

SUPPLEMENT
TO
GAZETTE No. 46 OF 24TH JULY, 1912.

Annual Report on the Postal Department
for the Year 1911.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

LAGOS, SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

3rd April, 1912.

I.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

The total gross revenue collected by the Department during the year amounted to £37,863 6s. 2d. as against £35,191 1s. in 1910. The following are the principal increases recorded:—

Postage Stamps, &c., sold	£2,717
Poundage on Postal Orders	118
Share of Postage on Parcels	312

2. The decreases recorded during the year under review are as follows:—

Commission on Money Orders	£106
Sale of Postal Notices	19

3. The value of postage stamps used during the year for purposes other than Postal is as follows:

Telegraph	£8,379
Customs duties on Parcels	1,817
Judicial	8,080
Total	£21,276

REVENUE COLLECTED BY THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT IN 1911 AND
THE TWO PRECEDING YEARS.

Head of Revenue.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	£	£	£
Postage Stamps, &c. sold,	23,161	31,813	31,131
Taxed and Unpaid Postal Matter	40	48	49
Lapsed Money Orders	22	3	16
Commission on Money Orders issued... ..	352	397	313
$\frac{1}{2}\%$ Commission on Money Orders received	30	36	31
Poundage on Postal Orders	620	889	1,068
Sale of Postal Notices	11	53	21
Rent of Letter Boxes and Bags	120	161	175
Share of Postage on Parcels	1,207	1,755	2,097
Sale of abandoned Parcels	4	—	8
Total Gross Revenue	£ 25,570	35,188	37,858
Less Revenue collected for other Departments	13,098	21,613	21,277
Total Net Revenue	£ 12,472	11,145	16,581

4. The estimated value of free services rendered by this Department is as follows:—

Official Letters	£3,424
„ Book Packets	356
			<u>£3,780</u>

EXPENDITURE.

5. The total expenditure amounted to £16,697 as against the original estimate of £18,027.

6. From the preceding Statements it will be gathered that Expenditure exceeded Revenue by £116, and if the latter were credited with the value of free services rendered to other Departments, there would be a net profit of £3,664 on the year's transactions.*

II.—POSTAL BUSINESS.

7. The estimated number of Postal articles *exclusive of parcels* dealt with by the Department during the year was 3,732,325. In the previous year the number dealt with was 3,054,072.

8. Of this total 192,213 articles were registered, an increase of 22,105 on the previous year's figures. The total number of registered articles dealt with at the General Post Office, Lagos, amounted to 80,130.

9. The number of insured letters dealt with was 132 the declared value of which was £2,829. In the previous year 150 letters were insured with a declared value of £3,514.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ARTICLES PASSING THROUGH THE POST DURING THE YEAR 1911.

	Letters.	Post cards.	Newspapers, Bookpackets, &c.	Total.
Despatched to United Kingdom	415,402	53,772	31,749	500,923
Received from United Kingdom	437,949	19,718	531,849	989,486
Despatched to West African Colonies	201,347	3,072	29,646	237,035
Received from West African Colonies	151,671	4,581	18,055	177,310
Internal	1,547,201	19,482	266,885	1,827,571
Total	2,759,513	100,628	872,184	3,732,325

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL ARTICLES, *exclusive of Parcels* DEALT WITH DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Letters and Postcards.		Newspapers, Bookpackets, &c.		Total.	
	Number.	Increase.	Number.	Increase.	Number.	Increase.
1907	1,738,308	413,650	491,782	117,974	2,233,090	531,624
1908	1,923,901	185,596	495,816	4,034	2,419,750	186,660
1909	2,159,811	235,910	593,853	98,067	2,753,697	333,947
1910	2,434,263	274,452	619,809	25,956	3,054,072	300,375
1911	2,860,141	425,878	872,184	252,375	3,732,325	678,253

*The *net* of Postal work done by Administrative Officers for the Postal Department has not however been included on the expenditure side.—*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

PARCELS.

10. The total number of parcels dealt with during the year was 114,973, an increase of 12,957 on the previous year's figures.

11. Of this total 59,653 passed through the General Post Office, Lagos, the number dealt with at that office during the month of December being 7,389.

12. The Christmas mail for Lagos from England contained 1,005 parcels which so far as this office is concerned creates a record for a single mail, the largest previous number being 967 in 1910.

13. The number of insured parcels dealt with during the year was 4,481 with a declared value of £16,157 15s. 6d. In 1910 the number was 4,180 and the declared value £17,183 16s. 10d.

14. The Cash On Delivery service continued to be liberally patronised by the public, but as in previous years great inconvenience and congestion was caused by addressees neglecting to take delivery of their parcels within reasonable time.

15. Towards the close of the year the existing regulations under which unclaimed Cash On Delivery parcels were permitted to remain at the Post Office for 6 months after arrival were amended as follows:—

“If the addressee or his representative refuses or neglects to pay the Trade Charge on a Cash On Delivery parcel or packet within 21 days of its arrival it may either be,

- (1) Returned to the sender,
- (2) Treated as abandoned,
- (3) Tendered for delivery at a fresh address and if not accepted by the new consignee within 7 days, returned to the sender forthwith.

“according to the instructions furnished by the sender on a special label to be attached to the parcel or packet at the time of posting.”

“All undelivered Cash On Delivery parcels and packets not bearing special labels with the sender's instructions for disposal, will at the expiration of 21 days be returned forthwith.”

16. The foregoing regulations have to some extent tended to reduce the number of Cash On Delivery parcels despatched to the several Post Offices in this Colony, but they have also had the effect of placing the Cash On Delivery business on a far sounder working basis, whilst the congestion hitherto experienced has ceased to occur.

STATEMENT OF CASH ON DELIVERY PARCELS DEALT WITH IN 1911.

	Number of C. O. D. Parcels received.	Amount of Trade Charge.	Number of C. O. D. Parcels delivered.	Amount of Trade Charge collected & remitted to Senders.	Amount of C. O. D. fees collected.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Eastern Province	3,823	4,615 10 3	2,919	3,624 18 4	60 18 0
Central Province	2,144	2,717 11 8	2,120	2,467 11 8	43 12 2
Western Province	9,332	9,465 11 11	8,521	8,180 17 2	105 2 11
Total 1911	15,299	16,828 13 10	13,560	14,273 7 2	299 13 1
Total 1910	13,266	15,493 5 9	11,918	11,022 8 7	284 12 6
Total 1909	3,189	4,061 4 3	3,016	3,718 2 8	67 17 4

17. The following is a comparative statement of the total number of parcels dealt with in 1911 and the four preceding years.

Year.	Internal.	United Kingdom.	Other Countries.	Total.	Increase.
1907	26,590	23,568	7,892	58,050	22,414
1908	20,605	29,228	9,312	59,175	1,125
1909	28,445	35,596	12,076	76,117	16,942
1910	40,306	56,675	11,035	102,016	25,899
1911	41,510	59,511	10,922	111,973	12,957

*Over-estimated in consequence of a clerical error.

RETURNED LETTER OFFICE.

18. The articles received in the Returned Letter Office during the year numbered 13,310, the majority of which were returned either to the senders direct or to the country of origin.

19. The following table furnishes a comparative statement of the number of articles dealt with in this branch of the department during the past five years.

STATISTICS OF THE RETURNED LETTER OFFICE FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Total number of Letters &c., received.	Total number of Letters &c., returned to Senders or to Country of origin.	Total number of Letters &c., destroyed as undeliverable.	Value of property found.
				£ s. d.
1907	8,576	7,147	1,429	28 6 4
1908	8,470	6,021	2,449	68 16 4
1909	12,581	8,859	3,722	417 5 1
1910	12,499	8,526	3,973	354 6 7
1911	13,310	9,168	4,142	270 7 3

20. The number of complaints recorded as having been received from the public amounted to 529. The result of the investigation of these cases is shown hereunder:—

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINTS RELATING TO MISSING LETTERS, &c.

Result of Enquiry.	Total.
Duly delivered	369
Returned to Sender	44
Contents alleged missing	2
No trace	57
Doubtful if posted	40
Re-directed	17
Total	529

21. A large number of these complaints were received during the latter part of the year, when in consequence of their dishonesty the services of 4 Postmen out of 6 had to be dispensed with simultaneously with the result that the house to house delivery was completely disorganised and considerable delay in the delivery of correspondence was, I regret to say, thereby occasioned. The whole difficulty in connexion with the delivery of letters is due to the fact that the houses are not numbered, and that the letters are not sufficiently addressed.

III.—MONEY ORDERS.

22. A decrease has to be recorded in the total value of Money Order transactions throughout the Colony during the year. In Lagos only was there any increase, but this is outweighed by the decreases in the Central and Eastern Provinces respectively.

23. The total value of Money Orders issued was £18,106 19s. 4d. as compared with £23,377 16s. 4d. in 1910, while the total value of those received amounted to £9,727 16s. 8d. against £10,652 2s. 8d. in 1910.

24. The decrease in the value of Money Order transactions must be attributed to the popularity of Postal Orders as a means of effecting remittances both to places abroad and internally and to competition of the local Banks and not to any decline in Postal business.

25. The amount of Money Order business transacted by direct exchange between German West African Colonies and this Administration shews an increase on the previous year's transactions of £700 16s. 2d. There were 13 Orders issued and 200 Orders received to the value of £61 5s. and £1,737 17s. 8d. respectively. In 1910, 13 Orders with a value of £95 9s. were issued and 94 Orders amounting to £1,005 17s. 6d. were received.

26. Arrangements for the direct exchange of Money Orders between this Administration and French West African Colonies were not completed at the close of the year, but there is reason to believe that the proposed Agreement will shortly be approved and the system introduced.

27. The following Table furnishes a comparative statement of Money Order transactions in the several Provinces during 1911 and the two preceding years:—

Money Orders Issued.

Province.	1909.		1910.		1911.	
	No. Issued.	Value.	No. Issued.	Value.	No. Issued.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Western	1,111	4,475 1 9	1,587	7,383 3 2	2,415	7,929 5 6
Central	1,531	9,270 0 1	1,077	9,506 18 2	843	5,589 7 3
Eastern	1,386	7,325 1 6	1,218	6,487 15 0	838	4,588 6 7
Total	4,058	21,070 3 4	3,912	23,377 16 4	4,126	18,106 19 4

Money Orders Received.

Province.	1909.		1910.		1911.	
	No. Received.	Value.	No. Received.	Value.	No. Received.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Western	1,197	9,260 2 4	888	8,245 18 10	916	8,421 7 2
Central	248	1,373 16 7	183	1,650 5 4	157	1,017 13 1
Eastern	165	728 16 5	149	755 18 6	113	555 16 5
Total	1,610	11,362 15	1,220	10,652 2 8	1,196	9,727 16 8

28. A comparative statement of the total value of Money Order business transacted with the United Kingdom, West African Colonies and Internal Offices during 1911 and the four preceding years is shewn hereunder:—

Year.	United Kingdom.			W. A. Colonies.			Internal Offices.			Total.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	Value.			Value.			Value.			Value.								
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1907 ...	26,020	12	10	19,319	13	5	31,446	0	5	76,786	11	8	—	—	—	6,892	13	0
1908 ...	20,608	8	6	12,502	3	19	24,426	11	8	57,537	4	0	—	—	—	19,249	7	8
1909 ...	14,232	18	1	8,209	17	8	9,900	2	11	32,432	18	8	—	—	—	25,101	5	4
1910 ...	18,630	10	2	8,052	14	6	7,346	14	4	34,029	19	0	1,597	0	4	—	—	—
1911 ...	16,215	0	2	7,793	1	10	3,796	14	0	27,834	16	0	—	—	—	6,195	3	0

IV.—POSTAL ORDERS.

29. Postal Order business again shews a satisfactory increase on previous year's transactions, the total value of Postal Orders sold and paid in 1911 being £145,345 10s. 7d. as against £130,529 3s. 11d. in 1910.

30. During the year the Postal Order system was extended to Abak, Bakana and Buguma. The total number of Offices at which Postal Orders are now issued and paid is 60.

31. The number and value of Postal Order transactions in the several Provinces during 1911 and the two preceding years is shown in the following Table:—

Postal Orders Sold.

Province.	1909.		1910.		1911.	
	No. Sold.	Value.	No. Sold.	Value.	No. Sold.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Western ...	42,620	28,012 15 5½	59,467	39,452 7 8½	69,740	41,853 3 0½
Central ...	29,315	21,128 12 3½	39,123	29,653 8 2½	46,441	34,482 15 3½
Eastern ...	28,009	18,981 19 5½	42,576	29,569 14 5½	46,954	31,603 15 10
Total ...	99,944	68,123 7 2½	141,166	98,675 10 4½	163,135	107,939 14 2

Postal Orders Paid.

Province.	1909.		1910.		1911.	
	No. Paid.	Value.	No. Paid.	Value.	No. Paid.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Western ...	18,980	14,124 2 3	27,748	21,178 11 5	30,616	22,999 0 1
Central ...	3,926	2,686 7 0	6,502	4,768 19 6	8,557	6,490 17 3
Eastern ...	5,379	3,597 6 2	8,638	5,906 2 8	11,125	7,915 19 1
Total ...	28,285	20,407 15 5	42,888	31,853 13 7	50,328	37,405 16 5

32. The following comparative statement of the value of Postal Order transactions during the past five years indicates how rapid has been the growth of the system since its introduction six years ago:—

Year.	No. Sold.	Value.		No. Paid.	Value.		Total Value.		Increase.	
		£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1907	34,403	22,200	5 0	8,650	6,011	13 8	28,214	18 8	22,553	6 10
1908	69,619	47,870	7 1	19,180	13,877	8 2	61,747	15 6	33,532	16 10
1909	99,911	68,123	7 2	28,285	20,107	15 5	88,531	2 7	26,783	7 1
1910	141,166	98,675	10 1	42,888	31,853	13 7	130,529	3 11	41,998	1 4
1911	163,135	107,939	11 2	50,328	37,105	16 5	145,345	10 7	44,816	6 8

V. POST OFFICES.

33. A site has been obtained and plans for a new General Post Office at Lagos have been approved. The estimated cost of the building is £11,500.

34. In consequence of the continued increase in the number of parcels dealt with it was found necessary to extend the Lagos Parcel Post Delivery Office which is temporarily located in one of the Customs Warehouses.

35. The greatly needed extension of the Post Office at Calabar has been sanctioned and funds for this purpose are provided in 1912 estimates.

36. The erection of a new Post Office at Itu was commenced but the building was not completed at the end of the year.

37. It was definitely settled during the year that a new Post Office shall be erected at Bonny and provision for this purpose appears in the current year's estimates.

38. It has not yet been found practicable to provide the necessary additional accommodation at Forcados Post Office but this will be arranged for when that portion of the building now occupied by the Customs Department is vacated. Private Letter Boxes for this Office were received but were not available for use during the year.

39. At Burutu the size of the Post Office is out of all proportion to the amount of business transacted. The necessity for its extension has been considered and it is anticipated that action will be taken in the matter in the near future.

40. A new Post Office was erected at Warri during the year and authority to provide Private Letter Boxes at that station has been granted, funds for this purpose being provided in 1912 estimates.

VI. MAIL SERVICES.

INLAND SERVICES.

41. The several Mail Launch services were regularly and punctually performed during the year.

42. In consequence of the Steam Ship Companies having decided that the Outward and Homeward mail steamers should call at Bonny once a fortnight only, Government arranged for a Launch to meet the mail Steamers at Forcados on alternate weeks and convey mails for and from Bonny and other stations in the Eastern Division. The service was however neither appreciated nor desired by the persons in whose interests it was

provided, the general expression of opinion being that fortnightly communication with the United Kingdom was sufficient, and it was therefore discontinued.

43. The Railway and Motor mail services were efficiently maintained during the year.

OCEAN SERVICES.

44. The weekly mail service performed by the steamers controlled by Messrs Elder Dempster & Co., Ltd. to and from England *via* the several Gold Coast Ports, Sierra Leone and Las Palmas, has again been somewhat irregular, the scheduled dates of arrival not always being strictly adhered to.

45. The Homeward steamers without any exception left on appointed dates but those from England arrived at Lagos one day ahead of time on two occasions, one day late on six occasions, two days late on four occasions and the S.S. "Tarqual," with the Christmas mails on board, had to put in to Queenstown for repairs and was delayed seven days.

46. In the consequence of the strike of Dock labourers at Liverpool the S.S. "Nigeria" was prevented leaving on the 26th August and the mails were forwarded by the German steamer "Alex Woermann" *via* Southampton, on the following day, subsequently the S.S. "Nigeria" and "Aro" arrived at Lagos within a day of each other.

47. The number of employees in the Postal Department, exclusive of mail runners, during the past five years is shewn hereunder:-

EUROPEAN OFFICIALS.

	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
Postmaster-General	1	1	1	1	1
Accountant	1	1	1	1	1
*Provincial Postmasters	2	2	2	2	2
	4	4	4	4	4

NATIVE OFFICIALS.

	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
Postmasters and Clerks	44	51	65	71	75
Learners	6	5	7	7	7
District & Telegraph Clerks performing postal duties	18	19	18	21	21
Postal Agents	15	15	21	21	22
Postmen	15	18	22	22	22
Mail Guards	6	7	7	7	7
Messengers	10	9	10	11	12
Labourers	6	6	6	6	6
Total	124	134	160	170	176

*The Collectors of Customs at Calabar and Forcados acted as Provincial Postmasters during the years 1907-1909. In 1910 they were relieved of these duties and separate appointments made.

18. During the year 13 Native Officers resigned, 13 were dismissed, 2 were interdicted from duty, 1 died and 2 retired on pension.

VIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

19. The value of stamps purchased by philatelists in 1911 was £506 19s. 10d.

50. The Reply Coupon system was introduced here in November and Reply Coupons are now obtainable at all Money Order Offices in the Colony. The Coupons are sold locally at 3d. each and may be exchanged for stamps to the value of 2½d. in this or any country to which the system extends.

51. I regret to state that during the latter part of the year loss of parcels between Lagos and Sierra Leone again occurred and 35 parcels to the value of £14 9s. 6d. were reported to be missing when the mails were received at Sierra Leone.

P. L. H. ARCHER,
Postmaster-General.

The Honourable,
Colonial Secretary,
Lagos.