

Lagos

## Report on the Postal Department for the year 1904.

No. 83.

Post Office,  
Lagos, 23rd February, 1905.

Sir,

In compliance with the instructions contained in Circular No. 317/443/1905, dated 10th instant, I have the honour to submit the following report on the Postal Department of the Colony for the year 1905. The continuous increase in the business in every branch of the Department is its most distinguishing feature.

### *Personnel.*

2. I was on leave of absence from the 1st January to 15th March, during which period Mr. A. T. Coker, Chief Clerk, acted as Colonial Postmaster, under the supervision of the Colonial Treasurer. With the exception of some transfers of Clerks from this to other Departments and the consequent appointments of Clerks in their place, no particular changes have taken place. I may, however, say that on my recommendation a 6th Class Clerk was added to the staff and appointed to take charge of the Branch Office in Broad Street on the 1st October.

### *Correspondence.*

3. The estimated total number of letters and postcards received in 1904 from the United Kingdom was 74,604 and 7,404 respectively as compared with 53,964 and 5,652 in 1903, while the number of newspapers, bookpackets, &c., was 105,396 as compared with 71,520 in the previous year. The total number of letters and postcards despatched home from this Colony was 67,776 and 12,048 as compared with 44,856 and 6,444 in the preceding year. It will be observed that there was a continuous and steady growth in the correspondence exchanged between Lagos and the United Kingdom. The increase in the number of postcards is mainly due to the introduction of pictorial postcards of private manufacture, large numbers of which, chiefly, it is thought, for the purpose of collections, are being sent through the post to and from Lagos. The total number of articles despatched to and received from other places was 119,244 as compared with 83,955 in 1903. The total number of Inland letters, postcards, newspapers, and book packets dealt with during the year amounted to 64,704 as compared with 62,024 in 1903.

### *Registration.*

4. During the year 26,413 (actual number) registered articles were dealt with, an increase of 2,242 over the number dealt with in 1903. No registered article was lost.

### *Insurance.*

5. During the year only 21 letters were insured to the United Kingdom for £507. 11. 0 as compared with 13 for £108. 13. 0 in 1903. In 1902 arrangements were concluded for the extension of the system to the Gambia and other West African Colonies, but no article has been received for insurance.

### *Parcel Post.*

6. The number of parcels dealt with was 11,431 as compared with 10,993 in 1903, showing an increase of 438 in 1904.

### *Money Orders.*

7. The business continues to steadily improve. The total amount of the transactions for the year stands at £25,302. 1. 8 being £3,403. 7. 8 more than in the previous year.

*Revenue.*

8. The Revenue during the year under review was £3,758. 9. 2 detailed as follows:—

Sale of Stamps, Lagos, ...	£2,732	11	10
Do. Branch Office ...	114	7	6½
Do. Abeokuta ...	103	16	7½
Do. Ebute Metta ...	68	5	5
Do. Ibadan ...	84	5	4
Do. Badagry ...	19	1	4
Do. Ikorodu ...	2	17	5
Do. Epe ...	9	11	6½
Do. Licensed Stamp Dealer ...	77	0	0
Surcharged Postage ...	31	13	11½
Share on Parcel Mails ...	179	10	3
Money Order Commissions ...	271	2	1
Void Money Orders ...	1	16	10
Private Boxes ...	56	6	8
Subscription to Mail Notices ...	3	6	0
Sale of Postal guide ...	0	1	0
	£3,758	9	2

In the sale of Postage Stamps &c., at this Office, there was an increase of £961. 13. 8½ over 1903, which is mainly due to the issue of the King's Head Stamps during the year. It is satisfactory to record that since the 1st October, on which date a Clerk from this Department was appointed to take Charge of the Branch Office, the sale of Postage Stamps shows a substantial increase. Under surcharged postage or taxes on insufficiently prepaid correspondence there is an increase of £7. 0. 4½.

*Miscellaneous.*

9. From the 1st. May the maximum amount for a single Money Order was raised from £10 to £40. the limit adopted in the Postal Union Money Order Service. The increased maximum was also adopted in the Inland Service.

Approval was given to a scheme for establishing Post Offices at certain Railway Stations in order that the benefits of the Postal Service might be extended to the more important towns, and villages adjacent to the Railway.

Notice to that effect was published in the Gazette and instructions and the necessary stationery were supplied to the Railway authorities for distribution to the Railway Clerks whom it was proposed to appoint to perform postal duties. But there the matter has ended, the scheme not yet having been brought into operation.

Since last September, Supplementary Mails for Europe and the Windward Ports have been made up on Mondays at 6.30 a.m. (within an hour of the departure of the branch boat). This convenience has been much appreciated by the general public.

During the year the Money Order System was brought into operation in Northern Nigeria, and Money Order Offices were opened at Aboh in the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, and at Victoriarborg in the Gold Coast Colony, and there have been transactions between Lagos and these Offices.

Arrangements were made for the sale of Postage Stamps at the Branch Office on Sundays between 8 and 10 a.m. and 4 and 6 p.m., being the hours the Telegraph Office is open for business.

Compensation was granted to 13 claimants in respect of parcels which were completely damaged by sea water shipped by the s.s. "BURUTU" on her voyage out from Liverpool in December 1903.

In conclusion, I cannot omit to express my appreciation of the good services of Mr. A. T. Coker, and of the members of the staff generally, who, I have every reason to believe, performed their increasingly arduous duties to the entire satisfaction of the Government and the public in general.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

A. L. C. LABORDE,  
*Colonial Postmaster.*