

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 254.

The following Report of the Acting Postmaster General, for the year 1900, is published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 26th April, 1901.

No. 57.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
HONGKONG, 9th April, 1901.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Hongkong Postal Service for the year 1900.

## DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES.

The Postmaster General obtained twelve months' leave of absence and left for England on the 6th March. The Assistant Postmaster General was appointed to act during his absence, and the duties of the Assistant Postmaster General were divided between the Accountant and the Superintendent of the Money Order Office.

On the 1st January, the six Armenian Clerks, referred to in last year's Report as having been engaged, entered upon their duties. I regret to say, however, that after two or three months' experience of Post Office work, to which they were quite new, they all, more or less became dissatisfied, not only with the hard work and long hours, but also with the salaries which they received, and which they considered were inadequate, owing to the fact that they were strangers to Hongkong. By the end of the year four had severed their connection with the Office.

Including the above six Clerks, 23 new appointments were made during the year, and 12 Clerks resigned. With the exception of three—one with 11 years' service and two with three years'—none of those who resigned had completed even a year's service.

In the month of May, Mr. F. J. MACHADO, the Postmaster at Shanghai for the long period of 23 years, retired on a pension, which he fully deserved after his lengthened and faithful service of 43 years in the Department. He was succeeded by Mr. W. J. SOLLY, the Senior Clerk of the General Post Office, Hongkong, who in his turn was succeeded by Mr. G. G. BURNETT, transferred from the Sanitary Board.

There were numerous changes at Shanghai owing to resignations, and with the advent of a new Postmaster, the long needed additional assistance was pressed for, and I am pleased to say that three extra men were granted by the Government.

## INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The usual Table (A) of International and Local Correspondence received and despatched during the year is attached. It will be observed that there was an increase under each head in both classes of mails dealt with.

In Table (B) will be found the number of Bags, Packets, Parcel Boxes and Loose Letter Boxes received and despatched. It may be of interest to draw attention to the large number of Bags dealt with, viz., 74,844, an increase of over ten thousand on the total of the previous year.

## POSTAGE STAMPS.

Table (C) contains the usual Statement of Monthly Sales of Stamps at Hongkong. The total amount received was \$217,612.24, an increase of \$820.79 on that of the previous year.

Included in the total receipts from sales of stamps in Table (F) are the sales of stamps at the British Post Office at Shanghai and at the several British Postal Agencies, amounting together to the sum of \$76,220.55. A Statement, Table (D), of these receipts will be found attached.

## PARCEL POST.

The Parcel Post transactions, Table (E), again this year shew an increase on that of the previous year. The total number of parcels handled in 1900 being 54,396 (of which 6,315 were insured) against 49,354 (of which 6,217 were insured).

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Table (F) contains the Revenue and Expenditure for the year compared with that of 1899. The total Revenue received in 1900 was \$325,603.38, exceeding that of 1899 by \$7,693.97, and the total expenditure was \$235,263.08, less by \$2,639.68 than that of 1899. The net balance to credit of the Hongkong Post Office on the year's transactions, as will be seen, amounted to the large sum of \$90,340.25.

## MONEY ORDERS.

In Table (G) will be found the Summary of the Money Order business done during the year, compared with that of the previous year. The detailed statement usually forwarded, owing to the Money Order Department, with the small staff, being barely able to keep pace with the greatly increased daily work, could not be completed in time to be attached hereto. The total amount of Orders issued and paid in Hongkong and Shanghai was \$1,102,140.62, which was an increase on that of the previous year of \$468,742.90. The increase in the number of Indian Regiments stationed at Hongkong will account for the larger number and amount of Indian Orders drawn in 1900.

The sales of Imperial and Local Postal Notes similarly exceeded the sales of 1899. The total of the former amounting to £6,149 17s. 2d. and the latter to \$6,401.50. The increased sale of Imperial Postal Notes was largely due to such being applied for to a greater extent by the Naval men on this Station, particularly as their number had of late been so much added to by the additional Ships sent out to augment the China Fleet.

## GENERAL.

Owing to the troubles in North China, and the consequent despatch there of British Troops, including a large number of Indian Regiments, it can well be understood that the work of this Department was considerably added to.

The Indian Postal Administration, however, sent out along with the Troops a fully manned and equipped Field Post Office Establishment. After consultation with me, the Chief Superintendent, with my consent, arranged to open a Base Post Office in Hongkong, and to this Office everything received here for the China Field Force was to be sent at once to be dealt with. That Office having more complete knowledge of the location from time to time of the different sections composing the Force, it was also settled that it should make up into Closed Mails addressed to the different Field Post Offices, such mail matter so received, and hand these bags to the Hongkong Post Office to be forwarded to destination by the shortest route possible.

I may also mention that, at the desire of the Imperial Postmaster General, all correspondence received from the London Office addressed to the China Field Force had to be first checked by this Office as regards the sufficiency or not of the postage on each separate article, and the result of same furnished in a monthly return to the London Office. This information was required to enable the London Office to make its claim on the War Department for loss of postage sustained on such correspondence as was insufficiently stamped. This work, as can be imagined, took time, and meant one or more Officers having to be detached from the ordinary general work of the Hongkong Post Office to deal with such mails as promptly as possible, so as to admit of their reaching the Base Post Office early enough to allow that Office to sort the same to their proper addresses and to be ready in time to go forward in the same mail in which they reached this Colony.

I regret to state that the Convention for Partial Postal Union between this Colony and China which was sent forward for execution was not completed owing to the unfortunate troubles in China breaking out about the same time. It appears very much as if this Convention will be hung up indefinitely. One of the Articles of the Convention would have done away with an anomaly, which certainly allowed the Chinese Imperial Post Office an advantage over the British Postal Agencies in China. It was this: The Hongkong rate on letters is for all places in China (exclusive of Canton and Macao) 5 cents for each half ounce, whereas the Chinese rate is 2 cents for each quarter of an ounce or 4 cents per half ounce. I certainly think that this anomaly should cease without delay.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E. CORNEWALL LEWIS,  
*Acting Postmaster General.*

The Honourable

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Table A.

APPROXIMATE STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1900.

*International and Local Correspondence.*

Description of Correspondence.	International.		Local.		Total.	Comparison with 1899.		
	Des-patched.	Received.	Des-patched.	Received.		Total in 1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ordinary Paid Letters, .....	1,523,440	1,896,510	79,920	44,560	3,544,430	3,161,840	382,590	...
Unpaid or Short-paid Articles,.....	41,990	78,360	8,320	1,740	130,410	71,910	58,500	...
Letters on Postal Business, .....	4,160	4,130	2,130	2,490	12,910	14,760	...	1,850
Post Cards,.....	66,920	103,030	1,820	1,320	173,090	157,430	15,660	...
Newspapers, Books, Circulars, Patterns, &c., .....	707,170	1,541,030	54,080	9,300	2,311,580	2,415,340	...	103,760
Registered Articles, .....	157,720	237,770	7,260	7,070	409,820	382,190	27,630	...
Do., with Return Receipts,	960	6,100	50	20	7,130	7,210	...	80
Insured Letters (Actual), .....	72	45	...	...	117	...	...	...
Local Delivery :—Letters, Circulars, &c.,	...	...	...	...	211,870	199,520	12,350	...

Table B.

*Mail Bags, &c. Received and Despatched during the Year 1900.*

	Mails <sup>for</sup> Hongkong. <sub>from</sub>						Mails for H.M.'s Ships.	Mails for Foreign Men-of-War.	Mails sent in transit through Hongkong.	
	Ordinary.			Registered.						
	Bags.	Packets.	Loose Letter Boxes.	Bags.	Packets.	Parcel Boxes.				
Received,.....	34,241	971	616	6,961	1,543	914	2,016	869	} 16,085	} 372
Despatched,...	24,884	1,188	300	8,758	1,325	567	433	1,677		

Table C.

*Sale of Stamps at Hongkong, 1899 and 1900.*

	1899.	1900.
January, .....	\$17,311.60	\$19,767.98
February, .....	24,032.50	13,762.84
March, .....	18,321.76	18,297.22
April, .....	22,604.37	16,495.48
May, .....	15,972.91	17,741.32
June, .....	15,316.60	17,722.32
July, .....	14,091.67	19,272.19
August, .....	18,734.72	18,993.75
September, .....	14,940.81	17,940.29
October, .....	19,426.30	18,561.80
November, .....	17,661.73	20,024.19
December, .....	18,376.48	19,032.86
Total,.....	\$216,791.45	\$217,612.24

Table D.

Sale of Stamps at the British Post Offices in China, 1899 and 1900.

	1899.	1900.
Amoy, .....	\$11,768.53	\$11,077.29
Canton, .....	9,355.10	13,474.42
Foochow, .....	7,123.96	6,911.58
Hankow, .....	4,610.93	4,913.39
Hoihow, .....	1,520.73	1,094.54
Liu Kung Tau, * .....	390.39	1,941.26
Ningpo, .....	678.05	287.09
Shanghai, .....	35,324.31	32,027.90
Swatow, .....	5,143.31	5,778.69
Total, .....	\$75,915.31	\$77,506.16

\* Agency opened on 1st September, 1899.

Table E.

Statistics of Parcels for the Year 1900.

Despatched to			Received from		
	Ordinary.	Insured.	Ordinary.	Insured.	
United Kingdom, .....	10,566	3,251	United Kingdom, .....	18,966	2,128
India, .....	911	686	India, .....	922	250
Germany, .....	310	...	Germany, .....	250	...
Australia, .....	386	...	Australia, .....	436	...
Ceylon, .....	129	...	Ceylon, .....	118	...
Malta and Gibraltar, .....	25	...	Malta and Gibraltar, .....	61	...
Egypt and Canada, .....	150	...	Egypt and Canada, .....	637	...
Other places (approximate), .....	8,182	...	Other places (approximate), .....	6,032	...
Total, .....	20,659	3,937	Total, .....	27,422	2,378

Table F.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Receipts.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.	Expenditure.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$
Sale of Stamps, .....	292,810.58	293,832.79	1,022.21	...	Transit Payment to the United Kingdom, ...	55,996.99	46,207.88	...	9,789.11
Unpaid Postage, .....	7,664.29	7,757.42	93.13	...	Transit Payment to other Countries, ...	43,646.08	32,827.49	...	10,818.59
Boxholders' Fees, .....	4,064.34	4,263.63	199.29	...	Commission on Money Orders, .....	1,030.43	1,299.46	269.03	...
Commission on Money Orders, .....	6,944.71	10,104.67	3,189.96	...	Contribution towards P. & O. Subsidy, ...	61,614.95	60,004.36	...	1,610.59
Profit on Exchange on Money Order Transactions, .....	6,117.72	9,281.03	3,163.31	...	Gratuities to Shipmasters for the Conveyance of Mails, .....	8,180.81	6,926.19	...	1,254.62
Interest on Money Order Fund, .....	207.11	236.66	29.55	...	Working Expenses, .....	67,433.50	87,997.70	20,564.20	...
Void Money Orders and Postal Notes, .....	100.61	97.13	...	3.48	Balance, .....	80,006.60	90,340.25	10,333.65	...
Total, .....	\$ 317,909.36	\$ 325,603.33	7,697.45	3.48	Total, .....	\$ 317,909.36	\$ 325,603.33	31,166.88	23,472.91

Table G.

STATEMENT OF MONEY ORDER TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1900.

	IN STERLING.		IN GOLD DOLLARS.		IN GOLD YEN.		IN SILVER DOLLARS.		IN RUPEES.		IN SILVER DOLLAR.	
	Orders Issued.	Orders Paid.	Orders Issued.	Orders Paid.	Orders Issued.	Orders Paid.	Orders Issued.	Orders Paid.	Orders Issued.	Orders Paid.	Orders Issued.	Orders Issued.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	\$ c.	\$ c.	Yen. sen.	Yen. sen.	\$ c.	\$ c.	Rs. as.	Rs. as.	£ s. d.	\$ c.
United Kingdom,.....	14,852 7 3	5,844 18 11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Queensland, .....	51 7 10	21,634 6 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New South Wales,.....	504 12 11	3,414 13 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Victoria, .....	329 12 5	2,994 19 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Australia,.....	29 14 3	2,177 16 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tasmania, .....	351 19 4	700 14 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Zealand,.....	123 0 5	975 8 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
United States of America, .....	...	...	8,703.62	9,826.96	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canada, .....	...	...	1,357.74	1,656.27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hawaii, .....	...	...	15.00	21.70	215,304.78	13,041.96	...	...	...	...	...	...
Japan, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Straits Settlements, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,890.92	41,093.70	...	...	...	...
British North Borneo, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	223.54	13,981.78	...	...	...	...
Siam, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	150.89	695.98	...	...	...	...
Shanghai, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,888.25	3,806.52	...	...	...	...
Other Coast Ports,.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,269.70	...	...	...	...	...
India, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	203,089 9	51,960 6	...	...
Ceylon, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,150 0	716 0	...	...
Base Post Office, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48.46	...	...	6,149 17 2	...
Imperial Postal Orders,.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,401.50
Local Postal Notes, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,401.50
Totals for 1900,.....	16,242 14 5	37,742 17 10	5,076.86	11,504.93	215,304.78	13,041.96	7,423.30	59,626.44	204,239 9	52,676 6	6,149 17 2	6,401.50
” for 1899,.....	13,978 17 6	38,797 16 10	3,623.35	9,366.46	215,017.06	10,004.95	9,061.74	52,039.75	65,335 4	57,302 15	4,521 19 0	5,297.00