

Appendix R.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, HONG KONG, FOR THE YEAR 1926.

1.—STAFF.

Mr. H. A. Mills was appointed Accountant to this Department as from 1st October, 1926, and arrived in the Colony on 4th February, 1927.

Mr. T. Hynes, Superintendent of Mails, went on long leave on 18th August. His duties are being performed by Mr. T. M. Perpetuo, Assistant Superintendent of Mails.

Mr. F. H. Holdman, Assistant Superintendent of Mails (Parcels Branch) was absent on long leave from 6th February to 12th November, during which period Mr. Thomas Lay, Assistant Superintendent of Mails, had charge of the branch.

During the year changes amongst the clerical staff were one pensioned, two dismissed, nine resigned and five transferred to other Departments.

2.—MAILS.

The number of mail receptacles of Hong Kong origin despatched during the year was 31,863 as compared with 32,044 in 1925—a decrease of 181.

Receptacles in transit which were handled numbered 175,055 as against 121,848 in 1925—an increase of 53,712.

3,900 steamers carrying mails arrived and 3,428 left, a decrease of 522 and 2,872 under the previous year's figures.

Full details are shown in Table 1.

3.—REGISTERED ARTICLES AND PARCELS.

The number of registered articles handled amounted to 906,383 as compared with 887,661 in 1925—an increase of 18,722.

The figures for insured letters were 20,236 and 15,327 respectively—an increase of 4,909.

Parcels, ordinary and insured, which were dealt with reached a total of 555,354 as against 397,729 in 1925—an increase of 157,625.

The increase was largely due to the dislocation of freight Services in consequence of which shippers of valuable goods to South China had to resort to the Parcel Post Service.

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 1926 amounted to \$698,606.13 an increase on the previous year of \$54,394.61. The Expenditure for 1926 amounted to \$263,775.04 or \$32,214.49 less than in that of the previous year; the decrease is principally due to recovery of arrears of Transit Charges resulting from the Statistics taken throughout the Postal Union during the period 15th October—11th November, 1924.

The balance of Revenue over Expenditure amounted to \$434,831.09.

Table V shows postage stamps etc. of each denomination issued for sale during the years 1925 and 1926.

Table VI shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office for the ten years 1917 and 1926.

Table VII gives the Revenue from the sale of postage stamps for the years 1924, 1925 and 1926. The increase of Revenue from this source in the year 1926 as compared with that of the year 1925 was \$66,331.24.

5.—MONEY ORDERS.

On account of the continued trade depression, due to adverse political conditions in China, the result of the year's Money Order business showed a decrease of £12,667.13.2 in the value of orders issued and a slight decrease of £968.14.2 in the amount of orders paid; making a total net decrease of £13,636.7.4 on the year's transactions.

The Telegraphic Money Orders also show a shrinkage in the volume of business transacted.

<i>Inward</i>	<i>Outward</i>
1925 169 orders—£2,598.15.0d.	84 orders—£996.6.7d.
1926 142 orders—£2,006.15.0d.	71 orders—£871.4.0d.

The Postal Order business was similarly affected; transactions amounting to £671.9.6d. and £158.9.4d. less in the issues and payments respectively, and \$1,054.00 less in the Local Notes.

Full details appear in Tables VIII, IX and X.

6.—CHINESE DELIVERY SECTION.

During the year, this section handled 2,950,547 ordinary letters, 166,777 other articles, and 9,164 postal Hong packets as against 2,654,170 ordinary letters, 130,907 other articles, and 8,922 postal Hong packets in 1925.

The registered articles delivered amounted to 275,556 of which 121,665 originated in the United States and Canada, and 153,891 in China and elsewhere, an increase of 10,859 as compared with 264,697 in 1925.

6,794 insured letters were dealt with as against 4,412 in 1925.

The total number of Chinese private boxes for which licences were issued during the year was 338; a decrease of 13 compared with 1925.

The licences of 28 Chinese Postal Hongs were renewed, as compared with 27 in 1925.

7.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The direct transmission of Parcel Post Mails to Marseilles by Peninsular & Oriental Mail Packets was initiated on 19th March. Parcels for the whole of the Continent of Europe except the near Eastern Countries, unless otherwise directed, are now sent by this route resulting in a saving of at least 10 days in transit, and at lower rates of postage.

An agreement for the exchange of Insured Parcels with Canada was instituted during the year.

With the important exceptions of India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Japan and a few other countries parcels weighing between 11 lbs. and 22 lbs. may now be exchanged with all the important countries in the Postal Union.

In spite of the unsettled conditions throughout South China the volume of Postal business transacted during 1926 reached a remarkably high level. The revenue realised by the sale of postage stamps has only been exceeded in the record year 1924 and is considerably in excess of the figures for the years 1923 and 1925. The parcel post transactions continue to increase steadily though portion of the abnormal increase during 1926 was due to the temporary suspension of freight Services to South China ports.

The revenue collected by this Department during the year from radio-telegrams amounted to \$67,201.89 a decrease of \$13,141.30 on the amount collected in 1925. Advices of vessels signalled at the Lighthouses yielded \$903.60, Semaphore messages \$28.30 and Wireless Receiving Station Licences \$125.00.

The number of radio-telegrams forwarded during the year was 7,836 consisting of 81,010 words against 10,524 with 122,914 words in 1925, and 13,725 were received consisting of 156,128 words as against 13,180 with 175,726 words in 1925.

M. J. BREEN,

Postmaster General.

1st April, 1927.

Table I.

Mails Received and Despatched during the years 1925 and 1926.

	Receptacles for and from Hong Kong.	For H.M. Ships on China Station.	For Foreign Men-of-War.	Receptacles in transit	Steamers carrying Mails.
Received in 1925,	38,292	7,957	814	121,343	4,422
Received in 1926,	38,262	10,823	928	175,055	3,900
Increase, .....	...	2,866	114	53,712	...
Decrease,	30	...	...	...	522
Despatched in 1925,	32,044	1,694	997	...	6,300
Despatched in 1926,	31,863	4,195	1,024	...	3,428
Increase, .....	...	2,501	27	...	...
Decrease,	181	...	...	...	2,872

Table II.

STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL AND HONG KONG CORRESPONDENCE FOR 1926.
Registered Articles.

	Articles posted.	Articles delivered.	Received for transmission to other countries.	Total articles handled.
1926	328,982	465,517	111,884	906,383
1925	335,793	460,954	90,914	887,661
Increase	...	4,563	20,970	18,722
Decrease	6,811	...	...	...

Insured Letters.

	Articles posted.	Articles delivered.	Received for transmission to other countries.	Total articles handled.
1926	5,346	7,489	7,401	20,236
1925	4,226	5,614	5,487	15,327
Increase	1,120	1,875	1,914	4,909
Decrease	...	...	...	...

Table III.

Statistics of International and Hong Kong Registered Parcels for the year 1926.

Description of Parcels.	International and Local.			Total 1926.	Total 1925.	Comparison with 1925.	
	Despatched.	Received for Delivery in Hong Kong.	Received for onward transmission.			Increase.	Decrease.
London Insured,	1,937	3,246	163	5,346	7,587	.....	2,241
" Ordinary.....	17,561	12,815	1,107	31,483	33,553	.....	2,070
" Cash on Delivery, .....	.....	448	620	1,068	1,065	..... 3	.....
United States of America, Manila, and Honolulu,	7,547	13,130	213	20,890	24,386	.....	3,496
French Parcels by French Ships, .....	.....	2,373	1,015	3,388	3,884	.....	496
China Parcels,	116,845	60,249	48,333	225,427	139,249	..... 86,178	.....
Indian Insured Parcels,	1,586	732	1,534	3,852	3,844	..... 8	.....
" Ordinary Parcels,	20,105	1,276	6,472	27,853	22,555	..... 5,298	.....
Indo-China Parcels,	11,574	2,743	651	14,968	13,718	..... 1,250	.....
Straits Parcels,	17,277	1,916	357	19,550	18,189	..... 6,361	.....
Australian Parcels,	6,995	716	1,916	9,627	8,500	..... 1,127	.....
Dutch East Indies Parcels,	8,322	225	269	8,816	8,666	..... 150	.....
Japanese Parcels,	2,685	6,331	3,192	12,208	10,932	..... 1,276	.....
Miscellaneous Parcels,	10,903	2,480	3,307	16,690	15,981	..... 709	.....
Locally Posted Parcels, .....	.....	* 552	154,188	154,188	90,620	..... 63,568	.....
Total,	223,337	109,232	223,337	555,354	397,729	..... 165,928	8,303

* Parcels posted in Hong Kong for Local Delivery.

Table IV.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.	1925.	1926.	Increase.	Decrease.	Expenditure.	1925.	1926.	Increase.	Decrease.
Sale of Postage Stamps,	\$ 595,645.08	\$ 661,976.32	\$ 66,331.24	...	Carriage of Mails:--	...	...	...	...
Unpaid Postage,	5,302.61	5,322.70	20.09	...	Share of P. & O. Mail Subsidy, .....	...	...	...	...
Box-holders' Fees,	10,494.00	10,370.00	...	124.00	Transit Payments,	47,582.38	9,633.53	...	37,948.85
Commission on Money Orders and Postal Notes,	7,925.26	7,060.14	...	865.12	Working Expenses,	236,887.28	111,214.92	...	...
Profit on Exchange on Money Order transactions,	21,781.56	13,029.55	...	8,751.98	Do. Cadet Service, ...	...	13,200.00	...	...
Interest on Money Order Funds,	679.37	459.41	...	219.96	† Do. Junior Clerical Service, .....	...	105,774.16	4,948.04	...
Void Money Orders and Postal Notes,	2,238.79	188.43	...	2,050.36	† Do. Steam Launches, .....	...	11,596.24	...	...
* Miscellaneous Receipts,	614,066.67	698,456.88	66,351.23	12,011.42	* Miscellaneous Services,	284,419.66	251,418.85	4,948.04	37,948.85
	144.85	199.55	54.70	...	Balance of Revenue over Expenditure,	11,569.87	12,366.19	786.32	...
Total,	\$ 644,211.52	\$ 698,606.13	\$ 56,406.03	\$ 12,011.42	Total,	\$ 644,211.52	\$ 698,606.13	...	...

* Not included in previous Reports.

† These items were included in Working Expenses in 1925 Report.

Table V.

Postage Stamps, etc., issued for sale in Hong Kong during the years
1925 and 1926.

	Denomina- tion.	1925.	1926.	Increase + Decrease -
Postage Stamps,.....	1 cent.	981,834	1,038,720	+ 56,886
" 	2 cents.	4,604,394	4,055,040	- 549,354
" 	4 "	4,370,874	4,883,280	+ 512,406
" 	6 "	68,874	70,080	+ 1,206
" 	8 "	58,554	55,200	- 3,354
" 	10 "	1,385,994	1,425,600	+ 39,606
" 	20 "	87,594	120,960	+ 33,366
" 	25 "	87,834	111,060	+ 23,226
" 	30 "	79,914	107,280	+ 27,366
" 	50 "	101,014	146,880	+ 45,866
" 	1 dollar.	55,434	61,920	+ 6,486
" 	2 dollars.	11,884	13,800	+ 1,916
" 	3 "	6,664	5,980	- 684
" 	5 "	7,309	7,722	+ 413
" 	10 "	7,746	7,284	- 462
Books of Stamps,.....	1 dollar.	6,650	...	- 6,650
Post Cards,.....	1 cent.	30,034	19,520	- 10,514
" 	2 cents.	294	...	- 294
" 	4 "	12,794	9,000	- 3,794
Postage Envelopes,...	4 "	11,363	11,500	+ 137
Registration Envelopes,	10 "	24,217	21,300	- 2,917

Table VI.

Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1917 to 1926.

Year.	Total Revenue.	Total Expenditure.	Profit + Loss --	Percentage of Expenditure to Revenue.
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	%
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
1925.....	644,211.52	295,989.53	+348,221.99	45.94
1926.....	698,606.13	263,775.04	+434,831.09	37.75

Table VII.

Comparative Table of Revenue from Sale of Postage Stamps
during the years 1924, 1925 and 1926.

Month.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	\$	\$	\$
January,	79,474.90	63,245.13	53,986.05
February,	41,457.03	53,634.64	47,004.73
March,	58,815.30	62,682.96	60,246.92
April,	59,110.95	58,364.26	54,400.00
May,	60,427.89	56,990.90	55,198.60
June,	51,135.75	50,914.76	53,067.10
July,	58,241.11	16,664.14	50,353.85
August,	54,070.43	33,020.00	53,709.05
September,	54,241.97	40,195.54	51,823.84
October,	57,801.89	48,317.40	57,030.30
November,	63,002.00	53,153.30	66,777.45
December,	63,238.45	53,457.05	58,378.43
Total,	\$ 701,018.17	\$ 595,645.08	\$ 661,976.32

Table VIII.

Money Order Transactions during the years 1925 and 1926.

Country.	1926.		1925.		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.
Great Britain,	5,966 10 11	5,219 11 7	7,789 8 6	5,790 6 8	1,822 17 7	1,822 17 7	570 15 1	570 15 1
Queensland,	101 18 10	8,593 16 2	115 17 0	4,637 4 1	13 18 2	13 18 2	763 6 8	763 6 8
New South Wales,	325 8 9	1,672 6 0	381 10 5	2,435 12 8	46 1 8	46 1 8	132 16 5	132 16 5
Victoria,	86 9 2	809 1 2	106 12 5	941 17 7	20 3 3	20 3 3	19 9 11	19 9 11
South Australia,	3 4 2	376 15 9	22 14 1	357 6 11	11 11 0	11 11 0	7 17 0	7 17 0
Tasmania,	0 9 0	122 5 11	12 0 0	130 2 11	63 16 4	63 16 4	96 5 2	96 5 2
New Zealand,	260 3 11	928 1 9	196 7 7	1,024 6 11	63 16 4	63 16 4	56 4 6	56 4 6
Western Australia,	27 14 10	933 9 6	57 11 1	989 14 0	29 16 3	29 16 3	179 6 1	179 6 1
Union of South Africa,	60 13 8	303 10 3	150 17 3	482 16 4	90 3 7	90 3 7	315 13 9	315 13 9
United States of America,	1,260 16 6	2,015 9 11	1,608 16 0	2,131 3 8	347 19 6	347 19 6	301 10 3	301 10 3
Canada,	461 9 6	721 14 10	381 19 11	1,023 5 1	79 9 7	79 9 7	531 0 5	531 0 5
Philippine Islands,	3,975 2 0	4,921 11 2	3,360 13 6	3,747 18 0	614 11 5	1,497 18 1	1,235 17 0	1,235 17 0
Japan,	9,355 2 9	3,216 17 7	10,825 12 8	3,202 15 8	222 0 7	222 0 7	83 7 7	83 7 7
Straits Settlements,	1,134 6 8	1,966 18 8	1,356 7 3	2,556 12 3	496 0 4	496 0 4	115 4 3	115 4 3
Federated Malay States,	102 7 6	3,052 12 7	185 15 1	2,556 12 3	474 7 1	474 7 1	16 12 5	16 12 5
British North Borneo,	41 10 1	2,710 19 3	156 14 4	2,236 12 2	2 3 1	2 3 1	424 10 8	424 10 8
Saravak,	40 18 4	373 19 11	57 10 9	798 10 7	146 7 7	146 7 7	64 11 0	64 11 0
Siam,	19 12 5	81 16 7	17 9 4	146 7 7	6 17 5	6 17 5	66 2 6	66 2 6
Macao,	503 10 1	330 15 4	569 12 7	323 17 11	3,283 7 3	3,283 7 3	3,457 16 4	3,457 16 4
China,	13,256 19 8	19,189 6 4	16,540 6 11	22,647 2 8	7 14 1	7 14 1	.....	.....
Liu Kung Tau (Wei Hai Wei),	94 19 7	466 9 2	18,493 1 11	4,338 15 11	326 13 3	326 13 3	5,726 10 4	5,726 10 4
India,	12,766 11 7	4,665 9 2	18,493 1 11	4,338 15 11	63 15 11	63 15 11	.....	.....
Ceylon,	163 14 2	126 5 6	70 9 6	62 9 7	93 4 8	93 4 8	.....	.....
French Indo-China,	34 5 7	230 5 3	71 11 3	218 13 9	11 11 5	11 11 5	37 5 8	37 5 8
Netherlands East Indies,	52 4 6	1,974 9 11	140 1 4	1,866 12 3	107 17 8	107 17 8	87 16 10	87 16 10
Total,	£ 50,011 7 6	64,632 9 7	62,679 0 8	65,601 3 9	863 5 1	6,908 16 2	13,520 18 3	7,937 10 4

£114,643 17 1 £128,280 4 5 £ 7,822 1 3 £21,458 8 7
 Net Decrease,.....£13,636 7 4

Table X.

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

	VALUE								Amount \$ cts.
	25 cts.	50 cts.	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	
Total in 1926,.....	10	22	15	31	27	35	89	280	3,556.50
Total in 1925,.....	18	28	39	37	47	62	242	288	4,610.50