

HONGKONG.

THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT FOR 1892.

*Laid before the Legislative Council by Command of His Excellency
the Governor, on the 25th May, 1893.*

No. 16.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
HONGKONG, April 7th, 1893.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward the following report on the British Postal Service in Hongkong and China during the year 1892.

2. On the 16th April, I took over charge of the Department, consequent upon the departure of Mr. TRAVERS on furlough.

3. The Postal Union Convention, which was ratified at Vienna on the 4th July, 1891, came into force on the 1st July, 1892. Under this Convention the dimensions of Sample Packets have been increased from 20 centimetres by 10 by 5 (8 in. by 4 in. by 2 in.) to 30 centimetres by 20 by 10 (12 in. × 8 in. × 4 in.); the limit of weight, which under the Convention of Paris was 250 Grammes (8 oz), was left to be arranged between individual Offices of the Postal Union, and through the representations of the London Office, it was arranged that from the 1st October, packets of patterns or samples of Merchandise of a maximum weight of 350 Grammes (12 oz.) might be exchanged between British Colonies and the following countries:—Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Congo Free State, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Greece, Guatemala, Hawaii, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Liberia, Luxemburg, Mexico, Portugal, Roumania, Salvador, Servia, Siam, Switzerland, Tunis, and the United States.

4. On the 1st July, the British Colony of Natal entered the Universal Postal Union. During the year the French Post Office established agencies in Madagascar, at Ambositra, Andevoraute, Fenerive, Fiaranantsoa, Foulpointe, Ivondro, Maevatanana, Mahambo, Mahanoro, Mahela, Maintirano, Mananjary, Morotsangana, Nossi-vé, Antananarivo, Vatomandry and Vohemar. Correspondence to and from these places, as also to and from the French Post Offices at St. Mary, Tamatave and Majunga is subject to the conditions of the Postal Convention.

5. The past year will be ever remembered as that in which the Mail Steamer *Bokhara* was wrecked on Sand Island (Pescadores) on the 10th October, and all but 23 lives lost. The Mails lost by this disaster were as follows:—

FROM.	BAGS.	BOXES.	REMARKS.
Shanghai,	9*	10	1 Bag for H.M.S. <i>Fleet</i> .
Do., French, P.O.,	6	...	
Do., German, P.O., ...	6	...	
Total,.....	21	10	* 3 of these contained empty bags.

Forming part of these Mails there were 76 Registered Articles from Shanghai and 29 from the Agencies North of Shanghai. There were also 65 Parcels for the United Kingdom. A small packet of correspondence was received at the end of the month from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Tainan which had been recovered from the wreck. One of the letters in the packet was found to contain a Bank Note for \$10. This letter was duly forwarded to the addressee, a poor woman resident in Macao. Three others it was also possible to forward to their destination, the remainder of the Package consisted principally of press copies of letters.* In February last a second package was received through the P. & O. S. N. Company which also consisted principally of press copies in a more or less torn and illegible condition.* In this packet a few leaves of a Bible were found in a fairly good state, but unfortunately there is nothing to show to whom the Book belonged. It is, I think, doubtful whether anything further will be recovered.

* Most of these have been returned to the senders.

6. The Pillar Letter Boxes referred to in the 5th paragraph of the Postmaster General's Report on 1891 arrived, and were set up in the places suggested by him, except that one was placed at the East end of the town in Percival Street instead of near the Tramway Station. This change was made in view of the fact that letter boxes are attached to the Tramcars and the placing of a Pillar Box at the Station seemed unnecessary, and would have left the East end of the town unprovided for. The wooden Letter Box at the Police Station at Tsim Shatsui is still retained. Those formerly erected in the Peak District have been withdrawn. Collections from the Pillar Box (No. 1) at the Kowloon Wharves commenced on the 8th August, and up to the 20th the letters collected amounted to 448. The collections from Pillar Boxes (Nos. 2 to 6) at Magazine Gap and the Peak District commenced on the 12th August and up to the 20th, the letters collected amounted to 64. Unfortunately the collections from these Boxes have not been recorded separately, and they are therefore not included in the annexed Table A. which shows the number of letters collected from the Pillar Boxes in the town from August 15th, the date on which collections commenced, to the end of the year. The collections from the Pillar Boxes in the town from August 15th to 20th amounted to 201 letters.

7. Table B. shews the number of letters received from and sent to Kowloon and the Peak District during the year. Up to the end of the year by the courtesy of the High Level Tramway Co., our Postmen have been allowed to travel free.

8. Telegraphic communication between the Post Office and the Light-houses at the Gap Rock and Cape D'Aguiar has been established, and operations commenced on the 1st October. From this date to the end of the year 1936 messages were received at this Office. Of this number there were 262 signals of approaching vessels from Cape D'Aguiar and 53 from Gap Rock. In some instances two or three steamers have been signalled in the same message. The messages are transmitted through the Office of the Eastern Extension Australasian and China Telegraph Co. and the Observatory to Tsimshatsui where signals are hoisted. The substance of the message is also notified on a board facing Queen's Road. The remaining 1621 messages consisted of Meteorological Observations which are received four times a day from the Gap Rock and every hour from the Peak. Communication with the Gap Rock was interrupted on October 6th from 10.50 to 11.32 A.M., and again on November 26th 6 A.M. to December 14th 7.30 A.M. The Telegraph Clerk at this Office is on duty continuously from 6 A.M., to 6 P.M., for seven days of the week on a salary of \$30 per month. The hours are altogether too long. The Clerk has to be on the watch not only for signals from the Lighthouses but also for the Meteorological reports for transmission to the Observatory. Twelve consecutive hours duty is too much to demand from any one, and I am of opinion that there should be two Clerks attached to the Post Office, one to be on duty in the forenoon and the other in the afternoon. As the summer approaches and daylight consequently lengthens both in the morning and evening, the signals of passing vessels can be seen at the lighthouses at a much earlier and much later hour than 6 A.M. and 6 P.M., and the convenience to the Post Office and Shipowners of having the earliest and latest possible information of approaching vessels is obvious. But it would be unfair to expect still longer hours of duty from the clerk attached to this Office than he has already. The Clerks at the Light-houses enjoy I believe the advantage of assistance from the Lighthouse keepers in the detection of approaching vessels. The Clerk at this Office has no one to assist him in receiving the messages that come in. The appointment of another Clerk at \$30 per month for duty at the Post Office can hardly be regarded as extravagant. Of course he would have to take his turn at the Lighthouses with the others.

9. Table C shows the number of Parcels received and despatched during the year. The heaviest outward mail was the New Year's Mail which consisted of 530 parcels. The heaviest inward mail was also the New Year's Mail which consisted of 832 parcels. The Christmas Mails numbered 508 parcels outward and 602 inward. The total number of parcels received and despatched in 1891 and 1892 was as follows:—

PARCELS RECEIVED.

From.	1891.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
United Kingdom,	10,078	10,290	212	...
Germany,	383	389	6	...
Other Countries,	239	872	633	...
Total International,	10,700	11,551	851	...
Coast Ports,	2,600	3,200	600	...
Total,	13,300	14,751	1,451	...

PARCELS DESPATCHED.

To.	1891.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
United Kingdom,	5,240	6,461	1,221	...
Germany,	160	175	15	...
Other Countries,	2,200	787	...	1,413
Total International,	7,600	7,423	1,236	1,413
Coast Ports,	5,000	4,450	...	550
Total,.....	12,600	11,873	1,236	1,963
DEDUCT INCREASE,.....				1,236
TOTAL DECREASE,				727

10. Table D shows approximately the Statistics for the year. Compared with 1891 there has been an increase under all heads except two, that of "Letters on Postal Business" which shows a decrease of 1,250 and that of "Registered Articles with Return Receipts" which shows a decrease of 1,460. Table E gives the figures for the past seven years.

11. The total number of Mails received and despatched in 1891 and 1892 was as follows:—

	1891.	1892.	Increase.
Received,	2,511	3,796	1,285
Despatched,	3,001	4,366	1,365

12. As was the case last year, much annoyance has been caused to the Department and the Public by the want of adhesiveness in the Postage Stamps. This is more particularly the case as regards the two-cent stamps, and is perhaps more felt in the dry season than at other times. The matter has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Crown Agents. The same trouble is, I understand, experienced in other Colonies situated within the tropics.

13. It would greatly facilitate the work of returning Dead Letters to the writers, if they would give their addresses, and sign their names in full, and if this were done on the covers, the letters would be returned unopened. As it is, the greater number have to be opened to discover the name and address of the writer, and it is frequently found that the letter is signed with initials only, or with a Christian name only, and this in cases where there are enclosures of value. The letters have consequently to be perused in the hope of obtaining some clue to the identity of the writers.

14. In his report on 1891, reference was made by the Postmaster General to a Board appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire what means could be devised to stop the illicit Chinese Post Offices that abound in the Colony. The Board submitted its report in August last.

Chinese correspondence arriving in or sent from the Colony may be classed as follows:—

- A. Correspondence originating in the Colony and destined for places in China other than the Treaty Ports where the General Post Office has Agencies.
- B. Correspondence originating outside the Colony, as at Saigon, Singapore, &c., and destined as A.
- C. Correspondence originating in the interior of China destined for Hongkong, or Treaty Ports, or places outside Hongkong where there are regularly established Post Offices.
- D. Correspondence exchanged between places where regular Post Offices exist *e.g.* Hongkong and Bangkok.

It was considered that nothing could be done as regards Class A until the establishment of an Imperial Postal Administration in China to which such mail matter could be sent for delivery, the General Post Office of this Colony having no means of delivering such correspondence. As regards Classes B, C & D, there being no means of detecting such correspondence as does not pass through the Post Offices of the country of origin, it was considered nothing could be done beyond the issue of a Proclamation in Chinese explaining the requirements of the law. This was done, but it is doubtful if any good effect has resulted. In those places where persons landing have to pass through the Customs *e.g.* Japan, something can be done to detect correspondence that has been carried to them in

an irregular manner and when found such correspondence is handed over to the Postal Authorities, and double the deficient postage levied, in accordance with the rules of the Postal Union, on delivery to the addressees; or it is returned to the Post Office through which it should have passed in the first instance. Under the Convention of Vienna the deficient postage and fine on returned correspondence is recoverable from the sender, and when possible it is recovered, but it does not often happen that the sender can be discovered in such cases. In the event of such correspondence being found to have been sent through the Agency of one of these illicit Post Offices perhaps a prosecution might have some good effect. The law having been explained to them they cannot now plead ignorance of it.

15. The need of more suitable accommodation for carrying on the work of the Department is every year becoming more urgent. The simultaneous despatch of heavy mails such as the English and American, the French and the Canadian is becoming more frequent, and, at such times, not only is the work of closing the mails considerably hampered for want of sufficient room in which to deal with them, but the inconvenience to the public is very great owing to the impossibility from the same cause of providing extra facilities for the sale of Stamps. And when, as often happens in the summer, the inward French Mail arrives while the outward French Mail is being despatched, the want of room renders it impossible to deal with the arrival as expeditiously as we desire. And not only is the accommodation inadequate for the work that has to be got through, but the Office is so dark that much of the work has to be done by gas light, which is not only a source of much discomfort to the Staff, but is also very detrimental to health. Strangers passing through the Colony who are acquainted with the commodious Post Offices in other towns to which the City of Victoria does not hold second rank have often remarked upon the darkness and incommodiousness of this Office. It is to be hoped that measures will be soon taken to provide lighter and more roomy Offices in which the ever-growing work of the Department can be carried on, not only with less detriment to the health of the Staff, but also to the greater satisfaction of the community at large. The present building may have sufficed in the early days of the Colony when mails were less frequent than they are now, but no unprejudiced person will I think deny that it is not sufficient for the requirements of the present day.

16. Mainly from the necessity of having to perform so much of the work of the Office in an atmosphere overheated by gas and laden with dust stirred up by handling the large number of Mail Bags that are almost constantly being received and despatched, the health of the Staff has, as in former years, been very unsatisfactory and hardly a week has passed without the absence through sickness of one or another of the Staff at a time when he could ill be spared. This could be remedied by lighting the Office with the Electric Light, as was shown by the Postmaster General in his Report last year.

17. Table *F* shews the Revenue and Expenditure for the year as compared with that of 1891 :—

The Revenue in 1891 was,	\$ 142,770.03
" " in 1892 " 	\$ 157,699.03
Increase,	\$ 14,929.00
The Expenditure in 1891 was,	\$ 140,165.01
" " in 1892 " 	\$ 154,248.30
Increase,	\$ 14,083.29
If we deduct this from the Increase of Revenue,...	\$ 14,929.00
The nett increase of Revenue is,	\$ 845.71

The increase of Expenditure is due to the low rate of Exchange, and the change in the system of accounting referred to below. During the year a sum of \$1,171.66 on account of transit charges due to this Colony for the year 1891 was collected. This amount as well as a sum of \$171.18 interest on Money Order transactions has been passed to the credit of 'Miscellaneous Receipts' instead of being credited to Postal Revenue as in former years. If these sums had been credited to Postal Revenue, the total amount of Revenue for last year would have been \$159,041.87, and there would have been a nett increase to the Revenue of \$469.78.*

* Revenue 1891,	\$142,770.03	Revenue 1892,	\$157,699.03
{ Refund of Postage,	1,568.42	{ Refund of Postage,	1,171.66
† Interest on Money Order Fund,	150.35	† Interest on Money Order Fund,	171.18
	\$144,488.80		\$159,041.87
		Deduct Revenue 1891,	144,488.80
		Increase,	14,553.07
		Deduct Increase Expenditure,	14,083.29
		Nett Increase Revenue,	469.78

† Formerly included in Postal Revenue, since 1891 carried to "Miscellaneous Receipts."

18. Local deliveries to the Town, which had hitherto been made three times a day were last year made every two hours commencing at 8 A.M. and finishing at 6 P.M. For this purpose *the Town* is considered to be that portion of the City lying between Ship Street and Bonham Strand West, and between the Sea and Robinson Road. The portions beyond are regarded as Suburbs. Deliveries to the Suburbs are made three times a day and to the Peak and Kowloon twice a day. These deliveries cannot be regarded as effected at present in a perfectly satisfactory manner. The experience of the past year has satisfied me that the causes of this are :—

- 1stly. The want of sufficient room in which to carry on the work. This is especially felt on the days on which the French, English and American Mails are despatched when local correspondence is liable to get mixed with that intended for the outgoing mail and is only found when the correspondence for that mail is sorted, which is probably not until after the delivery hour has passed. With a view to remedy this, Special Drop Boxes have been provided for posting Local Correspondence. But the remedy is not an effectual one as Local Letters are still posted in the same Drop Box as letters for the outgoing mails.
- 2ndly. These deliveries have been attempted without the appointment of the full Staff which the late Mr. LISTER, after careful consideration, deemed necessary for the efficient carrying out of this work, and for which provision has already been made in the Estimates.
- 3rdly. The difficulty that is experienced in making the Postmen understand where private residences, such as Marlingford, La Hacienda, and Glenifer, are situated, and the further difficulty in cases where the Private Residence is known to them, of inducing them to depart from the old custom of delivering letters at the nearest place of business. Dismissal of the Postman for delivering at business places letters which are addressed to Private Residences has no good effect, for the new Postman has to be taught his District, and while he is learning it the deliveries are more unsatisfactory than they were with the man who has been dismissed.

Another cause which contributes to the unsatisfactory nature of these deliveries is to be found in the fact that a Town which extends for at least three miles in length and has two large and important suburbs like Kowloon and the Peak has to be served from a single Post Office, where the Staff is fully occupied during the entire working day from 7 A.M. to 5 P.M. with the despatch and receipt of Mails to and from places situated all over the world.

To remedy the defects in the Local deliveries, I would strongly recommend the establishment of Branch Post Offices at the Peak and Kowloon, and in the Eastern and Western Suburbs. The powers necessary for this are contained in Ordinance 1 of 1887, § 2.

The advantages of having such Offices are many and are sufficiently obvious to render an enumeration of them almost superfluous. But, by way of illustration, take the case of the Peak District. At present, deliveries are effected by means of two Postmen who leave the Post Office at 11.30 A.M. and 3.30 P.M. daily, one of these after delivering letters to a portion of the Peak District has to go on to Magazine Gap, and besides delivering letters they have to clear the Pillar Boxes. It is found that it takes the Postman whose deliveries are confined entirely to the Peak, as a rule, from two to two and a half hours to effect his deliveries and return to the Post Office, while the other Postman takes, as a rule, from two and a half to three hours, and if they have many letters to deliver it takes longer. The consequence is that letters posted in the Pillar Boxes before noon never reach the Post Office in time for the Noon Delivery, and very often not until after the Postmen have started for the 2 P.M. Delivery. It is the same thing in the afternoon. If there were a Post Office at the Peak, letters posted there, or in the Pillar Boxes, could be got ready to hand to the Postman on his arrival at Noon and 4 P.M., and he could at once return to the General Post Office, leaving the mails he has brought up to be distributed by the Peak Post Office. The letters from the Peak would be received at the General Post Office, sorted according to the several delivery districts, and could be sent out at once, and the delay necessitated by sorting them when they reach the General Post Office would be avoided. On mail days also it would be possible to make provision for letters being posted up to say a $\frac{1}{4}$ hour before the mail is closed in the General Post Office, and it would also be possible to provide the convenience of additional deliveries at the Peak. The same argument applies to Kowloon, and the Eastern and Western suburbs of the Town. Take the case of these latter. A person living in the Western suburbs posts a letter for the Eastern suburbs in one of the Pillar Boxes at 8 A.M. ; it is cleared by the Postman in the course of his rounds with the 9 A.M. deliveries, and perhaps, does not reach the General Post Office till 11.30 A.M. ; it is sent out again at Noon. The reply is posted in a Pillar Box shortly after, but cannot reach the General Post Office until the return of the Postman from his 5 P.M. deliveries by which time the Post Office is closed and the letter does not get delivered till next morning. With Post Offices in these suburbs a letter posted in the West before 8.45 A.M. would reach the General Post Office in time to be sent to the Eastern Post Office at nine, and the reply would be in time to be

despatched to the Western Post Office at Noon. And, indeed, it would under these circumstances be possible to arrange for two-hourly, if not hourly, deliveries all over the Town; while on mail days the convenience to residents in the suburbs would be very great.

The deliveries would also be expedited if there was a letter box attached to the door of each house into which the Postmen could drop the letters, and pass on without the loss of time involved in finding some one to take delivery.

Whether any improvement would result from the substitution of Indians or the poorer class of Portuguese for Chinese as letter-carriers could only be ascertained after trial. At any rate the difficulties of contending with old custom would disappear, and there would be greater certainty that letters addressed to Private Residences would be delivered as addressed, and not taken to the addressees' Offices.

19. The Postal Work at the Agencies at the Coast Ports has been carried on in a most satisfactory manner. During the year there were several changes in the *personnel* of the Agencies. Mr. E. T. C. WERNER, who for a long time had rendered most efficient service at Canton, resigned on October 21st, on transfer to Tientsin, Mr. G. D. PITZIPIOS being appointed to succeed him; he, however, left for England on November 28th, and the duties of the Agency were undertaken by Mr. F. S. A. BOURNE during the remainder of the year. On November 1st, Mr. H. A. GILES handed over the Ningpo Agency to Mr. P. F. HAUSSER, at whose request Mr. C. KILGOUR was on the 18th appointed Postal Agent. On December 13th, Mr. R. W. HURST resigned the Agency at Foochow, and Mr. E. C. WILTON was appointed in his stead.

20. Table G gives the particulars of Money Order transactions during the year. The question of a direct exchange with the United States is under consideration. It is hoped that arrangements for the issue of Postal Notes for Local use will be completed before long.

21. My thanks are due to the Officers in charge of the Postal Agencies and to the Staff of this Department for the ready assistance rendered to me in my endeavours to meet the convenience of the Public and at the same time keep down expenses.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

G. STAFFORD NORTHCOTE,
Acting Postmaster General.

The Honourable G. T. M. O'BRIEN, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

Table A.—Return of Correspondence collected from the Pillar Letter Boxes in Town from
August 15th to December 31st, 1892.

Box No.	Locality.	No. of Letters.
7	Arsenal Street,	804
8	Harbour Office,	479
9	Albany and Robinson Roads,	98
10	Seymour and Castle Roads,	174
11	Old Bailey Street,	403
12	Robinson and Bonham Roads,	146
13	Percival Street,	19
14	No. 7 Police Station,	949
Total Number of Letters,		3,072

G. STAFFORD NORTHCOTE,
Acting Postmaster General.

General Post Office, Hongkong, April 7th, 1893.

Table B.—Return of Correspondence received from and despatched to the Peak District and Kowloon during the Year 1892.

		1891.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
Peak District,	Received,	364	498	134	...
	Despatched,	4,876	5,390	514	...
Kowloon,	Received,	159	1,282	1,123	...
	Despatched,	2,068	3,346	1,278	...

G. STAFFORD NORTHCOTE,
Acting Postmaster General.

General Post Office, Hongkong, April 7th, 1893.

Table C.—Statistics of Parcels for the Year 1892.

Despatched.	Ordinary Parcels.	Insured Parcels.	Received.	Ordinary Parcels.	Insured Parcels.
To United Kingdom,.....	6,279	182	From United Kingdom,	9,970	320
„ India,	520	23	„ India,	392	86
„ Germany,	175	...	„ Germany,	389	...
„ Australia,	162	...	„ Australia,	83	...
„ Ceylon,.....	52	...	„ Ceylon,	47	...
„ Egypt,	20	...	„ Egypt,	242	...
„ Gibraltar and Malta,.....	10	...	„ Gibraltar and Malta,.....	22	...
„ Coast Ports,.....	4,450	...	„ Coast Ports,	3,200	...
Total,.....	11,668	205	Total,.....	14,345	406

G. STAFFORD NORTHCOTE,
Acting Postmaster General.

General Post Office, Hongkong, April 7th, 1893.

Table D.—Approximate Statistics for the Year 1892.

Description of Correspondence.	International.		Local.		Total.	Comparison with 1891.		
	Des- patched.	Received.	Des- patched.	Received.		Total in 1891.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ordinary paid Letters,	636,300	635,900	76,200	87,050	1,435,450	1,346,050	89,400	...
Unpaid or Short-paid Articles,.....	8,950	31,300	350	880	41,480	28,750	12,730	...
Letters on Postal Business,	2,550	1,130	1,650	1,170	6,500	7,750	...	1,250
Post Cards,	13,900	14,000	3,900	2,250	34,050	23,350	10,700	...
Newspapers, Periodicals, Books, Cir- culars, &c.,	287,050	653,750	48,200	33,250	1,022,250	1,001,250	21,000	...
Patterns,	10,300	29,300	200	70	39,870	31,700	8,170	...
Registered Articles,	40,550	83,350	4,450	6,000	134,350	114,900	19,450	...
Do., with Return Receipts,.	200	260	60	100	620	2,080	...	1,460

G. STAFFORD NORTHCOTE,
Acting Postmaster General.

General Post Office, Hongkong, April 7th, 1893.

Table E.—Comparative Postal Statistics for each year from 1886 to 1892.

Description of Correspondence.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	Difference between 1886 & 1892.
Ordinary Paid Letters,.....	1,095,000	1,120,000	1,147,000	1,283,700	1,325,750	1,346,050	1,435,450	+340,450
Unpaid or Short-paid Articles,	46,000	44,000	46,000	39,180	22,800	28,750	41,480	— 4,520
Letters on Postal Business,.....	4,000	4,400	5,405	8,350	8,100	7,750	6,500	+ 2,500
Post Cards,	9,900	12,500	14,375	13,700	24,300	23,350	34,050	+ 24,150
Newspapers, Periodicals, Books, &c.,.....	716,100	760,500	798,575	920,000	949,350	1,001,250	1,022,250	+306,150
Patterns,	8,000	9,500	9,775	23,700	20,000	31,700	39,870	+ 31,870
Registered Articles,	58,900	62,500	69,125	96,400	110,600	114,900	134,350	+ 75,450
Do., with Return Receipts,	4,500	5,500	6,325	2,200	1,450	2,080	620	— 3,880
Parcels,	8,506	...	13,123	17,030	25,050	25,900	26,624	+ 18,118
Total of all Descriptions,	1,950,906	2,018,900	2,109,703	2,404,260	2,487,400	2,581,730	2,741,194	+790,288

G. STAFFORD NORTHCOTE,
Acting Postmaster General.

General Post Office, Hongkong, April 7th, 1893.

Table F.—Revenue for the year 1892.

Receipts.	1891.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease.	Expenditure.	1891.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
Sale of Postage Stamps,	131,287.87	144,149.84	12,861.97	...	Share of United Kingdom,	23,200.07	27,999.85	4,799.78	...
Unpaid Postage,.....	5,086.40	5,431.71	345.31	...	Share of other Countries,	(a) 28,749.24	(b) 27,327.43	...	1,421.81
Boxholders' Fees,	2,418.34	2,360.00	...	58.34	Commission on Money Orders, ...	737.79	972.30	234.51	...
Commissions on Money Orders,.....	3,177.36	3,841.06	663.70	...	Contributions towards P. & O. Subsidy,.....	37,770.50	42,326.07	4,555.57	...
Profit on Exchange on Money Order Transactions,	800.06	1,916.42	1,116.36	...	Conveyance of Mails, ..	6,909.34	7,836.21	926.87	...
					Working Expenses, ...	42,798.07	47,786.44	4,988.37	...
					Balance,	2,605.02	3,450.73	845.71	...
Total,.....	142,770.03	157,699.03	14,929.00	58.34	Total,.....	142,770.03	157,699.03	16,350.81	1,421.81

Revenue 1891,.....\$ 142,770.03
 „ 1892,..... 157,699.03
 Increase,..... 14,929.00

(a) \$23,373.58 paid to France for the years 1889 and 1890.
 (b) \$ 4,143.23 „ Germany „ „ 1891.

G. STAFFORD NORTHCOTE,
Acting Postmaster General.

General Post Office, Hongkong, April 7th, 1893.

Table G.—MONEY ORDER BUSINESS, 1892.

	No. of Orders.	Amount.	Colonial Commission.	Total Commission.
In Sterling.				
		£ s. d.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Hongkong, Shanghai and Agencies on United Kingdom,	2,084	8,335.19. 2	267.76	
Do. Queensland,	29	105.16. 6	1.67	
Do. New South Wales,	80	290.11. 6	7.56	
Do. Victoria,	37	118. 7. 0	4.07	
Do. South Australia,	11	25. 4.11	1.13	
Do. Western Australia,	1	10. 0. 0	0.80	
Do. Tasmania,	2	17. 0	0.14	
Do. New Zealand,	6	14.15. 3	0.53	
Total Outward Orders in Sterling,	2,250	8,901.11. 4	283.66	283.66
United Kingdom on Hongkong, Shanghai and Agencies,	791	2,600. 2. 5	182.34	
Queensland, Do.,	228	1,240.19. 1	100.09	
New South Wales, Do.,	415	2,117.19. 6	161.04	
Victoria, Do.,	204	1,316. 5. 3	100.53	
South Australia, Do.,	35	168.16. 4	16.53	
Western Australia, Do.,	38	217. 5. 0	
Tasmania, Do.,	203	1,387.15. 0	103.14	
New Zealand, Do.,	12	41.17. 6	3.06	
Total Inward Orders in Sterling,	1,926	9,091. 0. 1	666.73	666.73
In Dollars.				
		\$ cts.		
Hongkong on Shanghai,	108	1,892.10	42.00	
Do. Coast Ports,	30	282.55	6.40	
Hongkong, Shanghai and Agencies on Canada,	31	603.40	9.57	
Do. Japan,	532	13,126.18	138.00	
Do. Straits Settlements,	133	1,565.22	35.60	
Do. Siam,	11	129.48	1.50	
Do. British North Borneo,	16	219.35	3.20	
Total Outward Orders in Dollars,	861	17,823.28	236.27	236.27
Shanghai on Hongkong and Coast Ports,	89	1,469.60	33.60	
Canada on Hongkong, Shanghai and Agencies,	123	4,012.75	20.07	
Japan Do.,	73	1,023.03	0.93	
Straits Settlements, Do.,	226	3,329.57	9.95	
Siam Do.,	23	168.39	5.05	
British North Borneo, Do.,	80	914.61	9.22	
Total Inward Orders in Dollars,	614	10,917.95	78.82	78.82
In Rupees and Annas.				
		Rs. as.		
Hongkong, Shanghai and Agencies on India,	2,547	185,984.10	1,117.17	1,117.17
India on Hongkong, Shanghai and Agencies,	209	19,022.12	44.79	44.79
In Rupees and Cents.				
		Rs. cts.		
Hongkong, Shanghai and Agencies on Ceylon,	17	664.36	3.72	3.72
Ceylon on Hongkong, Shanghai and Agencies,	15	406.80	0.89	0.89
Postal Orders on United Kingdom.				
		£ s. d.		
Sold at Hongkong, Shanghai and Agencies,	1,059	52.19. 0		
{ 1/0 Orders,	982	73.13. 0		
{ 1/6 "	767	191.15. 0		
{ 5/0 "	1,170	585. 0. 0		
{ 10/0 "	3,066	3,066. 0. 0		
{ 20/0 "	7,044	3,969. 7. 0	401.68	401.68
TOTAL,				\$2,833.73

G. STAFFORD NORTHCOLE,
Acting Postmaster General.

General Post Office, Hongkong, April 7th, 1893.