

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 549.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1906-7.

(For Report for 1905-6, see No. 525.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1907.



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No. 549.

J A M A I C A .

(For Report for 1905-6, see No. 525.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House, Jamaica,

17th October, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying Report on the Blue Book of Jamaica for the year 1906-7, which has been prepared by Mr. H. C. Bourne, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary.

2. Having assumed the Government of this Island since the close of the period dealt with, I have no observations to make upon this Report, which appears to me to present a well-composed and interesting survey of the year's transactions.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF JAMAICA
FOR THE YEAR 1906-7.

The improvement in prosperity which set in towards the end of 1905 and indicated the recovery of the Colony from the cyclone of August 11th, 1903, continued under favourable climatic conditions throughout the first three quarters of the year under review, and in January, 1907, the prospects of agriculture and trade were bright, and a large surplus was anticipated. On the 14th of that month at 3.33 p.m., when the West Indian Agricultural Conference, held at Kingston under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and attended by an unusual number of distinguished visitors from the Mother Country was taking place, a terrible earthquake occurred which wrecked almost all the brick buildings in the town. It was immediately followed by a fire, which broke out at three different points, and rapidly spread over the business and shipping section of Kingston. In a few hours the commercial quarter was reduced to ruins, and nearly all the trading stocks and food supplies of Kingston were destroyed.

The following is the account of the catastrophe given by the Inspector-General of Constabulary in his Annual Report:—

“The disastrous earthquake which destroyed the business part of Kingston, and rendered almost all the dwellings in the remainder of the city and lower part of Saint Andrew uninhabitable, occurred on the afternoon of the 14th January, about 3.30. Several fires broke out immediately after the shock, within that portion of the city south of the Parade, between Church Street on the east, and Orange Street on the west, which rapidly spread and consumed the entire area down to the sea, including the wharves situated within these boundaries.

“The loss of life caused by the falling buildings and subsequent fire (many persons who survived the shock got pinned under the debris and collapsed buildings, or being too seriously injured to escape unaided, were burnt to death by the quickly advancing fire before they could be rescued) must have been over 1,200, including strangers who were visiting Jamaica, and some of the leading citizens, and prominent and business men, while numbers of persons were seriously injured. I am unable to state, with any degree of accuracy, the loss to property, but it must have been very great.

“As soon as possible after the catastrophe, with the assistance of the Deputy Inspector-General and other Officers, I organised the police, as well as was possible under the circumstances, and sent out parties to assist in rescuing the wounded and help at the fires, which could not, however, be checked, owing to the destruction of the principal fire station.

"The police, assisted by parties of the West India Regiment, who soon arrived from camp, and the Royal Garrison Artillery, continued during the night to patrol the streets and remove the wounded to the Public Hospital and other places of safety outside the fire-swept area. Picquets and guards were posted at the two banks (which although burned down had their contents safe in the vaults), Myrtle Bank Hotel, and at all other points in the city where their services were most urgently required, while the Water Police protected the sea front.

"Next day the work of rescuing the wounded and burying the dead was continued, and numbers of bodies, many of which through disfigurement could not be identified, were buried. Two sub-officers and eighty men were continuously engaged on this work for forty-eight hours, owing to the pressing necessity of quick burial.

"A cordon of police and military was formed round the burned area, and was extended so as to include the Railway Station and Kingston Mills, also the Customs and Bonded Warehouses, and the Hamburg-American and Railway Wharves. Everybody was excluded and none allowed to re-enter, except on production of a written pass. Guards of police and military were also mounted on the banks, wharves, customs, and bonded warehouses, the railway, and the few stores which were opened for business. The West India Regiment supplied a guard for the Public Hospital and Cross Roads, and the city and suburbs were constantly patrolled by police and military picquets.

"Almost the entire population of the city took refuge on the Race Course, and other open spaces, north of the Parade Gardens, being afraid to return to their damaged houses, but some of the lower order returned and looted many of the stores north of the police and military cordon. Numbers of them, however, were arrested, and a considerable quantity of loot was recovered on that and succeeding days, and removed to Sutton Street Station and restored to the owners.

"Reinforcements were called up from the Depôt and the parishes of Manchester, Saint Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Saint James, and Saint Mary, and I was able to relieve the great strain on the Kingston men, who had been on duty continuously for two days and nights, as well as to afford the much needed protection which the city called for in its altered and defenceless condition. The Militia Artillery guarded the Railway buildings and contents, the Kingston Mills, and the Customs and Bonded Warehouses, the West India Regiment, the Wharves, Banks, Ordnance, &c., while the police and Saint Andrew Rifle Corps supplied the cordon and mounted guards on all the public offices, wharves, and food distributing depôts, and guarded the relief supplies as they arrived. The Kingston Rifle Corps, some of whom were mounted, rendered good service in patrolling the suburbs and keeping in touch with, and

reporting to, Police Headquarters, and Mr. S. C. Burke, B.A., of Westmoreland, and some of his friends, did valuable work in this direction for a considerable period.

“As the dead bodies were being recovered, and the streets within the burnt area cleared and opened to traffic, the cordon gradually closed towards the sea, when, at the end of two weeks, the whole city having been sufficiently cleared, it was withdrawn, and the services of the regular and irregular forces dispensed with. The extra police from the country continued to guard the lower part of the city, and mount the guards and picquets already established, down to the 1st of March, when the Kingston Division, having been increased by twenty men from the Depôt, resumed entire control of the city, and the country detachments returned to their Division.

“For fully a week after the earthquake, Sutton Street Police Station and its approaches were actually besieged by the terror-stricken population, who looked upon it as a sort of information bureau, and every effort was made to supply information to persons—native and foreign—regarding missing friends, &c. As written permits were required to pass through the cordon the issue of these alone kept a couple of officers continually busy. An unusually large number of permits were also issued to persons leaving the Island.

“I have much pleasure” (writes the Inspector-General of Constabulary in the report from which this is quoted) “in expressing my appreciation of the valuable services rendered in aid of the police, under circumstances of almost unparalleled difficulties, by the Officers and men of the West India Regiment, the Royal Garrison Artillery, the Jamaica Militia Artillery, and the Saint Andrew and Kingston Rifle Corps, without which it would have been impossible to police the fallen city, immediately after the earthquake. The conduct of the men and the harmony with which they worked together was admirable, considering the depressing and disagreeable nature of the duty, the long spells of watching, irregular meals, contact with the dead and dying, and the dispiriting example of a despondent populace. Everything was done in a humane manner, and not one complaint of rough handling on the part of the police or military reached me. I must also pay a similar tribute to the Officers and men of the police, who worked, with untiring zeal, under very great difficulties. Their barracks were down, and when not on duty they had to sleep in the open. For days after the catastrophe they had to remain on duty for twelve hours at a time in the streets, with fixed bayonets, without a regular food supply, and, except where an occasional man dropped out through physical exhaustion, not a murmur or complaint was heard.

“The Water Police kept a vigilant watch on the sea front, and after the first day, at least, effectually prevented looting in that direction, and also made some smart detections of looted goods, while the detectives were responsible for the recovery

of a large amount of property which had been looted immediately after the earthquake.

"When we bear in mind the unprotected condition of the partially destroyed wharves, warehouses, railway premises, bonded warehouses, and private houses, containing goods and valuable property, it is satisfactory to state that, after the great panic of the first day and night—when it was almost impossible to prevent it—little or no looting or serious robberies took place. The conduct of the people was good. They gave the police very little trouble, and obeyed those to whom were entrusted the maintenance of social order, and I doubt if the people of more enlightened cities elsewhere would have acted as well, in face of such a calamity."

The Inspector-General's estimate of the loss of life is probably excessive. An alternative estimate of 800 is based on the following particulars:—

Buried up to 28th January—			
May Pen	...	...	501
Half-Way-Tree	...	...	18
Catholic Cemetery	...	...	57
Up-Park-Camp	...	...	27
Spanish Town	...	...	5
Stated to have been cremated	...	...	91
			699
Deaths in Hospital after January 28th	...	...	13
			712
Bodies still buried in ruins and other deaths not included in above, say	...	...	88
			800

Any estimate of the destruction of property is necessarily very rough, but the following are the figures set out in the petition presented to the Imperial Parliament:—

	£
Loss of buildings in the burnt area	500,000
Losses on private buildings in Kingston and suburbs of St. Andrew	900,000
Ecclesiastical buildings in Kingston	60,000
Merchandise and personal property in burnt area	500,000
Ecclesiastical buildings out of Kingston	30,000
Other buildings in other parishes	20,000
	£2,010,000

The following paragraph from the annual report of the Collector-General indicates the extent to which the wharves and the wholesale stores suffered:—

“ Out of twenty-one bonded warehouses fifteen were destroyed by fire and five by earthquake, but one escaping. The special stores fared no better, the freight house at the Royal Mail Wharf and that of the Hamburg-American Atlas Company being the exceptions. There were found to be capable of being patched up for immediate requirements seven special stores and four bonded warehouses. Of twenty-two wharves used for the commerce of the City six were totally destroyed by fire. Duty approximating £11,842 was remitted on goods in warehouses destroyed by fire and £1,260 in respect of goods short on stocktaking in those warehouses wrecked by earthquake.”

The Petitioners' estimate of the loss by destruction of buildings in Kingston was computed by taking the annual assessed rental of houses (including sites) at 15 years' purchase, and roughly estimating the depreciation at 95 per cent. in the case of premises in the burnt area and 75 per cent. in that of those in the rest of Kingston, and then deducting 5 per cent. from the total to cover inaccuracies. It may be doubted whether this allowance of 5 per cent. was sufficient, seeing that as regards the burnt area the value of the site alone would in every case represent more than 5 per cent. of the value of the premises, and as regards the district in respect of which a depreciation of 75 per cent. on the premises is assumed, that rate would imply a very much larger depreciation of the buildings taken alone and one obviously not in agreement with the facts. It may be noted that the properties in or about Kingston, roughly numbering 700, in which one of the leading building societies was interested were re-valued after the earthquake at nearly 95 per cent. of their former values, and many owners of sites in the burnt area claim that they have increased in value since the earthquake. On the other hand the value of the stocks and personal property destroyed is estimated by some whose opinion is entitled to respect at a very much higher figure than £500,000. The total amount of fire insurance policies on property in the burnt area is computed at £800,000.

The relief of immediate distress was ably carried out by a Committee appointed by the Governor, under the Chairmanship of His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies, and among other steps taken by the Government, all the stores of foodstuffs remaining in the warehouses were commandeered to maintain a supply of the necessaries of life at a reasonable price, and were sold to the public through the agency of shops specially opened or kept open under police protection. Goods were retailed across the counter at Wolmers School by the Headmaster of the School and the Secretary of the Jamaica

Institute, and credit is due to the Auditor-General for ultimately disposing of surplus stores.

Though the sum of personal loss has been enormous and a great part of the working capital of the trade of the Colony has been destroyed, its agricultural resources are unimpaired, and its productive power is reduced only in so far as local capital for agriculture derivable from Kingston is diminished and capital is diverted from agriculture to the replacement of capital required for trade. These effects, however, will, it is to be hoped, be materially checked by the munificent assistance afforded by the Imperial Government and the generous donations contributed through the Mansion House Fund and other agencies from all parts of His Majesty's dominions and from foreign countries.

The total contributions (apart from the Imperial Grant and Loan subsequently voted by the Mother Country, and excluding the stores which were distributed in kind) amounted to £103,670, which was made up as follows:—

Mansion House Fund	£ 54,053
United Kingdom—other public subscriptions	15,778
United Kingdom—private subscriptions ...	533
British Colonies—Government contributions	7,179
British Colonies and India—private „ ...	8,302
Foreign countries	6,804
Sale of relief stores	7,469
Island of Jamaica	3,010
Interest	542
	<hr/>
	£103,670

Of this, £32,683 was spent in the relief of immediate distress, and a balance of £70,987 was handed over to the Assistance Committee, which has now been constituted to disburse the Imperial Grant in assistance of a more permanent nature. The operations of this Committee, and of the Loan Board, which is entrusted with the administration of the Imperial Loan, fall outside the year with which this report deals.

FINANCIAL.

The immediate effect of the earthquake on the revenue of the Colony was a few weeks' industrial paralysis, followed by a great increase in receipts from import duty and rum duty resulting from the demand for the re-placement of stocks. This increase commenced soon enough to neutralise the short period of stagnation which preceded it, and the surplus anticipated before the catastrophe has consequently been realised.

The accounts of the Colony for 1906-7 are not yet finally completed, but so far as at present ascertained the following are the results of the year's transactions:—

	£	s.	d.
Revenue	886,911	7	0
Expenditure	827,386	8	11½

showing a surplus of £59,524 18s. 0½d. This surplus added to the balance of assets with which the year commenced, £38,621 18s. 1½d., has left the Colony at the close of the year with the balance of assets £98,146 16s. 1½d.

A table in which the revenue and expenditure are compared with those of previous years is appended to this Report. The original estimate of revenue was exceeded by £84,752. A surplus was realised on every head of revenue except rents, which fell short by £150. The excesses were as follows:—

	£
Customs	41,000
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues ...	850
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue ...	11,500
Fees of Office, Stamp Duty, Reimburse- ments, &c.	6,500
Post Office and Telegraphs	4,800
Railway	13,000
Interest	400
Miscellaneous	5,000
Land Sales	13,000

The original estimate of expenditure, £801,230, was increased by supplementary appropriations of £25,591, and also by £29,187 devoted to the repayment *pro tanto* of the loan under the Imperial Colonial Loans Act, 1900, for arrears of Railway Interest. Of the total appropriation of £856,008, the amount expended was £827,386, showing a saving of £28,662.

A policy of strict economy was observed throughout the year, but the Supplementary Estimates would probably have included provision for certain road extensions and other extraordinary works, if the occurrence of the earthquake had not led to the postponement of all new works which were not considered to be matters of most pressing urgency. As it was, however, considerable expenditure was incurred on roads in Vere and St. Thomas which had been necessitated by traffic in the former case, and in both, by the economies which had been practised for years in the upkeep of the roads of the Colony.

The excess of assets over liabilities was at the close of the year £98,146. The only assets which are not immediately realisable, are the following:—

	£
Parochial Improvement Loans and Advances to Parishes	37,744
Planters' Notes	29,828
Stores	30,172

and a few other Miscellaneous Advances. The amount still outstanding on account of Loans under the Hurricane Loans Law, 1903, was £2,648, and on account of advances to Sugar Industry £460.

For the benefit of readers who are not acquainted with the system of Public Official Accounts it is perhaps desirable to explain that the published statement of assets and liabilities relates only to transactions on general revenue account. Accordingly the liabilities do not include the amount of the funded debt nor do assets include the results of expenditure from loans. It is unnecessary to add that the Statement takes no account of Crown Lands and other items of wealth which have not been acquired from general revenue, or of the taxable capacity of the Colony which is the ultimate measure of its solvency.

The Public Debt, that is to say the funded debt of the Colony together with certain loans for special purposes charged on the undertakings and guaranteed by general revenue, amounted on the 31st March, 1907, to £3,654,388, and the Sinking Funds for the redemption of debt to £447,533. By the ordinary operations of the Sinking Funds, the repayment in certain cases by annuities, and the prescribed drawing and repayment of debentures, the outstanding debt will be reduced in 1915 to about £3,611,000, in 1925 to £3,494,000, in 1935 to £3,179,000, in 1945 to £1,688,000, and in 1955 to £36,000.

A lucid and exhaustive examination of the composition of the Public Debt is to be found in Sir Sydney Olivier's report on the Blue Book for 1901-2.*

The amount of revenue raised by direct taxation is comparatively small. Of the total revenue—nearly £887,000 last year—£411,000 was contributed by Customs and £101,000 by Rum Duty. It may be noted here that the existing Customs Tariff, by which imports not specially rated or scheduled in the free list are subject to the high *ad valorem* duty of 16½ per cent. has been renewed for five years from June, 1906. The Excise Duty on rum has remained at 5s. since 1898. The Railway (the gross receipts of which are credited to General Revenue) yielded over £148,000, and the Post Office and Telegraphs over £39,000. If licences, which are not compulsory imports, are excluded, the only direct tax for colonial purposes is the Property Tax, which is fixed by Law at 8*d.* in the £10 gross capital value, and last year yielded £29,000, and a House Tax in Kingston (in lieu of the Property Tax), which ceased at the end of the year, which yielded £5,779. The total of the Parochial Rates was £64,000, exclusive of about £3,000 Road Rates, by which, together with Taxes on horse-kind, carts, and other vehicles and a few minor items the Parochial Road Funds are fed. The total collections for these funds was £38,000. One other item of direct taxation not

* Colonial Report—Annual—No. 373.

included in the above should be added, viz.: Water Rates, which are for the most part compulsory in the districts served. These produced £16,800* in Kingston and St. Andrew, and £5,400 in the other parishes.

The Parochial General Exchequer shows a slight diminution compared with the collections of 1905-06, due entirely to the remission of rates in Kingston after the earthquake. But for this disaster the Collector-General reports that notwithstanding a reduction in the rating of Kingston of 2*d.* in the pound of rental the collection would have been maintained at the preceding year's figures, and so satisfactory were the City's finances at the end of 1906 that a further reduction of 3*d.* in the pound was contemplated.

The collection of the General Parish Rates under Law 16 of 1903 was very satisfactory. Arrear taxes were collected on 250,000 acres, while at the close of the year the arrear accounts consisted of only 66,000 acres. As regards Kingston, the system of taxation has since the close of the financial year been assimilated to that of the other parishes. Hitherto the house has been the unit for taxation, and it may be instructive to take this the last opportunity of noting the results of an analysis of the City's assessment.

The houses of and under £12 rental numbered 3,355, or 55·7 of the whole, while those of a rental of £59 and upwards were only 355, or 4·5 of the whole. The Collector-General observes that these figures suggest either that Kingston before its destruction was a very squalid city or that rents were very low. He adds that as a matter of fact rents were not low compared with rents of provincial towns in England. As regards the parishes other than Kingston the General Parish Rate was altered last year in only four cases. In St. Andrew it has been reduced from 1*s.* 3½*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*, and Port Royal from 1*s.* 10*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* In St. Thomas it has been raised from 1*s.* 1*d.* to 1*s.* 1½*d.*, and in St. Elizabeth from 7*d.* to 8*d.* It varied from 8*d.* in St. Elizabeth, and 8½*d.* in Manchester, to 1*s.* 5*d.* in Trelawney and St. James, and 1*s.* 8*d.* in Port Royal. The maximum of the Parochial Road Rate fixed by Law is 2*d.* In very few cases does it exceed 1*d.*, and in some no such rate is levied at all. The number of properties rated as being of £20 gross value or less numbered 54,827 or 43·7 per cent.; those valued at over £40 gross value numbered 21,285 or 17 per cent.

Of 160,000 tax accounts on the Rolls only 4·7 per cent. were in default at the end of the year, and it must be remembered that the arrear lists include derelict accounts and lands, the owners of which cannot be traced. The open accounts, which numbered at the end of 1904-5 nearly 19,000, and at the end of 1905-6 nearly 11,000, were at the end of 1906-7 only 7,954.

The following abstract indicates considerable progress in the ease or willingness of the taxpayers to pay their direct taxes:—

* Original estimate.

JAMAICA, 1906-7.

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Taxpayers.

	1906-07.	1905-06
Taxpayers on roll	161,625	161,472
Paying voluntarily to end of June	85,484	69,779
Cases in which relief (partial or total) has been granted.	1,968	2,626
Assessment notices issued	91,166	106,279
Levy writs issued	57,506	67,288
Number paying to 31st December	146,444	136,842
Summonses issued	19,324	27,785
Paid on issue of summonses	11,059	14,112
Commitments applied for	2,502	3,935
Paid on issue of commitments	1,649	2,953
Number sent to prison... ..	76	91

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The value of the imports into the Colony in the year under review was £2,261,469, as against £1,941,937 in the preceding year, which had shown a very large advance on 1904-5. The exports for 1906-7 were valued at £1,992,007, as against £1,568,224 in the preceding year, which showed an advance of over £406,000 on 1904-5. As regards imports the increased collection of duty is shewn under many heads, the largest increases being flour over £5,000, and fish (dried or salted), whisky, tobacco, and oil, each over £2,000. A decrease exceeding £1,000 is shown only in the case of fish (alewives), the high price of which resulted in the substituted importation of dried or salted fish. The large increase in flour though due for the most part to satisfactory causes was also enhanced by the drought which set in before the close of the year and reduced the local supply of farinaceous food. The exports show an increase in value under each of the four heads under which they are classified, viz.:—

	£
1. Live animals, food, &c.	88,900
2. Raw materials	3,000
3. Manufactured articles	24,000
4. Coin and bullion	31,000

Under Class I. the chief increases were the following:—

	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Cocoa	16,500 cwt.	57,000
Bananas over	1,000,000 stems.	37,800
Rum	32,500 galls.	35,200
Cocoanuts nearly	4,000,000	15,800
Cigars	500,000 lbs.	4,500
Tobacco leaf	39,000 "	1,100
Turtle nearly	599	1,000

It is very satisfactory to note that the increase in the export of cocoa exceeds even that in the case of bananas. Cocoa is still classified among the minor products, but its cultivation is steadily extending, and it is a less precarious crop than fruit. The increased export of cocoanuts is an indication of gradual recovery from the hurricane of 1903. Smaller increases appear in grapefruit, limes; limejuice, and horses, and increases in quantity, but accompanied by decrease in value, in the case of sugar, annatto, kola-nuts, and yams. On the other hand the ginger exported, though less in quantity, was valued nearly £11,900 higher than the preceding year's crop. The chief decreases were:—

—	Quantity.	Value.
Coffee	25,900 cwt.	£ 45 80
Oranges	19,300,000 No.	19 500
Pimento	6,400 cwt.	1,300
Cattle	2,240 No.	13,000

Under Class II. the most important increases are wood (log-wood) nearly £3,700, wood (bitter) £1,600, tortoise shell £1,700, and under Class III. logwood extract £16,600.

The following table taken from the Collector-General's annual report shows the relative importance of the Colony's staple products and the place that those still classified as minor products take in the list:—

—	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Sugar	8·1	6·9	6·3
Rum	6·4	5·6	7·1
Coffee	5·9	7·6	4·7
Dyewoods	5·4	4·5	4·4
Fruits	41·8	55·0	53·7
Pimento	9·5	4·5	4·2
Minor products	22·9	15·9	19·6

The one item under the general head "Fruit" that gives it its important place is bananas. The following are the number of stems exported in each of the past four years:—

1903-4	...	7,800,000
1904-5	...	8,900,000
1905-6	...	14,980,000
1906-7	...	16,000,000

The vast bulk of the crop goes to the United States, but the quantity sent to the United Kingdom, which was under

695,000 in 1904-5, rose to 1,217,000 in 1905-6, and 1,254,000 in 1906-7. In the same period the quantity exported to Canada has risen from 10,500 to nearly 118,000.

The number of oranges exported has fallen since 1903-4 from 82,600,000 to 55,100,000 last year, the export to the United States having fallen from 64,200,000 to 18,400,000. On the other hand the quantity exported to the United Kingdom which was 12,100,000 in 1903-4 has risen to nearly 26,000,000 last year, and to Canada from 4,500,000 to over 10,000,000. Pimento, of which Jamaica has practically the monopoly, fluctuates continually from year to year. The value of this export was worth in 1904-5 nearly £137,000, only £80,000 in 1905-6, and under £79,000 in 1906-7.

The following table shows the proportions in which our exports, including imports re-exported, were distributed among the markets of the world:—

—	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
United Kingdom	18.8	19.3	21.6
United States of America	53.4	57.4	57.2
Canada... ..	8.8	6.1	7.5
Other countries	19.0	17.2	13.7

It will be observed that in the last year there has been a slight movement in favour of the United Kingdom and of Canada at the expense of the United States and other countries. The United States, however, take more than half of our exports.

It is a matter of gratification that the prospects of a great development in our export trade in rum are very good. According to the special Commissioner appointed under the Jamaica Rum Protection Law, 26 of 1904, the planters have received for their last crop £20,000 more than they would have received had there been no protection against fraud hitherto perpetrated against the Jamaica product. Many planters have combined and entered into contracts to sell their rum for a term of years to a company specially formed for the purpose of securing Jamaica rum against such fraud. The action of Mr. Nolan and of this company, together with the assistance to their efforts given by the Imperial Departments in the United Kingdom are likely to increase the demand for and stimulate the production of the genuine article.

An analysis of the shipping returns shows a net increase of steam ships coming to the Island of 103, tonnage 120,430. This increase, however, is entirely in foreign shipping, British steamships showing a decrease in number of 11.8 per cent., and in tonnage of 12.1 per cent. The total tonnage of British steamers in 1906-7 was 506,000 tons, and of foreign steamers 968,000. The

steam tonnage entering at Kingston has increased in 14 years from 409,096 tons in 1892-3 to 1,097,668 tons in 1906-7. The relative position of the ports of entry in Jamaica has changed little since 1903, and that little is in favour of Kingston. Kingston, which in 1903 did 71·6 of the total trade, in 1906-7 did 73·4. Montego Bay shows an increase from 5·8 to 6·1, while Port Antonio has advanced only from 4·4 to 4·5; Port Maria and Annotto Bay have both gone back and now stand at 2·7 and 2·1 respectively; and Falmouth, in spite of its harbour improvements, remains at the same figure, 2·1.

The land statistics of the Colony classify the land enumerated under four heads, viz.: tilled lands, guinea grass, commons, and wood and ruinate.

The following table shows the average acreage of each returned for last year and the average for the last four years:—

	1906-7.	Average of four years.
Tilled lands	255,414	229,127
Guinea grass	138,569	122,894
Commons	476,863	432,013
Wood and ruinate	1,270,551	1,292,531
	2,141,397	2,076,565

The acreage not accounted for varies from 3·9 in the case of Hanover to 32·3 in the case of Trelawny. A glance at this table suggests that there is much scope for the extension of agriculture. A further table is added showing approximately the acreage of the different cultivations:—

	1906-7.	Average of four years.
Canes	29,182	25,732
Coffee	27,783	24,348
Cocoanuts	9,782	10,915
Bananas	62,685	43,625
Cocoa	8,586	5,040
Ground Provisions	113,995	115,974
Other items	3,401	1,493
	255,414	223,127

Apart from agriculture and penkeeping, that is the raising of stock, the chief industries other than those connected merely with distribution are, of course, those incidental to agriculture. With the exception, however, of sugar and rum, and cigars,

no elaborate preparation of the produce of agriculture is necessary prior to exportation. Rum and sugar are manufactured on the estates on which they grow, and though various schemes for central factories for sugar are in process of organization, the manufacture of sugar as an industry distinct from the production of the cane has still to be developed. There are several factories of excellent cigars in Kingston, and the merits of Jamaica cigars are becoming slowly recognized. The demand for the tobacco is in excess of the supply, and in view of the special skill required in its treatment the position in this respect will be changed only very gradually. The five chief factories respectively produced last year quantities varying from 245,000 to 3,459,000 cigars, and two factories produced 3,000,000 and 23,000,000 cigarettes respectively. The cigarettes are chiefly made from imported tobacco. Cigars are also made in six of the parishes. There are half a dozen aerated water factories at Kingston and others in other towns. Ice is manufactured at several centres. Small breweries and tanneries exist in many places. Butter making is being developed as a special industry at dairies in Manchester and Westmoreland. A factory at Spanish Town (The West India Chemical Works) for the production of logwood extract has in recent years been a large purchaser of all logwood within its reach and the establishment last year of a similar factory at Lacovia in St. Elizabeth promises to be of great value to that parish. A small company has also been established in St. Ann for the manufacture of meal from native corn, and it is understood that in St. Mary the Patterson Food Company of London is exploiting the banana for prepared food. Reference has been made in the reports on the Blue Book for former years to local match and soap factories. Under the protection of the Colonial Tariff the match factory has continued to manufacture matches from imported materials and to compete with the article imported ready-made. The number of boxes made last year was nearly 77,000 gross. The Doncaster Brick Works at Kingston is the only rival of the Penitentiary in the manufacture of bricks. The hotel industry is gradually developing. In addition to the hotels in the neighbourhood of Kingston, the large Hotel Titchfield at Port Antonio, and the smaller hotels at Spanish Town, Mandeville, Moneague and Montpelier, there are now some fifty licensed hotels or recognized lodgings in different parts of the Island available for tourists, and the accommodation provided is improving year by year. Of those owned by the Government, Moneague Hotel has, in response to popular demand, been enlarged in the past year. The tourist season naturally comprises the winter months, but the large majority of visitors who come from the United States do not reach Jamaica until after Christmas. Hence the tourist traffic for last year was to a great extent destroyed by the earthquake. The Collector for Portland records that the number of tourists entering the

Island through Port Antonio, the port at which the visitors from the United States chiefly arrive, fell off by 985.

Reference may conveniently be made in this section of my Report to those agencies which exist for the promotion and encouragement of agriculture and other industries of the Colony. The Board of Agriculture, which is under Government control, co-ordinates and supervises the Departments of Public Gardens and Plantations, and of the Island Chemist in so far as he is concerned in agricultural experiments. It also has control of the expenditure of the Imperial Grant of £10,000 allotted prior to the Brussels Convention for the relief of the sugar industry in Jamaica. Of this £10,000, £3,000 was allocated to capital expenditure on building machinery and appliances required to carry out experiments in the manufacture of rum. The bulk of these experiments are conducted at the Government Laboratory, but a part has been carried on at estate distilleries. Of this sum allocated to capital expenditure £147 only remains. The balance of the fund was appropriated to current expenditure and will suffice to provide the means of carrying on operations until 1910. This recurrent expenditure includes the salaries of a fermentation chemist and a superintendent of field experiments, and also provision for the cost of systematic experiments in the value of manures as applied to cane cultivation and in the relative merits of different varieties of seedling and other canes. Provision is also made for the training of distillers in a more scientific manner than has been customary in the past. One result of the united labours of the Island chemist and the fermentation chemist has been the discovery of what is now known as the high ether process in the manufacture of rum. At the outset practically nothing was known as to the composition of the materials used and of the changes which occurred during the process of fermentation. The Island chemist claims that it is now established that the flavour of Jamaica rum, to which the great variety in its character and quality is due, is the result, not of alcoholic fermentation by yeasts, but of acidic and putrefactive fermentation by bacteria. It has been demonstrated further that the compound ethers are the chief source of the special aroma on which the commercial value depends. The high ether process reinforces the ether content of rum by recovering the volatile acids left in the spent liquor from the retorts and returning them into the process. This process was last year carried out on a commercial scale on six estates. The rum produced was sold in London and favourably reported on by brokers and merchants. In some cases, however, the extraordinarily high standard of ethers in the new rum has made the market slower to welcome it than might have been anticipated. Experiments in manures have been carried on in conjunction with soil analysis on selected estates in four parishes, and the experiment to test the value of seedling canes as compared with

the ordinary estate canes on twenty-four estates in eight parishes. Progress has been made in the agricultural education centred at the laboratory which is carried on in connection with the scientific work of the department. The training of distillers has been mentioned above. Seven students attended the course of agricultural science during the year: of these five presented themselves for diploma examination and were all successful. The standard of competition for agricultural scholarships was also much higher than last year.

The Department of Public Gardens and Plantations also carries on both experimental and educational work. The department has three stations, Hope Gardens near Kingston, Castleton Gardens on the banks of the Wag Water (s.c., Agua Alta) in St. Mary, and the now neglected Hill Gardens at Cinchona in the Blue Mountains (5,000 feet above the sea). The experimental plantation at Hope included during the year under review seedling canes, Havana and Sumatra tobacco, cassava (various varieties), cocoa, coffee, citrus fruits, bananas, pineapples, various vegetables, rubber, and vanilla. Possibly the most valuable part of the educational work of the department is that carried on by the two travelling instructors who spend their time visiting whatever districts in the Colony are in the greatest need of their services, to lead the peasant proprietor into the better way of cultivating economic plants. These instructors work in co-operation with those appointed for similar purposes by the Jamaica Agricultural Society. The management of that Society is entirely independent of the Government, though the Governor is its chairman, and it is supported by a Government Grant which last year amounted to £1,250. The various Agricultural Shows which are held under the auspices of the Society are popular social gatherings, and they stimulate competition in the minor agricultural industries and still more the breeding of high-class horsekind and stock. The Society also awards prizes directly for the best cultivated holdings in selected districts. The Westmoreland Sugar Planters Association and the Northside Sugar Planters Association are, as their names imply, devoted entirely to the interest of sugar and rum. They may congratulate themselves on the success of the measure promoted by them and accepted by the Government for the representation of the rum industry of Jamaica by a direct agent in London.

The Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants Exchange, which was established in 1885, performs the functions of a Chamber of Commerce. It receives a grant of £100 a year from the Government.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

English silver is legal tender to any amount in the Colony, and the currency consists mainly of English silver, nickel coined specially for Jamaica, and bank notes for one pound issued by the Colonial Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia. The amount of coin in circulation in the Colony last year is estimated at £300,000. The note circulation of the Colonial Bank was a little over £100,000, and that of the Bank of Nova Scotia a little under £40,000.

The local bank-rate of interest is 6 per cent. The average rate of exchange with London during the past year was, bankers' selling rate 90 days, par, buying rate 90 days, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount. The Bank of Nova Scotia has opened a savings bank branch in which it allows 3 per cent. interest on deposits. The Government Savings Bank allows $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The latter has fourteen branches in the Colony. The total number of depositors and amount of deposits at the commencement and the end of the year respectively were as follows:—

	31st March, 1906.	31st March, 1907.
Depositors	38,971	40,056
Deposits	£ 353,125	£ 349,616

LEGISLATION.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, five ex-officio members, ten members nominated by the Governor, and fourteen members elected by the fourteen parishes other than Port Royal respectively. The bare majority of the votes under the Governor's control cannot be used by the Governor in all cases, as the votes of the ex-officio and nominated members cannot be taken in support of a law, vote, or resolution imposing any new tax or appropriating public revenue if nine elected members vote against it, unless the Governor declares from the chair that the passing of the measure is of paramount importance in the public interest, and similarly if the fourteen elected members are united on any question the votes of the rest of the Council cannot be taken unless the Governor declares that its decision in a contrary sense is a matter of paramount importance. The law of Jamaica is based on the English Common Law.

The following were the principal measures enacted during the year under review:—

Law 7 of 1906 provided for the appointment of an Assistant to the Attorney-General on the abolition of the Solicitor-Generalship.

Law 8 of 1906—the law to amend the Post Office Law 1868—compels all vessels outward bound to take mails at such rates as the Governor in Privy Council may fix.

Law 9 of 1906—the Produce Protection Law Amendment Law 1906—effected two changes. It compels every shipper of produce always to use the same trade mark, leaving it open to him, however, to employ subsidiary marks. It also abolished servants' licences under the amending Law of 1904, which appear to have created a class of tout who encouraged the peasant to sell him immature fruit for export, and also, as it is alleged, instigated praedial larceny.

Law 10 of 1906—a law to amend the Port Royal Law, 1900—reconstructed the Parochial Board of Port Royal on its abandonment as a naval station in being.

Law 20 of 1906—a law to amend the law as to the Registration of Voters and the Election Law, 1884—provides for the automatic registration of persons qualified as voters, provided they have paid their taxes, while it preserves the exclusion of persons who cannot write by excepting those who have signed their ingiving for tax purposes with a mark. The necessity of this law was suggested by the observation that a comparatively small number of persons who are entitled to be registered as voters took the trouble to get their names placed on the list. There has been a large increase in the lists since the law came into operation.

EDUCATION.

The secondary education of the Island, so far as it is maintained out of Government Funds or endowments administered under legislative enactments, is completely controlled by the Jamaica Schools Commission, which also acts directly in the management of the Jamaica College. The Secondary School at Montego Bay is under the Board of Education. The Government grants appropriated directly to secondary education in 1906-7 were:—

	£
Jamaica College	1,206
Montego Bay School	210

In addition about £1,150 was appropriated for scholarships. The Report on the Blue Book for 1905-6 gave a detailed account of the objects on which these appropriations are ex-

pended and also of the incomes derived from endowments by the secondary schools of the Colony. The total of such endowments belonging to nine different institutions amounts to about £5,800. The report for last year was received from the Schools Commission after this report was written, and it will perhaps be sufficient to refer for information on this head to the Blue Book Report mentioned above.

The basis of the elementary education of the Colony is a system of voluntary schools "assisted" by Government grants based mainly on the results of annual examinations. At the present time the whole expenses of these schools except for the provision and maintenance of buildings is so provided. At the end of 1906-7 they numbered 687, as against 692 at the close of the preceding year. These numbers include about 60 so-called Government schools, of which all but six are held in denominational buildings. In the past year Government schools at Annotto Bay and Port Morant have been opened and are in successful operation. The advocates of Government schools claim for the system economy at least of educational effort. They at any rate represent amalgamation, but, except in their management, which rests with a local Board instead of a single manager, and in the receipt of an additional grant by way of rent of 1s. a scholar where the building is denominational property, they differ little from the ordinary denominational school. A change which has been introduced in the method of calculating the numbers on the books and the average attendance makes an accurate comparison between the returns for last year and its predecessor impossible. The average number of scholars on the books for the year ending October 31st was 84,439, and the average attendance 54,868. The numbers on the register for 1905-6 and 1904-5 were 81,857 and 83,974 respectively. The average attendance for 1905-6 and 1904-5 was 51,931 and 50,612 respectively. The total payments to elementary schools and teachers were £43,845, as against £45,635 in the preceding year. The attendance in Kingston, St. Andrew, and part of St. Catherine, was naturally affected by the earthquake. An improvement in the efficiency in the schools, however, is evidenced by an increase of 8 per cent. in the number of first class schools. A slight decrease in the total amount spent on education is more than explained by the fact that for the first time since the hurricane the estimates for the year made no provision for building grants.

The Superintending Inspector of Schools observes that with a steady increase of trained and efficient teachers the attendance at the school barely, if at all, keeps pace with the increase in the population, and repeats the suggestion that compulsion is the only remedy.

The annual examination of teachers and students in the training colleges took place as usual. The training colleges

are voluntary institutions receiving grants from the Government, except the Shortwood Female Training College, which is still a quasi-Government Institution managed by an un-denominational Board. The grant to that college is £1,204, to the Mico College £1,650, and to other training colleges, including bonuses, £910.

The teaching of advanced manual training has continued in the centres in which it has been carried on in preceding years. As a result of the earthquake the manual training school in Kingston has been removed from the centre of the town to a site where a much larger area of ground is available.

Certain changes made in the Code last year have, Mr. Capper observes, stimulated the formation and maintenance of school gardens with great educational benefit, not only to the school but to practical agriculture in their neighbourhood. It should however, never be forgotten that the main object of such work in elementary schools is in fact essentially identical with that of manual training. It aims at the training of the hand and eye and the general development of the powers of observation under circumstances, and in a medium, which correspond to the conditions under which the great majority of the children will earn their livelihood. A new officer has been appointed inspector of school gardens who has had experience of their working in the United States.

Two changes in the code, which have been the subject of much discussion, have come into operation and appear to be working satisfactorily. One of these effected a change in the hour for calling the roll, and the other, which causes the grants for the whole of the financial year to be regulated by the results of the examination held before its commencement, has removed a great inconvenience by securing a fixed income for the year. Another matter to which public attention has been largely directed was the proposed adoption of a day school catechism on the preparation of which all the Churches and sects collaborated. In the end the Secretary of State for the Colonies has found himself unable, in the absence of complete unanimity, to sanction its compulsory adoption, and so far little use of it has been made in the schools.

The loss of life in the schools caused by the earthquake was much less than might have been expected, seeing that the shock occurred at an hour when the schools would have ordinarily been in full operation. Fortunately in several which suffered most the children had been dismissed at an earlier hour than usual. Of the 31 Kingston schools four were completely destroyed and twelve were badly and six slightly damaged. Many owed their immunity to their wooden construction. January the 14th was the day on which most of the schools assembled after the Christmas holidays, and, though the attendance was probably rather below the

normal, some 4,000 children must have been in school at half-past three. In one case the children ran from the school-house, which remained standing, to the adjoining chapel, which collapsed and killed 14 of them. One child was also killed at another school. These appear to be the only fatal cases. Great energy was displayed by the teachers in making arrangements for the resumption of work, which was often carried on under booths made of branches or in the shade of a tree. Within three weeks all the schools except six were in operation. The Mico College and Shortwood College were both wrecked and their operations have since been carried on under great difficulties.

The system of payment by results is often the subject of adverse criticism, but the following extract from the Report by the Superintending Inspector of Schools shows that any departure from the system would be attended with serious danger:—

“In connection with the remarks of the Inspectors which I quote below, on the working of Article 28A, which allows the usual annual examination to be omitted for two, three, or more years, in the case of schools which have attained 60 or more marks, its place being taken by two visits of inspection and observation without notice during the year, I have made more particular enquiries from the Inspectors and others. The result of these enquiries is that the omission of the annual inspection is considered by all the Inspectors, and by the majority at least of Managers and teachers, to be detrimental to the efficiency of the schools. The one exception quoted by one of the Inspectors is a teacher whose school it was deemed desirable to examine, in the exercise of the discretion reserved to the Department, with the result that it was found, without reasonable cause shown, to have dropped several marks. The teacher in this case was opposed to the examination.”

	1905-6.	1906-7.
Grants to elementary schools and teachers	44,037	45,047
Building grants... ..	2,994	—
Administration and inspection	5,050	5,072
Government Training College (now under an Undenominational Board).	1,024	1,024
Aid to Voluntary Training Colleges... ..	2,551	2,534
Board of Education	170	108
Jamaica College	1,227	1,297
Scholarships	1,368	1,134
Secondary School, Montego Bay	200	200
Printing... ..	57	55
	58,858	56,561

The certified Industrial Schools have not changed since the date of the last Blue Book Report. The Hope School, where

the boys do agricultural work under the supervision of the officers of Hope Gardens, again had an average of 50 boys in residence. Efforts have been made to keep in touch with the nine discharged during the year. Of these five were reported to be working, three were at home with their relatives, one had left his employment, and one was imprisoned for stealing. Of six boys licensed out of school five for various causes returned. Under the management of the new master, whose death since the close of the year I regret to have to record, the school work of the Institution has made good progress and improvement in the general conduct of the boys is also reported.

At St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys there were 38 inmates at the close of the year. St. Mary's Industrial School for girls had 40 scholars at the end of the year. Of the four girls discharged, three are reported doing well, one as a cook and two as first-class laundresses. A noteworthy feature of this school is the manufacture of Jippi-jappa hats.

At Belmont Orphanage for girls (about 17) agricultural work is a leading feature of the industrial training. The girls attend the first-class Government School at Stony Hill. Four girls have been discharged and have turned out satisfactorily.

The Shortwood Industrial School provided at the close of the year for 45 girls and 5 boys. This is the largest industrial school for girls in Jamaica. The rate per child per diem charged against the parishes responsible for the children's maintenance varied from 7*d.* in the first quarter to 9*d.* in the second. The girls in addition to school work do their own laundry work, cooking, and dressmaking. They also make clothes for the Hope Industrial School, and work in the garden.

Happy Grove School, containing 23 girls, appears to have had a prosperous but uneventful year.

The Institution at Stony Hill, which is at once an Industrial School for boys and a reformatory for boys and girls, is dealt with in another part of this report. It is a matter for regret that it has not yet been found practicable to separate the two classes of boys which are committed respectively under the Reformatory and Industrial School Laws.

An educational institution to which reference should be made is the Institute of Jamaica. An account of this institution was given in last year's Blue Book Report, and it is perhaps unnecessary to repeat it. The Government vote for its support was again £900. It may be noted with satisfaction that though the building of the Institute was wrecked by the earthquake and much of its property damaged, the valuable library escaped with little loss.

CONSTABULARY AND CRIME.

The strength of the Constabulary Force at the close of the year was as follows:—

Officers	...	...	...	...	19
Sub-officers	...	...	...	...	136
Constables	...	...	...	...	675
District Constables	...	...	...	...	814

In the preceding year the numbers had been—

Officers	...	...	...	...	18
Sub-officers	...	...	...	...	135
Constables	...	...	...	...	635
District Constables	...	...	...	...	777

These figures include the Water Police Force and also detectives and mounted orderlies. The number of Sub-officers and men who were sick during the year was considerably greater even than in 1905-6, when the amount of illness in the force was a matter for comment. 1,921 men were at one time or another under treatment, the average sickness per man for the whole force being 8·43 days.

The Inspector-General in his annual report again makes a comparison between the proportion of police to population in Jamaica and in certain other Colonies respectively. He notes that while Trinidad has to every 10,000 of the population 23·98 policemen, British Guiana 22·10, Mauritius 20·22, Cyprus 29·53, and Barbados 15·83, Jamaica has only 10·1. While in Trinidad for every 10,000 of the population 918 cases are reported to the police, in Barbados 800, in British Guiana 335, the number in Jamaica is only 318. On the other hand, in spite of the numerical weakness of the force, the percentage of convictions of persons prosecuted was in Jamaica 68·36, whereas in Cyprus, Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana the numbers were respectively 66·90, 65·47, 62·65 and 58·59. Varying inferences might be drawn from these figures, but the Inspector-General bases on them a claim that Jamaica possesses the best behaved population of the larger West Indian Colonies, and that as regards detection the Jamaican Police are more successful in their results than the English Police, and in the matter of prosecution more successful than the police of the other Colonies with which a comparison has been made.

The total number of persons prosecuted in the year, including private prosecutions, was 27,178, being less than any of the other four preceding years and more than 3,000 below the total for 1904-5.

The total number of convictions for offences against the person was 2,404, against 2,349 in the preceding year. Of these 1,711 were convictions in petty sessions. Five persons were convicted of murder, against three and two respectively in the two preceding years. There was no execution in 1907.

The convictions classified under "offences committed against property with violence" were 216 against 275 for the preceding year. These included 13 convictions for burglary, 199 for house-breaking, and 75 for shop-breaking.

The convictions for "offences against property without violence" were 2,861, being 700 less than the preceding year. The bulk of these cases were, as usual, very petty. There were 1,216 cases of simple larceny, the average value of the property stolen being under 1s. 6d. The number of cases of praedial larceny was 1,082, more than 500 less than the preceding year, and nearly 1,600 less than in 1904-5. Though the advocates of heavy sentences and corporal punishment may attribute the reduction in certain districts to a strict administration of the law, there is no doubt that it has been in great measure due to the fact that throughout the greater part of the year the peasantry have had no difficulty in providing themselves with food by lawful means. Praedial larceny is committed for one of two reasons, either to satisfy immediate hunger or to sell the stolen produce. When the produce of the peasant's own garden fails to supply his wants he is tempted to steal, and in view of the difficulty of detection no effective deterrent is likely to be found until the practice is much more generally reprobated than at present by the public opinion of the class to which the offender belongs. As regards the more serious offence of stealing to sell, this occurs chiefly in the case of bananas and is always apt to increase when prices offer the greatest temptation. A subsidiary cause of the decrease in praedial larceny is possibly to be found in the recent abolition of agents' licences under the Agricultural Produce Protection Law, which, as I have stated in another part of this report, appear to have brought into existence a class of itinerant receivers of stolen produce.

Malicious offences against property caused 43 convictions, including six for arson. Forgery and offences against currency accounted for 22 convictions. Of convictions for "other offences," disorderly conduct is responsible for 4,412, and bad language for 2,930. The prosecutions for cruelty to animals numbered 515 against 607 in the preceding year. Obeah convictions were exactly the same as in the preceding year, 38. The number of habitual criminals under police surveillance during the year was 2,030. In connection with crime it may be noted that the Judiciary consists of a Supreme Court of three Judges (a Chief Justice and two puisne Judges), who sit separately as Judges of first instance at Kingston and on circuit in the chief towns of the Colony, and also sit jointly as a court of appeal, of a bench of lay magistrates for each parish, over each of which presides a Custos (*i.e.*, Custos Rotulorum), who is entitled to considerable social precedence, and of a number of stipendiary Resident Magistrates—at present ten—each assigned to a parish or a pair of parishes. These last, in

addition to their magisterial functions, exercise a large civil jurisdiction. Trial by jury is in force, but in civil actions it is much less common than in similar cases in the United Kingdom.

PRISONS AND REFORMATORIES.

The number of prisoners in custody at the close of each of the past five years was as follows:—

March 31st, 1903	...	...	1,067
„ 1904	...	...	1,178
„ 1905	...	...	1,402
„ 1906	...	...	1,295
„ 1907	...	...	1,176

There were also 14 persons undergoing imprisonment in local lock-ups for periods of 14 days or less. Of the re-admissions, 1,318, 483 had been committed three or more times previously. There were 32 deaths in the General Penitentiary and 14 in the St. Catherine District Prison, against 33 and 26 respectively in the preceding year. School has been held regularly in both institutions. The gross expenditure for the General Penitentiary was £13,427 and for the St. Catherine District Prison £6,131. The gross earnings at the Penitentiary were in cash £3,228, and in materials used for the prison £214. The gross earnings at St. Catherine were £1,512. The net cost of the prisons was therefore £14,544, or £11 14s. 2d. per prisoner per annum. The manufacture of bricks at the Penitentiary, its most important industry, has been interrupted for the time being owing to the destruction by the earthquake of the Hoffman Kiln. The work at the St. Catherine District Prison, intended for short-sentence prisoners, is entirely agricultural, and the farm yielded crops valued at £1,490.

The only reformatory is the institution at Stony Hill, of which the boys' department is also certified as an Industrial School. At the close of the year it contained 218 boys committed under the Reformatory Law, and 46 industrial school boys. The girls' reformatory had 35 inmates. The boys have worked partly at agriculture and partly under skilled workmen in the carpenters', blacksmiths', and tailors' shops. Others also are trained as masons and bricklayers and in cooking. The girls do all the laundry work, make and mend their clothing and do some work for the boys. The expenditure for the year has been £4,034, of which £531 has been reimbursed by the different parishes and £407 has been recouped by sales. The gross cost of each child is a little over £13 per annum, or 8·6d. per diem, against 8·8d. in the preceding year. The average earning of each inmate has been £5 13s. 7d., in 1905-6 it was £6 19s. 6d.

MILITARY AND NAVAL.

The naval buildings at Port Royal have been transferred from the care of the Director of Public Works to that of the Military Authorities. The expenditure incurred by the Colony on account of its Military Defences amounted in the year under review to £8,821, of which £1,794 was the cost of the Militia (excluding the band), and the Rifle Clubs, and the balance represents allowances to officers and men of the Imperial Service in lieu of free imports. The expenditure of the Imperial Government for the military establishment stationed in the Island and in aid of the civil establishment was £134,893. The Imperial troops stationed in Jamaica consisted of the second battalion of the West India Regiment and of detachments of the Royal Engineers and the Garrison Artillery, with other details. The total number of officers and men was, Europeans 403, and West Indians 741. The Militia Infantry was disbanded at the commencement of the year, but the Militia Artillery and the band were retained. The strength of the former was 104. The Rifle Corps, whose establishment was authorised on the disbandment of the Militia Infantry, consisted of the St. Andrew Rifle Corps with a strength of 135, and the Kingston Rifle Corps with a strength of 51. These Corps receive a grant of £2 for each efficient.

The barracks at Up Park Camp suffered very severely in the earthquake. There were, as stated in an earlier part of this report, twenty-seven deaths, and many casualties. The fire which broke out in the buildings imposed great additional work on the troops, but they were able to render valuable assistance to the police in the arduous duties which devolved on the latter in Kingston.

 MEDICAL DEPARTMENT (HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS).

The total appropriation for the Medical Department last year was nearly £55,000, as against an actual expenditure of £56,632 in 1905-6. The expenditure covers the cost of the Head Office, of the Medical Districts, at present 34, into which the Island is divided, each with a Medical Officer in charge, of the Public Hospitals and Asylums, of attendance on indentured immigrants, of special yaws fees and vaccination fees, of the execution of the Quarantine Law, and of the Central Board of Health, and of the Medical Council. The relief of destitution is delegated to the Parochial Boards, under a Poor Law system based on the Scotch Poor Law. With the exception of Manchester and Port Royal each parish has established a Poor-House. Kingston and St. Andrew combine to maintain one such institution. The hospitals directly maintained

by the Government are the Public Hospital at Kingston, and seventeen hospitals in various parts of the Island which had at the close of last year a total accommodation of 793 beds, and the Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital at Kingston. The Government also maintains the Lunatic Asylum and the Lepers Home. The most noteworthy events which occurred at the Kingston Hospital last year were concentrated in the few weeks following the 14th January. The Superintending Medical Officer reports that when he entered the hospital shortly after the earthquake the whole quadrangle and the spaces between the female wards were crowded to overflowing with wounded people. "The patients," he states, "were lying with clothes partially torn off by falling masonry and many of them soaked in blood. The wounds were not ordinary wounds, clean made, like those to be dealt with after an action, but wounds made by the grinding and falling of masonry." The male wards had been shaken and the wounded refused to enter them. The plaster at the top of many of the female wards was loosened and fell in many places. The partly finished new operating theatre was wrecked when it was most needed, and the X-ray apparatus ordered previously had not yet arrived. The number of patients for whom provision is made on the Estimates is 214. The number on the night of January 14th was 624. In the first instance patients were to a great extent laid out in the open air, tents not being obtainable for several days, but fortunately the weather remained remarkably fine. The female wards were occupied, and the piazzas surrounding them afforded excellent accommodation, as did also the covered ways between the wards. Many, however, had to lie out in the open, and many had to be operated on where they lay. It is a matter for congratulation therefore, that the efforts of the medical staff, reinforced by medical officers from outside, and of the nurses, assisted by volunteers, were rewarded with results as successful as those shown by the returns of the institution. The total number of patients injured by the earthquake dealt with between the 14th of January and the 31st of March was 499, exclusive of a large number of cases treated for minor injuries of which no record was kept. Between the 14th and the 15th of January there were thirty-eight deaths, and between the 16th and 17th sixteen, but many of these cases had been brought to the hospital in a moribund condition. Of the 445 cases operated on 28 died. Seven of these deaths were caused by tetanus—a small proportion, considering the nature of the injuries and the conditions under which they were treated.

The failure of the ordinary sources of supply demanded extraordinary organization for the provision of food, drugs, and medical appliances, but the difficulty was successfully overcome with the aid of volunteers drawn not only from the neighbourhood, but also from across the sea.

This account would be incomplete without a reference to the means by which wounded patients found their way to the hospital on the evening and night of the 14th of January. They were brought in not only by relatives and friends, and by the police, but also by volunteers mostly working independently. Among those who did especially valuable service in this way it is not invidious to specially mention one name. Mr. Hodge, a rifle leader of the Kingston Rifle Corps, is entitled to the credit of having saved over twenty lives by his individual energy and initiative. By commandeering such carts as he could find, and impressing the services of stray spectators, he conveyed a large number of persons disabled by the earthquake and threatened by the advancing fire, first to a place of safety and subsequently to the hospital.

The gross expenditure of the hospital for last year was £9,192, against £7,888 for the preceding year; the average daily number of beds 229, against 206, and the daily cost per bed 2s. 2½d., against 2s. 2d. The total number of patients admitted to the Hospital in 1906-7 was 4,045. 2,870 were discharged cured, 300 died. The death-rate was 7·4. The Nurses' Home, attached to the hospital, which had been started in the previous year has been enlarged to provide for the housing of nine nurses. There is no doubt that this provision has tended to create a communal feeling among these young women and a devotion on their part for their work of which they gave such excellent proof when an extraordinary demand was made upon them.

Of the seventeen public general hospitals other than the Kingston Hospital, Port Antonio is perhaps the best equipped, owing partly to the liberality of American visitors who frequent the town. For example, the hospital is by these means in possession of an operating room and appliances superior to those at present available in Kingston. This hospital is one of many which were originally started to satisfy the law relating to Indian immigration. No distinction now exists between these hospitals and those provided primarily to meet the needs of the creole population. But the hospitals situated in the neighbourhood of estates which take indentured coolies are still distinguished by having a large proportion of Indian patients. Of these one or two have suffered from over-crowding in the past year, and one of these, Lionel Town, in Vere, has been considerably enlarged to meet the demands upon its accommodation. The daily average of patients at Lionel Town was 152, at Annotto Bay 139, at Spanish Town 58, and at Port Maria 54. The others have varied between 33 and 6. The daily cost of each patient depends largely upon their numbers, and also to some extent upon whether they are Indians or creoles. The daily cost of each patient varied from 6d. at Lionel Town to 1s. 9d. at Lucca. The highest death-rate was at Falmouth, 6·48 per cent., and the lowest at Cave

Valley, where the daily average number of patients was 6 and where there were no deaths. Port Antonio Hospital has been enlarged by the addition of two wards (30 beds) by fitting up the under building. These wards have been rendered mosquito proof by the erection of bronze gauze screens. This is a new departure in Jamaica. The out-door patient treatment, other than the treatment at the hospital, and the treatment of paupers includes treatment by the Government Medical Officers at cheap rates (1s., 2s., and 3s.) on tickets distributed for the purpose by persons specially authorised by the Governor. The number of such tickets issued last year was: 1s., 3,936 (all in Kingston); 2s., 2,018; and 3s., 16. The number of successful vaccinations last year was 24,470, against 29,112 the year before. The number of Yaws cases attended was 3,512, against 1,554 the year before and 1,367 in 1904-5. The Lazaretto opposite Port Royal was opened on five occasions during the year for passengers detained in quarantine. A number of cases of measles were landed from the Coolie Emigrant Steamship "Indus" and there treated. It cannot be claimed that the accommodation at the station is up-to-date, and the Quarantine Law of 1905 which would bring the Law of the Colony in this matter into line with other West Indian Colonies, by substituting *inter alia* surveillance for detention in the station in many cases, has not yet been brought into force. There is no doubt that the conditions of Jamaica differ from those of the Colonies which have accepted the most modern ideas on the subject. Jamaica has not only to protect itself from the importation of disease from the other British West Indian Colonies which have adopted a common system of precautions, but is within a few days' voyage of Haiti, Cuba, and the Central American ports, and is commercially to a great extent within their trade system.

The number of patients admitted during the year to the Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital was 441, an increase of 6 on the preceding year. 132 of the women were married, and 127 legitimate children were born. 309 of the mothers were unmarried. The death-rate was the same as in the preceding year, viz., 2·4. 301 patients paid fees. The youngest mother was 14 years of age, as against 15 and 12 in the two previous years. Since the earthquake the work of the hospital has been carried on in marquees floored with wood work and with water laid on.

The patients at the Leper Asylum at Spanish Town numbered 113 at the close of the year, which had commenced with 115. There were fifteen deaths. The surgeon in charge reports that the farm attached to the asylum is in fair condition of cultivation considering the prolonged drought. During the past two years he has been treating leprosy by new methods, namely by preparations of red mangrove bark and latterly by subcutaneous injections of iodoform. He is not

sanguine as to the results of these methods and hazards the opinion that success in the treatment of leprosy will eventually be found in opsonins on the lines on which bacteriologists are working with reference to tuberculosis.

The report of the Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum contains some interesting observations on the effects of the earthquake and the subsequent shocks on the mental condition of many of the inmates. "The noisy and turbulent became quiet, and the quiet became excited, noisy, and destructive, and one woman who had been dumb for years was roused from her lethargy, and becoming noisy resumed her former life." A large proportion of the admissions subsequent to the earthquake are attributed to it, insanity resulting either directly from shock, or indirectly following from family bereavement or privations. The buildings suffered very severely from the disaster. Nine men were killed on the spot, and there were at least two subsequent deaths. On the other hand 20 sick patients in the female infirmary, which collapsed, were all rescued from the ruins. With the exception of four one-storied buildings and two ranges of single rooms, the whole range of buildings for male patients was totally destroyed, but though the patients had subsequently to sleep in the open air there were fewer sick patients under treatment after the earthquake than at any other period during the year. Sixteen patients escaped, and it was found necessary to seclude a number of turbulent lunatics pending temporary repairs. 33 harmless patients were sent home in order to relieve the pressure on the institution. The staff of the asylum, both professional and subordinate, are to be congratulated on the success which rewarded their untiring efforts to preserve the working organization of the institution during the crisis, and to minimize the suffering and discomfort of the patients. The total number of patients at the end of the year was 1,006, against 1,057 at its commencement. The diminution in number was due to the causes to which reference has been made, the actual admissions having exceeded those of the preceding year. The admissions were 234, including 62 re-admissions. 152 patients were discharged as recovered, and 9 as relieved. The total expenditure at the Asylum was £16,298, and the cost of maintenance 10*d.* per head per day.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

The cash collections of the Department for 1906-7 were—

					£
Postal	...	...	...	...	33,360
Telegraphs	...	...	...	...	6,614

The estimates were exceeded on both heads and surpassed the revenue of the preceding year by a substantial amount. The total revenue of the department for the two preceding years had been 1905-6 £37,418, and for 1904-5 £33,447. The expenditure amounted to £32,194, against £32,115 in 1905-6, and £31,724 in 1904-5.

The department has in recent years been yielding a profit, but it must be borne in mind that it is not charged with any part of the subsidy of £20,000 a year payable to Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co. under their contract for a fortnightly direct service between Bristol and Kingston. This contract, however, has for its main object the development of the fruit trade with the Mother Country, and if the Jamaica Post Office were debited with a portion of the subsidy equivalent to what was paid under the last mail contract for the carriage of mails the department would still be more than self-supporting. The ocean postages collected have risen from £5,712 in 1904-5 to £7,659 in 1906-7, and the inland postages from £21,390 to £24,400.

The total number of letters and postcards passing through the head office is estimated at—outwards 3,123,551, inwards 3,263,010. The corresponding figures for 1903-4 were 2,133,817 and 2,347,186 respectively. The number dealt with at the District post offices was 1,308,328 in 1906-7, against 1,213,211 in 1903-4.

Mails were despatched by 516 vessels and received by 570, the mails despatched abroad being 87 more than in the preceding year, and those received 31 less. The reduction in the number received is attributed by the postmaster to the adoption by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company since the termination of their contract of a more circuitous route. Though the service provided by this Company between England and Jamaica is now of little use either for mails or passengers, their fortnightly service to and from New York, which is worked in connection with the Cunard Line, provides an alternative route to England to that furnished by the direct line (Elder Dempster & Co.). The Hamburg-American Line and the vessels of the United Fruit Company, some of which are under contract with the United States Government for the carriage of mails between Boston and Jamaica, afford further regular communication with the States.

Under the operation of a law passed in the preceding year the total expenditure for the ocean mail service chargeable to

the department amounted to only £2,067. The inland mail service which is carried partly by the Government Railway, and partly by road, cost £9,930, as against £8,722 in the preceding year. The carriage by road is in some cases undertaken by the Public Works Department and in others is subject to contract. As a means of travelling the mail coach cannot be specially recommended.

A daily service is established throughout the Island, but house to house delivery is at present in operation only in Kingston and Spanish Town.

Money orders were issued to the number of 8,301 and the value of £32,208—in both cases an advance on the preceding year. Foreign money orders were received to the number of 7,546 and to the value of £25,106. Both figures are more than double those for 1905-6, the large increase being due to the establishment of a money order system in June, 1906, between Jamaica and the Canal Zone. A new money order direct system with Canada was introduced on the 1st of January last. The Commission on British postal orders of the value of 2s. 6d. has been reduced from 1d. to ½d. The value of postal orders sold has risen from £32,096 in 1904-5 to £33,150 in 1906-7.

The parcels post business is also increasing, the parcels received numbering 25,170, against 22,319 in the preceding year. The import duty paid on them was £4,090. The parcels despatched were 5,730, against 5,901 in 1905-6. The bulk of the business done through the parcels post is carried on with the Mother Country. The parcels received from the United Kingdom, however, which had been 79 per cent. of the whole in 1904-5, were only 72 per cent. in 1905-6, and 73 per cent. in 1906-7, while those received from the United States were 17 per cent. in 1904-5, 24 per cent. in 1905-6, and 22 per cent. in 1906-7. Of the parcels despatched the percentage sent to the United Kingdom has remained during the three years at 71 per cent.

At the end of the year there were 64 telegraph stations and seven telephone stations in operation under the postal system. In addition to these the railway telegraph service has generally been available to the public.

The total number of messages sent was 109,859, being 7,870 more than in the preceding year. All the telegraph offices have been overhauled and defective leading wires have been replaced during the year. The department continues to work in harmony with the local superintendents of the ocean cables, and during the year £2,398 was collected on behalf of the Direct Cable Company, and £1,042 for the West India and Panama Cable Company.

The profits made by the postal and telegraph departments as a whole have been stated above. It is not so easy to compare the revenue and expenditure of the telegraph service

taken separately, as the salaries and wages are for the most paid for the performance of a combination of duties. Charging the service, however, with its fair proportion of salary and wages and including the maintenance of the wires which is borne by the Public Works Department, the Postmaster states the cost of the telegraph system approximately as follows:—

				£
Salaries, Head Office	...	...	...	1,042
Salaries, District Offices	...	...	...	3,432
Messengers	...	...	...	998
Maintenance of Lines	...	...	...	801
Rent (say)	...	...	...	700
Other Expenses	...	...	...	912
				£7,885

This total cost is therefore considerably in excess of the telegraph receipts which, as stated above, amounted last year to £6,614, and in the two preceding years to £5,983 and £4,792 respectively.

The Post Office Buildings suffered severely from the earthquake, and two clerks and three letter-carriers were killed by falling buildings. Though, however, the business of the department had to be mainly carried on for some time in an open yard, the continuity of the mail service was scarcely broken, and telegraphic communication was promptly restored with all parts of the Colony. Communication by telegraph with the outer world was in the first instance cut off, but the West India and Panama Company's cable was very quickly reconnected. On the other hand the Direct Company's cable was broken to fragments near the spot which appears to have been the centre of the seismic disturbance, and weeks elapsed before the necessary repairs could be effected.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure of the Works Department amounted in the year 1906-7 to £111,310, including £1,728 value of lumber imported and not used within the year. The details of expenditure were as follows:—

				£
Salaries, &c.	...	...	...	14,071
Main Roads and Bridges Maintenance...	...	...	...	62,444
Main Roads and Bridges, New Works...	...	...	...	345
Buildings and Telegraph (ordinary maintenance)	...	...	...	7,444
Buildings and Telegraph (earthquake repairs)	...	...	...	8,012
Clearing débris in Kingston streets	...	...	...	534

Buildings—	£
New Works	5,099
Falmouth Harbour	3,013
Telegraph Construction	106
Lighthouses Maintenance	1,306
Rio Cobre Irrigation	1,774
Spanish Town Water Works	458
Expenditure under Sundry Laws	586
Work done for other Departments and Bodies	6,111

The expenditure exceeded that of the preceding year by £10,746, of which £9,789 was directly occasioned by the earthquake. The cost of the department was 12·6 per cent. of its expenditure. The total damage to buildings under the care of the department caused by the earthquake is estimated by the Director of Public Works at nearly £60,000, of which £50,000 occurred in Kingston and St. Andrews, £4,000 in St. Catherine, and the balance in St. Thomas, Portland, and St. Mary. Against this damage of £60,000, £8,012 only was expended in repairs before the end of the year under review. The damage done to roads and bridges is estimated at £8,200, of which £2,000 was expended within the year. The effect on the main roads was, according to the report of the Director of Public Works, comparatively insignificant, and on bridges quite inappreciable. Damage to the roads was confined to the hill districts of St. Andrew and Portland and a small part of St. Mary and St. Catherine. In all cases it was due to local landslips caused by the earthquake, and not directly to the latter. With regard to buildings in Kingston, with the remarkable exception of the old Treasury building which was constructed of wood, all the Public Offices and the Supreme Court and the Resident Magistrate's and Police Court, were wholly or partially wrecked. Only Headquarters House, the Island Medical Office, and the Offices of the Public Works, Lands, Education, and Immigration Departments, in addition to the old Treasury, remained even partially safe for occupation. The masonry of Plumb Point Lighthouse was shattered and its iron pedestal broken, and the light apparatus thrown on its side. No light was exhibited for the first three nights, but it was temporarily restored on the fourth. The lamp was, however, again disabled by subsequent shocks and was temporarily replaced by lamps of inferior power until the 17th of February, when the tower had, with the assistance of the engineering staff of H.M.S. "Indefatigable" been permanently repaired.

The clearing of the streets of debris was commenced the day after the earthquake, the officers of the Public Works Department being assisted by those of other Departments and private gentlemen who volunteered their

services for the purpose. On the arrival of H.M.S. "Indefatigable" the gangs already organised were reinforced by a large force of marines, and in the course of two weeks the work was sufficiently advanced to be handed over to the Mayor and Council. Temporary arrangements for the accommodation of the Public Offices were put in hand on the 15th of January, accommodation being provided not only for Government Departments but also for the Government's bankers, the Bank of Nova Scotia.

The total length of main roads at the close of the year was 1,944 miles. The average cost of maintenance was £28 14s. per mile or £2 12s. more than in the preceding year. The cost varied from £46 11s. per mile in St. Mary to £16 1s. in Manchester. The continuous rain which prevailed in the southern parishes from May to October was a source of considerable expense, and in many districts, especially in Vere, the increased traffic of bananas necessitated greater attention to the roads than in previous years. No new works of any importance were undertaken under the head "Roads and Bridges," the whole of such expenditure amounting to only £345. The length of the telegraph lines in working maintained by the department remained at 695 miles, but a new line from Christiana to Cave Valley was commenced.

The total expenditure on the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works was £1,774, and its earnings £9,458. The area irrigated was 12,000 acres, the acreage in bananas being 300 more than in the preceding year. Under the head of "Public Buildings" no new works of importance were undertaken. A new operating theatre at the Public Hospital was approaching completion when it was wrecked by the earthquake. A new ward was added to the Lionel Town Hospital to meet the demand caused by the increased introduction of coolies into Vere, and the hospital at Port Antonio was also enlarged.

The Falmouth Harbour Works have been, it is hoped, finally and satisfactorily completed. Steamers of large size can now enter and leave the harbour with safety at all hours of the day and night.

Reference has been made above to the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works, and it will be convenient here to mention the only other similar undertaking of any importance in the Colony, namely, the Vere Irrigation Canal, although the latter is under Government control only to a limited extent, the management being in the hands of Commissioners chiefly representing the interests of the consumers of water. The Vere Commissioners are still struggling with difficulties incidental to construction, but their works have already largely promoted the extension of cultivation in the district which they serve.

JAMAICA, 1906-7.

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RAILWAY.

The total earnings of the railway for the year under review amounted to £150,013 (actual receipts £148,421, against £134,233 in 1905-6). The expenditure was £79,046, against £78,718. The net earnings for the past five years have been:—

	£
1902-3	53,618*
1903-4	33,740
1904-5	24,306
1905-6	55,504
1906-7	70,966

The year has been a very successful one for the railway, but it must not be forgotten that, while the net earnings were nearly £71,000, the interest paid on the railway debt, which is not charged to the railway, amounted to £85,000. The results shown are largely due to great economy in management and, it may be added, to the postponement of all special work and improvements that have not been considered absolutely necessary.

In 1905-6 £1,686 was expended on additional rolling stock, and £2,250 was provided on the estimates for 1906-7: £393 only was expended. Similarly for additional and special works, on which £2,601 was expended in 1905-6, and for which £3,148 was voted, only £680 was expended. On the other hand before the close of the year £1,835 had been spent on repairs necessitated by the earthquake. Though the head railway station was badly damaged and the workshops wrecked and much damage was done to rolling stock the permanent way was fortunately uninjured. The service was practically uninterrupted, a fact on which the Colony is to be congratulated, as it enabled stores to be poured into Kingston from the parishes, and provided the means of escape for large numbers of houseless people.

It may be noted that in the months of February and March while the number of first-class passengers carried was 4,558 less than in the preceding year, the third-class passengers were 14,600 more. This result is attributed on the one hand to movements of the population brought about by the earthquake and on the other to the sudden interruption of the tourist trade.

The total length of the railway line, exclusive of sidings, remains at 184 miles.

Apart from the Government Railway the United Fruit Company owns a private line, eight miles long, for the conveyance of fruit from the interior of St. Thomas to Port Morant, and the Vere Estates Company has recently constructed thirteen miles of line in the south of Clarendon.

* Excluding £9,489 written off to Loan Account.

CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT.

The total area of Crown Land at the end of the year was 202,750 acres. Two hundred and fifty-seven acres were alienated in the year in forty-eight grants, of which none comprised 100 acres. The average price per acre realized was £1 4s. These figures are exclusive of twenty-two town lots sold for a total of £964.

CLIMATE.

The average rainfall at 129 stations for the year 1906 was 86·71 inches. It varied from 13·23 in May to 2·06 in December. The highest average was in the N.E. district, viz.: 109·69; the lowest in the N. district, 56·25. The mean temperature at Negril Point Lighthouse, thirty-three feet above sea level, was 76·1 Fahr. at 7 a.m. and 82·2 at 3 p.m. The maximum was 92·9 on the 19th of September and the minimum 63·9 on the 6th of April. It must be borne in mind however that the mountainous nature of the Island causes a great variety of temperature in different districts. The uplands of St. Ann's enjoy a climate very different from that of the Liguanea Plain, while houses in the Blue Mountains are provided with fireplaces, and on the Blue Mountain Peak hoar frost is not unknown.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's Returns furnish the following statistics:—

Estimated population on the 31st March,					
1907	...	...	...	...	830,261
Births, 1906-7	...	...	...	...	31,547
Deaths, 1906-7	...	...	...	...	21,723
Marriages, 1906-7	...	...	...	...	5,507

The birth-rate was 38·1 per thousand, the death-rate 26·2 per thousand, and the marriage-rate 6·6 per thousand.

The marriage-rate was extraordinarily high. In the preceding year it had been 3·8 per thousand, and the average for nine years had been 4·2. This remarkable increase is mainly due to the number of marriages which took place after the 14th January. Of the total number 1,228 were registered in February, and more than half in the March quarter. 43·5 per cent. of the parties married signed the register by mark. 65·2 per cent. of the births registered were illegitimate—the same percentage of illegitimacy as in the preceding year. The death-rate which was, as stated above, 26·2 for the whole Colony, as against 21·9 for 1905-6, rose in Kingston from 28·0 in the former year to 36·9 in 1906-7 and in St. Andrew from 29·1 to 37·2.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Any retrospect of the past year is apt to stop short at the 14th of January. In the first part of this report I have shown that prior to that date the outlook of the Colony was very encouraging; and I venture to express the hope that in the future it will be realized that the rude and terrible check which Jamaica has received has had only a very temporary effect on its material progress. The appalling incidence however of the calamity on the lives and fortunes of individuals will cause the year in which it occurred to be known henceforth as the Earthquake Year, and I need offer no excuse for confining my concluding remarks to certain observations on the experience of earthquakes which Jamaica has had in the past.

These phenomena are not new to the Island, but disastrous earthquakes are fortunately few and far between. The first of which we have any account was felt by Dr. Hans Sloane at Spanish Town on the 19th February, 1688, when at about 8 a.m. three light shocks occurred, lasting about one minute altogether, and sounds were also heard. In the introduction to his "Natural History of Jamaica," Volume I., he writes:

"Earthquakes, as they are too in Hispaniola, where they have formerly thrown down the town of Santo Domingo, so they are too common here also: the inhabitants expect one every year and some of them think they follow their great rains." The following observations are instructive: "The Spaniards who inhabited this Island and those neighbouring built their houses very low, and they consisted only of ground rooms, their walls being made of posts which are as much buried underground as they stood above, on purpose to avoid the danger which attended the manner of building from earthquakes. I have seen in the mountains afar off bare spots which the inhabitants told me were the effects of earthquakes throwing down part of the hills, which continued bare and steep."

It is also noteworthy that referring to Port Royal, Sir Hans Sloane writes:

"This point which was called Point Cagway, where Port Royal stood, was never built upon by Spaniards while they remained possessors of the Island, for two reasons, as I was informed.* The first was the frequency of earthquakes, which when considerable would certainly overturn it."

Long, one of the historians of Jamaica, giving a detailed account of the memorable earthquake of the 7th of June, 1692, which destroyed Port Royal and did great damage over the rest of the Island, writes:

* The other cause was the fear of being "washed off" by hurricanes from the South.

“ It left not a house standing at Passage Fort, only one at Liguanea, destroyed most of the planters’ habitations in the country, and all in St. Jago de la Vega, except what were built by Spaniards.”

The preamble to the Act entitled “ An Act for establishing a Perpetual Anniversary Fast on the Seventh June ” passed by the Assembly of Jamaica in 1693, refers to the historic calamity of 1692 as “ a most terrible and dreadful earthquake, which not only laid waste Our Estates and places of habitation in general, but also destroyed many hundreds of people.”

After this there appears to have been no considerable shock for about 80 years, but on September 3rd, 1771, a severe one occurred at Kingston and Port Royal, which Admiral Lord Rodney mentions in the following passage:

“ Since my letter of the 14th inst. (Sept.) giving Their Lordships an account of the violent earthquake which happened the day before, which has been attended with frequent shocks till within these days, and in the opinion of the inhabitants done more damage than any since the great one in 1692, particularly in the town of Port Royal and Kingston, in the former of which there is not a single house that has not been damaged, I find His Majesty’s Dockyard has suffered considerably.”

“ There have,” he continues, “ been nine shocks since the first, but as each has appeared weaker I hope we shall experience no more of them.”

While various shocks are recorded in the succeeding 40 years, and among them some noted by Lady Nugent in 1802 as causing a good deal of alarm, the next considerable disturbance appears to have taken place in 1812. On November 11th in that year, as the Jamaica Magazine records, “ about ten minutes before six in the morning, there was a great earthquake which was felt all over the Island, but chiefly at the eastern end. Three shocks succeeded each other rapidly, there were tremblings, concussions, durations, and sounds. Great damage was done to the houses in Kingston. At Annotto Bay the anchorage ground sank. The “ Experiment ” lost her anchors and ninety fathoms of cable, which were swallowed up. There had been a slight shock previously at 2.30 a.m. that morning.”

In the introduction to Volume II. of the Jamaica Meteorological Observation by Mr. Maxwell Hall, from which these particulars have been taken, there are also to be found notes of similar disturbances in the other Islands of the Greater Antilles, of which some were also felt in greater or less intensity in Jamaica.

In June, 1766, a violent shock did great damage at Santiago de Cuba; it was felt in Jamaica, but, as Long states, “ it threw down no buildings here.”

The following is an extract from Southey’s Chronological History of the West Indies, Volume II.:

" Upon the 3rd of June, 1770, about a quarter past seven in the evening, four violent shocks of earthquake were felt at Cape Nicola Mole, in St. Domingo: the most severe lasted two minutes and a half, accompanied with a noise much like an echo from the hills after the firing of cannon. The town did not receive any damage, but the city of Port au Prince was entirely destroyed; not one house was left standing, and about 500 persons were buried in the ruins. Petit Goave and Leogane were also destroyed. The plains of Leogane, Port au Prince, and Petit Goave suffered considerably, all the sugar works were destroyed, and La Croix de Bouquet, a small town, with the greatest part of its inhabitants, was swallowed up. The earthquake extended thirty-five leagues, and the sea rose a league and a half up into the Island."

This appears to have been felt in Jamaica as "a very smart shock which continued near the space of one minute. It was most violent at Kingston, where it threw down several kitchen chimneys, &c."

On the 7th May, 1842, a shock was felt at Cape Haytian in Haiti, where it is said to have destroyed the town and caused the death of 3,000 people. It was also felt in Jamaica, but no particular damage seems to have been recorded.

Seismic disturbances similar to those noted in Cuba and Haiti seem to have occurred from time to time in the more easterly members of the same chain of Islands, and disastrous earthquakes in Porto Rico, St. Thomas, and Antigua are on record.

For purposes of reference, Mr. Maxwell Hall, the Government Meteorologist for Jamaica, has adopted the following scale:—

- I. Light shock.
- II. Well-marked shock.
- III. Shock sufficient to make houses rock.
- IV. Shock sufficient to crack walls of houses.
- V. Shock sufficient to throw down a few houses.
- VI. Shock sufficient to throw down almost all houses.

In the terms of this nomenclature he has indicated on a map the intensity with which the shock of the 14th of January was felt in different parts of Jamaica.

From Kingston and its neighbourhood the shock, which there of course was No. VI. on the scale, diminished, until at the extreme east end, and for a large part of the west end, it was felt only as a No. III. shock. It thus resembled that of 1812 in that it was felt chiefly at the eastern end of the Island.

The epicentre or place immediately above the focus is placed by Mr. Hall a few miles to the south-east of Plumb Point Lighthouse, and he thinks that there was probably another focus near Buff Bay about 20 miles north of Kingston.

Mr. Hall gives three lists of earthquakes in Jamaica :

- (a) From 1688 to 1880, which he states is very imperfect ;
- (b) From 1880 to the 14th January, 1907; and
- (c) From January 14th to July 5th, 1907.

In the first period he includes—

- one shock (1692) of Intensity VI.,
- one shock (1771) of Intensity V., and
- two shocks (1770 and 1812) of Intensity IV.

Except the shock of the 14th January last the second list includes none of Intensity VI. or greater force than No. III.

Among the shocks which have since occurred one only has been felt of force IV., and few of force III. By far the greatest number have been only slight shocks (No. I.).

After the calamity of last January an important truth began, as Mr. Hall observes, to dawn upon the community. The subject of earthquakes had been entirely overlooked in Jamaica, and the ruins of scores of modern brick villas afford proof enough of the fact. The lessons of history had been disregarded, and protracted immunity from serious disturbance had lulled to sleep the memory of recent generations. The liability to earthquakes is more widespread than is often realized by communities which have escaped damage for a century, but the realisation of this source of possible danger need cause no serious alarm, provided that buildings are constructed of the materials and on the principles which have stood the test of experience in the past.

H. CLARENCE BOURNE.

12th October, 1907.

APPENDIX.

JAMAICA.

A comparative table of REVENUE and EXPENDITURE, 1881-1907.

	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90. (4 year.)	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.
General Revenue	£ 460,390	£ 484,015	£ 467,669	£ 493,019	£ 469,233	£ 487,381	£ 503,033	£ 570,643	£ 403,723*	£ 619,586	£ 580,656	£ 548,731	£ 583,519
Expenditure	480,123	459,584	452,053	476,210	403,585	507,116	521,319	513,163	229,370	562,336	629,239	602,236	614,350
Surplus, or	234	23,451	15,013	21,809	—	—	43,681	27,481	134,350*	57,200	—	—	—
Deficit	—	—	—	—	27,302	10,735	—	—	—	—	48,633	53,505	23,801
Loans issued	400,700	—	—	265,500	12,830	35,300	58,500	32,100	—	—	2,528	81,871	180,000†
Debts liquidated over and above Sinking Funds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.
General Revenue	£ 611,581	£ 632,075	£ 577,665	£ 540,509	£ 600,271	£ 624,622	£ 760,337	£ 774,837	£ 830,511	£ 926,161†	£ 761,502	£ 865,696	£ 884,911
Expenditure	605,108	613,506	650,921	627,423	629,701	593,227	703,902	761,700	788,847	822,870	824,810	821,611	827,386
Surplus, or	6,473	18,569	—	—	—	30,635	—	23,137	67,667	103,281†	—	44,085	57,524
Deficit	—	—	72,359	84,914	50,430	—	3,515	—	—	—	73,251	—	—
Loans issued	42,420	25,000	33,900	214,800	—	—	1,591,900	31,400	41,500	2,769	—	900	—
Debts liquidated over and above Sinking Funds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16,700‡	—	—	24,567‡	20,187‡

* Includes £100,000 for sale of railway.
 † Includes £104,394 uninvested balance Widows and Orphans' Fund.
 ‡ Included in expenditure.

JAMAICA, 1906-7.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1905-1906
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Sechelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Asanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905-1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906-1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906-1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906-1907
543	Bahamas	"
544	Paradise	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Northern Nigeria	1906-1907

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Kenya Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904-6.
43	Caicos Islands	Fibre.
44	East Africa Protectorate	Survey Department.