

Annual Report on the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1930. x

INTRODUCTORY.

Notwithstanding the general trade depression the revenue of the Department was approximately the same for 1930 as for 1929 and it was found possible to curtail expenditure, as will be seen in the statistical appendices.

2. Telephone and Inland Telegram traffic increased, as also did Money Order business. There was a gratifying increase in the sum remaining to the credit of depositors in the Savings Bank at the end of the year. Particulars will be found under the specific headings, and in the annexed Report on the Savings Bank.

3. Net revenue declined from £122,555 in 1929 to £119,609 in 1930 a decrease of £2,946. Of the 1929 revenue, however, £2,950 was on account of Telephone Rentals for the year 1930 paid in advance in the month of December, 1929. The real increase in revenue for the year 1930 is therefore £1.

POST OFFICES.

4. At the end of 1930, postal facilities were available at 165 centres throughout the Colony and Protectorate, an increase of six offices as compared with 1929. Of these, 110 Post Offices and three Travelling Post Offices on the Nigerian Railway were staffed by officers of the Posts and Telegraphs Department; at fifty-two places the postal business was transacted by Political clerks, Station Masters and others acting as Postal Agents.

5. The Postal Agencies at Uzuakoli, Shagamu, Bukuru, Badagry, and Ilaro were converted to departmental offices during the year at which, with the exception of Shagamu, telegraph facilities were also provided.

6. Postal Agencies were established at Ndeaboh, Nbawsi, Ora, Ikare, Olegbeyo, Mallam Maduri and Utonkon and the Agency at Abak was re-opened.

7. The Travelling Post Office between Port Harcourt and Enugu was discontinued, and the Departmental Offices at Jemaa and Nassarawa were closed, being no longer necessary.

8. During the year Postal Order business was extended to Ibadan Branch Office and Igumale, the latter office also undertaking parcel post work.

Money Order and Savings Bank business was extended to Ife, Gusau, Bende, Zungeru, Bukuru; and Savings Bank business only to Numan. From the 1st September arrangements were made for full time facilities to be given at the Postal Agencies of Abak and Aro-Chuku.

9. To meet public demands for additional posting facilities in the environs of Lagos, wall pillar boxes were erected in Ikoyi, Armstrong Road, Ebute Metia, and at Yaba.

BUILDINGS.

10. During the year a new permanent Post Office building was completed and occupied at Bukuru, and a new semi-permanent office was erected at Badagry.

11. The "Temporary" offices at Oron, Owerri and Uyo have been replaced by semi-permanent buildings, and a similar type of office has been erected at Abak by the Native Administration for the use of the Postal Agent.

12. The offices at Enugu and Tiko were extended to meet the growing needs both of the Department and public in those areas. The parcel delivery sections at Port Harcourt and Onitsha were much improved by internal structural alterations, and at the General Post Office, Lagos, alterations were effected to provide greater security when dealing with Registered Letter Correspondence.

13. As stated in last year's report "Bush" buildings can only be regarded as unsatisfactory makeshifts, an observation enforced by the facts that in June the Kaura Namoda office was wrecked by a tornado, and in September the roof of the Keffi office was blown off. By the courtesy of the Railway Department a temporary office in a Railway building at Kaura Namoda was established which was utilised for a month until repairs to the Post Office were effected.

14. The installation of electric lighting in the Post Offices at Port Harcourt, Kano, Kaduna Capital, and Kaduna Junction has greatly facilitated night working, particularly at Kaduna Junction office where considerable sorting has to be done in the short interval between the arrival and departure of the main line trains from Lagos, Kano and Jos on three nights each week.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PARCELS.

GENERAL.

15. The estimated number of letters, postcards, newspapers and other packets, and parcels posted and delivered during the year was 14,700,000, an increase of six *per cent.* on the figures for 1929. Estimated figures showing in detail the numbers of articles posted, despatched abroad, and received from abroad will be found in Appendix II.

REGISTERED ARTICLES.

16. The number of registered articles posted and delivered rose from 697,789 in 1929 to 825,150 in 1930 an increase of eighteen *per cent.*

PARCELS.

17. Parcels posted numbered 88,190 as against 110,689 in 1929 a decrease of 20.3 *per cent.* Of the 110,689 parcels in 1929, however 20,904 were Internal Official parcels, and the regulations governing this service were revised in 1930. The number of parcels delivered was 199,980 against 234,057 in 1929, a decrease of 14.5 *per cent.* The number of parcels received from abroad shows a decrease of 10,417 on 1929. Parcels despatched abroad increased by 1,161. As will be seen from Appendix II, The average value of a Foreign and Colonial parcel received has increased by 4s. 9d. and that of a parcel despatched by 6s. 10d.

RETURNED LETTER AND PARCEL OFFICE.

18. In the Returned Letter and Parcel Office 163,122 undelivered articles were dealt with during the year. Of this number 5,467 were registered articles, containing negotiable documents to the value of £1,180; of which 5,147 with enclosures to the value of £1,133 were returned to the senders. Undeliverable parcels numbered 518, of which 225 were returned to the senders. A number of these unclaimed parcels could not be returned as no name or address of the sender was contained therein, and the remainder were abandoned at the request of the senders. Parcels which cannot be returned to senders are retained in the Returned Letter Office for a period of six months (unless their contents are of a perishable nature in which case they are destroyed) after which the contents are sold by public auction. The amount thus realised in 1930 was £8 1s. 3d. A very considerable quantity of the internal correspondence which is unclaimed and which subsequently cannot be returned to the senders is due to the name and address of the sender being omitted or being insufficient.

CHARLATANIC CORRESPONDENCE.

19. The number of letters and packets intercepted under section 24 of the Post Office Ordinance (Charlatanic Correspondence) during the year was 1,355, remittances contained therein, totalling £463 18s. 11d., being returned to the senders. This is a very considerable increase on the number dealt with in 1929 when 553 letters with enclosures to the value of £137 1s. 3d. were intercepted. As stated in last year's report, the persistency is remarkable with which people ordering such articles as "Brain Pills," "Charms" to enable examinations to be passed, endeavour to get their letters addressed to charlatans delivered.

POST OFFICE BANKING SERVICES.

(MONEY ORDERS, POSTAL ORDERS, AND SAVINGS BANK).

MONEY ORDERS.

20. The extensive use of the Money Order system referred to in last year's report continued almost throughout 1930, the year's figures showing an increase of 21.4 *per cent.* in the total number of Money Orders issued and paid, and of 28.5 *per cent.* in value. The average value of a Money Order transaction was £15 1s. 9d.

21. Inland Money Orders have increased (issues and payments) by thirty-six *per cent.* in numbers and 41.9 *per cent.* in value. The use of the inland service by certain commercial firms for remittance between branches where no banks exist continued.

Details of the services will be found in Appendix III.

POSTAL ORDERS.

22. As will be seen from Appendix IV the total number of Postal Orders issued and paid in 1930 was 653,727 against 655,203 in 1929: a decrease of 1,476; the total value was £417,937 in 1930 against £430,100 in 1929: a decrease of £12,163. The average value of a Postal Order transaction was 12s. 9d. The decrease is attributable to the prevailing financial stringency and consequent decrease in the purchasing power of the public.

SAVINGS BANK.

23. A full detailed report of the work of the Post Office Savings Bank will be found on pages 34-39.

The amount standing to the credit of the Depositors, at the close of 1930 was £40,757 as against £37,743 at the close of the previous year.

MAIL SERVICES.

GENERAL.

24. During the year 1930 the inland and overseas mail services were punctually and efficiently maintained with a few minor exceptions. On three occasions the outward mail steamer was a day late arriving at Lagos, necessitating a re-arrangement of the internal services to ensure normal delivery.

25. With the commencement of the new service by the German African Lines to South Africa, arrangements were made for the exchange of direct mails between Lagos and Capetown.

INTERNAL MAIL SERVICES, SOUTHERN PROVINCES.

26. Considerable acceleration and improvement to existing services have been effected during the year. Motor services were substituted for runners on the Abakaliki-Bansara and Hlesha-Ado Ekiti routes, and additional services were arranged between Oshogbo and Hlesha. A regular bi-weekly canoe service was arranged between Lagos and Badagry, and the casual mail service between Ikom and Mamfe was placed on a proper basis.

27. It was necessary to provide a regular canoe service from Nembo to Brass and Akassa, consequent upon the Marine Department terminating the old Port Harcourt-Degema-Brass service at Nembo.

28. A new canoe service was arranged to connect the Postal Agency opened at Olegbeyo (Warri Province) with Koko, and a new runner service to serve the Agency opened at Ora with Ifon was arranged. A motor mail service between Owo and Ikare was inaugurated to connect with the main overland service Oshogbo-Benin-Onitsha.

29. It has been possible to effect an acceleration of three days in the transmission of mails ex the Lagos Express steamers to the offices north of Itu on the Cross River, by means of a revised launch service inaugurated by Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company from the 1st November, 1930.

30. Arrangements were made with the Marine Department for the mail lorries conveying the English mails to be transported over the Niger River by the Steam Ferry *Shanahan*. This has accelerated the delivery of mails to Onitsha, much delay and difficulty having previously been experienced in the transport of these mails from the Asaba bank.

INTERNAL MAIL SERVICES—NORTHERN PROVINCES.

31. The Sokoto-Argunu-Birnin Kebbi runner service was replaced by a motor service in December.

32. The provision of a departmental motor mail van at Kaduna for use between the Capital and the Junction Post Offices has effected considerable improvement in the handling of mails in this area.

DELAY TO MAILS.

33. Although some dislocation has occurred to the mail services through floods, washouts, derailments and other unavoidable causes, no serious case of delay has occurred. In every case emergency arrangements have been promptly made for forwarding the mails to their destinations as expeditiously as practicable, and little inconvenience has been caused.

34. For some months, floods and excessive rain caused considerable difficulty in the transport of mails over the Owerrinta Swamp, this section of the Owerri-Aba road being closed to motor traffic. In other parts of the Eastern Division the heavy rains in September caused numerous washouts on the motor roads necessitating carriers being used in some cases.

35. For the period 1st June to 31st October the Damaturu-Maiduguri road was closed to heavy motor traffic, but, with the co-operation of the Resident, the mails were conveyed by light motors belonging to the Bornu Native Administration and little inconvenience or delay was caused.

LOSS OF MAILS.

36. In January five bags of mails in transit from Jos to Kaduna were destroyed by a fire which broke out in a Railway Brake Van. The cause of the outbreak has not been established.

37. The runners conveying a mail despatched from Maiduguri for Fort Lamy in October were attacked by robbers in French Territory, and the mail violated.

38. A mail runner conveying the mails from Obubra to Ikom in September dropped two bags into a river. The bags were recovered and the contents dried and re-conditioned and subsequently delivered. The runner was prosecuted and convicted.

39. On March 22nd the mail runner from Enugu to Nsukka was attacked and his mail bag stolen. Although exhaustive enquiries were made it was impossible to trace the thief.

TELEGRAPHS.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS.

40. During the year, 842,623 telegrams were despatched and 833,088 telegrams were delivered (the difference being due to external traffic), showing an increase of 1.9 *per cent.* in telegrams despatched, and 3.6 *per cent.* in the number delivered as compared with 1929. Inland paid telegrams show an increase of 4,783 in 1930 as compared with 1929.

TELEGRAPH REVENUE.

41. Revenue derived from inland paid telegrams increased by £1,152. The service of standardised Internal Christmas Greetings Telegrams at a flat rate of 9d. (inclusive of the name and address of the addressee and the name of the sender) introduced in 1929 was continued, a list of standardised greetings being exhibited at all Post Offices. The result was quite satisfactory, 3,138 telegrams being forwarded producing a revenue of £117.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL TELEGRAMS.

42. Foreign and Colonial Telegrams (Cablegrams, and Telegrams exchanged by land lines with the French West African Colonies) were less in number than in 1929; 29,916 were despatched in 1930 as against 32,334 in 1929, and 20,381 were received in 1930 as against 19,077 in 1929. Christmas Greetings cablegrams handed over to and received from the Cable Company in 1930 numbered 1,809—seven more than in 1929.

TELEGRAPH WORKING—SPEEDING UP OF.

43. The policy reported last year of introducing quadruplex telegraph working was further extended during the year with most satisfactory results. The Split quadruplex circuit between Kaduna—Oshogbo and Lagos, with the “A” side relayed to Lagos at Oshogbo, was brought into full use in February and has proved of great value in expeditiously disposing of the traffic between Lagos and the Northern Provinces. In August a split quadruplex circuit was arranged on the Lagos—Oshogbo—Benin line, the “A” side being relayed to Benin at Oshogbo. A very considerable acceleration in the traffic between Lagos and the offices in the Benin and Warri Provinces has been effected.

44. A quadruplex circuit between Kaduna and Kano was brought into use in October providing a most useful outlet for the heavy seasonal ground-nut traffic from Kano.

45. A new telegraph line between Aba and Opobo was brought into use on the 9th October which has relieved the congestion on the lines in the Ikotekpene, Uyo, Eket area.

46. A much needed new direct line between Enugu and Aba was opened on the 14th May, allowing the traffic channels to be re-arranged and relieving the congestion on the circuits between Enugu, Onitsha and Benin.

47. Special telegraphic arrangements were made at Abeokuta on the occasion of the Egba Centenary Celebrations in October to cope with the increased traffic due to the influx of visitors. In addition to the normal telegraph outlets, a special duplex circuit was super-imposed upon the Lagos—Ibadan telephone trunk line, and extra staff provided. The arrangements proved very satisfactory and the additional heavy traffic was handled without difficulty.

WIRELESS RECEPTION.

48. A Wireless Station was opened on 9th August, 1930, at Badagry for commercial telegraph use between Lagos and Badagry and is working satisfactorily. It is however, to be regretted that greater use is not made of this service by the public, the average number of messages per day in both directions being less than ten.

49. The official Wireless Press bulletins have been regularly received from Rugby throughout the year both on long and short wave receivers; the long wave receiver being used for the midday and the short wave receiver for the night reception.

TELEPHONE TRAFFIC.

REVENUE AND STATISTICS.

(Full particulars will be found in Appendices VI and VII.)

50. The total number of instruments rented by private subscribers on the 31st December, 1930 was 908, as against 817 in the previous year; corresponding figures for official subscribers are 1,187 against 1,049—a total increase of 229.

51. Cash revenue derived from telephones was £10,588 including £1,811 from trunk calls; a decrease of £3,175 on 1929, but of the 1929 figures £2,950 was collected in December in respect of telephone rentals for the year 1930. There is a real increase in telephone revenue over 1929 therefore of £2,725 or twenty-five *per cent*.

52. The estimated value of official telephone services, including trunk calls, was £15,029 in 1930 as compared with £11,641 1929, an increase of £3,388, or twenty-nine *per cent*.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

53. Three new exchanges, viz., Abeokuta, Aba, and Bukuru were opened for local and trunk working during the year; the total number of exchanges at the end of 1930 was twenty-five.

54. Continuous day and night attendance was introduced at the Port Harcourt, Jos, and Bukuru Exchanges during the year, and to meet the wishes of the commercial community the exchange hours of attendance were extended at Ibadan, Apapa and Calabar.

55. The use made of the telephone trunk lines has not been so extensive as was anticipated, but this may be attributed to the trade slump.

56. During the year public Telephone call boxes were installed at the Post Offices at Jos, Bukuru, Aba, Ebute Metta and Abeokuta.

ENGINEERING.

NEW CONSTRUCTION.

RAILWAY TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

57. The Ifo-Ilogo (Railway) signals and telegraph lines, and the Ringim-Nguru section of the Kano-Nguru branch were completed during the year.

58. A Railway Traffic Control Telephone circuit between Port Harcourt and Enugu commenced in 1929, was completed and handed over to the Railway in June, and considerable progress was made with the construction of a similar circuit between Apapa and Ibadan.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH NEW CONSTRUCTION.

59. Telegraph lines were constructed between Lagos and Iaro, between Jos and Bukuru, between Aba and Opobo (in substitution of very old lines *via* Bonny), and an additional wire erected along the Railway between Enugu and Aba during the year.

RECONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

60. The reconstruction of the Railway and Postal signal and telegraph main lines between Lagos and Oshogbo was completed during the year. This work has been in progress for some three years, and a very great improvement in the condition of the lines has been effected.

61. A great deal of work in overhauling and reconditioning of lines has been in progress during the year and the standard of maintenance throughout the country is satisfactory, with the exception of the old Cameroons line which has been very troublesome. It has been decided to abandon parts of this line and to handle the traffic by means of wireless; the apparatus is on order and is expected to be available about the middle of 1931.

TELEPHONES.

62. Trunk lines between Jos and Bukuru, and between Port Harcourt and Aba were opened on 1st April, 1930. The Bukuru exchange with the line to Jos offers much needed communication between the out-lying mines and Jos, the headquarters of the tin mining area.

WIRELESS.

63. Wireless Telephony and Telegraphy experimental work throughout 1930 was continued and definite proposals made for the type of circuit, wave lengths and apparatus most suitable for use in Nigeria.

Arrangements are being made for the installation of Wireless Stations in the Cameroons (1) at Buca to work to Lagos, Bamenda and Mamfe. (2) at Bamenda and Mamfe to work to Buca.

WORKSHOPS AND TECHNICAL TRAINING.

64. 1930 has shown a further increase in the volume of work done, and the quality is improving as the African Staff gains more experience. Further technical training and European supervision of the actual work is still required, and will be necessary for some time to come. The Main and Divisional Workshops have met successfully the demands of increased maintenance and special works.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING.

65. The appointment of Technical Instructor was filled in 1930 by the promotion of an officer selected locally. Owing to a temporary shortage of staff this officer has been retained on Engineering duties, but arrangements have been made to start the technical school in Lagos early in 1931. The need for this school has been very much in evidence for some years, and with the ever increasing technical demands on the Engineering Staff, its advent is welcomed by all concerned.

ACCOUNTS AND STORES.

66. The duties of the Accounts Branch have continued to be performed with efficiency and promptitude. As in former years the number of Audit Queries received during 1930 has been low—forty-seven against eighty-three in 1929—and the majority of these dealt with the recovery of minor amounts of Customs Dues short assessed on parcels from abroad delivered in Nigeria.

REVENUE FROM PHILATELISTS.

67. The revenue from sale of stamps to philatelists increased from £285 in 1929 to £298 in 1930.

STORES.

68. The number of general engineering and postal stores items stocked was 2,295, to which must be added 1,329 items of stationery and printed forms.

69. The value of stores issued during the year was £30,623 against £38,151 in 1929, and £29,551 worth of stores was taken into stock as against £44,354 during the previous year, the decreases being attributable to the curtailment of the programme of special works.

70. All departmental Stores were satisfactorily reported upon by independent annual Boards of Survey. The number of discrepancies between actual stocks and records was negligible and affords proof of the efficient manner in which the Unallocated and Maintenance Stores are supervised.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

REIMBURSEMENTS-IN-AID.

71. Reimbursements in aid (Expenditure Credits) ceased to be a credit direct to the Department from April onwards. The actual value of Service rendered was £26,789; against £25,673 in 1929 an increase of £1,116.

AMOUNTS COLLECTED FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS
AND CABLE COMPANY.

72. Amounts collected for other Departments totalled £70,670 as compared with £74,019 in 1929; there being a fall of £418 in customs duties collected on parcels, and £2,985 in the amount paid to the Cable Company for cablegrams handed in at Post Offices. In the latter case the decrease in cash collected does not represent a diminution of work performed by the Department as the fall in the value of cablegram traffic is due to the increasing use made by the public of the cheapest kind of cablegram (Delayed Letter Telegrams) in preference to half and full-rate cablegrams.

FREE SERVICES FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

73. Value of free services rendered to other Departments increased from £57,476 in 1929 to £87,225 in 1930, an increase of £29,749. Of the £87,225 the sum of £26,789 represents the value of free service performed for the Railways—a service for which payment was received in former years. The net increase in 1930 neglecting the value of the Railway service is £2,960.

EXPENDITURE.

74. The gross expenditure of the Department in 1930 was £272,732 as against £276,000 in 1929. Special and non-recurrent expenditure decreased by £10,844; the 1930 figure being £18,800 against £29,644 in 1929. The net recurrent expenditure, amounted to £253,932 against a revenue, which includes free services to other Departments, of £206,834. The excess of recurrent expenditure over revenue is inevitable in so vast a country as Nigeria, in which the Department maintains very long lengths of telegraph lines originally built and still required for administrative and strategical purposes, but which never have been, and, for many years to come cannot be, commercially profitable. The great distance to be covered renders the cost of many mail services disproportionately

high for the amount of mail matter carried ; moreover, the basic charge of 1d. a word for telegrams is, for the same reason, unremunerative from a purely revenue earning point of view. The indirect benefit to the trade of the country of cheap postal and telegraph communications is, however, very great, and although the ultimate aim of the Department is to be self-supporting the realisation of this aim must be subordinated for the present to the interests of trade in general.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

75. As will be seen from Appendix I. the gross cash receipts and payments of Postmasters during the year amounted to over £1,222,000. These figures are exclusive of the large financial transactions involved in the accounts with the Treasury, and with the Postal Administrations of other countries.

DEFALCATIONS AND MALPRACTICES INVOLVING LOSS OF POSTAL MATTER OR PUBLIC MONEY.

OFFENCES BY DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES.

76. During the year two cases of theft involving postal matter occurred at Buca and Ijebu-Ode, and in each case the conviction of the offender was obtained. At Ibadan a messenger was charged with cheating a member of the public and was sentenced to imprisonment.

DEFALCATIONS.

77. Defalcations involving the loss of post office funds occurred at Ebute Metta, Abeokuta, and Agenebode, a case of affixing used stamps on telegrams at Aba came to light ; and a case of embezzlement in connection with the delivery of parcels at Ebute Metta was also discovered. In each case the conviction of the offenders was secured.

OFFENCES AGAINST THE POST OFFICE BY MEMBERS OF PUBLIC.

78. A number of cases were brought against members of the public, and convictions obtained, for various offences against the Department, such as theft of Postal Orders by finding, obtaining delivery of registered letters by false pretences, fraudulently altering cablegram receipts, creating a disturbance in a Post Office, etc. Following complaints of missing letters addressed to a firm, it was discovered that the firm's messenger was the culprit, he was caught in the act and subsequently sentenced to three months imprisonment.

79. Owing to the vigilance of the counter staff at Kano in January the recovery of twenty-six one-pound Postal Orders stolen from the purchaser at Azare six weeks earlier, was effected and the culprits were subsequently tried and convicted.

BURGLARIES.

80. No less than six Post Offices were burgled during the year but it is satisfactory to report that no loss of public money resulted. The offices broken into were Ahoada, Ife, Imo River, Bukuru Telephone Exchange, Ijebu Ode, and the Surveyor's Office, Enugu. At Enugu a small spare safe containing a few papers was stolen but was recovered, unopened, a few days later from the bush.

EUROPEAN STAFF CHANGES.

81. The subjoined table shows Staff Changes in European appointments recorded in 1930.

Name of Officer.	Nature of change.	Office effected.	Date.	Remarks.
E. Edginton	Promotion	Controller of Posts	1-4-30	Formerly Divisional Surveyor.
P. L. Barkway	"	Inspector, Grade I.	10-5-30	Formerly Inspector II.
A. E. Laver	"	Assistant Storekeeper	10-5-30	" " I.
G. F. Davies	"	Assistant Engineer-in-Chief	19-8-30	" Divisional Engineer.
D. H. Payne	New appointment.	Wireless Engineer	29-1-30	
J. G. McMullin	"	Inspector, Grade II.	26-2-30	
R. D. Stephens	"	Assistant Engineer	4-6-30	
E. S. G. Cropper	"	"	6-8-30	
L. M. Wallace	"	"	3-9-30	
R. A. Thomas	"	Inspector, Grade II.	16-9-30	On transfer from Gold Coast.
N. Robson	"	"	14-10-30	On transfer from Gold Coast.
W. R. Hay	"	Divisional Engineer	22-10-30	On transfer from Palestine.
A. Trickott	Termination of Appointment	Inspector, Grade II.	25-2-30	Agreement expired.
C. Entwisle	"	"	4-4-30	"
Capt. W. de la Court Topley	Reversion to Home Service	Assistant Storekeeper	10-5-30	"
P. W. Christie	Termination of Appointment	Inspector Grade II.	5-6-30	Agreement expired.
W. J. Smith	Retirement	Engineer	26-6-30	Length of Service.
W. F. Irvine	Resignation	Inspector Grade II.	3-7-30	
A. McCormick	Transfer to another Colony	Surveyor	19-7-30	To Gibraltar.
F. Atkins	Retirement	Assistant Engineer-in-Chief	19-8-30	Length of Service.
E. J. J. Hill	Transfer to another Department.	Inspector Grade II.	1-10-30	To Prison Department.
G. F. Sharp	Retirement	Chief Accountant	27-10-30	Length of Service.
R. Cleary	Termination of Appointment	Inspector Grade II.	17-12-30	Ill Health.

AFRICAN STAFF.

AFRICAN STAFF CHANGES AND WASTAGE.

82. It is with regret that I have again to record heavy wastage in the African Staff, no less than 122 officers having left the service in 1930, as detailed below.

Staff affected.	NATURE OF CHANGE.						
	Transfer to other Department.	Resignation.	Dismissal.	Termination of appointment.	Retirement.	Invaliding.	Death.
Surveyors Staff	1	11	7	3	5	4
Engineering Staff	2	1	3	4	6
Accounts Branch
Non-Pensionable	23	18	22	...	4	7
Total	1	24	31	30	6	13	17

The number of deaths in 1930 was one more than in 1929.

83. The result of the heavy staff shortages in previous years has brought into being a very junior staff in the Surveying Branch. On the 31st December, 1930, of a total of 568 clerks no less than 256, or forty-five *per cent.* were junior 3rd Class Clerks, the majority of whom have less than five years' service. The disposal of this junior staff to the best advantage, taking into consideration the financial responsibility involved at all Post Offices, is a matter of grave concern.

TELEGRAPH TRAINING SCHOOL.

84. On January 1st, 1930, the number of probationers under training in the Telegraph School totalled seventy-two, and during the year thirty-eight additional boys were admitted to fill vacancies in the Establishment.

The number of qualified probationers passed out of the school and subsequently promoted after a period of practical training totalled forty-eight for the year. The engagements of fourteen boys (who showed no aptitude for telegraph work) were terminated, and one probationer died.

At the end of the year, the staff position being less acute than it has been for years, it was decided as far as conditions permit, to extend the period of training to be spent in the school to two years, to be followed by one year on practical training at an office in the Lagos area. Hitherto, to repair staff wastage it has been necessary for the boys to be passed out of the school as soon as they were qualified in telegraph working, their postal and general training being acquired under actual working conditions. The school curriculum has now been revised to include instruction in all branches of postal work and counter duties, including Post Office regulations and procedure, in addition to the manipulation of telegraph instruments. Although the boys have to be in possession of sixth standard Certificates before entry, it is found to be necessary to continue to teach them local geography and mental arithmetic, the more adequately to fit them for sorting office and counter duties.

It is to be regretted that a better type of youth is not attracted by the prospect of a career in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Arrangements have been made for the Telegraph School to be transferred shortly to the General Post Office, Marina, where the probationers will work under much better conditions than are possible in the present school.

G. B. HEBDEN,
Postmaster General.