

## Appendix Q.

### REPORT ON THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1912.

#### STAFF.

1. Mr. J. D. Lloyd was appointed Assistant Postmaster General in succession to Mr. E. C. Lewis who retired on pension on the 17th October. Amongst the staff there were during the year 4 Resignations, 1 Dismissal and 1 Transfer, while 6 new appointments were made; 1 new post of a 6th Grade Shroff was instituted.

#### MAILS.

2. The number of mail bags and packets dealt with in the General Post Office Hongkong during 1912 amounted to 254,617 representing an increase of 17,292 on last year's total, or 7.3 per cent. This increase following a similar increase of 6.4% for the year 1911 and of 6.5% for 1910 is an indication of the steady development of the postal business of the Colony. The number of bags and packets sent in transit through the Post Office amounted to 79,347 an increase of 13,776 over the preceding year, while the number of parcel receptacles handled in transit rose from 3,769 to 5,621. Further details are given in Table I.

#### REGISTRATION AND PARCEL BRANCH.

3. Registered articles and parcels handled in Hongkong amounted to 992,977 representing an increase on the previous year of 59,502. The growing popularity and importance of the Siberian Route is reflected in the great increase in the number of registered articles sent *via* Siberia; the number of such articles amounting in 1912 to 70,002 as compared with 54,207 for the preceding year and 46,210 for the year 1910. Further details are given in Table II.

#### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

4. A Table of Revenue and Expenditure is given in Table III. Revenue amounted to \$401,054 being an increase of \$1,837 as compared with the year 1911. Expenditure amounted to \$296,867 a decrease of \$125,401 on the figures for last year. This decrease is due to (1) the taking over by the Imperial Government of the working of the Postal Agencies in China whereby the Colony is relieved from payment of transit charges on mails originating at those Agencies; (2) non-payment by the Crown Agents for the Colonies of the share of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's mail subsidy for the 4th quarter of the year. This claim will have to be met this year as well as the payments to the Russian and Japanese Administrations for carriage of Siberian Mails for 1910, 1911 and 1912, the claims for which have not as yet been received.

MONEY ORDERS.

5. The high rate of Exchange during the year 1912 considerably stimulated the business of the Money Order Department; money order transactions for the year shewing an increase £28,527. 12s. 6d. or 17 per cent. over the transactions of 1911. The money order transactions with India alone shewed an increase of about £14,000 or one half of the total, due to presence of a larger garrison of Indian troops. Satisfactory increases are also shewn in the sales and payments of British Postal Orders and Local Postal Notes. Last year there was a falling off in the sale of British Postal Orders to the extent of £1,140, but during 1912 no decrease is shewn in any branch of the business of this Department. Further details are given in Tables VI, VII, and VIII.

PILLAR BOXES.

6. The total number of articles collected during the year from all Pillar Boxes was 220,832 compared with 224,523 in the year 1911.

CHINESE BRANCH POST OFFICE.

7. The total number of Chinese registered articles delivered by this branch during the year 1912 amounted to 234,154 representing an increase of 20,760 on the figures for 1911; of this total Chinese registered letters from the United States and Canada accounted for 156,541, the remainder 77,613 coming from other countries including China. The figures for the three years 1910, 1911, and 1912 are as follows:—

	1910.	1911.	1912.
From U.S.A. and Canada.....	138,135	141,496	156,541
From China and other countries.	70,035	71,898	77,613
	<u>208,170</u>	<u>213,394</u>	<u>234,154</u>

The number of Hong Licences issued during the year was 28 a decrease of 6 compared with the previous year. Two Hong Licences were cancelled during the year for infractions of the Post Office Ordinance.

WESTERN BRANCH POST OFFICE.

8. The amount of correspondence between this Branch Office and Canton was—Despatched 734,601 letters, 4,633 other articles, and 5,062 registered letters; Received 1,103,404 letters, 7,962 other articles, and 5,188 registered letters. These figures shew an increase of 63,116 compared with the previous year. In addition, 8,815 Hong Packets were despatched and 9,879 received, the corresponding figures for 1911 being 9,696 and 11,462 respectively. The value of stamps sold at this branch amounted to \$68,963 during the year, an increase of \$12,003 compared with the preceding year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

9. During the year 1912, Branch Post Offices were established at the following places and placed in charge of Police Sergeants of the various Districts :—in the island of Hongkong : Aberdeen and Stanley ; in the New Territories : Au Tau, Ping Shan, Sai Kung, Sha Tau Kok, Sha Tin, Sheung Shui, and Tai O.

10. The new issue of stamps bearing the postscript of H.M. King George V was issued on the ninth November. All stamps now have the monetary values expressed in words as well as in Arabic characters in conformity with Postal Union Regulations.

S. B. C. Ross,  
*Postmaster General.*

*19th March, 1913.*

Table I.

Mails Despatched and Received during 1912.

	To and From Hongkong.			For H.M.S. in China Stations.		For Foreign Men-of-War.		Sent in Transit through Hongkong.		Steamers Carrying Mails.	
	Bags.	Packets.	Loose Letter Boxes.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags and Packets.	Boxes and Baskets.	Arrivals.	Departures.	
Received in 1912, .....	118,987	16,550	2,427	7,786	1,238	...	...	...	5,321	...	
Received in 1911, .....	118,725	10,843	2,419	7,862	1,239	...	...	...	6,498	...	
Increase, .....	262	5,707	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Decrease, .....	...	...	...	76	1	...	...	...	1,172	...	
Despatched in 1912, .....	118,777	303	1,752	7,890	1,887	...	79,347	5,621	...	6,017	
Despatched in 1911, .....	106,923	834	1,934	6,198	1,725	...	65,571	3,769	...	5,372.	
Increase, .....	11,854	...	...	1,692	112	...	13,776	1,852	...	...	
Decrease, .....	...	531	182	...	...	...	...	...	...	645	

Table II.

Statistics of International and Hongkong Registered Correspondence and Parcels for the year 1912.

Description of Correspondence.	International and Local.		Total 1912.	Total 1911.	Comparison with 1911.	
	Despatched.	Received.			Increase.	Decrease.
Insured Letters, .....	1,260	1,645	2,905	2,270	635	.....
Registered Articles, .....	279,596	521,329	800,925	764,618	36,307	.....
Registered Articles <i>viâ</i> Siberia, .....	42,777	27,225	70,002	54,207	15,795	.....
Insured Parcels <i>viâ</i> Gibraltar, .....	1,770	2,668	4,438	4,331	107	.....
Insured Parcels <i>viâ</i> Brindisi, .....	285	264	499	423	76	.....
Insured Parcels <i>viâ</i> Marseilles, .....	.....	613	613	376	237	.....
Ordinary Parcels <i>viâ</i> Gibraltar, .....	9,704	14,225	23,929	23,212	717	.....
Ordinary Parcels <i>viâ</i> Brindisi, .....	310	740	1,050	916	134	.....
Ordinary Parcels <i>viâ</i> Marseilles, .....	.....	2,338	2,338	1,779	559	.....
Cash on Delivery Parcels, .....	.....	384	384	239	145	.....
<i>Carried forward</i> , .....	335,652	571,431	907,083	852,371	54,712	.....

Table II, —Continued.

Description of Correspondence.	International and Local.		Total 1912.	Total 1911.	Comparison with 1911.	
	Despatched.	Received.			Increase.	Decrease.
<i>Brought forward</i> ,.....	335,652	571,431	907,083	852,371	54,712	.....
America, Manila and Honolulu Parcels, .....	2,498	4,751	7,249	7,296	.....	47
German Parcels by German Ships, .....	708	2,853	3,561	3,033	528	.....
French Parcels by French Ships, .....	.....	1,397	1,397	1,088	359	.....
India Insured Parcels,.....	1,493	552	} 71,464	67,837	3,627	.....
India Ordinary Parcels, .....	2,043	5,140				
Australian Parcels, .....	1,759	801				
Japan Parcels, .....	1,708	2,895				
Miscellaneous Parcels,.....	28,213	26,695				
Parcels <i>via</i> Siberia, .....	165	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Parcels received for China Fleet, .....	.....	2,223	2,223	1,900	323	.....
Total,.....	374,239	618,738	992,977	933,475	59,549	47

Grand Total for 1912:— 992,977. Increase of 59,502.

Table III.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Receipts.	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.	Expenditure.	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$
Sale of Postage Stamps, H. K.,.....	346,246.77	360,947.44	14,700.67	...	(Carriage of Mails:—	...	...	...	...
Do., Agencies,.....	12,983.81	...	427.99	12,983.81	Gratuities to Shipmasters,	7,997.75	10,943.67	2,945.92	...
Unpaid Postage,.....	3,750.87	4,478.86	210.00	...	Share of P. & O. Mail	117,774.87	80,908.23	...	36,866.64
Boxholders' Fees,.....	4,421.50	4,631.50	891.59	...	Subsidy,.....	142,169.34	56,184.59	...	85,984.75
Commission on Money Orders	12,667.46	13,559.06	891.59	...	Transit Payments,	154,326.01	148,830.63	...	5,495.38
and Postal Notes,.....	...	...	...	...	Working Expenses,.....	...	...	...	...
Profit on Exchange on Money	17,991.99	16,464.00	1,527.99	1,527.99					
Order Transactions,.....	1,032.79	1,165.94	133.15	...					
Interest on Money Order Fund,...	121.96	107.53	...	14.43					
Void Money Orders and Postal	...	...	...	...					
Notes,.....	...	...	...	...					
					Total Expenditure,...	422,267.97	296,867.12	2,946.92	128,346.77
Total Receipts,.....	399,217.15	401,054.32	16,363.40	14,526.23	Profit,....	...	104,187.20	...	...
Deficit, .....	23,050.82	...	...	...	Total,.....	422,267.97	401,054.32	...	...
Total,.....	422,267.97	401,054.32	...	...					

Table IV.

Postage Stamps, etc., issued for sale in Hongkong during the years 1911 and 1912.

	Denomina- tion.	1911.	1912.	Increase + Decrease —
Postage Stamps, .....	1 cent	561,600	584,876	+ 23,276
" .....	2 cents	3,018,720	3,095,996	+ 77,276
" .....	4 "	2,058,240	2,161,436	+ 103,196
" .....	6 "	61,200	64,076	+ 2,876
" .....	8 "	55,560	62,636	+ 7,076
" .....	10 "	1,092,240	1,120,556	+ 28,316
" .....	12 "	31,080	43,196	+ 12,116
" .....	20 "	61,481	41,756	— 19,725
" .....	30 "	42,666	38,396	— 4,270
" .....	50 "	44,776	39,726	— 5,050
" .....	1 dollar	30,841	29,241	— 1,600
" .....	2 dollars	11,642	11,115	— 527
" .....	3 "	3,070	3,103	+ 33
" .....	5 "	2,537	2,943	+ 406
" .....	10 "	3,990	4,388	+ 398
Books of Stamps, .....	1 dollar	6,641	7,535	+ 894
Post Cards, .....	1 cent	47,023	52,800	+ 5,777
" .....	2 cents	200	50	— 150
" .....	4 "	12,670	14,350	+ 1,680
" .....	8 "	100	—	— 100
Newspaper Wrappers, .....	2 "	6,280	11,125	+ 4,845
" .....	4 "	600	775	+ 175
Postage Envelopes, .....	1 $\frac{1}{5}$ "	365	2,350	+ 1,985
" .....	2 $\frac{1}{5}$ "	2,450	3,717	+ 1,267
" .....	4 $\frac{1}{5}$ "	10,225	11,250	+ 1,025
" .....	5 $\frac{1}{5}$ "	140	500	+ 360
" .....	10 $\frac{1}{5}$ "	375	525	+ 150
Registration Envelopes, ...	11 "	9,410	10,090	+ 680

Table V.

Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office for the years 1903 to 1912.

Year.	Total Revenue.	Total Expenditure.	Profit + Loss —	Percentage of Expenditure to Revenue.	Military Con- tribution.		Net Profit + Net Loss — after deducting Military Con- tribution.
					Military Con- tribution.	20 per cent. on Total Revenue.	
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	%	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
1903, - - -	414,867.20	334,177.40	+ 80,689.80	80.55	82,973.44	—	2,283.64
1904, - - -	408,458.92	316,756.56	+ 91,702.36	77.54	81,691.78	+ 10,010.58	—
1905, - - -	414,338.19	585,449.25	- 170,611.06	141.12	82,967.64	- 253,578.70	—
1906, - - -	420,454.04	359,484.08	+ 60,969.96	85.49	84,090.81	- 23,120.85	—
1907, - - -	445,420.92	366,452.47	+ 78,968.45	82.27	89,054.18	- 10,115.73	—
1908, - - -	412,431.60	371,486.17	+ 40,945.43	90.07	82,456.32	- 41,540.89	—
1909, - - -	444,046.58	510,729.99	- 66,683.41	115.01	88,809.32	- 155,492.73	—
1910, - - -	519,066.54	470,984.35	+ 48,082.19	90.74	103,813.31	- 55,731.12	—
1911, - - -	399,217.15	422,267.97	- 23,050.82	105.77	79,843.43	- 102,894.25	—
1912, - - -	401,054.32	296,867.12	+ 104,187.20	74.02	80,210.86	+ 23,976.34	—

**Table VI.**

**Money Order Transactions during 1911 and 1912.**

Country.	1912.			1911.			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.	£
United Kingdom, .....	16,840	6 5	21,189 4 7	15,816 0 7	20,399 6 4	1,024 5 10	789 18 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	561 9 1
Queensland, .....	146	5 3	10,918 15 11	140 7 9	11,480 5 0	5 17 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	205 1 10
New South Wales, .....	599	6 5	2,644 7 5	584 12 6	2,849 9 3	14 13 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Victoria, .....	419	14 7	1,218 14 2	411 14 0	953 10 2	8 0 7	265 4 0	325 13 3	.....	.....	.....	.....
South Australia, .....	30	18 6	1,878 15 11	96 5 2	1,553 2 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tasmania, .....	21	6 10	470 3 9	19 13 6	347 5 6	1 13 4	122 18 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New Zealand, .....	134	3 11	1,683 8 5	275 0 0	1,743 12 5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Western Australia, .....	117	15 1	5,982 13 3	49 5 4	4,469 16 7	68 9 9	1,492 16 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Union of South Africa, .....	58	9 11	326 5 2	25 6 11	275 8 0	33 3 0	50 17 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States of America, .....	1,467	4 10	7,514 5 6	1,119 12 8	5,275 4 11	347 12 2	2,239 0 7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Canada, .....	295	2 11	2,919 16 7	283 8 3	1,867 9 5	11 14 8	1,052 7 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Philippine Islands, .....	249	13 7	2,771 18 5	63 12 0	557 18 2	186 1 7	2,214 0 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Japan, .....	26,097	4 8	6,165 8 11	24,108 17 11	4,193 12 6	1,988 6 9	1,971 16 5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sierra Leone, .....	1,447	16 4	2,891 12 7	1,044 11 0	2,980 4 7	403 5 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Federated Malay States, .....	43	17 4	4,226 17 1	64 13 11	3,054 14 10	.....	1,172 2 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Carried forward, .....	£ 47,969	6 7	72,782 7 8	44,103 1 6	62,005 0 4	4,093 4 5	11,696 14 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
								226 19 4				919 6 11

Table VI, —Continued.

Money Order Transactions during 1911 and 1912,—Continued.

Country	1912.			1911.			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.
<i>Brought forward,</i> .....	47,969 6 7	72,782 7 8	44,103 1 6	62,005 0 4	4,093 4 5	11,696 14 3	226 19 4	919 6 11		
British North Borneo, .....	63 9 5	1,562 4 0	1 12 8	1,074 6 1		487 17 11				
Sarawak, .....	.....	305 5 6	.....	292 13 11		12 11 7				
Siam, .....	32 5 6	105 12 5	4 2 0	61 15 4		43 17 1				
Macao, .....	188 18 0	122 0 1	192 17 2	194 17 2		.....	3 19 2	72 17 1		
German Post Office in China, .....	112 1 6	183 16 9	84 12 8	165 15 5		18 1 4				
Shanghai, .....	7,080 5 1	5,873 0 3	7,923 13 0	3,295 14 0		2,577 6 3	843 7 11	644 14 2		
Agencies in China, .....	.....	5,149 17 6	.....	5,794 11 8		.....				
Base Post-Office, .....	.....	.....	.....	5 1 1		.....				
India, .....	35,754 11 1	10,606 12 6	21,951 13 0	10,477 19 1		13,802 18 1				
Ceylon, .....	165 5 2	401 9 4	95 11 3	331 2 0		128 13 5				
Germany, .....	1,325 8 9	4,900 12 5	1,757 3 5	6,909 2 8		70 7 4	431 14 8	2,008 10 3		
French Indo-China, .....	42 18 0	1,146 8 5	46 6 7	577 11 5		568 17 0	3 8 7	.....		
<b>Total,</b> .....	92,734 9 1	103,139 6 10	76,160 13 3	91,185 10 2	18,083 5 6	15,604 6 2	1,509 9 8	3,650 9 6		
<b>Net Increase for 1912</b> £28,527 12 6	£ 195,873 15 11		£ 167,346 3 5		£ 33,687 11 8		£ 5,159 19 2			

Table VII.

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

		ORDERS ISSUED.												AMOUNT.		
		VALUES.														
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	0 6	1	-	1	6	2	6	5	-	10	-	10	6	20	-	...
Total in 1912,...	2,181	5,274		3,540		4,761		6,859		6,723		1,307		13,652		20,593 5 6
Total in 1911,...	1,691	4,401		3,367		3,701		5,753		5,612		1,167		12,810		18,644 8 0

ORDERS PAID.

		No.	AMOUNT.		
			£	s.	d.
Total in 1912, .....	11,140	8,873	14	11	
Total in 1911, .....	10,028	8,044	0	6	

Table VIII.

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

	VALUES.										AMOUNT.	
	25 cts.		50 cts.		\$1.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$	c.
Total in 1912,.....	454	672	535	526	682	777	1,326	2,760	41,420.50			
Total in 1911,.....	451	581	384	448	570	563	1,049	2,320	84,090.25			