.12	52.34	
Canada Do., .....	163	4,530.08	48.48	
Hawaii Do., .....	3	15.20	.17	
Total Inward Orders in Gold Dollars, .....	480	9,389.40	100.99	100.99
<b>In Silver Dollars.</b>				
Hongkong on Shanghai, .....	134	2,909.91	50.20	
Do. on Coast Ports, .....	23	471.98	8.40	
Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports on Japan (including transfers from { Australia, Straits, Borneo, &c., } .....	2,495	149,355.66	95.04	
Do. on Straits Settlements, .....	172	2,931.75	35.54	
Do. on Siam, .....	12	317.86	1.18	
Do. on British North Borneo, .....	11	122.25	2.17	
Total Outward Orders in Silver Dollars, .....	2,847	156,109.41	192.53	192.53
Shanghai on Hongkong and Coast Ports, .....	100	1,893.19	40.20	
Japan on Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports, .....	279	6,749.44	2.95	
Straits Settlements Do., .....	928	24,368.79	148.03	
Siam Do., .....	41	750.75	7.51	
British North Borneo Do., .....	323	12,026.44	120.27	
Total Inward Orders in Silver Dollars,.....	1,671	45,788.61	318.96	318.96
<b>In Rupees.</b>				
		Rs. as.		
Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports on India, .....	1,000	62,402. 0	304.13	
Do. on Ceylon, .....	26	1,153. 7	2.29	
Total Outward Orders in Rupees, .....	1,026	63,555. 7	306.42	306.42
India on Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports, .....	367	26,801.14	88.50	
Ceylon Do., .....	8	204. 2	.72	
Total Inward Orders in Rupees,.....	375	27,006. 0	89.22	89.22
Carried forward,.....	...	.....	...	4,194.23

MONEY ORDER BUSINESS, 1897,—Continued.

	Number of Orders.	Amount.	Colonial Commission.	Total Commission.
<b>Imperial Postal Orders Payable in the United Kingdom.</b>				
		£ s. d.	\$ c.	\$ c.
<i>Brought forward</i> ,.....	...	.....	...	4,194.23
Sold at Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports, .....	{ 1/- Orders, .....	1,096	54.16. 0	} 993.44
	{ 1/6 " " .....	1,031	77. 6. 6	
	{ 5/- " " .....	868	217. 0. 0	
	{ 10/- " " .....	1,070	535. 0. 0	
	{ 20/- " " .....	2,295	2,295. 0. 0	
Total Sterling Orders, .....	6,360	3,179. 2. 6	993.44	993.44
<b>Local Postal Notes Payable in Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports.</b>				
			\$ c.	
Sold at Hongkong, Shanghai and Coast Ports, ...	{ 25-Cent Notes, ...	139	34.75	} 111.52
	{ 50 " " .....	187	93.50	
	{ \$ 1.00 " " .....	127	127.00	
	{ 2.00 " " .....	153	306.00	
	{ 3.00 " " .....	149	447.00	
	{ 4.00 " " .....	169	676.00	
	{ 5.00 " " .....	246	1,230.00	
{ 10.00 " " .....	264	2,640.00		
Total Dollar Orders, .....	1,431	5,554.25	111.52	111.52
			\$	5,299.19

A. M. THOMSON,  
Postmaster General.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 244.

Notice is hereby given that Messrs. C. L. KING & Co., of Victoria, Hongkong, have complied with the requirements of Ordinances 16 of 1873 and 20 of 1895, for the registration in this Colony of their Mark as applied to Perfumery including Florida Water and Scents of all kinds, Soaps of all kinds, Toilet articles and preparations for the teeth and hair, and Patent Medicines and other Medical preparations; and that the same has been duly registered.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,  
Acting Colonial Secretary

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 26th May, 1898.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 245.

Tenders will be received at this Office until Noon of Monday, the 13th June, 1898, for the purchase (by weight or otherwise) and removal of condemned Public Works Stores, consisting of old Cast and Wrought Iron Scrap, Lead, Zinc, Woodwork, &c., as they now lie at the following Government Stores, viz. :—

Crosby,  
No. 2 Tank,  
Wanchai,

and at the Reclamation opposite the Sailors' Home.

For further particulars apply at the Public Works Office.  
The Government does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 28th May, 1898.